

Annual Report 2014



PCHR
Palestinian Centre
for Human Rights

PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Centre is an independent Palestinian human rights organization (registered as a non-profit Ltd. Company) based in Gaza City. The Centre enjoys Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nation. It is an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists-Geneva; the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) – Paris; member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network – Copenhagen; member of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) – Stockholm; member of the Arab Organization for Human Rights – Cairo; and member of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty – Rome. It is a recipient of the 1996 French Republic Award on Human Rights, the 2002 Bruno Kreisky Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights and the 2003 International Service Human Rights Award (UNAIS). The Centre was established in 1995 by a group of Palestinian lawyers and human rights activists in order to:

- Protect human rights and promote the rule of law in accordance with international standards.
- Create and develop democratic institutions and an active civil society, while promoting democratic culture within Palestinian society.
- Support all the efforts aimed at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights in regard to self-determination and independence in accordance with international Law and UN resolutions.

The work of the Centre is conducted through documentation and investigation of human rights violations, provision of legal aid and counseling for both individuals and groups, and preparation of research articles relevant to such issues as the human rights situation and the rule of law. The Centre also provides comments on Palestinian Draft Laws and urges the adoption of legislation that incorporates international human rights standards and basic democratic principles. To achieve its goals, the Centre has recruited a committed staff of well-known human rights lawyers and activists.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE CENTRE'S WORK

The Centre determined after a thorough legal assessment of the peace accords signed by the PLO and the Israeli government that the occupation would continue both physically and legally. According to these agreements Israel has redeployed its forces inside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while Israeli settlements and military installations maintain their presence in Palestinian territory. The major legal aspects of the Israeli occupation remain in place. Israeli military orders that safeguard Israeli control over the Palestinian people and their land remain valid in accordance with the peace agreement. The Israeli military court is still functioning and to this day thousands of Palestinians languish in Israeli prisons. The essential elements of the Palestinian issue remain unresolved - the right to self-determination, the right to an independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the right to remove illegal Israeli settlements from the Occupied Territories. All of these constitute basic unfulfilled rights of the Palestinian people. In light of this wide-ranging disregard for Palestinian rights, the Centre concludes it must continue its work to protect Palestinian human rights from ongoing violations by the Israeli government and courts.

The peace accords and the major political changes resulting from the agreement, including the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in part of the Occupied Territories, has led to a vital and active role for the Centre in protecting civil and political rights and in promoting the development of democratic institutions, an active civil society, and a democratic legal system in Palestine.

WORK UNITS OF THE CENTRE

The Centre is composed of specialised working units which carry out their activities in an autonomous but integrated manner.

Field Work Unit

The field work is considered the basic activity of the Centre. Well-trained field workers located in different areas of the Gaza Strip obtain accurate and documented legal information on human rights violations in the Gaza Strip. They gather information in the field from victims and witnesses of human rights violations. The information is received by the co-ordinator of the unit and other researchers to verify accuracy. Through the field workers' presence in the field the Centre has been able to maintain close contacts with the community. In this way, the community is able to influence the work of the Centre and the Centre is able to meet the community's interests and demands.

Legal Unit

This unit is composed primarily of a team of lawyers who give free legal aid and counselling to individuals and groups. The unit also carries out legal intervention with concerned bodies and makes legal representations before courts in cases that involve broad principles of human rights that affect not just the individual before the court but the community as a whole. Furthermore, the unit attempts to support the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

Democratic Development Unit

This unit specialises in the promotion of democracy and the promotion of civil society and the rule of law. The unit's team carries out research and organises workshops and seminars to discuss issues on human rights and democracy. The unit's team also prepares comments on draft laws prepared by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to influence the decision-making process and the adoption of democratic laws. The unit has been also involved in providing training on human rights and democracy for youth groups.

Economic and Social Rights Unit

This unit seeks to ensure the importance of economic and social rights through research and study. Such work is particularly important because it tends to be neglected, to some extent, by other human rights organisations. To achieve its goals the unit conducts studies, workshops, and seminars that focus attention on economic and social rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The unit seeks to develop recommendations and standards for each of these rights to be fulfilled in the Palestinian situation. Moreover, the unit reviews and assesses the legislation and draft laws pertaining to these rights adopted by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to secure legislation that is in harmony with international

standards. The unit further seeks to provide an informative training base for governmental and non-governmental personnel who are empowered to set plans and implement programs and policies relevant to these rights. The goal of such training is to help bring economic and social rights into alignment with the standards accepted internationally and to ensure the maximum degree of implementation of these rights.

Woman Rights Unit

This Unit was established as a pilot project in May of 1997 for one year, renewable upon assessment of its accomplishments. The initial project was established after a thorough and comprehensive study of the conditions of Palestinian women and the work of women's institutions in the Gaza Strip. The Unit aims to provide legal aid for women and women's organisations. Intervention on behalf of women in Shari'a courts is included in its mandate. The Unit further aims to raise awareness of women's rights established by international human rights conventions and to raise the awareness of Palestinian women in regard to their rights under local law. Finally, the Unit is carrying out studies on Palestinian women and the law, while supporting the amendment of local laws inconsistent with women's rights.

The Training Unit

The Training Unit is a main instrument in PCHR's work in disseminating and developing a human rights culture, and promoting democratic concepts in the local community with all its various segments. The Unit organizes and holds training courses and workshops in order to develop theoretical knowledge and provide professional skills that can contribute to a real change in the behavior of the society, which in turn can promote respect for, and protection of human rights and participation in community building. The target groups of the training courses and workshops are particularly the youth, including university students, activists of political parties, lawyers, media, union members, and other civil society groups.

The Library

The Centre has established a specialised legal library in subjects related to local and international law, human rights, and democracy. The library includes books and periodicals in both Arabic and English and includes all Palestinian laws and Israeli military orders. Documents pertaining to laws of neighbouring Arab countries are also available. Furthermore, the library includes a variety of books and periodicals detailing the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The library is open for the free use of researchers, academics, and students.

FUNDING OF THE CENTRE

The Centre is funded by the generous contributions of a number of international non-governmental organizations in the fields of human rights, democracy, and social justice and a number of Governments which has friendly relationships with the Palestinian people. PCHR highly appreciates the contributions of funding organizations, especially:

- » Al Maqdesi for Society Development
- » Al-Quds Association Malaga-Spain
- » Arab Human Rights Fund (AHRF)
- » Bertha Foundation
- » Christian Aid
- » Dan Church Aid
- » European Commission through Oxfam
- » Foundation to Promote Open Society
- » Grassroots International
- » Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat
- » Iris O'Brien Foundation
- » Irish Aid
- » Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation (KTK)
- » KZE through MISEREOR
- » NGO Development Center (NDC)
- » Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- » Oxfam Novib
- » Representative of Solidarity for Development and Peace (SODEPAZ)
- » Representative Office of Finland
- » Representative Office of Norway
- » Spanish Cooperation
- » Terre des hommes foundation (TDH)
- » Trocaire
- » UNDP
- » UNVFVT

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The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an independent legal body dedicated to the protection of human rights, the promotion of the rule of law, and the upholding of democratic principles in the Occupied Territories. Most of the Centre's activities and interests concentrate on the Gaza Strip due to the restriction on movement between the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by the Israeli government and its military apparatus.

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Palestinian Centre for Human Rights



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

This report is the outcome of PCHR's activities in 2014. PCHR has published annual reports since 1997.
PCHR's 2014 Annual Report is divided into two sections:

- » **Part One** provides a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) from 01 January to 31 December 2014. It is divided into two sub-sections:
 - 1) Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law perpetrated by the Israeli forces in the oPt; and
 - 2) Human rights violations perpetrated by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and obstacles to democratic reform in the PNA.
- »
- » **Part Two** documents all PCHR's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2014. It covers activities by PCHR and its units at both the local and international levels over the year.

PCHR's 2014 financial report, which is prepared by an independent professional auditing institution, will be published as a separate document.

Like previous reports, PCHR hopes that this report will contribute to the struggle for human rights by providing a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the oPt. It also hopes that relevant parties will follow the recommendations mentioned in this report, particularly those which are directed to the international community and the PNA. This report serves as a guide for PCHR's future work and also reflects PCHR's strong belief in the importance of transparency for a non-profit, non-governmental organization that provides services to the community. It should also serve as a call for victims of human rights violations to approach PCHR for advice and assistance.



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OPT

 SUMMARY

The offensive launched by Israeli forces on the Gaza Strip in the period 08 July – 26 August was the major element of the human rights situation in the oPt in 2014. This offensive, the third one in six years, was the largest, bloodiest and most destructive offensive by Israelis forces against Palestinian civilians and their property.

their aerial, land and naval arsenal to attack the Gaza Strip with thousands of tons of bombs and missiles of various types and sizes, some of which were used for the first time.¹

The Israeli offensive resulted in killing 2,216 Palestinians, 1,543 of whom were civilians (70% of the total number of victims). The civilian victims included 293 women and 556 children (38% of the total number of civilian victims). Moreover, 10,895 Palestinians were wounded, the vast majority of whom were civilians. These figures prove the excessive and disproportionate use of force. Additionally, 8,377 houses were completely destroyed and 23,597 others were partially destroyed.

The Israeli offensive started with violent air strikes that targeted civilian facilities, including houses that were destroyed over the head of their residents. As a result, dozens of innocent civilians, including women, children and elderly and disabled persons, were killed. The targets expanded to include all Palestinian areas in the Gaza Strip and there was no secure areas. Israeli attacks targeted houses, multi-storey residential buildings, governmental compounds, civil establishments, parks, mosques, schools and universities. The Israeli attacks caused extensive destruction to the infrastructure, hospitals, media institutions and industrial, agricultural and commercial facilities.

The air strikes were accompanied with a ground operation. Dozens of thousands of Israeli soldiers and hundred of tanks moved into the Gaza Strip from various direction amidst violent aerial, artillery and naval bombing. During these incursions, Israeli forces committed serious crimes against Palestinian civilians.

During the offensive, Israeli forces extensively employed the *Dahiya* and *Hannibal* doctrine killing many Palestinian civilians and causing extensive destruction to the civilian property. Israeli forces systematically destroyed houses and civilian objects in al-Shujaiya neighbourhood in Gaza City, Khuza'a village and Beit Hanoun similar to the destruction they caused to the Dahiya in Beirut in July 2006. They also employed the Hannibal doctrine during the ground operation, especially in Rafah, when an Israeli soldier was captured. Israeli forces indiscriminately bombed the city in order to kill both the abductors and the soldier.

The extensive losses of lives and destruction of civilian property caused massive dis-

1. Israeli forces dropped explosive barrels on populated areas, such as al-Zannah and Khuza'a areas, east of Khan Yunis, causing extensive destruction.

placement of more than 520,000 Palestinians and thousands of families become homeless. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian were forced to leave their homes seeking safety and fleeing from gunfire and shelling that targeted their homes. Dozens of civilians were killed while they were either inside their homes or while fleeing from Israeli attacks. The situation was aggravated by flyers dropped by Israeli aircrafts and phone calls threatening to bomb or raid residential areas, and order them to leave their homes.

Before the offensive the situation in the Gaza Strip was tragic due to the siege that had been imposed for more than eight years which left destructive impact on all economic and social conditions and all aspects of life of the Palestinian civilian population. Additionally, there were internal crises resulting from the hesitant steps to achieve the national reconciliation following the al-Shati Agreement and the formation of the national unity government on 2 June 2014. The government failed to settle the issue of civil and security personnel who were employed during the division period and Hamas' control of the Gaza Strip since June 2007.

When the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire entered into force on 26 August 2014, the tragic conditions and the extensive destruction caused by the Israeli offensive became clearer, further aggravating the already dire humanitarian conditions.

There were hopes after the offensive that the humanitarian and human rights conditions would relatively improve, but the ongoing siege was marinated and there are no expectations that it would be lifted in the near future. The plan of Robert Serry, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip was not more than an institutionalization of the siege, and Rafah International Crossing Point remained closed by the Egyptian authorities.

Israel would not have been able to launch a new offensive on the Gaza Strip, which killed hundreds of civilians and wounded thousands of others, and left extensive destruction to civilian property and object, unless the international community was silent and the culture of impunity were prevailing, which paved the way for Israel to commit grave breaches against civilians and their property. PCHR and other human rights organizations wel-

comed the UN Human Rights Council's resolution to establish a commission of inquiry to investigate crimes committed by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip during the latest offensive, as it was a fundamental demand by them. They expressed willingness to assist the commission hoping that its recommendations would be presented to the International Criminal Court to prosecute suspected Israeli war crimes. However, blatantly challenging the international human rights system and perpetuating its position as a state above the law, Israel refused to allow the commission to enter the Gaza Strip, the scene of the crime. By the end of 2014, the commission had not been able to visit the Gaza Strip to investigate the crimes and interview the victims and eyewitnesses directly.

In a major development, on 31 December 2014, it was reported that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas signed the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court, in addition to another 19 international treaties. PCHR considered it a major development in the legal struggle to confront Israeli war crimes against Palestinian civilians and their property, including settlement activities, land confiscation for the purpose of the construction of the annexation wall, wilful killings, the illegal siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and other collective punishment measures and policies against civilians.

Over the year, the human rights conditions deteriorated throughout the oPt. One of the major aspects was the unprecedented violent military campaign in the West Bank, especially in Hebron, following the disappearance of three Israeli settlers near "Etzion" settlement in Hebron on 12 June. Israeli forces moved into Palestinian cities, besieged a number of them and launched a wide-scale arrest campaign against Palestinians, including the Speaker and members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and former ministers. During this military campaign, Israeli forces and settlers killed a number of Palestinian civilians.

At the Palestinian level, the year ended and hopes associated with the national unity government to end the political division had been far from being realized. The national reconciliation was in a deadlock and the six-month period decided for the national unity government to complete the missions assigned to it by al-Shati Agreement, including pre-

paring for the general elections and facilitating uniting the PA's institutions, ended without these goals being achieved. Human rights violation continued raising concerns that the Gaza Strip would be back to the state of lawlessness in the absence of the government and the political vacuum.

The unity government was formed on 2 June 2014 following the reconciliation talks that were concluded with al-Shati Agreement signed on 23 April. It was mandated to prepare for organizing general and local elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and uniting the PA's institutions, including security services.

About one month after the formation of the unity

government, Israeli forces launched an offensive on the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians in Gaza did not feel the presence of the government or the Palestinian President during and after the offensive, excluding a meeting of the Council of Minister headed by Dr Rami al-Hamdallah in Gaza before the conference of donors in Cairo, which was devoted to collect funding for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. The year ended without Palestinians having felt any real presence of the unity government in Gaza, although four of the 23 ministers are from Gaza.



FIRST:

ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

In 2014, Israeli forces continued to commit crimes and human rights violations against Palestinian civilian throughout the oPt. They launched a violent offensive on the Gaza Strip, during which they killed and wounded thousands of civilians and destroyed their property, rendering hundreds of thousands of civilians homeless. They also continued to impose a tightened siege on the Gaza Strip as a form of collective punishment that has left distractors impacts on the lives of Palestinian civilians. In the West Bank, Israeli forces launched a violent military campaign accompanied by systematic attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians following the disappearance of three Israeli settlers. They committed willful killings and violated the right of life of the Palestinian civilians. They also arrested many Palestinian civilians and subjected them to inhuman and degrading treatment. Additionally, they destroyed civilian property and houses and confiscated more land for the purpose of the construction of the annexation wall.

1. Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security

In 2014, Israeli forces committed more crimes and violations of the right to life and personal security against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. The number of Palestinians who were killed by Israeli forces was 2,280. Of the total number of victims, there were 1,591 civilians, including 568 children and 294 women. Additionally, 11,724 Palestinians sustained various wounds, including 3,443 children and 2,136 women. The Israeli offensive on Gaza resulted in killing 2,216 Palestinians, 1,543 of whom were civilians, including 556 children and 293 women; i.e. 60% of the civilian victims and 38% of the total number of victims. Moreover, it resulted in wounding 10,895, the vast majority of whom were civilians, including 3,306 children and 2,114 women.

These civilians were killed in different contexts: while they were sleeping at homes, on the roofs of their houses or in their houses' yards. The most prominent forms of attacks were: attacks on houses of targeted persons; attacks on other targets (mosques, public facilities, streets, agricultural and open lands... etc.); attacks on residential areas like markets, cafes and shelters; extra-judicial executions; targeting civilian houses; targeting public facilities; and wilful killings.

From the beginning of the year, killings of Palestinian civilians in the oPt escalated. According to PCHR's documentation, Israeli forces killed in the first half of 2014, 35 Palestinians, 23 of whom were civilians, including 5 children and a woman, and wounded 372 persons, 366 of whom were civilians, including 73 children. The majority of the wounded persons were wounded in peaceful protests and clashes with Israeli forces.

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wounded in peaceful protests and clashes with Israeli forces.

2. Ongoing Policy of Total Closure and Violation of the Right to Freedom of Movement

In 2014, Israeli forces continued to impose restrictions on the freedom of movement in the oPt. In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli-imposed closure has been ongoing for the 8th consecutive year and restrictions have been imposed on the movement of persons and commodities via border crossings.

The ongoing closure has resulted in high rates of poverty and unemployment and delay in Gaza reconstruction for over 4 months after the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip which left extensive destruction to thousands of civilian objects and houses. The Gaza Strip population has been denied the right to freedom of movement in and out of the Gaza Strip. As a consequence, the humanitarian conditions unprecedentedly deteriorated.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces have continued to restrict the movement of civilians between cities, as well as at international crossing points. Israel has continued its policy of closing off occupied East Jerusalem to Palestinian civilians from elsewhere in the oPt; entry to East Jerusalem is banned for Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As a result, Palestinians have been denied access to advanced medical care, their right to meet with family members, and access to education, work, and religious sites in East Jerusalem, in particular, the al-Aqsa Mosque. Israeli authorities also restricted the movement of dozens of Jerusalemites through orders issued by the Israeli Interior Ministry denying them access to the al-Aqsa Mosque claiming that they confronted attempts by Israeli settlers to storm the yards of the mosque.

3. Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

PCHR documented the arrests of 3,440 Palestinians by Israeli forces in 2014, some of whom were arrested several times; including 459 children and 49 women. The vast majority of the detainees were arrested during Israeli incursions into communities in the West Bank (3,035) and at checkpoints in the West

Bank (292) or during military operations carried out by Israeli forces. The cruellest arrest campaign was launched by Israeli forces in the West Bank after 3 settlers disappeared in Hebron on 12 June. Israeli forces arrested hundreds of Hamas members, including PLC members, and dozens of those who were released in “Shalit” prisoners swap deal in November 2012 and were sentenced again to complete their original sentences. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces arrested about 210 Palestinians, including dozens that were arrested during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. Moreover, they arrested 47 fishermen, 56 others who attempted to sneak into Israel via the borders and 13 persons at Erez (Beit Hanoun crossing) who were referred to receive medical treatment in hospitals in Israel, the West Bank or abroad.

The Palestinian prisoners suffer in the Israeli jails due to medical negligence, as the Israeli Prison Service delay offering hundreds of sick prisoners the minimum level of the necessary medical treatment. As a result, the prisoners’ health conditions deteriorate, which lead to death. According to statistics², there are about 1,500 sick prisoners in Israeli jails, hundreds of them suffer from chronic or serious diseases; 20 prisoners of whom are permanently staying in al-Ramleh Prison’s Hospital, as they suffer from disabilities, paralysis, cardiac problems, tumors or cancer. These include Mo’tasem Raddad, Mahmoud Abu Saleh, Khaled al-Shawish, Nahedh al-Aqra’, Mansour Mawqeda, Mahmoud Salman, Alaa al-Hams, Mohammed Brash, Morad Abu M’eleq, Na’im Shawamrah and Tha’er Halahla. Moreover, 16 prisoners suffer from psychological and neurological disorders and others suffer from physical disabilities.

In 2014, a Palestinian prisoner died in Soroka Hospital in Israel in circumstances raising suspicions that he was tortured and beaten while being in prison, especially as he was not suffering from any diseases before his arrest.

4. Attacks on Journalists

In 2014, Israeli forces continued to attack journalists, disregarding the protection extended to journalists under international law. It is evident that attacks on journalists by Israeli forces, which violate the right

2. According to the Statistics Department of the Ministry of Prisoners – Ramallah.

of journalists to personal security as they carry out their work, are part of a campaign to isolate the oPt from the rest of the world and prevent the media from covering crimes committed against civilians by Israeli forces. The most significant attacks were committed during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, whereas Israeli forces committed war crimes against journalists, including wilful killing and attacks on media facilities and offices.

PCHR documented other attacks on journalists during 2014, the most prominent of which were in the West Bank. The types of attacks included: firing at journalists; beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment; detention of journalists; denying journalists access to certain areas; confiscation of and/or damaging journalistic equipment; and raids on media offices and the homes of journalists.

5. Destruction of Civilian Property

In 2014, the Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian property in the oPt, especially during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, when tens of thousands of civilian objects and property were destroyed. Israeli forces continued this policy also in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as a part of the policies of settlement expansion and confiscation of lands.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces continued to target Palestinian civilian houses and property under several pretexts to implement the scheme of settlement expansion and confiscation of lands. In 2014, the house demolition policy escalated in Jerusalem under the pretext that houses were built without construction licenses from the Israeli municipality. As a result, hundreds of families became homeless. In Jerusalem, Israeli forces continued their efforts to create Jewish majority there and policies of ethnic cleansing against Palestinian civilians. They forcibly obliged Palestinians to evacuate their houses and property and demolished them. In the West Bank, Israeli forces adopted the policy of collective punishment against Palestinian families, whose sons were involved in running down and/or stabbing Israeli soldiers or settlers. It should be noted that Israeli authorities assume the powers of civil and security affairs over 62% of the West Bank, which is known as area (C) according to the Oslo accords. Therefore, the

Israeli civil administration has absolute powers to use lands and set plans in that area, especially in terms of issuing demolition notices or construction licenses.

Israeli forces committed systematic crimes that amounted to the level of crimes against humanity when they started a wide-scale military operation in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014. During that operation, Israeli air, ground and naval forces were employed to bomb all civilian objects whether through planned operations or indiscriminate attacks. In addition to war crimes that violated the civilians' right to the protection of their lives, security and safety, Israeli forces carried out wide-scale demolition and destruction operations throughout the Gaza Strip. Dozens of thousands of civilian objects were destroyed, including houses, vital facilities like water, electricity, telephone, sewage, and road networks, in addition to governmental, agricultural, commercial, educational, health, religious and cultural facilities. In a serious development, Israeli forces demolished and erased full residential neighborhoods. As a result more killings and injuries were reported. Moreover, a large number of civilians were forcibly displaced. However, each and every meter in the Gaza Strip was a target for Israeli forces. The last days of the offensive (the end of August 2014) witnessed a qualitative expansion of the demolition of civilian objects. The Israeli forces targeted a number of multi-storey buildings, which contains hundreds of apartments and dozens of commercial stores. Israeli forces bombed them in few minutes and turned them into piles of rubble. In addition, civilians who inhabited these buildings lost all their personal belongings.

6. Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

The Israeli government, its occupation forces and settlers living in the oPt in violation of international law have continued the expansion of settlements in the West Bank. Armed Israeli settlers, protected by Israeli forces, have continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property. In 2014, Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and property, launching some joint attacks with the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians. The most violent and heinous attack was kidnapping and burning a Palestinian child, Mohammed Abu Khudeir, from Sho'afat neighbourhood, north of Jerusalem.

Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, clearly violate international humanitarian law and international resolutions. In spite of increasing international criticism to Israeli settlement activities in the oPt, the Israeli government escalated these activities allegedly to meet the need of natural growth of settlers. PCHR emphasizes that the Palestinian territory (the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip) is an occupied territory according to the international humanitarian law and the international legitimacy resolutions. Therefore, PCHR has persistently called upon the international community to immediately intervene to compel the Israeli government to stop all settlement activities in the oPt, especially in East Jerusalem, and dismantle Israeli settlements, which constitute a war crime under international humanitarian law.

In 2014, armed Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Attacks were no longer a reaction to attacks by Palestinian armed groups against Israeli forces and settlers. They developed into systematic attacks against Palestinian civilians. In 2014, such attacks became even more systematic, often at times of complete quietness in the oPt.

7. The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

Although 10 years passed on the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 9 July 2004 on the legal consequences of the wall in response to a request by a UN General Assembly resolution of 3 December 2003, Israel has not taken any measure to change the situation on the ground. The ICJ ruled that the wall's construction inside the oPt, including East Jerusalem, violates international law. It also found that Israel is bound to put an end to its violations of international law, stop the construction works of the wall, dismantle the sections already constructed, abolish all relevant legislation and orders, and compensate Palestinians harmed by the construction of the wall. The ICJ called upon the international community to abstain from helping the continued illegal status, which was established after the construction of the annexation wall, take the legal steps to stop the Israeli violations and ensure the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention. However, the Israeli authorities and its judicial system have continued to ignore the ICJ's opinion, and the Israeli government continued to act as a

state above the law. Moreover, the international community have not taken any measures to deter the Israeli forces or hold them accountable for their crimes and serious violations of the international humanitarian law in the oPt.

8. The Absence of Justice in the Israeli Legal System

Israeli authorities continued to impose obstacles before the Palestinian victims in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip to deny them their right to justice and remedy. The latest of such obstacles was the Israeli Supreme Court's decision on 16 December 2014 approving regulations that ban Palestinians from Gaza from entering Israel for their compensation cases against the Israeli military. Thus, there is no place for any claim of justice for the Palestinian victims before the Israeli Judiciary so that we can declare that the Israeli Judicial system does not want to provide justice for Palestinians and that the international bodies should not request exhausting all means in regard to Israeli crimes. Victims of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in June 2014 ("Operation Protective Edge") joined the very long list victims of the Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip in both November 2014 ("Operation Pillar of Defense") and in December 2008 – January 2009 ("Operation Cast Lead") waiting for justice and remedy. This requires serious steps from all international and local parties to put an end to the State of Immunity granted for the Israeli war criminals.

Although months have passed since the last Israeli offensive in 2014 known as "Operation Protective Edge", Israel continued to prevent any international or special commission of inquiry from entering Gaza in order to investigate the crimes committed by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip in addition to the arbitrary laws and procedures previously taken and enacted to close doors for remedy before Palestinian victims. The situation is not different in the West Bank although Israeli authorities declared the Gaza Strip, but not the West Bank, as "a hostile entity". Israel has proved over and over again that killing Palestinian civilians in cold blood by the Israeli soldiers and settlers, who are armed by Israeli authorities, usually goes unpunished. Thus, Israel proves that its judicial system is a racist system and part of the Israeli apartheid, which has been professionally created, to avoid criticism and international legal prosecution, since its occupation of the Palestinian territories.



SECOND:

PALESTINIAN VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OBSTACLES TO DEMOCRATIC REFORM

For the eighth consecutive year, the internal political conflict and separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been a major factor that led to further deterioration of the human rights situation. There were hopes that signing the reconciliation agreement in April 2014 and the formation of the national unity government would end the division and unite the PA's institutions. However, the year ended without any serious steps having been taken to end the political division and the government did not assume its actual responsibilities.

1. Violation of the Right to Life and Attacks on Personal Security

In 2014, more violations of the right to life and personal security due to the misuse of weapons, as well as violations of the rule of the law in the oPt were reported. During this year, security chaos escalated especially in the Gaza Strip which witnesses a series of bombing incidents and extra-judicial executions that warn of returning to the state of security chaos in the Gaza Strip in previous years. The Palestinian territories also witnessed the escalation of murdering women on grounds of "Family honour". PCHR documented the deaths of 99 people (84 in the Gaza Strip and 15 in the West Bank), including 9 children and 8 women. More than 167 persons were also wounded. Violations of the right to life and personal security were perpetrated in the following contexts: the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials; illegal use of weapons; the use of weapons in personal and family disputes, murders motivated by "family honour." Moreover, during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, Gaza witnessed extra-judicial executions carried out by armed Palestinians affiliated with Palestinian factions against persons on suspicion of collaborating with Israel.

2. Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

In 2014, security services in Ramallah and Gaza continued illegal arrest campaigns and summonses and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against. Most of those summonses and arrests were carried out on political grounds due to the continuation of the political split between Fatah and Hamas. Although a positive atmosphere prevailed in the oPt after the Palestinian reconciliation agreement (al-Shati' Agreement) was signed on 23 April 2014 ending a black era of the political split between Fatah and Hamas and forming a national reconciliation government on 02 June, the political arrests continued. In 2014, PCHR documented torture and maltreatment cases committed by the security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In addition to the political arrests, we can clearly notice in arrests on criminal grounds the accompanying failure to follow the legal procedures for arrests and the practice of torture and humiliation in interrogation and detention centres of the security services in the West Bank and Gaza.

In 2014, the security officers continued to practice torture as a primary means when dealing with prisoners and detainees in the detention centres. PCHR documented many testimonies by victims or their relatives that either they or their sons were subject to torture inside the detention centres of the PA in Gaza. These crimes were committed against civilians who were arrested on political or criminal grounds by the security services.

In 2014, the security officers continued to practice torture as a primary means when dealing with prisoners and detainees in the detention centres. PCHR documented many testimonies by victims or their relatives that either they or their sons were subject to torture inside the detention centres of the PA in Gaza. These crimes were committed against civilians who were arrested on political or criminal grounds by the security services. PCHR reiterates its demand to conduct an investigation into the circumstances of the deaths of these civilians and publish the investigation results.

3. Continued Disruption of the Legislature

The disruption of the PLC entered its eighth year in 2014. The complete absence of a mandated PLC is a result of actions taken against PLC Members by Israel and the fragmentation of the Palestinian executive which has been ongoing since 2007. This undermined all efforts endeavoured to find good governance in Palestine as the PLC is the legislative and monitoring authority of the PNA otherwise no democratic system cannot be imagined. The year of 2014 ended, and the PLC was not convened nor a date was agreed on to hold legislative elections, which should have been held in 2010, although it was agreed to start implementing the reconciliation agreement since April 2014.

4. Deterioration of the Judicial Authority

In 2014, the judiciary continued to deteriorate, and its independence continued as well to be abused by the executive authority. Despite the efforts to end the division and the formation of the unity government in June 2014, the division in the judicial system still exists. PCHR considers that negligence by both parties of division to reunite the judicial system will have serious consequences on the steps towards ending the division due to not having an indepen-

dent and united judiciary, to which people can seek refuge in order to end any dispute. The current reality of the Palestinian judiciary constitutes a violation of the Palestinian Basic Law, especially article 97 which emphasizes that “the judiciary is independent” and Article 2 which as well emphasizes the principle of the separation of powers.

5. Obstruction of General and Local Elections

The fragmentation of the Palestinian executive continued to be the main obstacle to democratic reform. Despite the formation of the national unity government on 02 June 2014 and emergence of positive signs that would end the division and rehabilitate the PA institutions, including holding presidential and PLC elections, the Presidential and legislative elections were not held in 2014 to renew the legitimacy of the Palestinian people’s representatives, who were elected in 2005 and 2006 respectively. By the end of 2014, five and four years had passed since the expiration of the legal terms in office of the Palestinian President and the PLC respectively. The PA remains unable to hold general elections.

By the end of 2014, there had been still no progress in terms of holding or setting a date for the presidential and legislative elections in the oPt. According to the Palestinian law, the Palestinian President must call for legislative elections three months prior to holding them. This did not happen.

Regarding the local elections, nothing happened in 2014. On 20 October 2012, the PA organized local elections in the West Bank. On 12 March 2013, the Council of Ministers in Ramallah issued a decision that the elections in the local councils, in which elections were not held, and in the councils, which lost its legal quorum as the majority of its members resigned, would be held on 01 June 2013. However, the elections of the local councils in the Gaza were not held. Moreover, the government in Gaza continued to appoint local councils close to Hamas and kept some local councils which are affiliated to it.

6. Violations of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

In 2014, violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression continued despite the positive atmosphere which accompanied the formation of the

national unity government on 02 June and following the Palestinian reconciliation agreement known as (al-Shati' agreement) between Hamas and a delegation empowered by President Mahmoud 'Abbas in the house of Ismail Haniyah, Prime Minister of the Gaza government, on 23 April 2014. Although the Shati' agreement resulted in positive steps regarding the redistribution of newspapers of al-Quds, al-Hayat al-Jadeeda and al-Ayyam in the Gaza Strip, and the newspapers of Palestine and al-Risala in the beginning of May, the situation deteriorated later and the violations of this right in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued by the official bodies.

7. Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

The year of 2014 witnessed continued violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the oPt by both governments in the Gaza Strip and West Bank and their security services. These violations included imposing precautionary measures to prevent and restrict organizing peaceful assemblies in their respective areas of control. Despite the positive atmosphere that spread over the oPt following the reconciliation agreement in April and formation of the national unity government on 02 June, the situation deteriorated. These violations went beyond the official restrictions and affected private meetings as well, which do not fall within the scope the Law (12) of 1998 on Public Meetings, although organizers of such meetings are not required to notify the Palestinian police or governors according to the law. Moreover, the Palestinian Basic Law guarantees the right to hold private meetings without the intervention of the Palestinian police.

In the Gaza Strip, Security services continued to impose bans on public meetings, disperse a number of public gatherings, and impose precautionary measures to restrict civilians' right to hold public meetings, especially gatherings which contradict mainstream opinion. These measures were applied inappropriately and beyond their original scope, affecting private meetings, which were held in closed places and whose organization is not required by law to be notified to competent official bodies. In the West bank, the government and its security services continued to violate the right to peaceful assembly, especially gatherings that contradict the mainstream opinion.

8. Violations of the Right to Freedom of Association

Violations of the right to freedom of association continued in 2014 in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Despite the formation of the national unity government in June 2014, the chaotic legal regulation of the associations still exists as the laws and decrees issued under the political division in relation to associations continued to be applied. Moreover, the physical and arbitrary attacks against associations and syndicates continued in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These violations included arrests in the West Bank on grounds of practicing in the union action, and explosions in the Gaza Strip targeting local and international associations. This emphasizes that the PA in the West Bank and Gaza Strip failed to respect and protect the right to freedom of association in 2014. This is part of a policy adopted since the establishment of the PA that targets associations and attempts to take over the civil society and undermine its role. This policy escalated following the division in the PA as many associations were arbitrarily and illegally closed. Moreover, many laws and decrees were enacted to impose restrictions associations' activities.

Violations of the right to freedom of association continued in the West Bank in 2014. The executive authority in the West Bank in cooperation with the judiciary targeted the Public Employees Syndicate and accused it of being an illegal body under the pretext that the syndicate is not duly licensed. PCHR emphasized that if the syndicate is not licensed, it does not mean that it is an illegal association. The most that the PA can do is to ask the syndicate to correct its legal status and give it an opportunity to do so.

The Gaza Strip witnessed a series of attacks on associations in 2014, including explosions that targeted local and foreign associations warning of serious risks to the civil society and its freedom to practice its activities, especially as the available information indicates that the attacks' grounds are ideological. These attacks proved the failure of the authorities in the Gaza Strip to protect the right to freedom of association according to the international standards, which oblige the authorities to prevent any attack on associations by a third party.

9. Continued Application of the Death Penalty

The year of 2014 witnessed the continuation and application of the death penalty despite PCHR's and civil society's efforts to abolish this punishment. In 2014, 8 death sentences were issued; one of them was on the ground of collaboration with the Israel and the rest were on grounds of murders. The Ministry of Interior in Gaza implemented two death sentences by firing squad without ratification by the Palestinian President according to the law against two persons convicted of collaboration with Israel.

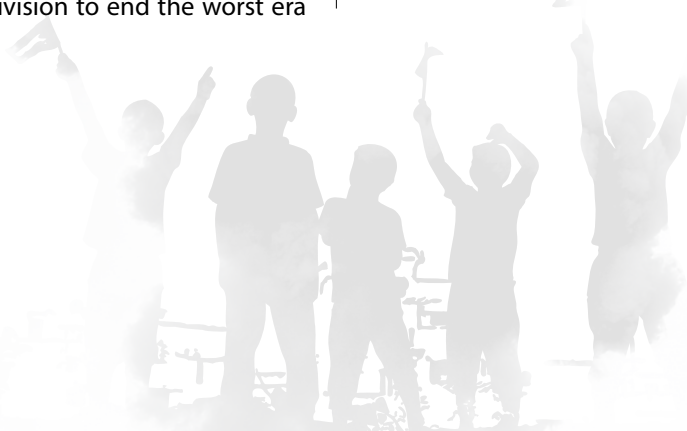
According to PCHR's documentation, the death sentences issued by the PA decreased in 2014 compared with 2013, during which 14 sentences were issued, including 13 ones that were issued in the Gaza Strip. The number of death sentences issued by the Palestinian courts since the 1994 has risen to 156; 129 of which were issued in the Gaza Strip, and 27 of which were issued in the West Bank. The total number of death sentences issued in the Gaza Strip since the Hamas' takeover in 2007 has increased to 71. The PA also implemented 32 death sentences since its establishment; 30 of which were in the Gaza Strip and 2 of which in the West Bank; 19 of those sentences were implemented after Hamas' takeover in 2007.

10. Impacts of the Political Division on Economic and Social Rights in the Gaza Strip

The economic and social rights of the Gaza population reached the peak of deterioration in 2014 due to the ongoing Palestinian political division for the 7th consecutive year and the absence of the political will of both parties to the division to end the worst era

in the Palestinian history. The situation in the Gaza Strip deteriorated to the level of an area of disaster following the latest Israeli offensive on Gaza in summer 2014, which caused unprecedented destruction to the civilian infrastructure and facilities in the cities, refugee camps and villages of the Gaza Strip. The Gaza population expressed their optimism after the parties to the Palestinian political division declared signing the reconciliation agreement known as "Shati Agreement" on 24 April 2014, and formed the Palestinian unity government, which swore the oath before the Palestinian President on 02 June 2014. However, all hopes and optimism of the Gaza population and Palestinian people in general went with the wind due to the continued political conflict over the powers and almost-complete absence of the national unity government, which was expected by people to face the challenges of the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, which was destroyed by the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

At the end of 2014 and although the national unity government assumed its powers, the basic characteristic which prevailed was the ongoing deterioration of all health, education and social security services. Thousands of public servants and their families have been deprived of their salaries they used to receive from the PA budget as the government in Ramallah has stopped paying to those employees since the beginning of the political division in 2007. Meanwhile, the suffering of dozens of civil and military public servant, who receive their salaries from the PA budget, especially those affiliated with Fatah, due to being pursued by the Gaza Government and its security services.





RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of continued violations by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians, the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip, denial of Palestinian victims' access to justice, the Israeli siege that has been imposed on the Gaza Strip for the eighth year, and the continued Palestinian political split, which had led to the deterioration of human rights and public liberties under the PA, thus negatively affecting the economic, social, political and legal conditions, PCHR presents the following recommendations to the international community and Palestinian decision-makers:

Recommendations to the International Community

PCHR emphasizes that Israeli forces committed crimes against humanity and war crimes during the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip, which requires holding these responsible for them accountable and ensuring remedy for victims. PCHR reminds the international community that Israel has continued to impose a siege on the Gaza Strip for the eighth year. PCHR further reiterates that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are still under the Israeli occupation in spite of the Israeli military redeployment outside the Gaza Strip in 2005. PCHR stresses that there is an international recognition of Israel's obligation to respect international human rights instruments and the international humanitarian law. Israel is bound to apply the international human rights law and the law of war, sometimes reciprocally and other times in parallel, in a way that achieves the best protection for civilians and remedy for victims.

As the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict is close to publish its report, and in light of the continued arbitrary measures, land confiscation and settlement activities in the West Bank, and the continued denial of access of victims to justice and remedy:

1. PCHR calls upon the international community and the United Nations to use all available means to allow the Palestinian people to enjoy their right to self-determination, through the establishment of the Palestinian State, which was recognized by the UN General Assembly with a vast majority, using all international legal mechanisms, including sanctions to end the occupation of the State of Palestine.
2. PCHR calls upon the international community to support the Palestinian accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and to cooperate to ensure bringing suspected Israeli war criminals before justice.
3. PCHR calls upon members of the UN Human Rights Council and all UN bodies to support the results of investigation that will be concluded by the Independent Commission of Inquiry formed by the Human Rights Council, and to refer the case immediately and directly to relevant international bodies.
4. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions to fulfill their obligations under article (1) of the Convention to ensure respect for the Conventions in all circumstances, and under articles (146) and (147) to search for and prosecute those responsible for committing grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions to ensure justice and remedy for Palestinian victims, especially in light of the almost complete denial of justice for them before the Israeli judiciary.

5. PCHR calls upon the international community to assume its responsibilities for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip following the Israeli offensive, accelerate the process of reconstruction and pressurize Israeli forces to open border crossing to allow entry of construction materials and other basic needs.
6. PCHR calls upon the United Nations to reconsider the mechanism offered by the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process as it perpetuates and legalizes the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, to take action to lift the siege as it constitutes a war crime and a form of aggression.
7. PCHR calls upon the international community to immediately act to compel the Israeli authorities to lift the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, which prevents the movement of persons and goods, to save about 1.8 Palestinians from economic, social, political and cultural stranglehold.
8. PCHR calls upon the international community to pressurize Israel to ensure the freedom of movement and a permanent mechanism for geographical contiguity between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip away from the arbitrary Israeli security control.
9. PCHR calls upon the international community, especially states that import Israeli weapons and military services, to meet their moral and legal responsibility, not allow Israel to use the offensive on Gaza to promote the new weapons it tested in Gaza, and not accept training services based on the field experience in Gaza in order to avoid turning Palestinian civilians in Gaza into testing objects for Israeli weapons and military tactics.
10. PCHR calls upon the Parties to international human rights instruments, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to pressurize Israel to comply with their provisions in the oPt, and to compel it to incorporate the human rights situation in the oPt in its reports submitted to the concerned committees.
11. PCHR calls upon the international community to act in order to stop all Israeli settlement expansion activities in the oPt through imposing sanctions on Israeli settlements and criminalizing trading with them.
12. PCHR calls upon the United Nations and the European Union to express a clear position towards the annexation wall following the international recognition of the State of Palestine on the 1967 borders, as the annexation wall seizes large parts of the State of Palestine.
13. PCHR calls upon the European Union to activate Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, which provides that both sides must respect human rights as a precondition for economic cooperation between the EU States and Israel, and the EU should not ignore Israeli violations and crimes against Palestinian civilians.
14. PCHR calls upon the international community, especially Arab countries, to support efforts to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation through exerting political pressure on the two parties of the split in order to achieve reconciliation, and the international community should accept the results of reconciliation to avoid the recurrence of penal sanctions adopted by the international community against the first Palestinian national unity government.
15. PCHR calls upon the international community and international human rights bodies to pressurize Israeli forces to stop attacks against Palestinian fishermen and allow them to fish freely as fishing is a major source for the Palestinian economy in the Gaza Strip.

Recommendations to the Palestinian Decision-Makers

In 2014, rights and liberties in the PA controlled areas deteriorated due the ongoing political split. The PLC's legislative and monitoring role was absent, and the parties of the political split continued to push the judiciary into the internal conflict, which undermined the judiciary's independence. This situation further aggravated by the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. PCHR calls upon Palestinian decision-makers to cooperate and jointly implement the following recommendations:

1. PCHR calls upon the PA to apply to the International Criminal Court to investigate crimes committed by Israeli forces in the oPt, especially during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, and not to surrender to Israeli and US pressure.
2. PCHR calls upon the parties to the reconciliation to immediately act to facilitate the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, relief efforts for homeless people, solving the electricity and cooking gas crisis and opening border crossings, especially Rafah International Crossing Point.
3. PCHR calls for immediately uniting the PA and starting preparations for the Palestinian parliamentary and presidential elections.
4. PCHR calls upon security services in the Gaza Strip to immediately act to stop the escalating state of security chaos as they are the de facto security forces in Gaza until Palestinian security services in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are united in accordance with the reconciliation agreement.
5. PCHR calls upon the national unity government to immediately assume its powers in all PA controlled areas and stop the state of security chaos in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which has escalated in the past months.
6. PCHR calls upon the reconciliation parties to reunite the judiciary as a first step to end the division, in order to have a neutral body that can decide on any dispute that may arise during the process of re-unity.
7. PCHR calls upon the Higher Judiciary Council to reunite the judiciary in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to ensure its independence and impartiality.
8. PCHR calls upon the Palestinian President to comply with the conditions prescribed under Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law for issuing decrees that have the power of laws, including the condition of necessity that cannot be delayed.
9. PCHR calls upon the Change and Reform Parliamentary Bloc to stop holding any sessions on behalf of the PLC, and to abstain from enacting any law under the ongoing political split.
10. PCHR calls upon the two parties of the Palestinian reconciliation to present all laws enacted under the political split to the PLC once it is convened.
11. PCHR calls upon the government and security services in the West Bank and Gaza to stop all violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to peaceful assembly, and to hold the perpetrators of such violations accountable through appropriate legal means.
12. PCHR calls upon the government and security services in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to stop political arrests, and emphasizes that all victims have the right to claim for compensation if it is proved that they were arrested illegally.
13. PCHR calls upon the Public Prosecution to stop summoning people by security services without warrants, and confirms that the Public Prosecution is the only body warranted to summon people.
14. PCHR calls upon the administration of prisons and detention facilities to release all persons who are illegally detained, and confirms that directors of prisons and detention facilities have the authority and even the duty to release such persons; otherwise, they will be legally liable.

15. PCHR calls upon the government and security services in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to immediately stop torture in prisons and detention facilities and hold suspected perpetrators of this crime, which remains punishable at all times according to the Palestinian Basic Law, accountable.
16. PCHR calls upon the Association Registration Department in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to stop intervening into the activities and affairs of associations beyond the limits of the Law of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations.
17. PCHR calls for stopping applying the death penalty, and abstain from implementing death sentences that have been issued so far until the death penalty is abolished from the Palestinian laws.
18. PCHR calls upon the government to take strict measures against those who are involved in assaults on public liberties.
19. PCHR calls upon the government to activate the principle of transparency in the PNA's institution allowing access to information about public affairs, especially through the websites of ministries and various governmental bodies.
20. PCHR calls upon the government to implement the Palestinian Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, especially providing adequate facilities to disabled persons and ensuring their right to work.
21. PCHR calls upon the government and security services to respect the right to freedom of movement, and emphasizes that restricting this right is possible only by a judicial order according to the Palestinian Basic Law.





**SECTION (1):
ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL HU-
MANITARIAN LAW**





WILLFUL KILLINGS AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND PERSONAL SECURITY

In 2014, Israeli forces committed more crimes and violations of the right to life and personal security against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. These crimes escalated in mid-2014, as the Gaza Strip witnessed a 50-day unprecedented offensive starting on 08 July 2014. Israeli forces started “Operation Protective Edge” with air strikes against civilian objects, including houses. Israeli warplanes bombed the Gaza Strip with thousands of tons of explosives and killed many civilians in their houses, including women, children and elderly. Day after day, targeting civilians and their property increased, as it included all Palestinian areas. No safe place was in Gaza. Attacks were launched on houses, residential buildings, governmental facilities, civilian institutions, public parks, mosques, schools and universities. Israeli forces committed serious violations against the Palestinian civilians in a manner reminding of the scenes of destruction and killing in “Operation Pillar of Defence” in 2012 and “Operation Cast Lead” in 2008-2009.

On the 10th day of the Israeli offensive, Israeli forces launched a ground operation in different areas of the Gaza Strip, as dozens of thousands of Israeli soldiers and hundreds of tanks were deployed under the coverage of aerial, naval and ground attacks. During the ground operation in different areas in the north (Beit Hanoun), centre (al-Shuja’iya and Johr al-Deek) and south (Khuza’a, Abasan and Rafah), Israeli forces committed serious crimes against the Palestinian civilians. They denied paramedics, journalists and humanitarian service teams access to these areas and imposed a full closure over them. The cruellest crimes were committed in al-Shuja’iya and Rafah, where hundreds of civilians were killed and hundreds of houses were bombed while their occupants were inside. In the meantime, Israeli forces bombed the Palestinian areas with all types of weapons resulting in more casualties.

The Israeli offensive resulted in killing 2,216 Palestinians, 1,543 of whom were civilians, including 556 children and 293 women; i.e. 60% of the civilian victims and 38% of the total number of victims. Moreover, it resulted in wounding 10,895, the vast majority of whom were civilians, including 3,306 children and 2,114 women.

These civilians were killed in different contexts: while they were sleeping at homes, on the roofs of their houses or in their houses’ yards. The most prominent forms of attacks were: attacks on houses of targeted persons; attacks on other targets (mosques, public facilities, streets, agricultural and open lands... etc.); attacks on residential areas like markets, cafes and shelters; extra-judicial executions; targeting civilian houses; targeting public facilities; and wilful killings.

In 2014, before and after the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces killed 64 Palestinians, 55 of whom were civilians, including 12 children and a woman. In addition, 830 Palestinians were wounded, including 163 children and 22 women.

From the beginning of the year, killings of Palestinian civilians in the oPt escalated. According to PCHR’s documentation, Israeli forces killed in the first half of 2014, 35 Palestinians, 23 of whom were civilians, including 5 children and a woman, and wounded 372 persons, 366

of whom were civilians, including 73 children. The majority of the wounded persons were wounded in peaceful protests and clashes with Israeli forces.

Israeli forces continued to commit wilful killing crimes against Palestinian civilians after the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip until the end of 2014. Israeli forces killed 31 civilians in the oPt in circumstances where no threats were posed to the lives of Israeli soldiers.

Thus, the number of Palestinian victims in 2014 was 2,280 Palestinians, 1,591 of whom were civilians, including 568 children and 294 women. Moreover, 11,742 Palestinians were wounded, including 3,443 children and 2,136.

According to investigations conducted PCHR, testimonies of eyewitnesses and collected evidence, it was undoubtedly proven that the Israeli forces used excessive and disproportionate force against the Palestinian civilians who are protected according to the international humanitarian law. They also did not take into consideration the principles of distinction between civilian and military targets, and proportionality in responding to the other military force. It was also clear that the Israeli forces carried out reprisal acts against Palestinian civilians. Those civilians were killed in circumstances that did not pose any threat to the lives of the Israeli soldiers.

Bombing houses and humanitarian shelters and exterminating entire families

The most significant crimes of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip were bombing houses, shelters and localities in cafes, streets and markets. PCHR documented dozens of crimes committed without prior warning by Israeli forces although they had prior knowledge of the presence of civilians in those localities. Furthermore, PCHR documented the extermination of entire families by air strikes throughout the Gaza Strip, artillery shelling of residential neighborhoods, targeting densely populated areas and bombing houses and killing civilians inside. These crimes resulted in killing dozens of civilians, including children, and extermination of entire families. The most prominent crimes were as follows:

1. Al-Batsh family – al-Toffah neighborhood, Gaza

On 12 July, Israeli forces targeted a house belonging to Majed al-Batsh in al-Toffah neighborhood in Gaza City. In addition to owner of the house and his family, a number of other families that resorted to that house were present inside. Men of those families were performing al-Taraweeh prayer in Majed's house and the neighboring one, while women were preparing sweets. The house was bombed without a prior warning. As a result, 18 persons from al-Batsh family were killed, including Majed, his wife and their 7 children. None of the family members survived. The total number of victims included 6 children and 4 women, one of whom was pregnant. In addition, 50 others were wounded.

Ahmed No'man Sobhi al-Batsh (27), a nephew of Majed Sobhi al-Batsh (52), who was wounded in the attack and whose house was located near his uncle's 2-storey house, said:

"At approximately 21:30 on Saturday, 12 July, I was present in my uncle Majed's house, in which my uncle Majed; his wife Amal (50); their children Baha' (28), Jalal (26), Khaled (20), Mahmoud (22), Ibrahim (18), Marwa (20) and Manar (13); 8-month pregnant Samah Alaa al-Batsh (22), Baha's wife, and their 1.5-year-old daughter named Amal

were. I saw there also my cousins: Yehya Alaa al-Batsh (18) and his brother Anas (12); and Mohammed Essam al-Batsh (15) and his brother Qusai (13). All the family members were gathering in my uncle Majed's house as usual. We were frightened because of the heavy explosions resulting from bombing different areas around. I was hearing Israeli warplanes hovering. Following Isha (evening) prayer, we decided to pray the Isha and Tarweeh prayers in the house because the nearby mosque was closed due to the situation then. Because we were too many inside my uncle's house, I decided with some of my cousins to pray in my neighboring house. At approximately 22:05, I went with my cousins to my house and left my uncle Majed, his sons, other cousins and uncle Tayseer al-Batsh, Police Chief in Gaza, praying in my uncle's house. I then felt strong air pressure that pushed me few meters away. The walls collapsed and black smoke was everywhere. We were covered with rubbles and saw fire around. I then heard my cousins who were praying with me articulating the two declarations of faith in Islam. I realized then that Israeli warplanes bombed the house. I had pain throughout my body and felt burns too. I started crawling and trying to find a way out of the house amidst darkness. I was afraid that Israeli warplanes would target the place again, as this is how attacks used to be during the Israeli offensive. I crawled out to the passage leading to my uncle's house. I found that the house was completely destroyed over the families in there. I started crying for help, and I then saw a number of neighbors stopping by the main door leading to our houses, but they were afraid to come in, fearing other possible attacks. I ran towards them and told them that my uncle's house was attacked by an F16 fighter jet. I asked them to call the

ambulance and help in pulling out my uncle's family from the rubbles, because I was bleeding and suffering from burns all over my body. Some neighbors headed towards my uncle's house and left me aside until ambulances arrived. They then brought my cousin Osama and I saw his right leg cut and burns throughout his body. They also brought my paternal grandmother Um Essam (80). She sustained a wound to the right hand and others wounds throughout the body. In the meantime, ambulances arrived. I was taken with Osama and grandma Um Essam by one ambulance to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. While being at the hospital, I saw about 50 persons of those who were wounded in the attack on my uncle's house, including my father (68), uncle Tayseer and other family members, the majority of whom were women and children. In addition, I saw paramedics bringing a number of martyrs from my uncle's house. Most of them were torn into pieces, due to which I fainted. On the following morning, I headed to the hospital morgue and saw some of my family members. I had a look on members of my family who were killed. The persons killed in my uncle's house were:

1. Uncle Majed, his wife and their 7 children;
2. Samah, Baha's wife, and their daughter Amal;
3. My mother, Aziza Yusef al-Batsh (55);
4. My cousins Nahedh Na'im al-Batsh (41), Mohammed and Qusai Essam al-Batsh, and Anas and Yehya Alaa al-Batsh.

It is worth noting that although Civil Defense kept searching for a whole day, they found only 11 corpses. They could not find corpses of other persons, especially women. Paramedics found parts of the family members' bodies in the vicinity of our houses..."



The remnants of the al-Batash family's house in al-Tuffah neighborhood in the east of Gaza City



The Kaware' family's house in Khan Yunis that was bombed by Israeli forces in the early days of the offensive

2. Abu Nejem family – Jabalia refugee camp

Without prior warning, Israeli warplanes bombed a house belonging to Mohammed Abdul Karim Nejem (55) around al-Tawba Mosque in Jabalia refugee camp. As a result, the house was completely destroyed. Moreover, the attack resulted in the killing of Mohammed; his father Abdul Karim (97); his sons: Belal (27), Ahmed (17) and Mohammed (21); Soha Hamed Abdul Karim Nejem al-Masri (30); Raghad Mohammed Sa'di Nejem al-Masri (3); Shaima'Wa'el Mahmoud Qasem (14); Qasem Mohammed Mahmoud Qasem (30); and 2 members of Palestinian armed groups. Additionally, 22 civilians, including 10 children and 3 women, were wounded in the same attack. Among the wounded was Zaki Abed Rabbu Kalloub (36), who was living in a neighboring house and was wounded with members of his family. Kalloub stated:

"...On Sunday afternoon, 03 August, we heard people shouting that al-Tawba Mosque that was 150 meters to the northeast of my house would be attacked, as Israeli forces called Abu Ali Abu Jaser whose house is opposite to the mosque and informed him that they would bomb the mosque. I opened all my house windows so they would not be smashed and the whole neighborhood panicked. The Asr prayer was called off and all neighbors of the mosque were evacuated to other places. Of those who left their houses was Wa'el Qasem, who left to the house of his brother-in-law, Mohammed Sa'di Abu Nejem that was to the east of mine. We were waiting for the mosque to be bombarded, but it was not bombarded until 20:50 on the same day, when Israeli forces fired dozens of flash bombs. Residents of the area were terrified, due to which they got into their houses. At approximately 21:00 on the same day, Israeli warplanes targeted without prior warning a 3-storey house belonging to Mohammed Abdul Karim Mohammed Abu Nejem to the east of my house. At that moment, I did not hear any explosion, I only saw strong light and rubble scattering around in my house.

I was also thrown in the air and I then fell down to the ground. As a result, my left leg was broken. I thought that my house was the target. I then heard people screaming everywhere. Although my leg was broken, I stood up to check on my family. I found my children and wife and we all ran out of the house. Neighbors around shouted that my house was not the targeted one. At that time, all I was thinking about is my family. My wife, Wala' Abdul Fattah Kalloub (28), sustained a shrapnel wound to the left thigh, my daughter Hadeel (6) sustained a shrapnel wound to the neck and my 2 sisters Aman (37) and Zainab (40) sustained bruises throughout their bodies. We were taken to Kamal Odwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, where we received first medical aid. In the hospital, I saw corpses of members of the Abu Nejem family that were pulled from the rubbles. I remember I saw the corpses of Soha Hamed Nejem al-Masri (30), her daughter Raghad (3), Mohammed Abdul Karim Ab Nejem (55) and Shaima' Wa'el Qasem (14). I then realized that the Abu Nejem family were targeted..."

3. Abu Jaber family – al-Bureij refugee camp

On 29 July, a house belonging to the Abu Jaber family in al-Bureij refugee camp was attacked. This attack proves how Israeli forces committed crimes in cold blood and indiscriminately harmed civilians. Twenty persons were killed and 7 others were wounded in the attack on the Abu Jaber family in a densely populated neighborhood. Kefah Mahmoud Abu Jaber (51), who lives in al-Nusairat housing project, explained the circumstances in which his family was killed:

“At approximately 00:30 on Tuesday, 29 July, I heard on radio that a house belonging to the Abu Jaber family in al-Bureij refugee camp was bombed. I headed to the place of the attack 15 minutes later. I entered the house where my father, mother, brother, 2 sisters and a sister’s husband and 5 children were present. I found nobody, but I saw the eastern wall of the house had collapsed. Through that collapsed wall, I could see my uncles’ houses completely destroyed and smoke was blinding. People gathered around and we started looking for victims. We found my cousin Najah Hamdan Abu Jaber (32) and aunt Haniya Mohammed Abu Jaber (77) wounded, while my uncle Hamdan Mohammed Abu Jaber (77) was killed. Others found the corpses of his sons: Aisha, Fadel (19) and Jaber (27) and corpses of Ayman Salah Abu Oun that was torn into 2 halves, Ahmed Omer Abdul ‘Al (24) and a third corpse that was unidentified and torn into pieces. I also saw my son-in-law Anwar Mohammed Abu Jaber (35), who sustained a wound to the head and was dying. We kept looking for other victims and removing the rubbles, but cement blocks were huge and heavy. We stopped searching and went to al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah to receive the

corpses of 10 persons: my uncle Hamdan and his children Aisha, Fadel and Jaber; Anwar Mohammed Abu Jaber; Mohammed Ra’ed Abu Jaber; Toqa Salah Abu Essa (Abu Jaber); Ahmed Abdul ‘Al; Ayman Abu Oun and Sama Ra’ed Abu Jaber. In the following morning, at approximately 10:30, we searched again as 2 bulldozers arrived and started removing the rubbles. We recovered a number of corpses, including my daughter Lina (23) and her 2 daughters: Leen Anwar Abu Jaber (2.5) and Salma (1.5). Other corpses belonged to Ahmed Hamdan Abu Jaber (35), his wife Samiya Abdul Rahman Abu Jaber (30) and his daughter Hala (6); Anwaar Mohammed Abu Jaber (35); Donya Hamdan Abu Jaber (25) and my uncle’s wife Fedda Ghannam Abu Jaber (62). It should be noted that Donya was 9-month pregnant and her baby was out and dead. We took all of them to al-Aqsa Hospital and then to al-Bureij cemetery. Moreover, 7 other members of my family were wounded. The number of members of the Abu Jaber who were killed in the attacked was 17, including the baby, in addition to 3 others; one of whom was not identified then and Deir al-Balah municipality buried him later.”



Killing internally displaced persons in humanitarian shelters

Human rights organizations documented 8 cases of targeting humanitarian shelters, including UNRWA schools, although UNRWA schools were known to the Israeli forces as shelters for displaced families as UNRWA had provided Israeli forces with the schools' coordinates. Furthermore, Israeli forces shelled other shelters such as divans and houses like the house of the head of al-Bureij Municipality that used to be a shelter for dozens of displaced families and where the aforementioned person, his family and a number of civilians were killed. Israeli attacks on shelters and their vicinity resulted in killing 49 civilians, including 18 children and 7 women, and wounding 308 civilians, including 148 children and 72 women. The most significant attacks on shelters that caused casualties were as follows:

1. Targeting a shelter in Beit Hanoun Mixed Primary School

At approximately 14:50 on 24 January 2014, the Israeli artillery deployed in Beit Hanoun in the north of the Gaza Strip fired 5 shells at UNRWA Beit Hanoun primary school in Qa'et al-Wad area that was designated by UNRWA as a shelter for dozens of families displaced from their houses in the border area of the city. The shells landed in the school yard, where the civilians were present in order to evacuate the school. As a result, 11 civilians, including 6 children and 2 women, were immediately killed while 2 other women died later of their wounds. Moreover, 110 others, including 55 children and 31 women, were wounded and taken to Kamal Odwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, al-Awda Hospital in Jabalia and Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Shifa Hospital received about 25 wounded persons for the seriousness of their injuries.

2. Targeting a shelter in Rafah Prep. School

At approximately 10:40 on 03 August 2014, an Israeli drone fired a missile at Omer Ben al-Khattab Street near al-Nejma square in al-Shaboura refugee camp in Rafah. The missile exploded 8 meters away from the gate of UNRWA Rafah Prep. School for Boys in the above-mentioned street. As a result, 14 civilians, including 9 children, were killed. Of whom were 5 displaced persons, a by-passer, a vendor, the school guard, a volunteer and 2 persons on a motorbike. Moreover, 25 others, including 16 displaced civilians and 5 children, were wounded. The victims were inside and outside the school.



The attack on Rafah Preparatory school that served as a shelter for dozens of displaced families

Willful Killings

During the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces committed willful killings during the ground operation in different areas in the Gaza Strip. Israeli troops opened fire at civilians during house raids or when civilians used to walk in streets. A number of civilians were shot by Israeli snipers on top of some houses, especially in Khuza'a and Abasan villages that were completely controlled by Israeli forces. PCHR documented at least a case in which Israeli forces extra-judicially executed 6 members of Palestinian armed groups in a house in Khuza'a. Following are cases of willful killing, noting that other crimes will be addressed later in the context of crimes against children and women and other crimes.

Destruction incurred to al-Shujaiya neighborhood in Gaza City



- 1. On 23 July, Israeli soldiers killed Mohammed Ahmed al-Najjar (50), from Khuza'a village, when he was lying and his face was against the ground. He was unarmed, and he put his hands up and intended to stand up to talk to the Israeli soldier when he was shot dead. Investigations and eyewitnesses confirm that al-Najjar bled to death for half an hour and Israeli soldiers did not offer him first medical aid and did not even allow anybody to help him. One of those who tried to help al-Najjar was obliged to pull back after Israeli soldiers fired towards him and warned him not to proceed.**

In his testimony to PCHR, an eyewitness, Mohammed Hussein al-Najjar (26), said that he, his family and the village residents were obliged to leave the village on 23 July after Israeli forces moved into it and asked the residents to evacuate it under gunfire. They were also forced to raise a white flag fearing for their lives. He added that Israeli soldiers, who surrounded the village, stopped him and dozens of fleeing civilians at the main entrance to the village. Israeli soldiers ordered them to take their clothes off and lie on the ground. They were about 80 civilians. In the meantime, everybody

complied with the orders and a soldier asked, "Who speaks Hebrew so he can talk to the officer?" Mohammed Ahmed al-Najjar (50), who used to speak Hebrew, wanted to stand up, but before he did so, the soldier fired at him. As a result, al-Najjar fell down and blood was coming out of his chest. Another person tried to offer first aid and walked few steps towards al-Najjar, but the soldier fired around him and ordered him not to move. Al-Najjar remained bleeding for half an hour before the eyes of Israeli soldiers and nobody could help him.

- 2. After a truce was announced on 01 August, rescue crews and human rights organizations entered Abasan and Khuza'a villages after a week of closure and fighting. One of the most painful scenes was the killing of 6 persons who seemed to be members of armed groups in a house. It was clear that they were subjected to gunfire and their corpses were rotten. Two of whom were handcuffed while a third sustained slaughter traces in the neck in a way proving that those persons were killed in cold blood after Israeli forces captured them.**

A witness, Mohammed al-Najjar (26), said that on 01 August, a truce was declared, so he went back to his village to check on the house. He found it completely destroyed and saw destruction everywhere. He explained, "When I helped medical crews in recovering corpses and the wounded, I heard someone saying that there was a martyr in the house of his son Hani. I hurried up to help. I saw a corpse of a person whose face was against the ground, his hands up and barefoot. His clothes were torn and there were small holes in them. The corpse was present in the living room in front of the bathroom. I entered the bathroom and saw 5 rotten corpses. I could not pull together and started crying 'Allah Akbar'. Other persons arrived and helped me in taking the corpses out of the house. At that time, I saw 2 corpses that were handcuffed with plastic straps and were killed while prostrating. Moreover, I saw 3 other corpses that were not handcuffed, but I saw traces of slaughter in the neck of 2 ones.... While transporting the victims, I saw traces of gunfire in the walls of

the house and the bathroom in particular. There were empty bullet cases on the floor."

Another witness, Lo'ai Sami Abed al-Najjar (18), said that he entered the house of his cousin Hani al-Najjar with his uncle after they noticed a bad smell out of his house. Once they entered the house, they saw a corpse in the corridor leading to the bathroom. There were traces of bullets on the external bathroom walls in the corridor. They also saw 5 corpses of young men in plain clothes in the bathroom, but their physical features were not clear.

"The smell was stinky and their blood and parts of their heads and hair were scattered on the walls and ceiling. I also saw traces of bullets and small holes on the bathroom walls. Blood and empty bullet cases were everywhere. This proves that Israeli soldiers were present in the house and shot the 5 young men dead in the house, as there were empty food cans in the house and the neighboring one."

During the first half of 2014, Israeli forces willfully killed 23 Palestinian civilians, including 5 children and a woman, in different contexts. Six of these civilians were killed in the Gaza Strip, including 5 ones who were killed in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA), east and north of the Gaza Strip, while the 6th one, who was a child, was killed when Israeli forces extrajudicially executed a member of Palestinian armed group. In the West Bank, 17 civilians, including 4 children, were killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers in different context, like killing at checkpoints, during incursions or when children approached the annexation wall and other incidents. The most prominent attacks were as follows:

1. On 02 January, Israeli soldiers opened fire at Adnan Jamil Shehda Abu Khater (17), from Jabalia in the north of the Gaza Strip, while he was playing with his friends near al-Shuhada' cemetery, east of Jabalia, 500 meters away from the border fence. The boy sustained a bullet wound to the pelvis and remained bleeding for an hour until paramedics arrived and took him to Kamal Odwan Hospital in Beit Lahia. For the seriousness of his wound, he was transferred to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. However, he was pronounced dead the following day.
 2. On 24 January, Belal Samir Owida (20), from Beit Lahia housing project, was killed as he sustained a bullet wound to the chest when he and other youngsters threw stones at Israeli soldiers stationed along the border fence, north of Beit Lahia, north of the Gaza Strip.
 3. On 13 February, Israeli forces stationed along the border fence, east of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians who were collecting gravel near Malaka intersection, east of al-Zaitoun neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. As a result, Ibrahim Suleiman Mansour (36), from al-Shuja'iya neighborhood, was shot dead in the head and Rafiq Baker al-Harokli (21) sustained a bullet wound to the right leg.
 4. On 28 February, Amna Attiya Qudaih (57), who suffered from mental disorders, from Khuza'a, was wounded as Israeli forces opened fire at her because she approached the border fence, east of Abasan village, east of Khan Yunis in the south of the Gaza Strip. The aforementioned person
- bled to death and her body was found on the following day, 01 March.
5. On 26 May, Emad Shokri Salem (52), from Beit Lahia housing project, sustained 2 bullet wounds to the back and right arm when Israeli forces stationed along the border fence, northwest of Beit Lahia village, north of the Gaza Strip, opened fire at a group of Palestinian civilians at the beach. They were about 300 meters away from the northern borders. Salem was pronounced dead from his wounds on 8 June.
 6. On 29 January, Israeli forces killed Mohammed Abdul Aziz Mubarak (20), a worker from al-Jalazoun refugee camp. They shot him dead from a range of less than 50 meters. Israeli forces claimed that the victim fired at the Israeli military watchtower, but eyewitnesses refuted the claim and confirmed that the worker was willfully killed from a close range while organizing traffic on Ramallah – Nablus road, north of Ein Sinya village, north of Ramallah.
 7. On 10 March, Israeli forces stationed at the al-Karamah crossing on the Jordanian border killed Ra'ed Aladdin Z'aïter (38), a judge originally from Nablus working in Amman Magistrate's Court, while he was on his way back to the West Bank. Israeli forces claimed that the judge attempted to seize the weapon of an Israeli soldier who in response shot and killed him. Investigations conducted by PCHR refuted the Israeli claims and emphasized that the judge did not constitute any threat to the lives of the Israeli soldiers. One of the Israeli soldiers pushed Z'aïter, but the latter refused the soldier's behavior resulting in skirmishes between them. Another soldier pushed the judge again, who fell on the ground and then got up to push the Israeli soldier, but the soldier in turn shot him dead.
 8. On 10 March also, Israeli soldiers killed Saji Darwish Jaray'a (20), from Beitin village, northeast of Ramallah. Israeli forces claimed that they opened fire at group of Palestinian youngster who threw stones at settlers' vehicles passing on Street (60), near "Givat Asaf" settlement outpost. As a result, one of them was killed. It should be noted that victim was a freshman student in the Faculty of Information in Bir Zeit University.

Killing of Children

In 2014, Israeli forces continued to kill more children in the oPt. The number of children victims reached 568 an average of 35.7% of civilian victims; 558 of whom were in Gaza and 10 were in the West Bank. Furthermore, 3,443 children were wounded, the majority of whom were wounded during the Israeli offensive.

The most notable crimes against children were committed during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces killed 556 children, an average of 36% of the civilian victims during the offensive; 80 of whom were babies less than 3 years, 92 were aging between 3-6, 164 were aging between 6-12 and 220 were aging between 12-18. Moreover, 3,306 children were wounded during the offensive, an average of 30% of the wounded civilians. These children victims were present with their families in their houses that were targeted by Israeli warplanes or bombed while they were inside. There are many cases in which children were directly targeted by bombs and missiles while playing around. Some children were killed or wounded when they were around areas or houses that were attacked by Israeli forces. The most significant cases were as follows:

1. On 09 July 2014, Israeli warplanes targeted a group of children who were passing through al-Shanti land in Jabalia. As a result, Ahmed Nezar Mahdi (15) was killed.

Tamer al-Munshed (16), who was wounded in the same attack, said:

"...While walking in an open land near the playground that we used to play football in, I fell down, did not feel my body and fainted for seconds. When I regained consciousness, I found myself lying on the ground and Ahmed Mahdi's leg, which was cut, under me. I felt so much pain as I sustained shrapnel wounds and was bleeding throughout my body. Mohammed Abu Ghori was on the ground bleeding and was unconscious. I then fainted again. I woke up in the emergency room in Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. While being in the hospital and receiving first aid, Mohammed Abu Ghori's brother, Khaled, came and told me that Ahmed Mahdi was immediately killed in the attack, in which we were targeted by an Israeli drone. I did not believe him. I

was then admitted to the operations room to remove shrapnel out of my body. When I woke up afterwards, I realized that Ahmed Mahdi was dead, as I saw photos of him on a cell phone. I was in agony for losing my best friend. He had been my friend for 2 years. We used to see each other almost everyday. I was transferred to al-Arish Hospital in Egypt. Two weeks later, I returned to the Gaza Strip, where I was taken first to Shifa Hospital and then to my house. Mohammed Abu Ghori was transferred to a Turkish Hospital for the seriousness of his injury. It should be noted that my injuries resulted in cutting my left hand nerves, so I do not feel my left hand pinkie. Moreover, I cannot stand because of the severe shrapnel wounds in my legs."

2. On 17 July 2014, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at a group of children playing at Gaza beach, near Gaza seaport, west of Gaza City. As a result, 4 children from the Baker family were killed and their bodies were torn into pieces, and 2 others were wounded. The victims were: Zakariya Ahed Sobhi Baker (10), Isma'il Mohammed Sobhi Baker (10), Mohammed Ramez Ezzat Baker (11) and Ahed Attaf Ahed Baker (10). The wounded were Hamada Khamis Baker (8), who sustained serious wounds, and al-Montaser Bellah Ahed Baker (12).

Ramez Baker (12), the brother of one of the victims, who was with his brother during the attack, said:

"... While Isma'il was holding a small stick by his hand and running after us on the beach, I heard an explosion that rocked the area. It was the Israeli gunboats attacking us by a shell when we were playing in an open area on the beach. In the meantime, I saw thick smoke going out of the place. I then saw Isma'il lying with his face against the sand and his body torn into pieces. The other boys and I were terrified and fled eastwards, looking for someone to help. We found a young man from the Abu Wadhfa family, who was working in al-Shera' restaurant with the company of another man, and told him that Isma'il was severely wounded. We asked him to call an ambulance. In the meanwhile, I heard another explosion and saw smoke going out of the place where the boys were present. I then saw the boys lying on the ground. My brother Mohammed, Zakariya and Ahed were torn into pieces. I was shivering

out of fear and hid behind a garbage container in the place. I was afraid that Israeli forces would attack the place again. Two minutes later, I heard a third explosion and saw smoke going out of the restaurant. Some journalists arrived then and started photographing my brother Mohammed, Ahed, Zakariya and Isma'il, who were bloodstained. Ambulances arrived and took the wounded to the hospital. They took me with them be-

cause I was shaking, very scared and weeping for my brother Mohammed. Few minutes later, we reached the hospital, doctors pronounced Mohammed, Isma'il, Zakariya and Ahed dead. They also said that Hamada and al-Montaser Bellah sustained serious wounds. Paramedics brought 2 young men who were wounded in the same attack. They were the young man from Abu Wadhfa family and his colleague in the restaurant”.



The location of the attack on the children of the Baker family at Gaza beach

3. At approximately 17:30, on 17 July 2014, an Israeli drone fired a missile at the roof of a house belonging to sons of Marzouq Mohammed Shuhaibar while 5 children from the family were feeding birds on the roof. As a result, 3 of the children were immediately killed: Jihad and Wasim Esam Marzouq Shuhaibar (11) and (8) respectively; and their cousin Afnan Wesam Marzouq Shuhaibar (8). Moreover, 2 others were seriously wounded: Oday Wesam Shuhaibar (16) and Basel Yasser Shuhaibar (8).

Wesam Shuhaibar, the father of one of the victims, said:

“...While the kids were playing on the roof around the pigeon cage and feeding pigeons and chicks, and my other kids and nephews were playing on the stairs leading to the roof, I heard an explosion on the roof and then saw thick smoke coming out of the roof. I also heard the kids on the stairs screaming. In the meanwhile, I hurried up to the roof to see what was going on. On my way to the roof, I saw blood on the stairs. When I went up, I saw my kids Oday and Afnan and my nephews Wasim and Jihad Esam Shuhaibar and Basel Yasser Shuhaibar thrown around the pigeon cage. They were bloodstained. My wife came upstairs too

and was screaming. My wife and I carried Afnan and Oday, then some neighbors came and helped in transporting the wounded to Shifa Hospital. After we arrived at the hospital, doctors pronounced Afnan, Jihad and Wasim dead. Moreover, doctors told us that Basel was seriously wounded and was admitted to the intensive care unit. My son, Oday, sustained a fracture in the left leg and shrapnel wounds throughout the body... I then went home to check on my wife and kids. I found a 10-centimeter-deep crater left by the missile that targeted our roof, as the missile penetrated 2 roofs”.

In 2014, Israeli forces and settlers killed in cold blood Palestinian children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The most prominent attacks were as follows:

1. On 19 March, Israeli forces killed Yousef Sami Salem Shawamra (14) near the annexation wall, west of Doura, southwest of Hebron, and arrested 2 others who were in his company. Following that attack, Israeli forces declared that they shot dead a Palestinian from Deir al-Asal al-Fouqa village, while trying to cross to Israel through the annexation wall.
2. On 15 May, Israeli soldiers opened fire at dozens of Palestinian youngsters, who were protesting around Ofer detention facility, southwest of Ramallah, to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (the uprooting the Palestinian people from their lands in 1948). As a result, Mohammed Salama "Abu Daher" (17) and Nadim Nawara (17) were killed and 5 civilians, including a child, were wounded, the wound of one of whom was serious. A video recorded by a Palestinian showed how the 2 children, who were distant, were willfully killed by Israeli soldiers stationed in their military site.
3. The gravest crime was when Mohammed Abu Khdair (16) was kidnapped and his body was burnt and mutilated by Israeli settlers. This was not the only crime committed by settlers, as they attempted to kidnap other Palestinians, especially children.



Killing of Women

Israeli forces killed 294 women in 2014; all of them were killed in the Gaza Strip during the latest Israeli offensive, except for a woman who was killed before the offensive in access restricted areas in Khan Yunis. Moreover, 2,124 women were wounded, the majority of whom were wounded during the Israeli offensive; 2,114 of the wounded women were in the Gaza Strip and 10 others in the West Bank.

According to PCHR's documentation, the majority of women were killed while being at home due to the direct Israeli attacks on these houses whether by warplanes or artillery, or because their houses were near areas that were bombed. PCHR documented a number of cases in which pregnant women were killed.

- » At approximately 05:15 on 11 July 2014, Israeli warplanes targeted a house belonging to Abdul Razeq al-Ghannam. As a result, al-Ghannam and a number of his family members were killed, 3 of whom were women. The women who were killed were identified as:
 1. Ghaliya Deeb al-Ghannam (57);
 2. Wesam Abdul Razzaq al-Ghannam (31);
 3. Kefah Shaker al-Ghannam (33), who was deaf.
- » At approximately 05:50 on 15 July 2014, an Israeli warplane targeted a house belonging to Mohammed Jom'a Zo'rob in al-Nasser village, north of Rafah. As a result, his uncle's wife, Boshra Khalil Zo'rob (63), was killed and his brother Ahmed (25) sustained moderate wounds.
- » On 20 July 2014, Israeli forces fired a missile at al-Mansour Street in al-Shuja'iya neighborhood. As a result, 4 civilians were killed, including 2 women. The women were Hala Sobhi Ayyad (27) and Mona Abdul Rahman Ayyad (26).
- » At approximately 06:30 on 20 July 2014, 6 civilians from the al-Shaikh Khalil family were killed, including 4 women and a little girl, due to indiscriminate Israeli attacks on civilian houses in al-Shuja'iya area. The female victims were:
 1. Ayda Mohammed al-Shaikh Khalil (45);
 2. Mona Salman al-Shaikh Khalil (45);
 3. Adila Sulaiman al-Shaikh Khalil (67);
 4. Jawaher Sulaiman al-Shaikh Khalil (37); and
 5. Samya al-Shaikh Khalil (3).
- » On 21 July 2014, five women were killed in an Israeli attack on the Abu Jame' family in Bani Suhaila village, east of Khan Yunis. Twenty-five other civilians were killed in the attack.
- » At approximately 14:00 on 21 July 2014, an Israeli warplane fired a missile at a house belonging to Jamil Sha'ban Zeyada in al-Bureij refugee camp. As a result, 6 family members were killed, including 2 women. The killed women were: his mother Moftiya Mohammed Zeyada (70) and wife Bayan Abdul Latif Zeyada (39). In the same attack, Zeyada, his son, 2 of his brothers and a member of a Palestinian armed group were killed.
- » On 22 July, Israeli forces targeted a house belonging to the Azzam family in al-Zaitoun neighborhood, east of Gaza City. As a result, 2 women were killed while they were inside the house: Fatma Hassan Awwad Azzam (70) and her sister Mariam (50).
- » At approximately 06:30 on 22 July 2014, an Israeli warplane fired a missile at a house belonging to the Abu Mnaifi family near Wadi al-Salqa village, east of Deir al-Balah. As a result, Salwa Abdul Aziz Abu Mnaifi (49) and her daughter, Samira Sanad Abu Mnaifi (18), were killed.
- » At approximately 22:30 on 25 July 2014, Israeli forces bombarded a house belonging to al-Far family in al-Maghazi refugee camp. As a result, the house was completely destroyed and all its occupants were killed. The victims were 10 family members, including 7 women. The women were: Zenat Hassan al-Far (58) and her daughters Amal (35), Nivin (18), Hanan (15) and Jehan (25); her sister Fatma Hassan al-Far and her daughter Reham (25).
- » At approximately 14:05 on 23 August 2014, Israeli warplanes fired 2 missiles at a house belonging to the family of Ali Abdul Jawad Muheisen in Deir al-Balah. As a result, 3 civilians, including 2 women, were killed. The 2 women were: Nisreen Ibra-

him Isma'il Ahmed (38) and Suhair Abdul Karim Hamad Abu Meddain (43).

- » At approximately 15:00 on 10 July 2014, Israeli warplanes bombed a house belonging to Awad Hussain Hassan al-Nawasra in al-Maghazi refugee camp. As a result, a number of the family members were killed, including 4-month pregnant Aisha Mahmoud al-Nawasra "Nejem" (23).
- » On 21 July 2014, Israeli warplanes fired 2 missiles at Cordoba building in al-Remal neighborhood. A missile hit a house belonging to al-Hajj family and Cordoba's entrance. As a result, 11 civilians from the al-Hallaq and Ammar families were

killed, including 3 women. The killed women were: 9-month pregnant Samar Osama Khalil al-Hallaq (29), Hala Akram Hassan al-Hallaq (27) and her mother So'ad Mohammed al-Hallaq (62). They were all in the house.

- » At approximately 11:50 on 22 July 2014, the Israeli artillery fired dozens of shells at Ezbet Beit Hanoun. A shell landed on a house belonging to Rami Adel Ahmed Kharawat. As a result, his wife Soha Na'im Kharawat (23), who was about to deliver a baby, was killed. Doctors at Kamal Odwan Hospital tried to save the life of the baby after his mother passed away, but the baby was already dead.



Targeting Medical and Humanitarian Services Crews

In 2014, Israeli forces killed 19 medical and humanitarian services crews, 11 of whom were medical staff members and the other 8 one were humanitarian services members working in municipalities, and water and electricity facilities. All of them were killed during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, which demonstrates that Israeli forces intentionally adopted the policy of willful killing against medical and humanitarian services crews. Such crews have certain uniforms and badges that can be clearly identified day or night, in addition to the well-known color of ambulances with the red crescent or cross on them, civil defense and human services' vehicles. Following are the most prominent killing incidents during the Israeli offensive:

- » On 20 July 2014, the Israeli artillery shelled an ambulance belonging to the Palestinian Medical Services in al-Mansoura Street in al-Shuja'iya neighborhood, east of Gaza City. The ambulance was on its way to transport victims in the same street. As a result, a paramedic, Fo'ad Zuhair Jaber (35), and journalist Khaled Hamad, who accompanied them, were killed, Dr. Diya' Abu Hussain was wounded and the ambulance was completely destroyed.

Half an hour later, Israeli forces shelled another ambulance belonging to Palestine Red Cross Society (PRCS) while paramedics were trying to approach wounded persons, east of al-Shuja'iya neighborhood. The shell directly hit the ambulance and killed a paramedic, Ibrahim Salem al-Sahbani (22).

- » **Two ambulance officers killed and 6 other paramedics wounded in 2 separate incidents in the Gaza Strip.**

On 25 July 2014, Israeli forces killed 2 paramedics of PRCS and wounded 6 others in 2 separate attacks. An ambulance was burnt because a shell hit it directly and another sustained damage because it was heavily fired at. This attack coincided with the Israeli attack on Beit Hanoun Hospital, which resulted in extensive damage to the hospital.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 16:30 on 25 July 2014, a PRCS ambulance headed to the entrance of al-Masriyeen Street in the east of Beit Hanoun Hospital in the north of the Gaza Strip. Jawad Fayez Bedair (50) was driving the ambulance in company with ambulance officers, Hatem Shaheen (36) and Ayed Mahmoud Ahmed al-Bora'i (28). The ambulance drove only 50 meters when the Israeli artillery deployed in the Gaza Strip shelled

it. As a result, the ambulance caught fire and al-Bora'i was wounded and killed immediately. Bedair and Shaheen could get out of the ambulance, but they sustained various wounds. They ran back towards the hospital. At approximately 17:30, another PRCS ambulance, in which Yosri al-Masri (45) and Rami al-Hajj Ali (35) were, headed to the same place to recover the body of al-Bora'i after coordination through the ICRC. When they approached the place, they were met with heavy gunfire at them. As a result, Rami al-Hajj sustained a shrapnel wound to the left leg and the ambulance was hit by dozens of bullets. The ambulance driver fled and drove back to Beit Hanoun Hospital.

Three medical staff members working in Beit Hanoun Hospital were wounded because Israeli forces shelled the hospital and its vicinity throughout the night and morning of that day. As a result, extensive damage was caused to the emergency department and the administrative department that includes accommodation and operations. Moreover, a number of shells landed on the hospital's yards.

In a separate attack on the same day, at approximately 23:10, Israeli forces moving into al-Qarara village, in Khan Yunis, fired a number of bullets at a PRCS ambulance. The ambulance was attempting to recover a wounded person with disability from his house after coordinating through the ICRC. A paramedic, Mohammed Ahmed al-Abadlah (32), sustained 2 bullet wounds to the thigh and leg. Contact was lost with him and he bled to death.

- » On 01 August, Israeli forces killed an ambulance crew of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, comprised of 3 paramedics. The ambulance was heading to recover a number of wounded persons in Mosabbbeh neighborhood in the north of

Rafah. Four other persons from the same family were killed in the same attack.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 17:10 on 01 August 2014, ambulances received information that there were a number of wounded persons due to an attack on a house belonging to Sweilem Mhawesh Sulaiman al-Hashash (58) in Mosabbeh neighborhood in the north of Rafah by an Israeli drone. His neighbors from the Shaikh al-Eid family tried to help evacuating the family, but an Israeli drone attacked them again. In the meanwhile, ambulances arrived, including an ambulance belonging to the Ministry of Health. While paramedics were trying to transport the wounded from

around the mosque, Do'a' Ibrahim Mahmoud Shaikh al-Eid (23) and her children: Abdul Karim Ibrahim Ahmed Shaikh al-Eid (2), Khalil Ibrahim Ahmed Shaikh al-Eid (4) and Aya Ibrahim Ahmed Shaikh al-Eid (5) resorted to the ambulance. In the meantime, an Israeli drone attacked the ambulance. As a result, the 4 family members and 3 paramedics were killed. The paramedics were: Atef Saleh Ibrahim al-Zameli (42), the ambulance driver; Yusef Ijmai'an Nasrallah al-Shaikh Eid (23), a paramedic; and Yusef Jaber Hassan Darabeih (25), a paramedic. Israeli forces deliberately prevented ambulances from transporting the victims, as an Israeli warplane fired a missile in front of a PRCs ambulance to prevent it from reaching the victims.

Targeting Journalists and Media Personnel

During the Israeli offensive, 6 journalists were killed while on duty covering the Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, 2 other journalists,³ including an Italian one, were killed and a third was wounded due to the explosion of a shell of the Israeli military remnants in the Gaza Strip while preparing a report on the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.⁴ Following are the cases of killing journalists in 2014:

1. On 09 July, an Israeli warplane fired a missile at a Skoda vehicle with (TV) logo on it. The vehicle was driven in al-Remal neighborhood in the center of Gaza City. As a result, Hamed Abdullah Mohammed Shehab (33), a driver of Media 24 News Agency, was killed and 3 others were wounded, including an elderly person and a child.
2. On 20 July, Israeli forces targeted Khaled Riyadh Mohammed Hamad (25), a photojournalist at Continue New Agency, while covering Israeli crimes committed in al-Shuja'iya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. Hamad had arrived at the neighborhood to cover recovering victims of Israeli crimes in that area. Once he started working, Israeli forces directly attacked the area where he was although there was an ambulance around and Hamad put a press vest on. As a result of the attack, Hamad and Riyadh Jaber, a paramedic, were killed.
3. On 30 July, 2 journalists were killed and a third died later of wounds he sustained while covering the Israeli attack on al-Shuja'iya market in the east of Gaza City. At approximately 17:00, and during a humanitarian ceasefire, Israeli forces

fired a number of shells at al-Shuja'iya market, where dozens of civilians were shopping. Medical crews, civil defense and journalists headed to the place, as the Israeli attack resulted in killing 30 civilians, including 2 journalists, a paramedic and a fireman, and wounding dozens, including 3 journalists one of whom was pronounced dead later. The journalists who were killed were identified as

- 1) Rami Fat'hi Rayan (25), a freelance journalist;
- 2) Sameh Mohammed al-'Aryan (29), a photojournalist at al-Aqsa satellite channel; and
- 3) Mohammed Nour al-Din al-Dairi (26), a photojournalist at the Palestinian Media Network, who was pronounced dead on 02 August of the wounds he sustained.

In the same attack, Hamed al-Shoubaki, a photojournalist at al-Manarah Media Production Agency, sustained wounds to the legs, and Mahmoud al-Qassas, a reporter at the Independence Weekly Newspaper, sustained shrapnel wounds to the head. They were both transported to Shifa Hospital to receive the necessary medical treatment.

3. On 31 August, Camilli Simone (35), an Italian journalist, and Ali Shehta Abu' Afesh (37), a Palestinian journalist, were killed and journalist Hatem Mahmoud Mousa (40) was seriously wounded due to the explosion of a missile of the Israeli military remnants in Beit Lahia in the north of the Gaza Strip. The three journalists working for Associated Press were preparing a report during the ceasefire at that time in the Gaza Strip.

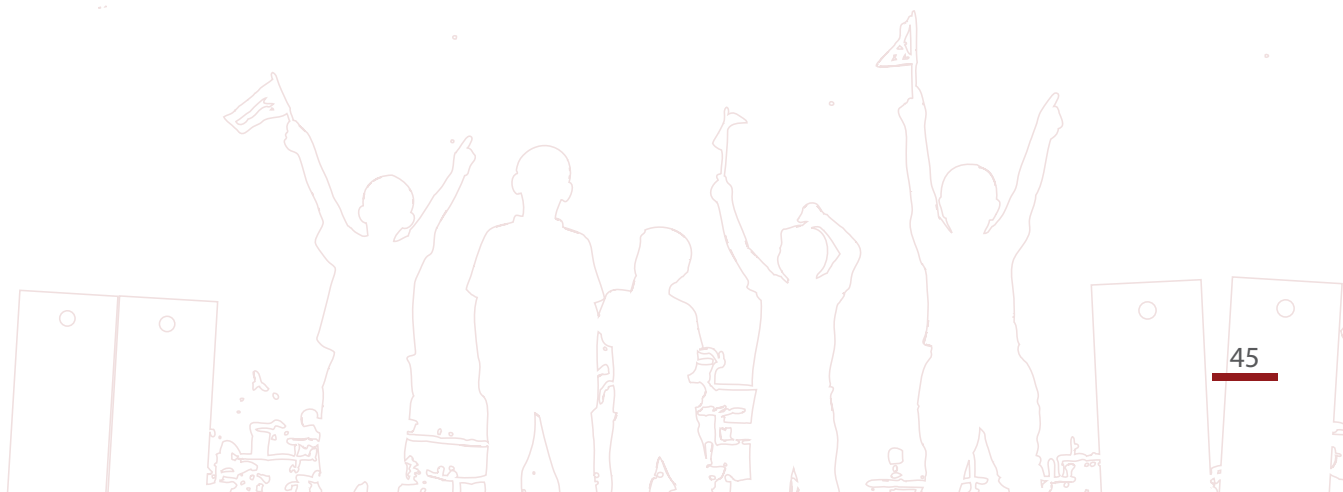
4. The cases listed in the report are related to only journalists who were killed while on duty. Other civilians working in media were killed during military operations, and human rights organizations documented their stories in the section on the civilian victims'.

Akram al-Awoor, a paramedic said:

"At approximately 22:17 on Wednesday, 30 July 2014, I was with my colleagues at the Ophthalmology Hospital, when we received a radio signal from the Medical Service Operations Room that there were casualties due to an Israeli attack on a house, west of Saladin Street, in front of al-Shuja'iya market in the east of Gaza City. We immediately headed to the place by a Medical Service ambulance. I was with paramedic Mahmoud Ramadan and photojournalist Rami Rayan (24). Since the beginning of the Israeli offensive, Rami, who was freelancer, used to move with us in the ambulance to cover Israeli attacks. It took us 7 minutes to reach the attacked place... I learnt from other paramedics, who were present in the area, that there were wounded and killed persons on the roof of the house of

al-Selek family. I stepped out of the ambulance to go upstairs to evacuate the wounded. I saw Rami getting out of the ambulance and holding his camera. In the meantime, I heard a heavy explosion as Israeli forces shelled the same place for the second time while we were evacuating the wounded from the roof. I then saw a shell landing on an ambulance belonging to Jenin Hospital. I saw paramedic Abu Hamza al-Beltaji and Rami bleeding on the ground. I noticed no signs of life on them. I then heard other violent and successive explosions in the same place. I sustained shrapnel wounds and fell down. I felt so much pain in my left leg that was amputated under the knee... At the hospital, where I received medical treatment, I learnt that Abu Hamza al-Beltaji and Rami Rayan were killed."

4. On 01 August, Abdullah Naser Fahjan (21), a photojournalist at al-Aqsa Media Network, sustained serious wounds to the head as an Israeli warplane fired a missile at him while on duty. Fahjan was filming the displacement of civilians in al-Junaina neighborhood in Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip. Fahjan was transported to al-Najjar Hospital in the city to receive the necessary medical treatment. He was then referred to the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Yunis for the seriousness of his injury, but doctors' efforts failed to save his life. A medical source pronounced him dead.



ONGOING POLICY OF TOTAL CLOSURE AND VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

In 2014, Israeli forces continued to impose restrictions on the freedom of movement in the oPt. In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli-imposed closure has been ongoing for the 8th consecutive year and restrictions have been imposed on the movement of persons and commodities via border crossings.

The ongoing closure has resulted in high rates of poverty and unemployment and delay in Gaza reconstruction for over 4 months after the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip which left extensive destruction to thousands of civilian objects and houses. The Gaza Strip population has been denied the right to freedom of movement in and out of the Gaza Strip. As a consequence, the humanitarian conditions unprecedentedly deteriorated. In the West Bank, Israeli forces have continued to restrict the movement of civilians between cities, as well as at international crossing points. Israel has continued its policy of closing off occupied East Jerusalem to Palestinian civilians from elsewhere in the oPt; entry to East Jerusalem is banned for Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As a result, Palestinians have been denied access to advanced medical care, their right to meet with family members, and access to education, work, and religious sites in East Jerusalem, in particular, the al-Aqsa Mosque.

First: Israeli-imposed closure on the Gaza Strip for the eighth consecutive year

In 2014, Israeli forces continued to impose the closure and strict restrictions on the movement of persons and goods at border crossings for the eighth consecutive year. The Israeli closure is considered one of the gravest violations and collective punishment forms against the Palestinian civilians in the history of Israeli occupation of the oPt. This inhumane and illegal closure is a man-made disaster and part of a continuous war crime against the Palestinian civilians. The closure has left catastrophic impacts on all basic aspects of life and destroyed the economic sector and vital production sectors in the Gaza Strip. The most significant features of the closure in 2014 were as follows:

- » **High rates of poverty and unemployment:** The closure resulted in deterioration of humanitarian conditions of civilians, due to which, serious indicators appeared on the humanitarian level, especially poverty and unemployment. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the rate of Palestinian families that live under poverty line increased to 38.8%, 21.1% of which suffer from extreme poverty. According to the same source, the rate of unemployment in the oPt reached 23.7%. Unemployment reached 32.5% in the Gaza Strip and 19.1% in the West Bank.
- » **International reconstruction mechanism goes in harmony with and institutionalize the closure:** It has been 5 months since the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip ended and left big destruction in thousands of civilian objects and houses. The destruction scenes have been prevailing and Gaza reconstruction is almost impossible according to the mechanism reached by the UN Middle East Envoy, Israel and Palestinian Authority under international observation of the use of materials to ensure that these materials would not be diverted from their entirely civilian purpose. Under this mechanism that was de-

clared on 16 September 2014, the UN, Israel and the Palestinian Authority had reached a deal to allow reconstruction work to begin in the war-torn Gaza Strip under international observation of the use of materials. Serry highlighted that the deal provides security assurances through UN monitoring that these materials would not be diverted from their entirely civilian purpose.

- » **PCHR criticizes Gaza reconstruction mechanism and calls for putting an end to the closure:** PCHR strongly criticized this mechanism immediately after it was announced and considered it as institutionalization and international cover of the closure. PCHR also warned against applying this mechanism as it would aggravate the civilian population's suffering, especially the owners of destroyed houses. Moreover, PCHR stressed that the only solution to end the serious impacts of the Israeli offensive is to immediately lift the closure and allow the freedom of movement of persons and commodities. Statistics relevant to construction materials allowed into the Gaza Strip following the Israeli offensive proved PCHR's perspective on Gaza reconstruction plan. The quantities of cement, steel and aggregate al-

lowed into the Gaza Strip were very limited and do not meet the minimum level of the actual needs. Therefore, tens of thousands of owners of houses that were destroyed during the Israeli offensive have been suffering because they are unable to rebuild or repair their houses.

- » **Strict restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons:** Israeli forces have imposed restrictions on the movement of Gaza population at Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing, the only crossing for the movement of persons to the West Bank, including Jerusalem and/or Israel. As a result, Gaza population were denied their right to travel to universities, Islamic and Christian holy places and family visitation in the West Bank. However, Israeli forces allowed limited categories to travel via Beit Hanoun crossing: patients suffering from serious diseases and their companions; Arabs holding Israeli ID's; international journalists; workers of international humanitarian organizations; businesspeople; and persons travelling via al-Karama crossing. These categories travel through the crossing under very complicated procedures.

- **Patients:** Preventing hundreds of patients suffering from serious illnesses from traveling to hospitals in Israel or the West Bank under the closure regime resulted in the deaths of dozens of them. In 2014, after Israeli forces claimed easing the closure for patients, Israel obstructed the travel of 3,188 patients; 529 of whom were prevented due to security reasons, 320 of them were asked to change the companions and 323 others were forced to wait for a new appointment while the remaining 2,016 patients were awaiting an Israeli reply following their security interviews.
- **Family visits to prisoners in Israeli jails:** in 2014, Israeli authorities were not committed to the agreement that was reached in May 2012 between Palestinian prisoners and Israeli authorities. Israeli authorities continued to organize prisoners' visits under complicated restrictions and in groups; each group includes 2 persons of relatives of about 25 prisoners. Furthermore, Israeli authorities stopped prisoners' visits several times in 2014 without clear reasons or under fake pretexts. The prisoners' families were subjected to arbitrary practices, obstacles and immoral and degrading treatment. They also suffered from the Israeli provocative measures and the continuous threats to cancel their visits in the future if they did not respond to Israeli orders. It should be noted that the Israeli authorities determine a visitor who is allowed to visit a prisoner, and those authorized visitors are limited to the prisoners' father, mother or wife and one or two of them only. Furthermore, in case either one is incapable of visiting (due to sickness, old age or death), the Israeli authorities do not allow replacements of the visitors; thus, the prisoner loses the right to his visit. Moreover, prisoners' families are not allowed to bring with them personal items, including clothes and food.

- **Closing Rafah International Crossing Point:** In 2014, Rafah International Crossing Point was closed for 241 days, i.e. 66% of the year, according to the Borders and Crossings Commission in the Gaza Strip. As a result of the almost complete closure of Rafah crossing, which is the only crossing for the movement of persons (due to the continuing closure of Beit Hanoun crossing), 1.8 million Palestinians were denied their right to the freedom of movement and travel from and to the Gaza Strip. Besides, thousands of Palestinians were stuck in Egypt on their way back to Gaza, including hundreds of patients, hundreds of families holding residency permits in different countries and hundreds of students studying abroad. In the Gaza Strip, over 40,000 Palestinians suffer because they were from travel abroad, including patients, workers holding residency permits in different countries and students studying in universities abroad.
- » **Movement of commodities:** In 2014, Israeli authorities closed the sole commercial crossing in the Gaza Strip for 143 days, i.e. 39.1% of the year. As a result, many basic commodities were lacked, including different types of fuel, cooking gas and construction materials.
- **Exports:** Israeli authorities continued to impose a ban on the Gaza Strip's exports to the West Bank, Israel and abroad for the eighth year. However, Israeli allowed in the past three years the exportation of limited quantities of the Gaza Strip products (the majority of which were agricultural), an average of half a truckload daily. Before the imposition of the closure, the Gaza Strip's exports used to amount to 150 truckloads per day. The ban on exports resulted in closing hundreds of factories in Gaza, including dozens of clothing and furniture factories with high quality products.
- **Imports:** The rate of actual imports allowed into the Gaza Strip is low, as Israeli authorities allowed the entry of an average of 200 truckloads daily. The number of truckloads allowed in constitutes 35% of the number of truckloads which used to be entered into the Gaza Strip before the closure (570 truckloads daily). Furthermore, the majority of imports are consumables and many other raw materials are still banned with the exception of limited quantities. For over 2 years, the Gaza Strip has suffered shortages in cooking gas, as empty gas cylinders take weeks to be refilled due to the limited quantities allowed into the Gaza Strip. The daily average is about 140 tons only which constitutes 40% of Gaza daily needs (currently 350 tons). Moreover, the Gaza Strip witnessed a significant rise in prices of all construction materials and lack of some of them in the markets due to restrictions imposed on their entry, while there is an urgent need for construction materials due to the extensive destruction left by the latest Israeli offensive to thousands of civilian objects. Contracting companies estimated that Gaza reconstruction process needs 5 consecutive years on condition that border crossings are all open to allow the entry of 30,000 tons of cement, 1,600 tons of steel and 6,000 tons of aggregate daily.

Second: restrictions on the movement of persons in the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem

In the West Bank, Israeli forces have continued to restrict the movement of civilians between cities, as well as at international crossing points. Israel has continued its policy of closing off occupied East Jerusalem to Palestinian civilians from elsewhere in the oPt; entering East Jerusalem is banned for Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As a result, Palestinians have been denied access to advanced medical care, their right to meet with family members, and access to education, work, and religious sites in East Jerusalem, in particular, the al-Aqsa Mosque.

Israel continues to treat freedom of movement for the Palestinian people as a privilege rather than a right. While many checkpoints are now open for free passage, the infrastructure of many checkpoints has been left in place, allowing for their reactivation on short notice. In addition, there are 99 permanently manned checkpoints that remain in place throughout the West Bank, in addition to 17 checkpoints which restrict the movement of Palestinians in the centre of Hebron. Hundreds of physical obstacles remain, and Israeli forces also periodically erect temporary checkpoints at random locations. The arbitrary activation of checkpoints across the West Bank makes it impossible for Palestinians wishing to travel between towns and villages to predict where they may come across a checkpoint and how long a journey may take.

In addition, Israel denies access to specific areas of the West Bank, such as East Jerusalem and the land to the west of the annexation wall, for all Palestinians, except those who hold special permits, and severely restricts their access to other areas, such as the centre of Hebron. Israeli forces have continued to impose a tightened closure on occupied East Jerusalem, cutting it off completely from the West Bank, and barring entry to the city for Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. By denying access to East Jerusalem, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been denied access to religious sites, thousands of patients have been denied access to medical treatment, students have been denied access to schools and universities, and thousands of workers have been deprived of employment oppor-

tunities. The continuing isolation of the city, along with the establishment of new checkpoints and the construction of new sections of the annexation wall around the city, is detrimental to the social fabric of the city. This is especially so for families living within East Jerusalem's municipal borders and its suburbs.

Israeli forces continue to use checkpoints as border crossings with the purpose of isolating large areas in the West Bank, for example, by making travel from the Jordan Valley to other areas of the West Bank difficult. Israeli forces control the access of Palestinian civilians to the Jordan Valley through four checkpoints: Tayaseer; al-Hamra; Ma'ale Efraim; and al-'Ouja. Most Palestinians are denied access to the area unless they hold the required permits. In 2014, Israeli forces allowed Palestinians who are not residents of the Jordan Valley to enter through al-Hamra checkpoint for the first time since the Second Intifada; however, Israeli forces remained in position, controlling the movement of Palestinian civilians and prohibiting them from sleeping in the area. Israeli forces often storm houses and agricultural lands in the area and expel Palestinian farmers who do not have permits to remain there. It is worth noting that the Jordan Valley is one of the most fertile areas in the West Bank. Israeli forces have established several settlements in the area and have confiscated large areas of agricultural land. They have also isolated thousands of dunums of land along the Jordan River, preventing the owners from accessing their lands. It is estimated that Israeli forces and settlers control over 75% of the total area of the Jordan Valley.

Israeli forces use checkpoints and border crossings in the West Bank in order to arrest Palestinians who are allegedly wanted. Civilians are often subjected to degrading and inhuman treatment at these checkpoints, such as physical assaults or humiliation. In 2014, according to PCHR's documentation, Israeli forces arrested at least 279 Palestinian civilians at various checkpoints in the West Bank, including 73 children and 8 women.



A military checkpoint at the entrance of Hebron during a wide-scale military operation

At the al-Karama ('Allenby') International Crossing Point on the Jordanian border with the West Bank, Israeli forces subject Palestinian civilians to humiliation and cruel interrogation. Israeli forces prohibit thousands of Palestinians from travelling, and those who attempt to cross the border are usually subjected to body searches and humiliation. Palestinians who are denied travel include patients, women, journalists, political activists, students, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), and employees of international organisations.

The construction of the annexation wall has resulted in additional restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians who live near the route of the wall. Farming is a primary source of income in the Palestinian communities located along the route of the wall. However, thousands of Palestinians have experienced difficulties accessing their fields and marketing their produce in other areas of the West Bank.



The annexation wall in the oPt

Israel implements a discriminatory policy that curtails the freedom of Palestinian civilians to use public roads. Palestinians suffer as a result, as they are forced to use alternative roads that are unsuitable and add considerable time to their journeys.

Military checkpoints are an obstacle to the movement of cargos. This increases the cost of transportation, which is consequently reflected in the prices of goods, and adds to the financial hardship of consumers. The policy of closure, as well as restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians, has had a serious impact on their economic, social and cultural rights as well as their civil and political rights. The Palestinian people are experiencing a severe economic crisis that is affecting various economic sectors, including trade, manufacturing, agriculture, labor, tourism, transportation, investment, and development. The policy of closure affects the lives of every individual in the oPt by violating the rights to work, to health, to education and to appro-

priate living conditions. Israel has also created a new system of discrimination in the oPt, whereby Palestinians live in geographically-isolated cantons and are deprived of the right to freedom of movement.

The policy of closure is a form of collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law. Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention specifically prohibits the punishment of protected persons for offences they have not personally committed. It also prohibits collective penalties, measures of intimidation or terrorism, and reprisals against protected persons and their property. Israeli forces have implemented the policy of closure in an entirely disproportionate and excessive manner. Restrictions have been implemented as a means of punishment, intimidation, and retaliation against Palestinian civilians. Israel isolates the Gaza Strip from the West Bank, hindering the movement of people, exports, and imports, and paralysing the Palestinian workforce.



ARRESTS, TORTURE AND OTHER FORMS OF CRUEL AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

At least 6,500 Palestinians are in Israeli custody in prisons and detention facilities, most of which are inside Israel, in a clear violation of article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which stipulates: "Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein." The detainees include 200 children and 21 women. The detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners seriously deteriorated. They are subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment, including naked searches, night raids, medical negligence and torture. Such measures caused the death of a prisoner while being interrogated in 2014.



Israeli soldiers arrest a Palestinian boy

In the West Bank, Israeli forces arrested hundreds of Palestinians during Israeli incursions, arrest campaigns at checkpoints, and campaigns conducted to arrest wanted persons. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces continued to arrest more Palestinians in the access-restricted areas along the eastern and northern border of the Gaza Strip, at sea, and at the Beit Hanoun ('Erez') crossing in the north of the Gaza Strip. PCHR documented the arrests of 3,440 Palestinians by Israeli forces in 2014, some of whom were arrested several times; including 459 children and 49 women. The vast majority of the detainees were arrested during Israeli incursions into communities in the West Bank (3,035) and at checkpoints in the West Bank (292) or during military operations carried out by Israeli forces. The cruellest arrest campaign was launched by Israeli forces in the West Bank after 3 settlers disappeared in Hebron on 12 June. Israeli forces arrested hundreds of Hamas members, including PLC members, and dozens of those who were released in "Shalit" prisoners swap deal in November 2012 and were sentenced again to complete their original sentences. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces arrested about 210 Palestinians, including dozens that were arrested during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. Moreover, they arrested 47 fishermen, 56 others who attempted to sneak into Israel via the borders and 13 persons at Erez (Beit Hanoun crossing) who were referred to receive medical treatment in hospitals in Israel, the West Bank or abroad.



Israeli soldiers arrest a Palestinian child while participating in a peaceful protest in Beit Ummar, north of Hebron

By the end of 2014, Israeli forces kept dozens of Palestinian leaders and representatives in detention, including PLC members, the majority of whom are from the Change and Reform Bloc of Hamas movement. Also in 2014, Israeli forces kept in detention other PLC members, including Dr. Aziz Dwaik, Speaker of PLC. The arrested PLC members are: Abdil Rahman Fahmi Abdul Rahman Zaidan, Hassan Yusef Dar Khalil, Dr. Ibrahim Sa'id Hassan Abu Salem, Mohammed Omran Toutah, Azzam No'man Salhab and Dr. Ayman Daraghma, in addition to 2 other ministers in the 10th Palestinian government: Wasfi Ezzat Hassan Qabha, Minister of Prisoners, and Khaled Abu Arafah, Minister of Jerusalem Affairs.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces arrested about 210 Palestinians in 2014, including 86 Palestinians who were arrested during the ground operation in the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. Arrests were carried out in al-Shouka village, east of Rafah; Abasan and Khuza'a, east of Khan Yunis; Gaza Valley in the central Gaza Strip; and Beit Hanoun, in the northern Gaza Strip.

Torture and maltreatment

Palestinian prisoners are subjected to torture and degrading treatment in Israeli jails from the moment they are arrested. They are also harshly beaten, verbally insulted and humiliated the whole way long to the detention facilities. Prisoners are tortured during interrogation and even when in prison. The detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners have seri-

ously deteriorated. They are subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment, including naked searches, night raids, medical negligence, torture and denial of their right to receive legal representation and consultation.

Israeli forces continued to arrest Palestinians at Beit Hanoun crossing, including patients heading to hospitals in Israel or the West Bank. On 07 January 2014, Israeli forces arrested Yousef Khalaf Ibrahim Abu al-Jedyan (28), from al-Bassah area in Dair al-Balah, while crossing via Beit Hanoun crossing to "Sergie Care" Hospital in Ramallah in the West Bank to undergo a surgery in the cornea of his left eye due to the laceration of the iris. Salwa Mohammed 'Abdullah Abu al-Jedyan (67), the patient's mother, said that an Israeli soldier ordered her to go back to Gaza. When she went back home, her family told her that the Israeli intelligence service informed them that Yousef was under arrest and was transferred to Ashkelon prison.

The year 2014 also witnessed Israeli escalation in attacks against Palestinian fishermen within the allowed fishing area. They arrested 53 fishermen and confiscated boats and fishing nets.

In 2014, PCHR received a number of testimonies and

statements given by victims, including those who were arrested during the Israeli offensive or those who met their lawyers in Israeli jails. They confirmed that they were subjected to physical and psychological torture, including harsh beating and shackling (*Shabeh*) on a chair for hours. According to the testimonies, dozens of civilians were detained while

handcuffed and blindfolded near the Israeli tanks in the clashes area. They were endangered. A number of the released prisoners said they were ordered to take their clothes off, blindfolded, kept under the sun for hours, prevented from going to the toilet, obliged to sleep outdoors without covers, pushed at gunpoint and left without food.



Israeli soldiers use bloodhounds while arresting Palestinians in the West Bank

Anas Khaled al-Najjar (23), who was arrested, said:

“At approximately 07:00 on Wednesday, 23 July 2014, a bulldozer approached my uncle’s house in which we were. It demolished the fence and started demolishing parts of the house, due to which we went out. A number of soldiers came and asked the men to stand away from women and children. Israeli soldiers ordered us to take our clothes off. We did but kept the underwear. They handcuffed us to the back... An hour later, Israeli soldiers took me and ordered me to put my clothes on. I was taken out of the house and obliged to get on a tank while handcuffed... Minutes later, the tank started to move amidst gunfire and shelling. I was hit by some empty bullet cases. I was terrified... the tank stopped in al-Najjar neighbourhood in Khuza’a. Israeli soldiers took me down and detained me with other men in an agricultural land belonging to Abu Reedah family. There were about 40 handcuffed persons in that place.... At approximately 12:00, Israeli soldiers ordered us to stand in 2 rows and then move behind the tank. We walked about 4 kilometres and then stopped in some place, where we were handcuffed and blindfolded. We were taken by bus to another place that I realized it was Sderot. We stepped out of the bus and kept in groups under the sun. They then started calling

us one by one to be questioned. During interrogation, I was beaten, slapped in the face several times and hit by a hammer several times too. During which, they did not bring me food nor water for 3 days. It should be noted that I was fasting and I asked them for food and drink, but they refused. I then asked a soldier for that, so he allowed me to drink some water and took me back to interrogation. I was hit by a stick. My hands and legs were cuffed and I was hit on the back. I was questioned for about 3 sporadic hours. After that, I was taken out under the sun for 2 days.... Six days after I was arrested, I was taken with 24 other persons by bus to a place that I learnt it was Beit Hanoun crossing, where we were told we were released.”

Another arrested person namely Hazem Ibrahim al-Najjar said (35), said:

“At approximately 07:00 on Wednesday, 23 July 2014, with the beginning of the ground operation in Khuza’a area the previous night, I heard some Israeli soldiers talking in Hebrew near the divan, where some neighbours and I were present. Minutes later, we were surprised to see a big dog with a camera on its head. Then, a number of soldiers raided the divan and pointed their guns at us. They were standing 3 meters away from us.

A soldier pointed at me and I realized he wanted me to stand up and go out of the divan. I saw 20 other soldiers out pointing their guns at me. One of them asked me to take my clothes off, keep the underwear and raise my hands up. A soldier pushed me harshly from the back with his hands and legs several times. He was kicking me and then searched me. This lasted for 10 minutes, and then he left me."

Ahmed Abdul Qader Qudaih (57), from Khuza'a village in Khan Yunis, talked about his arrest and how his money was stolen by Israeli soldiers:

"On 26 July 2014, I went out of my house, took a small bag of clothes and raised a white flag. I saw a number of Israeli tanks and bulldozers. Israeli soldiers called me and requested me to proceed towards them. They also asked me to put the white flag down, walk few meters ahead, take my clothes off and put my bag down. After I finished taking my clothes off, they asked me to put them on.... They arrested me, handcuffed me and questioned me in the house. They then took me to some place in Israel. I did not know where I was because I was blindfolded.... They detained me for 3 days, during which I was questioned. I saw about 11 other detainees from Khuza'a and al-Fokhari areas.... It should be

Israeli authorities started practicing efforts to enact the law of "force-feeding" after Palestinian administrative detainees in Israeli jails started an open hunger strike on 24 April. The aforementioned law was proposed by the Israeli Ministry of Internal Security and was approved in its first reading in the Israeli Knesset on 09 June 2014. On 23 June 2014, the Knesset decided to delay voting on the second and third readings of the bill until 30 June 2014, as the Israeli leadership wanted to create a proper political atmosphere to pass the law because there was objection from some internal parties. The party that proposed the bill made some amendments in an attempt to obtain enough votes to pass the law.

PCHR stresses that force-feeding or threats to force-feeding are a form of cruel and degrading treatment that is prohibited in the Convention against Torture

noted when I was arrested I had NIS 2,700 and my ID card with me, but when I was released at Erez crossing, they did not give me the abovementioned amount of money."

Mohammed Yousef Salem al-Nabaheen (64), from Gaza Valley said also:

"At approximately 05:00 on Monday, 21 July 2014, shelling and gunfire were heavy. I was with my family at home.... Israeli soldiers raided the house and kept me in the bathroom for 3 days. At approximately 11:00 on Thursday, 24 July 2014, they took me out of the bathroom, handcuffed me and covered my head with a sack. Moreover, they took me to a tank that moved for over an hour. They then took me out of the tank in a yard. Thirty minutes later, they ordered me to take my clothes off and put a blue overall on me. I was questioned and then pushed to the ground with a plastic strap on my hands. I was left like that for 5 days.... 3 days later, my hands started bleeding because of the strap, due to which they took me to a doctor, who untied the strap and then tied it in a different way.... At approximately 21:00 on Sunday, 27 July 2014, I was released at Erez crossing in Beit Hanoun."

and international criminal law. Moreover, they constitute an unjustifiable violation of the detainees' personal freedom, right to bodily integrity and the right to strike and protest. It was the same for the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that called upon Israel not to enact the force-feeding law.

Force-feeding threatens the lives of hunger strikers as a tube is inserted in the nose or mouth to directly pour food in the stomach, which is really painful. The victim is usually subjected to violence to prevent him/her from resistance. It should be noted that 3 Palestinian detainees were killed due to force-feeding in 1980 and 1983: Rasem Halawa, Ali al-Jafari and Ish'aq Maragha.

Administrative detention:

There are about 500 Palestinian administrative detainees in Israeli jails, including PLC members, in flagrant violation of the right to fair trial. Administrative detention is applied upon an administrative order only without an indictment or trial and in violation of the impartial judicial procedures. However, Israeli authorities utilize administrative detention as a matter of routine, as thousands of Palestinians have been under continuous administrative detention. Since the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, the Israeli government has applied this type of detention as a form of collective punishment which is internationally prohibited under the Fourth Geneva Convention 1949 in order to make detainees serve the longest possible detention periods without presenting any charges or evidence against them. The most prominent development related to administrative detention was when over 191 Palestinian administrative detainees in Israeli jails started an open-ended hunger strike on 24 April and dozens of other administrative detainees joined them later, calling for putting an end to the policy of administrative detention. Although the number of hunger strikers increased, Israeli authorities refused to fulfil their demands and escalated punitive measures against them. Such measures included placing detainees in solitary confinement, beating them, not offering them the necessary medical treatment they need, not allowing them to have a break, not allowing them to change their clothes, subjecting them to arbitrary physical searches, and handcuffing them for long hours. Moreover, the Israel Prison Service transferred 40 administrative detainees, who started

a hunger strike, on wheel chairs from Ayalon Prison in al-Ramleh to an unknown hospital. Among the transferred detainees was Ahmed al-Rimawi, who was transferred from Ohelkdar Prison, and Yasser al-Badrasawi, who was transferred from Eshel Prison.

After 63 days, the administrative detainees suspended their open-ended hunger strike upon an agreement with the Israeli Prison Service. The agreement provided for stopping the hunger strike, cancelling all punitive measures imposed on the detainees because of the strike, returning the detainees to prisons they were transferred from after they recover, and discussing the issue of administrative detention with the Israeli Prison Service.

Of those who started the hunger strike was Ra'ed Mousa, who started it on 20 September 2014, after his detention period was extended for 4 other months. It should be noted that Ra'ed Mousa was arrested from his house in Jenin on 29 November 2013. He was placed under administrative detention and the detention order was renewed 3 times. The first and second orders were for 6 months each and the third one was issued on 24 September 2014 and extended his detention period for 4 other months.

On 09 January 2014, Mo'amer Banat started an open-ended hunger strike in protest at the policy of administrative detention. Banat went through a 70-day hunger strike. His hunger strike ended after Israeli forces fulfilled his demand that the last detention order would be the final one.



Deaths in Israeli Prisons

The Palestinian prisoners suffer in the Israeli jails due to medical negligence, as the Israeli Prison Service delay offering hundreds of sick prisoners the minimum level of the necessary medical treatment. As a result, the prisoners' health conditions deteriorate, which lead to death. According to statistics⁵, there are about 1,500 sick prisoners in Israeli jails, hundreds of them suffer from chronic or serious diseases; 20 prisoners of whom are permanently staying in al-Ramleh Prison's Hospital, as they suffer from disabilities, paralysis, cardiac problems, tumors or cancer. These include Mo'tasem Raddad, Mahmoud Abu Saleh, Khaled al-Shawish, Nahedh al-Aqra', Mansour Mawqeda, Mahmoud Salman, Alaa al-Hams, Mohammed Brash, Morad Abu M'eileq, Na'im Shawamrah and Tha'er Halahla. Moreover, 16 prisoners suffer from psychological and neurological disorders and others suffer from physical disabilities.

In 2014, a Palestinian prisoner died in Soroka Hospital in Israel in circumstances raising suspicions that he was tortured and beaten while being in prison, especially as he was not suffering from any diseases before his arrest.

Ra'ed Abdul Salam al-Ja'bari (35) from Hebron died on 09 Sep 2014, one day after he was transferred to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba in Israel. Al-Ja'bari was arrested on 25 July 2014 and he was accused of attempting to run down a settler at "Gosh Etzion" settlement intersection in Hebron. Al-Ja'bari surrendered to an Israeli checkpoint near al-Aroub refugee camp, north of Hebron, directly after the incident. He was transferred to Ofer prison, west of Ramallah and then to Eshel prison in Israel. According to Issa Qaraq, Head of the Department of Prisoners' Affairs, al-Ja'bari was not suffering from any diseases and he died one day after he was transferred to Soroka Hospital, confirming that al-Ja'bari was attacked by Israeli forces while being transferred from Ofer prison.

5. According to the Statistics Department of the Ministry of Prisoners – Ramallah.



ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS

In 2014, Israeli forces continued to attack journalists, disregarding the protection extended to journalists under international law. It is evident that attacks on journalists by Israeli forces, which violate the right of journalists to personal security as they carry out their work, are part of a campaign to isolate the oPt from the rest of the world and prevent the media from covering crimes committed against civilians by Israeli forces. The most significant attacks were committed during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, whereas Israeli forces committed war crimes against journalists, including wilful killing and attacks on media facilities and offices.

PCHR documented other attacks on journalists during 2014, the most prominent of which were in the West Bank. The types of attacks included: firing at journalists; beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment; detention of journalists; denying journalists access to certain areas; confiscation of and/or damaging journalistic equipment; and raids on media offices and the homes of journalists. The Israeli attacks were as follows:

Violation of the journalists' right to life and right to safety and security of person

During the Israeli offensive, 6 journalists⁶ were killed while on duty covering the Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, 2 other journalists, including an Italian one, were killed and a third one was wounded due to the explosion of a shell of the Israeli military remnants in the Gaza Strip while preparing a report on the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.⁷ Other journalists were wounded due to targeting media offices and civilian objects while on duty.

- » On 24 January, Ja'fer Ishtaya, a photojournalist of France Press, was hit by 2 tear gas canisters to his right hand and shoulder, due to which he fainted. Ishtaya was covering a peaceful protest in Kufor Qaddoum village, east of Qalqilya in the north of the West Bank.
- » On 21 February, Atef al-Sabbah, a photojournalist working for several news agencies, sustained a bullet wound to the right leg although he had put on the press vest while covering a peaceful protest in the access restricted area in the Gaza Strip.
- » On 25 February, Nasser Maher Rahma, a photojournalist of Gaza Network for Youth Media, sustained a bullet wound to the left leg while covering Israeli attacks against Palestinian protesters near eastern borderline of Gaza City.
- » On 22 April, Abul Hafiz al-Hashlamon, a photojournalist of ABA news agency, was hit by a gas canister to the left leg. The gas canister was fired by an Israeli soldier when al-Hashlamon was covering clashes between Hebron University students and Israeli soldiers, south of Hebron in the south of the West Bank.
- » On 25 April, Mo'az Mesh'al, a photojournalist of Anadolu News Agency, sustained 10 bullet wounds to his legs as an Israeli soldier threw a box containing 12 bullets near Mesh'al. It

6. For more details, see page 47.

7. For more details, see page 47.

should be noted that Mesh'al was covering Israeli attacks against protesters in the weekly protest in al-Nabi Saleh village near Ramallah in the center of the West Bank.

- » On 16 May, Issam al-Remawi, a photojournalist of Al-Hayat Newspaper, sustained a bullet wound to the left arm when an Israeli soldier opened fire at him. Al-Remawi was covering clashes between Palestinian youngsters and Israeli soldiers near Ofer checkpoint, west of Ramallah in the center of the West Bank.
- » On 02 July, Christine al-Rinawi, a reporter of Palestine TV, sustained a bullet wound to the upper arm while covering incidents in Shu'fat neighborhood after Mohammed Abu Khdair (16) was found as dead body. It should be noted that Abu Khdair was kidnapped by settlers on the same day.
- » On 08 July, journalist Ya'qoub Abu Ghalwa was wounded while filming an Israeli attack on a house belonging to the Kaware' family in Khan Yunis.
- » On 09 July, Mahmoud Omer al-Louh, a journalist of al-Sha'ab radio, sustained shrapnel wounds to the leg while covering incidents of the latest Israeli offensive.
- » On 22 July Sakher Medhat Abu al-'Oun, a photojournalist of France Press, sustained wounds to the face while on duty in the vicinity of Shifa

Hospital in Gaza City, due to an Israeli attack on the area. On the same day, Sami Thabet, a photojournalist of Palestine Satellite Channel, was wounded while on duty due to an Israeli attack on al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital in Deir al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip.

- » On 22 July, Israeli forces fired a number of shells at a group of journalists covering the recovery of corpses in al-Shuja'iya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. As a result, Saber Ibrahim Nour al-Din, a photojournalist of the German News Agency, was wounded. On the same day, Anas Abu M'eileq, a photojournalist of Anatolia News Agency, was wounded while on duty around al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital in Deir al-Balah, due to an Israeli attack.
- » On 29 August, Ali Dar Ali (30), reporter of Palestine TV, was hit by a gas canister to the right side while covering a weekly peaceful protest against the construction of the annexation wall in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah.
- » On 14 November, Haitham Mohammed Jamal al-Khatib (38), a volunteer photojournalist at B'Tselem, was hit by a tear gas canister to the right thigh while covering a weekly peaceful protest in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah.
- » On 05 December, Bashar Nazzal Saleh (36), a photojournalist of Palestine TV, sustained a bullet wound to the left leg while covering a weekly peaceful protest in Kufor Qaddoum village, northeast of Qalqilya.

Destruction of Media facilities and Offices

During the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces targeted media institutions and offices and satellite channels. As a result, some offices were completely destroyed and others were damaged.

- » On 16 July, Israeli forces shelled the office of Watan radio on the 14th floor of Dawood building in the Remal neighborhood in the west of Gaza City. As a result, journalists Ahmed al-Ejlah and Tareq Hamdiya sustained bruises throughout their bodies. Moreover, the equipment sustained serious damage and broke down.
- » On 18 July, an Israeli warplane fired a missile at the office of the National Media Agency on the 9th floor of al-Jawharah building in the west of Gaza City. As a result, journalist Mohammed Ahmed Shabat (45) was wounded. Moreover, the office sustained serious damage. It should be noted there are offices of 13 media institutions in the building.
- » On 23 July, the office of al-Jazeera Satellite Channel on the upper floor of al-Jala' building in the west of Gaza City, was heavily fired at by Israeli forces while the al-Jazeera staff were inside. As a result, the office sustained material damage but no casualties were reported.
- » At approximately 02:30 on 29 July, an Israeli warplane fired a missile at the office of al-Aqsa satellite channel near al-Quds Open University in al-Nasser neighborhood in the north of Gaza City. As a result, the office was completely destroyed. At approximately 04:00, on the same day, an Israeli warplane fired a missile at another office of the same channel in al-Nasser neighborhood in Gaza. As a result, it was completely destroyed as well. Around the same time, an Israeli warplane fired a missile at al-Aqsa radio in the same neighborhood, due to which it was destroyed. Half an hour later, an Israeli warplane fired a missile too at another office of the radio, located on the 5th floor of al-Shorouq building in al-Remal neighborhood. As a result, it was destroyed. Five minutes later, a fifth missile was fired at an office of al-Aqsa channel on the 15th floor of the same building, due to which the office was destroyed.
- » On 30 July, Media and Journalism Training Center run by journalist Na'im al-Nawati, located on the 12th floor of al-Basha building in the west of Gaza City, was directly bombed, due to which it was heavily damaged. Around the same time, the office Starcom Advertising Company, which belongs to Ayman Yassin, on the 13th floor in the same building was bombed too. It sustained serious damage.
- » On 31 July, the office of So'oud Abu Ramadan, a journalist working for the German News Agency, was completely destroyed, as it was directly shelled. It should be noted the office was located on the 8th floor of al-Basha building in the west of Gaza City.
- » On 26 August, Israeli warplanes fired 6 missiles at the 13-storey al-Basha building near al-Tayaran crossroads in the center of Gaza City. The building contains offices, the most prominent of which is that of al-Sha'ab radio. The attack destroyed the building completely and caused serious damage in the area, including to neighboring houses and stores.
- » In the same context, during the offensive, Israeli forces kept jamming the broadcasts of a number of local radio stations and Palestinian satellite channels and broadcast their own messages via the radio stations and satellite channels. They also hacked a number of Palestinian news websites.
- » At approximately 00:10 on Monday, 25 August 2014, Israeli forces bombarded a house belonging to Mousa Mohammed Hamada near Shadi Mhanna mosque in bloc 10 in Jabalia refugee camp in the north of the Gaza Strip. As a result, the 2-storey house was completely destroyed and 15 civilians, including 2 children and 4 women sustained various wounds. A medical source at Kamal Odwan Hospital described their wounds as minor. Among the wounded was Rami Taiseer Mohammed Abu Dayya (25), a photojournalist of al-Aqsa satellite channel, who sustained a wound to the right leg while filming the attack on the house. According to field investigations, an Israeli drone targeted the house few minutes before a warplane targeted it. Because the house was located in a densely populated area, there was a large number of injuries and 10 nearby houses sustained partial damage.

Journalists subjected to beating and other forms of violence, insult and degrading treatment

Israeli forces continued to use beating, violence, insults and degrading treatment against journalists and other staff members of local and international news agencies. The most prominent attacks were as follows:

- » On 06 June, Hamdi Abu Rahmah, a freelance journalist, was violently beaten by Israeli soldiers using their gun butts while covering Israeli attacks against civilians participating in a weekly peaceful protest in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah. They also deleted the data of the camera and smashed the camera lens.
- » On 18 June, Samah Samahnah, a reporter of Ajyal radio station, sustained a wound to the eye as Israeli forces beat her while covering incidents in Askar refugee camp in Nablus.

Arrest and detention of journalists

A number of journalists in the West Bank were arrested or detained by Israeli forces in 2014. Such arrests coincided sometimes with house raids. The most significant attacks were as follows:

- » On 26 January, Abdul Hafiz al-Hashlamoun, a photojournalist of the European News Agency, and Ahmed Mezher, a photojournalist of the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa), were detained by Israeli forces for an hour and a half when they were covering clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces in Khellet al-Nahel area, near Bethlehem in the south of the West Bank.
- » On 14 April, Israeli forces detained a crew of Wafa, including Yazan Taha, a reporter; Hozaifa Srour, a photojournalist; and Fadi Kefayah, a driver, while heading to al-Nabi Saleh village to cover peaceful protests there. They were detained for half an hour before Israeli forces obliged Taha and Srour to return. The driver and equipment were kept in custody for about 4 hours.
- » On 11 May, Israeli forces detained 3 photojournalists while covering searches of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers in al-Khader village, in Bethlehem, south of the West Bank. Israeli soldiers obliged the journalists to delete the data and then released them. The detained journalists were: Samer Hamad, who works for PalMedia Production Company; Moheisen Ammar, who works for Bethlehem local TV; and Aboud Yunis, who works for al-Quds.com news agency.
- » On 21 May, Israeli forces detained Zainah Sandouqah, a reporter, and Mo'men Shabanah, a photojournalist, working for Ro'ya satellite channel, in al-Qashala detention facility. The journal-



Traces of the Israeli forces' attack on journalist Samah Samahnah on 18 June in Nablus.

ists were covering settlers' attacks against civilians in the old city in occupied Jerusalem. They were informed that a settler filed a complaint against them claiming that they attacked him. Israeli forces had stopped the aforementioned journalists and obliged them to delete the data. Israeli forces kept them in detention until they were questioned.

- » On 17 July, Israeli forces arrested Aziz Kayed, Director of al-Aqsa satellite channel in the West Bank, from his house in Ramallah in the center of the West Bank.

Raids on press institutions

- » On 28 May, Israeli forces raided the office of al-Ayyam Printing House in Beitounya village, west of Ramallah in the center of the West Bank. They informed the administration that a military order obliged them to stop printing and distributing Palestine newspaper, which is issued in Gaza.
- » On 06 June, Israeli forces raided the location of Good Morning Jerusalem Program, which is a live program in Palestine TV broadcasted from Jerusalem. They forced the crew to stop broadcast and arrested Nader Baybars, director of production, and Ashraf al-Shweiki, a cameraman of PalMedia news agency, under the pretext that the program was not licensed. The 2 journalists were released an hour and a half after being questioned.
- » On 18 June, Israeli forces raided offices of Transmedia Advertising Company in Hebron, Ramallah and Nablus. They seized all the offices' content, including broadcast equipment and cameras. It should be noted that the company provides advertising services to dozens of international, Arab and local satellite channels.
- » On 21 June, PalMedia office in Ramallah that provides services to a number of satellite channels was raided by Israeli forces. Israeli soldiers seized all press materials and equipment.

Preventing journalists from covering certain incidents

On 20 April, Israeli forces prevented a group of journalists from covering a raid by Israeli settlers on al-Aqsa Mosque yards in Jerusalem. The journalists were:

1. Wa'el al-Salaymah, a photojournalist at al-Jazeera satellite channel;
2. Mahfouz Abu Turk, a photojournalist at AP;
3. Mona al-Qawasmah, a reporter of al-Quds newspaper;
4. Diala Jweihan, a reporter of Quds net news agency; and
5. Sa'id al-Qaq, a freelance photojournalist. He was beaten by clubs and sticks on the back, due to which he was taken to al-Maqased Hospital in the city.



 **DESTRUCTION OF CIVILIAN PROPERTY**

In 2014, the Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian property in the oPt, especially during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, when tens of thousands of civilian objects and property were destroyed. Israeli forces continued this policy also in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as a part of the policies of settlement expansion and confiscation of lands.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces continued to target Palestinian civilian houses and property under several pretexts to implement the scheme of settlement expansion and confiscation of lands. In 2014, the house demolition policy escalated in Jerusalem under the pretext that houses were built without construction licenses from the Israeli municipality. As a result, hundreds of families became homeless. In Jerusalem, Israeli forces continued their efforts to create Jewish majority there and policies of ethnic cleansing against Palestinian civilians. They forcibly obliged Palestinians to evacuate their houses and property and demolished them. In the West Bank, Israeli forces adopted the policy of collective punishment against Palestinian families, whose sons were involved in running down and/or stabbing Israeli soldiers or settlers. It should be noted that Israeli authorities assume the powers of civil and security affairs over 62% of the West Bank, which is known as area (C) according to the Oslo accords. Therefore, the Israeli civil administration has absolute powers to use lands and set plans in that area, especially in terms of issuing demolition notices or construction licenses.

Demolition of civilian property in the Gaza Strip

In 2014, the policy of civilian property destruction escalated in the Gaza Strip during the Israeli offensive in an unprecedented manner since 1967. According to documentation of Palestinian human rights organizations, during and after the offensive, Israeli forces demolished 31,974 houses in the Gaza Strip, 8,377 of which were completely destroyed and 23,597 were partially damaged. Those houses used to shelter 250,918 persons, including 124,678 children and 67,448 women.

Moreover, Israeli forces destroyed 461 civilian facilities, including 134 facilities that were completely destroyed and 327 others that were partially damaged. These civilian objects included hospitals, mosques, churches, banks, NGOs, schools, kindergartens, colleges, universities, police stations and sport centers. Israeli forces also destroyed more than 11,086,481 square meters of agricultural lands throughout the Gaza Strip. Those lands provided job opportunities for 33,786 persons who supported 17,045 persons, including 6,066 children. Moreover, Israeli forces destroyed 1,603 commercial facilities, including 699 ones that were completely destroyed and 904 others sustained partial damage. They also destroyed 215 industrial facilities, including 104 ones that were completely destroyed and 111 others were partially damaged. Furthermore, Israeli forces destroyed 1,138 vehicles, including 494 ones that were completely destroyed and 644 others sustained partial damage. They also destroyed 1,089 agricultural facilities, including 227 animal farms, 520 poultry farms, 340 livestock barns, a bee farm and a pisciculture farm.

Israeli forces had damaged 13 houses in the Gaza Strip before the offensive started. These included 15 housing units sheltering 16 families, including 88 persons, 42 of whom are children.

Destruction of civilian objects during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip

Israeli forces committed systematic crimes that amounted to the level of crimes against humanity when they started a wide-scale military operation in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014. During that operation, Israeli air, ground and naval forces were employed to bomb all civilian objects whether through planned operations or indiscriminate attacks. In addition to war crimes that violated the civilians' right to the protection of their lives, security and safety, Israeli forces carried out wide-scale demolition and destruction operations throughout the Gaza Strip. Dozens of thousands of civilian objects were destroyed, including houses, vital facilities like water, electricity, telephone, sewage, and road networks, in addition to governmental, agricultural, commercial, educational, health, religious and cultural facilities. In a serious development, Israeli forces demolished and erased full residential neighborhoods. As a result more killings and injuries were reported. Moreover, a large number of civilians were forcibly displaced. However, each and every meter in the Gaza Strip was a target for Israeli forces. The last days of the offensive (the end of August 2014) witnessed a qualitative expansion of the demolition of civilian objects. The Israeli forces targeted a number of multi-storey buildings, which contains hundreds of apartments and dozens of commercial stores. Israeli forces bombed them in few minutes and turned them into piles of rubble. In addition, civilians who inhabited these buildings lost all their personal belongings.

Israeli attacks from air, land and sea resulted in extensive and unprecedented damage to hundreds of targets. Israeli forces continued to change the features of certain neighborhoods with the beginning of the ground operation on 20 July 2014, as Israeli

tanks and bulldozers moved into areas along the eastern border of the Gaza Strip and changed their geographical features. The bulldozers and tanks destroyed the infrastructure of those areas, including roads, electricity and phone networks, water supplies and sewage. They also erased roads, including civilian objects, due to which extensive destruction was left behind as if an earthquake hit those areas.

Israeli forces did not exclude during the offensive any civilian objects. The protections offered by the international humanitarian law for buildings and civilian objects were not respected. Israeli forces targeted governmental facilities, including ministries, and civilian objects, including economic facilities like factories, stores, workshops, sport clubs, cemeteries, schools, universities, media offices and medical centers. They also attacked agricultural lands, including irrigation networks and animal farms, and fishing facilities, including ports and fishing boats and equipment. The cruel attacks reflect the absence of immunity for civilian objects and protected facilities, as dozens of UN facilities, including UNRWA shelters that were opened for displaced families, were bombed, due to which they sustained damage as well. Furthermore, medical facilities and humanitarian relief organizations were direct targets whether by planned or indiscriminate attacks, whereas they also were subjected to systematic attacks especially as some medical facilities were attacked several times during the offensive. Israeli attacks were directed also against religious facilities, including mosques, cemeteries, endowment (Waqf) facilities and historic sites. Additionally, press offices were targeted and destroyed. Dozens of journalists and press crews were forced to evacuate their offices due to direct attacks against them.



One of the explosive barrels that were dropped by Israeli forces on al-Zannah area, east of Khan Yunis, during the offensive

Israeli forces continued their systematic attacks during the offensive in a manner disrespecting the above-mentioned international conventions. They also launched attacks against civilian objects in violation of article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention 1949. The ceasefire that was announced on 26 August 2014, unveiled the large-scale destruction left behind in a number of neighborhoods and areas throughout the Gaza Strip, especially in al-Shuja'iya neighborhood in Gaza City, Beit Hanoun village, north of the Gaza Strip, Khuza'a and al-Zannah areas, east of Khan Yunis, and eastern parts of the central and south of the Gaza Strip. Large areas of those neighborhoods and villages were leveled. Besides, streets and civilian objects and buildings were destroyed in a way that completely changed the features of those areas.

First: Destruction of complete areas and neighborhoods

During the offensive, Israeli forces destroyed complete residential neighborhoods, especially those along the eastern border of the Gaza Strip. Israeli land attacks escalated during the ground operation, which was accompanied with air strikes. Bulldozers were used to turn everything upside down and destroy the infrastructure of those area. All who visited those areas on 26 August 2014, were shocked. It was like an earthquake had hit those areas. Many neighborhoods were turned into piles of rubble and craters were everywhere due to air strikes and land shelling.

In al-Shuja'iya neighborhood in Gaza City, the civilians were shocked to see the big destruction during the ceasefire that was announced on 26 August 2014. Dozens of the area residents could not recognize where their houses were. According to PCHR fieldworkers, more than 600 objects and buildings

were completely destroyed, besides, the bulldozers took out all what was underground, including water and sewage networks and electricity poles that were cut off and thrown on the rubbles. PCHR fieldworkers, who visited the area when the ceasefire was declared, reported that they felt as if an earthquake had hit the area. They could not recognize buildings and houses from one another. A fieldworker said that the whole area was like a large pile of rubble that was scattered here and there and hindered the movement of persons. Israeli forces destroyed the infrastructure of the industrial and agricultural sectors. In an unprecedented development, Israeli forces completely demolished al-Wafa' Medical Rehabilitation Hospital in al-Shuja'iya neighborhood in Gaza City, which was the only hospital specialized in rehabilitation. The hospital contained 3 buildings; a 7-storey building and 2 other buildings, 4 floors each.



Part of the destruction left in al-Shuja'iya neighborhood

In Beit Hanoun, Israeli forces carried out wide-scale aerial and land attacks, due to which features of the area were changed. Israeli forces continued to destroy hundreds of civilian objects and buildings during the land incursion that started on 17 July 2014. As a result, a tragic reality was left for civilians residing in that area. Hundreds of civilian objects and residential buildings were destroyed. According to documentation of human

rights organizations, Israeli forces destroyed 4,151 houses in the city, 1,250 of which were completely destroyed and 2,901 others sustained partial damage. Israeli systematic attacks were launched against hundreds of civilian objects, including houses, and basic services like electricity, phones, water and sewage. Moreover, Israeli forces completely destroyed Beit Hanoun Hospital after it was shelled, as Israeli bulldozers demolished the hospital and turned it into rubble. Hundreds of families were terrorized due to indiscriminate shelling on civilian houses, whereas some families were targeted while at home.

The eastern part of the central Gaza Strip sustained extensive destruction to all civilian objects along the eastern borders of the Gaza Strip. Besides, lands 800-1,500 meters to the west of the borders were destroyed. Israeli forces destroyed dozens of houses, facilities, industrial facilities and roads. Destruction and damage were in al-Bureij and al-Maghazi refugee camp, al-Mussader village and the east of Deir al-Balah. According to documentation of human rights organizations, Israeli forces destroyed 4,664 houses in Deir al-Balah, 1,060 of which were completely destroyed and 3,604 others were partially

damaged. Those houses were sheltering 35,441 persons, including 15,539 children and 9,642 women. In Khuza'a, east of Khan Yunis, Israeli forces attacked hundreds of civilian objects and facilities, due to which there were more victims among civilians. Israeli forces targeted all facilities and buildings in the town without taking into consideration of the presence of civilians, who are protected according to the international humanitarian law. As a result, extensive destruction was incurred to lands, civilian objects and infrastructure. Dozens of houses were destroyed in al-Qararah, Abasan and al-Fokhari villages in Khan Yunis. According to documentation of human rights organizations, Israeli forces destroyed 4,939 houses in Khan Yunis, 1,435 of which were completely destroyed and 3,504 others were partially damaged. Those houses used to shelter 37,472 persons, including 15,801 children and 10,700 women. In Khuza'a, Israeli forces destroyed 1,304 houses, 360 of which were completely destroyed and 944 others were partially damaged. Dozens of civilians talked about their suffering, including families of victims, who kept bleeding for days and then died as medical crews could not reach them because of the heavy gunfire.



Part of destruction left in al-Fokhari neighborhood, east of Khan Yunis



Part of destruction left in Khuza'a village, east of Khan Yunis

In Rafah, the eastern part of the city was widely destroyed. Dozens of air strikes were carried out, during which hundreds of bombs and missiles were fired at houses. In an unprecedented development, Israeli forces demolished all residential houses and facilities after Israeli bulldozers and vehicles moved into the eastern part of the city. Israeli forces declared that they fired about 600 heavy artillery shells on that area under the pretext of preventing the capture of an Israeli soldier. As a result, hundreds of

victims were killed or wounded due to indiscriminate attacks, while thousands of civilians unprecedentedly fled to the center of Rafah seeking a safe place. According to documentation of human rights organizations, Israeli forces destroyed 4,207 houses in Rafah, 1,166 of which were completely destroyed and 3,041 others were damaged. Those houses used to shelter 30,415 persons, including 14,353 children and 8,161 women.



Part of destruction left in al-Faraheen neighborhood, east of Khan Yunis, due to indiscriminate attacks

Second: destruction and demolition of houses

According to documentation of human rights organizations, during and after the Israeli offensive, demolition of houses and residential buildings was carried out throughout the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces destroyed 31,974 in the Gaza Strip, 8,377 of which were completely destroyed and 23,597 were damaged. Those houses used to shelter 250,918 persons, including 124,678 children and 67,448 women. In Gaza City, Israeli forces destroyed 9,809 houses, 2,718 of which were completely destroyed and 7,191 others were partially damaged. Those houses used to shelter 74,646 persons, including 41,368 children and 20,680 women. In the northern Gaza Strip, Israeli forces destroyed 8,255 houses, 1,988 of which were completely destroyed while 6,257 others sustained damage. Those houses used to be sheltering 72,944

persons, including 18,275 women and 37,617 children. Moreover, Israeli forces destroyed in the central Gaza Strip 4,464 houses, 1,060 of which were completely destroyed and 4,464 others were damaged. Those houses used to shelter 35,441 persons, including 9,642 women and 15,539 children. In Khan Yunis, Israeli forces destroyed 4,939 houses, 1,535 of which were completely destroyed and 3,504 others were damaged. Those houses used to shelter 37,472 persons, including 10,700 women and 15,801 children. Furthermore, in Rafah, Israeli forces destroyed 4,207, 1,166 of which were completely destroyed and 3,041 others were damaged. Those houses used to shelter 30,415 persons, including 8,161 women and 14,353 children. The following tables show the details of destruction of houses during the Israeli offensive:

Houses damaged according to the size of damage and governorate

Governorate	Total destruction		Partial damage	
	#	%	#	%
Northern Gaza Strip	1,998	24%	6,257	27%
Gaza	2,718	32%	7,191	30%
Deir al-Balah	1,060	13%	3,604	15%
Khan Yunis	1,435	17%	3,504	15%
Rafah	1,166	14%	3,041	13%
Total	8,377	100%	23,597	100%

Number of affected persons in houses according to the size of damage

Damage	# of houses	# of families	Permanent residents	Women	Children
Complete	8,377	11,162	60,612	16,522	30,835
Partial	23,597	32,622	190,306	50,926	93,843
Total	31,974	43,784	250,918	67,448	124,678

Number of affected persons in damaged houses according to governorate

Governorate	# of houses	# of families	Permanent residents	Women	Children
Northern Gaza Strip	8,255	12,378	72,944	18,265	37,617
Gaza	9,909	14,039	74,646	20,680	41,368
Deir al-Balah	4,664	5,932	35,441	9,642	15,539
Khan Yunis	4,939	6,325	37,472	10,700	15,801
Rafah	4,207	5,110	30,415	8,161	14,353
Total	31,974	43,784	250,918	67,448	124,678

Houses damaged according to the type of house

Type of house	#	%
Ground floor	6,576	21%
Asbestos/tin-roofed	5,826	18%
Apartment	10,859	34%
Building	8,163	26%
Villa	313	1%
Country house	237	1%
Total	31,974	100%

Houses damaged in areas affected by the offensive and incursions

Area	Complete destruction	Partial damage	Total
Al-Shuja'iya and al-Tuffah	1,949	5,414	7,373
Beit Hanoun	1,250	2,901	4,151
Khuza'a	360	944	1,304
Al-Zannah	184	339	523
East of Rafah	768	1,575	2,343
Johr al-Deek	310	139	449
East of Deir al-Balah	217	147	364

Destruction of houses and residential buildings during the offensive left an unprecedented status of forcible collective displacement of thousands of Palestinian families that became homeless. Thousands of other families were obliged to leave and evacuate their houses fearing for their lives and safety and to avoid shelling at their houses, as dozens of civilians were killed or wounded while being at home or while escaping from their houses. About 520,000 civilians, i.e. over 1/4 of the Gaza Strip's population, were forced to leave their houses looking for a safe place. Over half of these civilians resorted to UNRWA shelters throughout the Gaza Strip. It became more painful for them as they remembered the forcible collective displacement of Palestinians in 1948. In

view of that displacement, which has been experienced by thousands of Palestinians so far, UNRWA and other international humanitarian organizations established dozens of temporary shelters for thousands of those who lost their houses and property under poor humanitarian and health conditions. Besides, thousands of Palestinians have been suffering from the psychological impact due to fear and terror they experienced, especially women, children, elderly people and disabled persons. Moreover, thousands of Palestinian have been displaced after they lost their houses because of the Israeli attacks. Those families lost their property, personal belongings, verification documents, IDs, passports and certificates of birth.



The remnants of the al-Batash family's house in al-Tuffah neighborhood in the east of Gaza City



Palestinian civilians flee from their house to escape Israeli shelling that targeted al-Shujaiya neighborhood in Gaza City



Part of the destruction left in Khuza'a village east of Khan Yunis



Part of the destruction left in Khuza'a village east of Khan Yunis

Third: destruction and demolition of multi-storey buildings

The last 4 days of the Israeli offensive witnessed a different and unprecedented escalation against civilians and civilian property in the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces targeted multi-storey buildings, some of which included 15 floors containing dozens of residential and commercial apartments and hundreds of civilians. Israeli forces started on 23 July 2014 applying this policy of targeting civilian houses, including multi-storey buildings and other buildings, as a new collective punishment. Unprecedentedly, Israeli

forces launched air strikes and completely destroyed these buildings along with the demolition of full residential neighborhoods in a way revealing the Israeli forces' true intent in implementing collective punishment and retaliatory acts against Palestinian civilians and their property, without any military necessity as required under the international humanitarian law. This new policy coincided with many threats declared by Israeli military and political officials that more retaliatory and terrorizing acts would be launched.



Remnants of al-Zafer (4) multi-storey building that was destroyed by Israeli forces in Gaza City

Four multi-storey buildings were completely destroyed in addition to other residential buildings in the Gaza Strip. As a result, dozens of families and hundreds of civilians were displaced, became homeless and suffered terror and fear. Moreover, hundreds of residents of other multi-storey buildings and hundreds of civilian living around those buildings in Gaza City evacuated their houses on 26 August 2014, following a phone call received by some civilians ordering them to leave their houses because they would be shelled and destroyed. Civilians residing in al-Sousi and Taiba (1) multi-storey building and in nearby houses in Gaza City experienced extreme fear in light of indiscriminate attacks in that area and because they did not know where

to go then. On 23 August 2014, Israeli warplanes bombarded al-Zafer (4) multi-storey building that contained 46 residential apartments. As a result, the whole building collapsed and turned into rubbles in less than a minute. This attack rendered 40 families, including 240 persons, homeless. Moreover, 18 civilians of those residing in the destroyed building and neighboring buildings were wounded and material damage was caused to a number of nearby buildings and houses. Residents of al-Zafer building talked about their suffering during the last days of the offensive amidst a state of confusion and condemnation, especially as the building was a civilian one and sheltered dozens of civilians.



Remnants of al-Basha multi-storey building that was destroyed by Israeli forces in Gaza City



This policy continued, as Israeli forces destroyed 2 other multi-storey buildings in Gaza City containing dozens of residential and commercial apartments. As a result, hundreds of civilians became homeless. Thousands of civilians living in other multi-storey buildings and houses were frightened and left their houses because of threats they received on their mobile phones from Israeli forces 2 days earlier. They had been waiting for their apartments and houses to be attacked.

Al-Salam multi-storey building in the center of Gaza City that sustained extensive damage due to an Israeli attack



On 25 August 2014, Israeli warplanes bombed the 15-storey Italian building in al-Nasser neighborhood in the north of Gaza city. The building included 13 residential floors, 52 apartments and 2 floors as a mall. Besides, the office of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing was located in that building. As a result of the attack, the building was completely destroyed and other nearby houses sustained extensive damage. At approximately 04:15 on the same day, Israeli warplanes fired 6 missiles at the 13-storey al-Basha multi-storey building near al-Tayaran intersection, in the center of Gaza City. The building contained offices, like the office of al-Sha'b radio station. As a result, the whole building collapsed and was turned into rubble. Moreover, serious damage was caused to other houses and commercial stores.

Remnants of the Italian multi-storey building that was destroyed by Israeli forces

On 24 August 2014, Israeli warplanes fired around 16 missiles at the neighborhood of Abu Ma'roof family in Jouret al-Lout area, in Khan Yuns. As a result, 7 houses were destroyed, 2 of which were 3-storey buildings. Moreover, 11 families, who used to live in those houses, including 69 persons, became homeless.

Demolition and destruction of civilian objects and property, other than houses, during the Israeli offensive

Israeli forces caused extensive destruction to civilian objects and facilities in the Gaza Strip. This included the destruction of houses; economic facilities, including lands, factories, workshops, stores, hotels, restaurants and vehicles; educational facilities, including schools, kindergartens and universities; parks and public gardens; governmental facilities like ministries and governmental departments; sport and cultural facilities, including mosques, historic and archeological sites; fishing ports and equipment; medical facilities and medicine and food warehouses. Israeli forces almost cleansed many areas, into which the moved. Israeli incursions in those areas changed the geographical features due to the wide-scale destruction and attacks car-

ried out throughout the 50-day offensive. The most prominent feature of the Israeli offensive was the excessive and indiscriminate use of force, guided missiles fired at civilian objects and facilities, and shells fired from artillery and gunboats stationed along the northern and eastern borders of the Gaza Strip. Field facts indicated that Israeli forces committed war crimes and crimes against humanity by attacking civilian objects and property during the offensive, which resulted in unprecedented destruction that was described by many local and international organizations and media as a new *Nakba* (disaster) in the Gaza Strip. It was also described as an earthquake that hit the Gaza Strip, especially Gaza, north of Gaza, Khan Yunis and Rafah.



Israeli forces destroyed 1,603 commercial facilities, 699 of which were completely destroyed and 904 others sustained partial damage. Moreover, Israeli forces destroyed 215 industrial facilities, 104 of which were completely destroyed and 111 others sustained partial damage. Israeli forces also destroyed 1,138 vehicles, 494 of which were completely destroyed and 644 others sustained partial damage. Israeli forces destroyed 1,089 agricultural facilities, including 227 animal farms, 520 poultry farms, 340 animal and poultry farms, a bee farm and a pisciculture farm.

The Middle East Pharmaceutical and Cosmetics Laboratories Company in Gaza that caught fire

Destruction of infrastructure

Wide-scale Israeli attacks and incursions throughout the Gaza Strip resulted in the destruction of dozens of kilometers of roads, the power plant, phone, water network and reservoirs, water wells and sewage network.

First: the destruction of electricity sector

The attack on Gaza power plant and electricity lines from Israel resulted in 90% electric capacity deficit in the Gaza Strip. As a result, large areas suffered from long hours of power outages since the beginning of the Israeli offensive. Houses and other facilities in the Gaza Strip had power on for 2 – 6 hours at best. The power outage suspended the work of vital sectors and basic services like water and sewage networks that became dependent on electricity generators.

On 28 July 2014, Israeli warplanes bombed the Gaza Power Plant. As a result, it sustained serious damage, including to fuel reservoirs. The plant caught fire and completely stopped.

Moreover, during the Israeli offensive, Israeli forces destroyed 6 electricity lines out of 10 coming from Israel, due to which power deficit increased up to 90%. Sources at Gaza Electricity Distribution Company (GEDC) stated to a PCHR fieldworker that the Israeli attack on the power plant resulted in the destruction of fuel reservoirs, including 300,000 liters of industrial fuel, the generator, cooling system. Fixing the destroyed power plant needs months, so the plant completely stopped and electricity distribution schedule sustained a new crisis. The Israeli electricity lines sustained extensive damage due to attacks throughout the Gaza Strip, therefore, fixing them would take long time. Lines coming from Israel distributed as follows: line no. 9 supplying the southern Gaza Strip, line no. 7 supplying Deir al-Balah, 3 lines supplying Gaza City, and a line supplying the northern Gaza Strip. Sources at the GEDC stated also that the electricity line from Egypt is limited and is only sufficient for a limited part of Rafah. It only covers 40% of the city needs for few hours. However, the Egyptian power adaptor in Rafah sustained partial damage several times due to Israeli attacks.

It should be noted that the Gaza power plant provides 65 MW, while the Gaza Strip imports 120 MW from Israel and 27 MW from Egypt on a daily basis (it was increased to 32 MW) during the offensive according to the Power Authority in Gaza. The Gaza Strip needs amount 400 MW according to the Power Authority as well.

Second: destruction of water and sewage networks during the Israeli offensive

Israeli forces targeted the water and sewage networks, due to which the Water Authority and Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWY) declared the Gaza Strip as a “disaster area environmentally and hydraulically” in light of the almost inability to offer water and sewage services to the population. The Israeli offensive caused serious loss to these 2 sectors, as it was estimated at about US\$ 34.4 million. Due to the Israeli offensive, 11 water wells were completely destroyed, 15 water wells sustained partial damage, about 17 kilometers of water networks were destroyed and over 29 kilometers sustained partial or serious damage. Moreover, 5 water reservoirs were completely destroyed, while 11 others sustained partial or serious damage. Israeli forces also completely destroyed 2 water desalination units and seriously damaged 4 other units. Twelve sewage pumping stations sustained serious damage, while 4 sewage treatment plants sustained partial damage. Furthermore, 50 equipment and vehicles of the water services and facilities sustained various damage, and the loss was estimated at US\$ 9 millions. The office and technical equipment and communication networks of water facilities sustained serious damage as well.



Destruction in the economic sector

First: destruction in the industrial sector

Israeli operations in the Gaza Strip targeted the industrial sector, as Israeli forces intended to bomb a large number of factories. Israeli attacks not only targeted industrial facilities along the Gaza Strip border area, but also facilities within residential compounds in Gaza. They systematically destroyed factories in the 2 only industrial zones in the Gaza Strip; in the east of Gaza City and in Beit Hanoun in north of the Gaza Strip. PCHR fieldworkers visited these areas after the end of the offensive. They reported that the scene was shocking due to the large destruction they saw. The industrial zone, east of Gaza City, was turned into big piles of rubble. Furthermore, the

heavy and focused shelling on the industrial zone in Beit Hanoun resulted in the destruction and burning of many industrial facilities. PCHR documented during the offensive the destruction of 215 industrial facilities, 104 of which were completely destroyed and 11 others sustained partial damage. These facilities carry out different industrial activities. The large destruction and removal of features of the industrial facilities show that Israeli forces had wanted to eradicate the productive capacity of those facilities and to paralyze the Gaza Strip's economy and maintain the Gaza Strip's dependence on the Israeli economy.



Remnants of the Financial and Administrative Monitoring building, west of Gaza City



Traces of damage in Abu Assi gas station due to an Israeli attack on the neighboring mosque in al-Wehda Street in Gaza City

Second: agricultural sector

The Israeli offensives left wide-scale destruction to the agricultural sector as well. Large areas of lands along the eastern and northern borders of the Gaza Strip were levelled during the land incursion. As a result, 11,086,481 square meters were levelled. Besides, dozens of greenhouses, rooms and warehouses of agricultural tools and equipment, irrigation networks, water pumps and some water wells were demolished. In addition, the agricultural sector, in-

cluding plants and animals, and fishing sector sustained damage. According to estimates of the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, the agricultural sector suffered a loss of US\$ 550 million, 350 of which was a direct loss. This resulted from the destruction of agricultural lands, irrigation networks, greenhouses, animal farms, poultry farms, fishing ports and boats. The indirect loss was estimated at US\$ 200 million.

Levelling agricultural lands

During the Israeli offensive, Israeli forces levelled and damaged 11,086,481 square meters of agricultural lands, including greenhouses, irrigation networks and water wells. Levelling lands started along with the land incursion in the Gaza Strip. About 3,570,694 square meters were levelled in the northern Gaza Strip, 1,373,428 square meters were levelled in Gaza City, 1,854,491 square meters were levelled in Deir al-Balah, 2,480,700 meters were levelled in Khan Yunis and 1,807,168 square meters were levelled in Rafah.

Additionally, Israeli forces destroyed 1,089 agricultural facilities, including 227 animal farms, 520 poultry farms, 340 animal and poultry farms, a bee farm and a pisciculture farm. Israeli forces also destroyed 1,138 vehicles, 494 of which were completely destroyed and 644 others sustained partial damage.

Demolition and destruction of civilian objects and property in the West Bank in 2014

Israeli forces continued to demolish Palestinian houses in 'Area C', which is under full Israeli control in accordance with the Oslo Accords, for the purpose of settlement expansion. In 2014, this policy affected houses throughout the West Bank, but demolitions were focused largely in occupied East Jerusalem.⁸ Demolitions in the West Bank were carried out under the pretext that the buildings owners lacked the required building licenses from the Planning and Building Department of the Israeli Civil Administration in the 'Beit El' settlement or, for houses in occupied East Jerusalem, from the Israeli municipality in Jerusalem.

In 2014, Israeli forces reactivated the policy of house demolitions as a form of collective punishment. Unprecedentedly, upon an order from the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli forces continued to apply the collective punishment policy against Palestinian families, whose sons run down and/or stab Israeli soldiers and settlers in the oPt, by demolishing, bombing or closing their houses. Since the beginning of the al-Aqsa Intifada in 2000, Israeli forces bombed dozens of Palestinian houses. Although this policy was suspended for a while, it was

activated again after the killing of 3 Israeli settlers in Hebron in June 2014. Israeli forces demolished the houses of the alleged suspects of the kidnap and killing of the 3 settlers.

On 01 July 2014, Israeli forces bombed 2 houses belonging to the families of Marwan Sa'di Abdul Afou al-Qawasmi and Amer Omer Abdul Qader Abu 'Eisha in Hebron, on the ground of suspicions that the two Palestinians were involved in the abduction of the three Israeli settlers, before arresting, questioning and convicting them. Al-Qawasmi's house is a 110-square-meter apartment located on the first floor of a 3-story building owned by his father and brothers, while Abu 'Eisha's house is a 100-square-meter apartment in a building belonging to his father.

On 19 November 2014, Israeli forces bombed a house belonging to the family of Abdul Rahman al-Shaloudi in al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan village, south of the old city in East Jerusalem. It should be noted that al-Shaloudi was killed on 22 October 2014, when an Israeli soldier opened fire at him in al-Shaikh Jarrah neighborhood, north of East Jerusalem, under the pretext that he deliberately ran down a group of settlers.

The policy of bombing houses, which is part of the collective punishment and retaliatory acts against Palestinian civilians, violates article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which stipulates that No persons may be punished for an offense he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited.

The Israeli authorities adopt prolonged and complicated procedures to grant building licenses to Palestinians. However, they facilitate the settlement construction works under the pretext of the natural growth of settlers. As a result, Palestinian civilians, under duress from Israeli forces, often demolish their homes themselves in order to avoid having to pay the extremely high costs that would be imposed if the demolition was carried out by Israeli forces.

8. This policy cannot be isolated from the policy of settlement expansion and the construction of the annexation wall, which are highlighted below.

This year witnessed a serious escalation in the demolition of houses and other civilian property used for industrial, agricultural or commercial purposes. In 2014, Israeli forces demolished 198 civilian facilities, including 96 ones in occupied East Jerusalem; 20 ones of which their owners were obliged to demolish them on their own, and 102 others throughout the West Bank. Israeli forces force Palestinians in East Jerusalem to demolish their houses so they would not pay high fines to the Israeli authorities. Demolitions in the West Bank were as follows: 96 houses in Jerusalem, 23 houses in Hebron, 5 houses in Bethlehem, 48 houses in Tubas and northern Jordan Valley, 4 houses in Jericho, 20 houses in Nablus, 1 house in Tulkarm and 1 house in Qalqilya too. Moreover, Israeli forces demolished 149 facilities used for non-

residential purposes such as barracks, stores, fences, tents, roads and electricity networks, including 23 in Jerusalem, 19 in Hebron, 74 in Tubas and northern Jordan Valley, 7 in Jericho, 7 in Nablus, 4 in Tulkarm, 8 in Qalqilya, 2 in Jenin, 4 in Salfit and 1 in Ramallah.

This policy of houses and civilian facilities' demolition cannot be isolated from the policy of settlement expansion for the interest of creating a Jewish demographic majority in East Jerusalem. This policy coincided with a series of harassment carried out by Israeli forces and settlers against civilians in those areas, especially in the south of Hebron and east and north-east of Jerusalem, where hundreds of Bedouin families reside.



Part of destruction in al-Srou factory



A mall that was targeted by shells in Rafah City



Destruction in Rafah Crossing hall



Destruction in al-Shuja`iya Elementary School for Girls in the east of Gaza City.



Destruction in the fishing port in Gaza seaport



Traces of destruction in al-Aqsa Martyrs` Hospital in Deir al-Balah.



Destruction in Mohammed al-Durrah Hospital, north of Gaza



Destruction of offices of the Physically Disabled Persons` Association in al-Zaitoun neighborhood in the southeast of Gaza City



SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES AND ATTACKS BY SETTLERS AGAINST PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS AND PROPERTY

The Israeli government, its occupation forces and settlers living in the oPt in violation of international law have continued the expansion of settlements in the West Bank. Armed Israeli settlers, protected by Israeli forces, have continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property. In 2014, Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and property, launching some joint attacks with the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians. The most violent and heinous attack was kidnapping and burning a Palestinian child, Mohammed Abu Khdeir, from Sho'afat neighbourhood, north of Jerusalem.

Settlement Expansion

The Israeli government, its occupation forces, and settlers living on Palestinian land in violation of international law have continued the expansion of settlements in the West Bank, under the pretext that expansion is necessary to accommodate the natural population growth of settlers.

Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, clearly violate international humanitarian law and international resolutions. In spite of increasing international criticism to Israeli settlement activities in the oPt, the Israeli government escalated these activities allegedly to meet the need of natural growth of settlers. PCHR emphasizes that the Palestinian territory (the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip) is an occupied territory according to the international humanitarian law and the international legitimacy resolutions. Therefore, PCHR has persistently called upon the international community to immediately intervene to compel the Israeli government to stop all settlement activities in the oPt, especially in East Jerusalem, and dismantle Israeli settlements, which constitute a war crime under international humanitarian law.

Confiscation of Palestinian Civilian Property

Israeli forces have continued to confiscate civilian property belonging to Palestinians to facilitate the expansion of settlements. This is in violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits changing the nature of an occupied territory unless there is a military necessity in the narrow sense of the term a condition that is not fulfilled in this case. In 2011, Israeli forces confiscated and/or levelled at least 10,800 dunums of land across the West Bank, including 196 dunums in occupied East Jerusalem.

In the reporting period, the area categorised as 'Area C' under the Oslo Accords, as agreed between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Israeli government in 1993, was the main target of Israeli confiscation operations in 2014. The aim is to evacuate the Palestinian population to make way for settlement expansion projects. Communities in the area were subjected to wide-scale demolition operations against houses and agricultural facilities, such as water wells, rainwater harvesting pools and cattle barns. Israeli forces issued hundreds of demolition notices for these facilities.

In addition, the illegal settlements were completely supported by the Israeli government, which offered many settlement construction tenders and plans in the West Bank. Construction plans for 16,704 new settlement units in 33 Israeli settlements, most of which are in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Salfit, were approved. Moreover, military orders were issued concerning thousands of dunums of the Palestinian land for the construction of the annexation wall, or for confiscation under the pretext that these lands are State Property. Accordingly, Palestinians are prevented from using them without permits issued by the competent Israeli authorities as Israeli confiscated around 7,263 dunums in 2014 (Source: the Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ))

Furthermore, thousands of trees were attacked by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank. They cut off, burnt, damaged, dumped trees with sewage water and poisoned them with chemicals. In 2014 and according to information obtained by PCHR from the Land Research Centre of Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem, the number of trees that were attacked amounted to 22,400 trees, 89% of which were olive trees. Statistics show that 17,009 trees were uprooted, 5,452 trees were stolen and taken to settlements, 2,730 trees were dumped with sewage water, 519 trees were burnt, 78 trees were poisoned with chemicals and 2,064 trees were levelled. Additionally, 4,400 dunums were levelled, 2,180 dunums were levelled for the purpose of settlement expansion, 1,226 dunums were dumped with sewage water coming from the settlements and 994 dunums were used by settlers as pastures were destroyed.

Ethnic Cleansing

Following the Oslo Accords in 1993, Israeli forces targeted area (C) for settlement expansion. The Palestinian civilians became victims of those projects, especially in East Jerusalem as it witnessed the expansion of "Ma'ale Adumim" settlement with the implementation of the E1 Plan that would further isolate Jerusalem from the West Bank, while cutting the northern West Bank off from its southern reaches.

Israeli forces apply this policy of ethnic cleansing in area (C) through demolishing houses and livestock

barns under the pretext they were built with no building licenses from the (Civil Administration). Israeli forces force residents to evacuate these areas under the pretext of military training or they are part of military zones in order to destroy their daily basic needs and increase their suffering.

In 2014, Israeli forces continued to target the Palestinian Bedouin communities to uproot them from their residence areas. On 22 January 2014, Israeli forces uprooted a number of residential tents and levelled sheep barns and barracks in the areas of Abziq and Kherbet Yarzah in the Northern Jordan Valley, east of Tubas. Fifteen residential tents, 10 Barracks, 3 kitchens, 4 mobile health units and a room built of bricks and mud were levelled and uprooted. On 30 January 2014, Israeli forces levelled houses, uprooted tents and sheep barns belonging to 12 families in al-Maleh area in the Northern Jordan Valley, east of Tubas. They levelled and uprooted 14 residential tents, 10 tents used as sheep barns, 3 barns and 6 kitchens. Subsequently, 52 persons, most of which were women and children, became homeless.

On 06 September 2014, the Israeli daily "Haaretz" reported that Israel was about to offer a plan to forcibly relocate thousands of Bedouins living in East Jerusalem to a new town in the Jordan Valley. The Israeli plans reflect the intentions of the Israeli Civil Administration's Planning Department, which from the beginning did not want these Bedouin communities to have any role in the planning process to force them to evacuate their lands and to avoid bargains with them. This enables the planning department to implement its settlement plans in the area, the most important of which is the "E1" plan, which includes the building of 3910 housing units west of "Ma'ale Adumim" settlement in addition to the building of 2152 hotel rooms, an industrial zone and a police station (the police station had been already built in the Ma'ale Adumim area in 2008). The new town is slated for about 12,500 Bedouins from the Jahalin, Kaabneh and Rashaida tribes living all over the West Bank cities as the forced displacement process is not limited to the Bedouin communities in Occupied East Jerusalem, rather it includes all the cities in the West Bank.⁹

9. http://www.poica.org/details.php?Article=7142#_ftn2

Efforts to Create a Jewish Demographic Majority in Jerusalem

The Israeli government and its occupation forces have continued the construction of settlements in East Jerusalem and its suburbs in an effort to create a Jewish demographic majority in the city. They have cut off East Jerusalem from the West Bank, constructed new sections of the annexation wall and continued activities of settlement expansion in and around the city. The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem has continued to demolish Palestinian houses under the pretext of the lack of construction licenses. In 2014, there was an escalation in the demolitions of homes and civilian property, and an increasing number of demolition notices were delivered to Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem and its suburbs.

In addition to these illegal measures, the Israeli Ministry of Interior continued to withdraw identity cards from Palestinian civilians living in the city and expel them from the city to areas in the West Bank. The Ministry withdraws identity cards under various pretexts, including political allegiances or the fact that the individual works outside the boundaries of the city.

In 2014, Israeli forces, under the instructions of the Municipality of Jerusalem, continued to demolish Palestinian houses throughout the city and its suburbs, citing unlicensed construction as the reason for demolition. The municipality continued to impose lengthy and complicated procedures on Palestinian civilians who attempted to obtain construction licenses. Thus, many Palestinians, under pressure to build new houses or expand existing homes due to natural population growth, do so without obtaining licenses. Meanwhile, Israel, through the Municipality of Jerusalem, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Interior and settlement associations, approved the construction of thousands of housing units for Israeli settlers inside and around Jerusalem.

On the level of settlement activities in 2014, the Israeli authorities approved the construction of 2610 settlement units in "Givat Hamatos" settlement and 500 units in "Ramat Shlomo" settlement in addition to advancing tenders for the construction of 2,239 settlement units in the settlements established in the city and its surroundings. The latter units were divided into 1000 units in "Ramot Shlomo" settlement; 294 units in "Ramot"; 182 units in "Pisgat

Ze'ev" settlement; 56 units in al-Nabi Ya'qoub; and 708 units in "Gilo" settlement.

The Israeli authorities also levelled vacant areas from the lands of al-Sowanah neighbourhood to implement "al-Matalah al-Wosta" settlement project. In addition, a stadium, observation points and infrastructure works were implemented by "Moryah" Company and supervised and supported by the Israeli municipality in the city. The municipality approved the construction of a Jewish school and settlement centre in al-Sheikh Jarrah on a four-dunum area. The construction and planning committee in the municipality approved the construction of a building for the Jewish National Fund "Keren Kayemeth" in the centre of Jerusalem to transfer its offices in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa into that 15-storey building near Sheraton Plaza Hotel in King George Street. During the year, the settlement organizations of "al-'Aad" and "Ateret Cohanim" took over 36 residential apartments; 10 of which in al-Helwah Valley neighbourhood, Baydoun quarter, and the central quarter in Selwan village. The "Ateret Cohanim" extremist settlement organization said that it purchased the post office building in Salah al-Din Street in the centre of Occupied East Jerusalem to turn it into a Talmudic religious school.

PCHR emphasizes that the Israeli measures taken in Occupied Jerusalem and its environs are illegal as it is an integral part of the oPt and notes that the Israeli municipality discriminates against Palestinians when it is related to the construction licenses and services.

It should be noted that the Israeli efforts to create a Jewish demographic majority in East Jerusalem started by Israel's declaration of the annexation of the occupied city to Israel, confiscation of Palestinians' property, establishment of settlements, establishment of the annexation wall, depriving its inhabitants from building houses, demolition of old houses, issuance of racial decisions to evacuate the city from its inhabitants and separating it from its surroundings. PCHR believes that the policy of evacuating Jerusalem from its residents is a means that is adopted by Israel in order to create a Jewish demographic majority there.

The Israeli authorities have continued to impose restrictions on the activities of Palestinian organiza-

tions in the city under the pretext they belong to the PLO and/or PNA. The Israeli practices against those organizations included raiding their offices, not allowing celebrations or meetings of the organizations' boards even if the arranged activity is a social one.

In 2014, Israeli authorities closed three organizations: "Namaa" association in Beit Safafa; al-Zakah and al-Sadaqat association and al-Quds Association in Salah al-Deen Street, under the claims of organizing activities for Hamas. Israeli forces continued the policy of raiding Palestinian centres, clubs and associations in the city before organizing any activity in them. Of those organizations that were raided were al-Zaytoun Mountain Club; Hend al-Husseini Collage; Dar Issaf al-Nashashibi for Culture, Arts & Literature; Yabous Cultural Centre; Palmedia Media Service Office; Burj Luq Luq Social Centre Society; and Elia association.

Israeli forces have continued to violate the right to freedom of religion of Muslim and Christian Palestinians by denying them access to religious sites in Jerusalem, as well as by continuing excavations in the vicinity of the al-Aqsa Mosque, endangering the site, subjecting it to the threat of collapsing, continuous raids by settlers and Israeli police, calls to divide it between Muslims and Jews in line with situation in al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

In a serious precedent, Israeli forces closed all the gates of al-Aqsa Mosque to facilitate and protect the entrance of thousands of settlers and extremist settler groups headed by Ministers in the Israeli government and Knesset members to al-Aqsa Mosque to perform their Talmudic prayers and threat to divide al-Aqsa Mosque similar to the division in al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron since Baruch Goldstein committed a massacre on 25 February 1994, when 29 Palestinian worshipers were killed. On Thursday dawn, 30 October 2014, Israeli forces closed all the gates of al-Aqsa Mosque before worshippers from all ages, erected checkpoints and deployed troops around. Moreover, Israeli forces denied even students of al-Aqsa Sharia School access to their school inside (about 500 male and female students), and denied muezzins and Imams access to the mosque. Only 8 persons, including Omar al-Kiswani, director of Al-Aqsa Mosque, and some guards were able to get into the mosque. Israeli forces continued to

close the mosque gates in front of the al-Aqsa Sharia School for two consecutive days. The closure came due to the unprecedented Israeli escalation by governmental and police authorities and extremist right-wing leaders who demanded imposing the Israeli sovereignty on al-Aqsa Mosque, withdrawing the Jordanian guardianship and allocating places for Jews to perform their prayers and specific days for the holidays just like what is happening in al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

According to the documentation of the Islamic Endowments (Awqaf) Department in Jerusalem, al-Aqsa Mosque was stormed in 2014 by more than 12,892 Israelis, including ministers in the Israeli government, Knesset members, officials and members of different security services. Of whom were Uri Ariel, Housing and Construction Minister; Moshe Feiglin, Deputy Speaker of the Israeli Knesset; Tzipi Hotabla, Deputy Minister of Transportation; Yitzhak Aheronovic, Minister of Internal Security; Nir Barakat, Israeli Mayor of Jerusalem; and extremist Rabbi Yehuda Glick, who organizes the storms into the mosque.

As part of the Israeli policies aiming to suppress protests against the Israeli practices in the city, in which children participate, on Sunday, 02 November 2014, the Israeli government approved a bill to impose additional penalties on Palestinian children who throw stones at Israeli soldiers, mounting to 20-year imprisonment sentences. Office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that the government approved the amendment of the bill in its weekly meeting. This amendment is supposed to be discussed at the Knesset to be approved. According to the statement, "New items will be added to the Penal Code in a way allowing the imposition of penalties mounting to 20 years of imprisonment for those who throw stones or objects at vehicles".

In 2014, schools of the city were targeted, including raiding and deliberately spraying schools with waste water in addition to closing and shooting inside them. Moreover, students were arrested when they were on their way to their schools. According to information obtained by PCHR from Wadi Helweh Information Centre in Silwan, al-Aqsa Shar'ia Schools, which include around 500 students and is located in the mosque, were closed for few days. In addition, the Orphanage School in Jerusalem was

also affected due to chasing and imposing restrictions over students by Israeli forces under the pretext of “throwing stones”. Israeli forces tightened restrictions on the teaching staff and students when they were on their way to school. On 24 September 2014, Israeli forces fired metal bullets at the school wounding 3 students, who were in classes and in the schoolyard. Meanwhile, Israeli forces sprayed the schools street in al-Mokaber Mountain with waste water and fired sound bombs and tear canisters at 6 schools in addition to raiding al-Mokaber School for Girls and firing tear gas canisters and metal bullets at the female students, the administration and teaching staffs.

Attacks by Israeli Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

In 2014, armed Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Attacks were no longer a reaction to attacks by Palestinian armed groups against Israeli forces and settlers. They developed into systematic attacks against Palestinian civilians. In 2014, such attacks became even more systematic, often at times of complete quietness in the oPt.

In 2014, settlers committed one of their most heinous crimes when a group of them kidnapped Mohammed Hussein Abu Khudair (16) from the vicinity of his house in Shu’fat neighborhood in the north of occupied Jerusalem, and burnt him to death. According to investigations conducted by PCHR, at approximately 05:00 on Wednesday, 02 July 2014, 5 Israeli settlers kidnapped the child from the vicinity of his family’s house in Shu’fat neighborhood in the north of occupied Jerusalem. A few hours later, the Israeli police declared that they found the child’s body in forest lands near “Givat Shaul” settlement, adjacent to Deir Yassin village, west of Jerusalem. The police confirmed that signs of torture and burns were seen on the child’s body. Eyewitnesses and residents of Shu’fat neighborhood stated to PCHR that according to recordings of surveillance cameras stabled on houses and shops in the area, 5 Israeli settlers traveling in a Hyundai car kidnapped Abu Khudair when he was in front of his house. Two of the settlers stepped out of the car and forced Abu Khu-

dair into the car. The settlers were indicted in the Jerusalem District Court, and the case is still pending a decision from the court. Although 6 months have passed since the heinous crime, Israeli authorities have not taken any punitive action against the perpetrators.

The attacks by settlers against Palestinian civilians took many new forms; most of which were attempts to kidnap children basically in East Jerusalem due to the daily contact between settlers and Palestinian civilians. According to Israeli reports, 2,750 settlers live in settlement outposts in the neighbourhoods of Jerusalem (Silwan, al-Sowanah, al-Sheikh Jarrah, Ras al-Amoud and al-Tour) in addition to thousands living in the settlement neighbourhoods inside the city or in its surrounding. Settlers attempted to kidnap Mousa Rami Zaloum (8) and Mohammed Kaswani (8), both from Beit Hanina as well as Taha To-fahah (2) in Sho’afat; Mohammed Khaled al-Zaghal (11) on al-Jothmaniyah Road and Majd Hazinah (4) in the Old Town of Jerusalem.

Based on monitoring and documentation of crimes committed by Israeli settlers in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, PCHR emphasizes that those attacks were launched by Israeli settlers under the Israeli forces’ protection, which even joined them in launching dozens of attacks. Israeli forces do not intervene to stop such attacks, nor do they take legal action against settlers. In general, Israeli forces ignore complaints submitted by Palestinian victims against Israeli settlers and do not investigate them. This policy adopted by Israeli forces encourages settlers to commit more crimes against Palestinian civilians, and frustrates Palestinian victims who abstain from submitting complaints to Israeli authorities because they are convinced that Israeli authorities would not seriously consider and investigate their complaints.

PCHR documented 194 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians in 2014. These attacks were distributed in governorates as follows: 23 attacks in Nablus; 59 attacks in Hebron; 24 attacks in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 13 attacks in Qalqilya; 32 attacks in Jerusalem; 24 attacks in Salfit; 16 attacks in Bethlehem; an attack in Jenin and 2 attacks in Tubas.

Statistics relevant to the settler attacks are as follows:

1. **Shooting Incidents:** The settlers carried out 5 shooting incidents.
2. **Attacks against Palestinian Farmers and Shepherds:** Settlers carried out 56 attacks against shepherds and farmers.
3. **Riots on Public Roads:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 107 riot incidents on public road, including throwing stones at Palestinian civilian cars and run-over incidents.
4. **Targeting Civilian Vehicles:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 7 attacks carried out by settlers against Palestinian civilian vehicles;
5. **Attacks on Religious Sites:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 6 attacks against Islamic and Christian sites in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem;
6. **Attacks on Houses:** PCHR fieldworkers documented 13 attacks in this context.

According to new statistics published by the Israeli Ministry of Interior, the number of settlers in the West Bank and Jerusalem significantly increased to 350,143 settlers, marking an increase by 4.5% compared to 2013. The number of settlers in the eastern neighbourhoods of Jerusalem such as Pisgat Ze'ev; Neve Yaakov; Ramat Eshkol and Ramon reached 300,000.

The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

Although 10 years passed on the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 9 July 2004 on the legal consequences of the wall in response to a request by a UN General Assembly resolution of 3 December 2003, Israel has not taken any measure to change the situation on the ground. The ICJ ruled that the wall's construction inside the oPt, including East Jerusalem, violates international law. It also found that Israel is bound to put an end to its violations of international law, stop the construction works of the wall, dismantle the sections already constructed, abolish all relevant legislation and orders, and compensate Palestinians harmed by the construction of the wall. The ICJ called upon the international community to abstain from helping the continued illegal status, which was established after the construction of the annexation wall, take the legal steps to stop the Israeli violations and ensure the application of the Fourth Geneva Conven-

tion. However, the Israeli authorities and its judicial system have continued to ignore the ICJ's opinion, and the Israeli government continued to act as a state above the law. Moreover, the international community have not taken any measures to deter the Israeli forces or hold them accountable for their crimes and serious violations of the international humanitarian law in the oPt.

The annexation wall which the Israeli government decided to construct in late June 2002 goes through most of the West Bank lands. The Israeli government claimed that the barrier was being constructed as a security measure and without any political implications. Over time, as new facts were created on the ground, some Israeli politicians stated that the barrier would constitute the border line between Israel and a future Palestinian state. Citing security concerns in order to unilaterally create new facts on the ground, Israel has used the wall in its negotiations with Palestinians, who aspire to establish their state within the 4 June 1967 boundaries. The wall, with its effective annexation of Palestinian land, has created a new reality on the ground that makes it difficult to discuss the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state. According to Palestinian estimations, the area of the isolated Palestinian lands, which are besieged between the wall and the armistice line, reached 680 square kilo meters (i.e. 12% of the West Bank area). Around 454 square kilo meters of that area are planted lands and pastures.

At the level of confiscating lands for the construction of the annexation wall, on 08 November 2014, the Israeli forces deployed at the military checkpoint at the entrance to Beit Iksa village, which is isolated due to the annexation wall, north west of Jerusalem, delivered confiscation orders signed by the Israeli military commander in the West Bank, Nitzan Alon, that gave them until Dec. 31, 2017 to remain on their land. The Israeli authorities claimed that the confiscation order has been under way since 2012, and that the new order only emphasizes the old order adding that the lands confiscated would be used for military purposes and in response to "the Israeli claims that they are Israeli security needs in the village." According to the two-page order and attached illustrative maps signed by Nitzan Alon, the Israeli Military Commander in the West Bank, the lands that would be confiscated are between parcels 7 and 8.

On 01 December 2014, Israeli authorities issued a military order to confiscate 48 dunums of the lands of Rantis village, west of Ramallah. These lands are located in the northwestern side of the village and adjacent to the annexation wall, which was established around the aforementioned village in 2004, and the Israeli authorities confiscated hundreds of dunums from the village lands from 3 sides.

At the end of the year, Israeli forces handed civilians from the villages of Tulkarm and Jenin dozens of notices confiscating their agricultural lands along the annexation wall extending from Yaʿbod village, south of Jenin, to Eastern Baqat village, north of Tulkarm. Local sources in both cities said that thousands of dunums of land adjacent to the wall would be confiscated, and the new order denied civilians access to those lands and to culpably invest and plant them. The sources added that these lands are located between Um Dar village near Yaʿbod village and Zita village in Tulkarm, 3-4 kilometres wide next to the annexation wall.

Restrictions on Movement on Both Sides of the Annexation Wall

Israeli forces have imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians on both sides of the wall. In 2014, Israeli forces imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinians.

Israeli forces reduced the hours during which gates established along the wall are opened, restricting access of Palestinian farmers to their agricultural lands, which are isolated behind the wall. Such measures are aimed at reducing the working hours of farmers, thus depriving them of their source of income and destroying their plants, including olive trees that constitute one of their most important sources of annual income.

During the olive harvest, Israeli forces imposed a strict system on Palestinian farmers, ordering them to obtain permits issued by the Israeli Civil Administration in order to reach their lands, which have been isolated by the annexation wall. Farmers are forced to present evidence of their ownership of the land in order to obtain permits, which is extremely difficult as many of these lands are still registered for people who died or left the country.

The impact of restrictions on the movement of Palestinians living near the wall has not been limited to the agricultural sector, but includes numerous other aspects of life. Access to medical care, education and relatives living in other parts of the oPt has been restricted. Palestinians are required to obtain permits to move through the gates which are built at the wall, and which are operated under a strict security system. Israeli forces often close these gates for no apparent reason.



 THE ABSENCE OF JUSTICE IN THE ISRAELI LEGAL SYSTEM

Israeli authorities continued to impose obstacles before the Palestinian victims in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip to deny them their right to justice and remedy. The latest of such obstacles was the Israeli Supreme Court's decision on 16 December 2014 approving regulations that ban Palestinians from Gaza from entering Israel for their compensation cases against the Israeli

Thus, there is no place for any claim of justice for the Palestinian victims before the Israeli Judiciary so that we can declare that the Israeli Judicial system does not want to provide justice for Palestinians and that the international bodies should not request exhausting all means in regard to Israeli crimes. Victims of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in June 2014 ("Operation Protective Edge") joined the very long list victims of the Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip in both November 2014 ("Operation Pillar of Defense") and in December 2008 – January 2009 ("Operation Cast Lead") waiting for justice and remedy. This requires serious steps from all international and local parties to put an end to the State of Immunity granted for the Israeli war criminals.

Although months have passed since the last Israeli offensive in 2014 known as "Operation Protective Edge", Israel continued to prevent any international or special commission of inquiry from entering Gaza in order to investigate the crimes committed by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip in addition to the arbitrary laws and procedures previously taken and enacted to close doors for remedy before Palestinian victims. The situation is not different in the West Bank although Israeli authorities declared the Gaza Strip, but not the West Bank, as "a hostile entity". Israel has proved over and over again that killing Palestinian civilians in cold blood by the Israeli soldiers and settlers, who are armed by Israeli authorities, usually goes unpunished. Thus, Israel proves that its judicial system is a racist system and part of the Israeli apartheid, which has been professionally created, to avoid criticism and international legal prosecution, since its occupation of the Palestinian territories.

PCHR works on building legal files for the Palestinian civilian victims to help them get their rights. Moreover, PCHR also closely follows up in cooperation with its partners the Israeli legal procedures against the Israeli soldiers and settlers who committed murders in cold blood against civilians in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. PCHR's lawyers worked hard to build files relevant to "Operation Protective Edge" to claim the victims' criminal and civil rights in the context of PCHR's work in the field of prosecuting Israeli war criminals and ensuring remedy to the victims. PCHR's efforts before the Israeli courts prove to the whole world that the Israeli judicial system is corrupt and founded to shield the Israeli war criminals from prosecution by misleading the international community that there are internal investigations.

The following facts and numbers explain the Israeli measures to shield Israeli war criminals from prosecution and deny Palestinian victims of repeated Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip from their right to redress. Moreover, we will review the most significant cases of denial of justice for the victims of the Israeli crimes in the West Bank.

First: Shielding Israeli War Criminals from Prosecution:

Israeli authorities continued to ignore complaints filed to request investigation into acts that are likely constitute war crimes against Palestinian civilians, or give negative replies claiming that there are no violations in order to shield the Israeli war criminals. According to PCHR's Legal Aid Unit, PCHR's lawyers submitted 254 complaints, including 236 during the offensive on the Gaza Strip, to the Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG) to open criminal investigations into the Israeli violations and prosecute the perpetrators. PCHR received only 10 replies; in 5 ones, the MAG claimed that the military police would conduct an investigation while, and in 4 ones, it claimed that the case was closed as the suspicion of the commission of a criminal offense was not proven.

Second: Denying victims' right to remedy

Israeli authorities continued to deny the Palestinian victims' right to redress through imposing a series of financial and legal obstacles. The latest of these measures was on 16 December 2014 when the Israeli Supreme Court approved regulations that ban Palestinians from Gaza from entering Israel for their compensation cases against the Israeli military in addition to the amendment No. 8 to the Israeli Tort Law (Liability of the State) of 1952, which was approved by the Israeli Knesset on 16 July 2012.

On 16 December 2014, the Supreme Court of Israel rejected a petition submitted by human rights organizations against Israel's policy of preventing residents of Gaza who have submitted compensation lawsuits for damages against the Israeli military, and their witnesses, from entering Israel to attend their own court hearings. Adalah filed the petition in cooperation with the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, and Physicians for Human Rights – Israel on behalf of four individuals from Gaza who filed tort lawsuits against the Israeli military and whose requests for permission to enter Israel to pursue their cases were repeatedly denied. Although the Court rejected the petition, it pointed out the conflict of interests created by this policy between the state's position as the defendant before the court and as the authority that determines who can and who cannot enter

PCHR stresses that the behaviour of the Israeli MAG comes as part of the systematic policy to deny the Palestinian victims their right to justice and provide Israeli war criminals legal protection to shield them from international prosecution. This is confirmed by that fact that PCHR had filed 1,181 criminal complaints to the Military Advocate General following "Operation Cast Lead", but received only 19 replies relating to 23 cases only. Furthermore, the Military The MAG has never brought any of the respondents to justice although there were international reports proving the commission of war crimes and strongly raising the possibility of occurrence of crimes against humanity against Palestinians in oPt, especially during "Operation Cast Lead". The most prominent report was the one prepared by the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Conflict in Gaza (the Goldstone Report).

Israel to access the court. Justice Elyakim Rubinstein stated in the decision that the state simultaneously wears two hats, as the party "responsible for security on the one hand, and as the defendant on the other," and that "it must take care as far as possible not to confuse the two issues."

It should be mentioned that in 2014 PCHR's lawyers submitted 1080 notices to the Israeli Ministry of Defence to file cases in order to compensate the Palestinian victims (according to the Israeli law) due to the Israeli violations that resulted in killing 469 Palestinian civilians, wounding 337 others and the destruction of 256 houses during "Operation Protective Edge." PCHR does not expect from the Israeli Judiciary to ensure remedy for the victims due to the obstacle imposed by the Israeli authorities for victims and their lawyers in addition to Lack of fairness and impartiality of Israeli judges.

It should be mentioned that the Israeli authorities imposed many obstacles before Palestinian civilians to deny them access to justice. The most significant and latest of which was Amendment No. 8 to the Israeli Tort Law (Liability of the State) of 1952, which was approved by the Israeli Knesset on 16 July 2012. This amendment exempts the State of Israel of any liability arising from damages caused to a resident of an enemy territory during a 'combat action' or 'military operation'. This amendment disregards the vital question of the legality of these attacks. It also

ignores the damage caused to the victims as a result of such attacks, potentially violating rules governing the conduct of armed forces during military operations, as prescribed under international humanitarian law. Amendment No. 8 directly contravenes the norms of customary international law, which hold that a State is responsible for all acts committed by persons who are operating as part of its armed forces. The Israeli legal system is used to shield suspected Israeli war criminals from justice.

Amendment 8 applies retroactively from 2005 onwards and exempts the Israeli forces not only of providing reparations for the victims of the latest Israeli offensive, but also the victims of the "Operation Cast Lead" in 2008-2009 and "Operation Pillar of Defence" in 2012 in addition to all the attacks committed against Palestinian civilians since 2005. As a result, PCHR could not file any compensation complaint on behalf of the "Pillar of Defence" victims. Moreover, the Israeli courts dismissed many compensation complaints that were already filed by PCHR on behalf of the victims.

In February 2013, the Israeli central court in Beer-sheba cancelled 14 cases filed by PCHR to claim remedy for the Palestinian civilians who were killed, wounded or sustained financial loss due to the Israeli violations of the international law. Of the 14 cases, the court dismissed 11 cases based on Amendment No. 8. The other 3 cases were dismissed under the pretext they did not meet the procedural standards which require that a power of attorney for a civil case

from the Gaza Strip is valid if it carries the signature and stamp of an Israeli diplomatic body. This requirement is impossible because the claimants from the Gaza Strip are denied access to Israel.

This amendment confirms the denial of the Palestinians' right to resort to the Israeli courts to claim for compensation. The Ministry of Defence has always ignored notices sent by PCHR to file civil cases on behalf of the Palestinian victims. For example, from 2009 to before the "Operation Protective Edge", PCHR filed 1,459 civil complaints to the Compensation Officer in the Israeli Ministry of Defence, and only in 3 of them victims received financial compensation upon financial settlements between the Prosecution and PCHR's lawyer. However, the remaining complaints were either dismissed or ignored. For example, 32 cases filed before the Israeli courts were dismissed according to this amendment, and 105 cases were dismissed due to not paying the high financial guarantee imposed by the court in order to make it impossible for the victims to have access to justice. Moreover, 11 other cases were dismissed as witnesses could not attend to testify before the court. Thus, the amendment has offered a legal shield for this denial for years.

The above-mentioned measures are part of a larger scheme of Israeli measures to deny the Palestinians' right to remedy. In the past years, the Israeli authorities issued decisions and amended legislation through which they imposed legal, financial and material obstacles.



Third: Denying Justice for Victims Killed by Israeli Forces in Cold Blood

The Israeli Judiciary continued its racist policy against Palestinian victims who were killed in cold blood by Israeli soldiers and settlers. The Israeli judiciary and prosecution deal in double standards with the Israeli crimes committed against Palestinian civilians. Although the Israeli judiciary and prosecution are being strict when prosecuting and punishing any violation by any Palestinian, we find them completely opposite when dealing with the crimes committed by the Israeli soldiers and settlers against Palestinian civilians. The following are most significant cases of procrastination and disregard for the prosecution of soldiers and settlers responsible for killing Palestinians in cold blood:

» ***Israeli Prosecution closed case of Yousif al-Shawamrah killed in cold blood by Israeli soldiers without bringing perpetrators before justice***

On 19 March 2014, Israeli forces shot and killed 14-year-old Yousif al-Shawamrah when he crossed through a wide breach in the annexation wall near Dura village, south of Hebron, in order to pick gundelia [Arabic: 'Akub] to support his family. According to the investigations conducted by B'tselem, al-Shawamrah was shot in broad daylight with no advance warning and posed no danger to any other persons. Despite all of this, the prosecution closed the investigation in July 2014 claiming that "there is no suspicion that the open-fire regulations had been breached or that any military personnel were involved in criminal action".¹⁰

» ***Procrastination in Prosecuting the Soldiers who killed Nadim Nowarah and Mohammed Salamah:***


On 15 May 2014, Israeli forces killed Nadim Nowarah and Mohammed Salamah near Ofer Prison, west of Ramallah. Despite plenty of clear evidence on the crime through having complete documentation of the crime by surveillance cameras and the autopsy of the martyrs' corps, the Israeli politicians and officers are trying to cover up the perpetrators through spreading rumors that the evidence is fabricated. Moreover, despite the ongoing investigations and arrest of a soldier from the Israeli border guards, PCHR, depending on its experience in such incidents, is concerned that the perpetrator is being covered or tolerated as it happened in dozens of former cases.

» ***Procrastination in bringing the murderers of Judge Ra'ed Z'eiter before justice:***

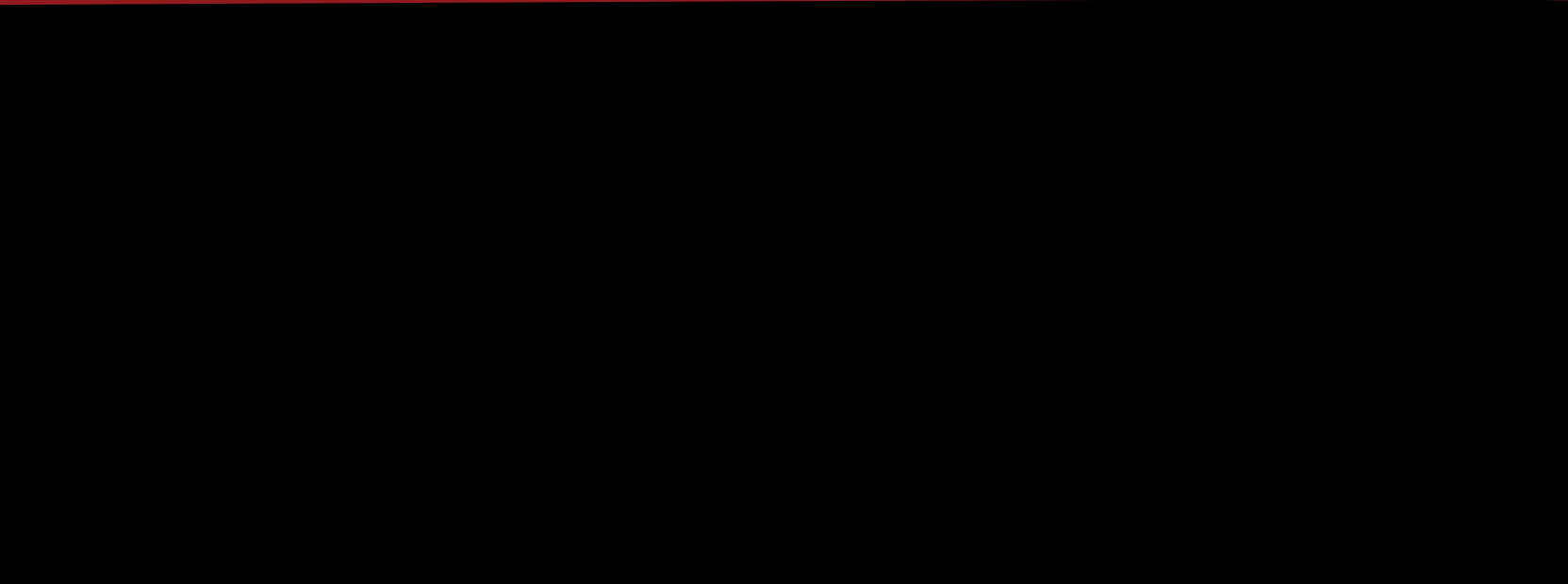
On 10 March 2014, Israeli forces killed a Jordanian judge of Palestinian origins, Ra'ed Z'eiter, while passing through al-Karamah crossing. According to investigations, the Israeli soldiers shot him dead from a short distance although he posed no danger to any person and was not carrying any weapon. By the end of the year, Israeli authorities had not declares the results of the investigations and nor had held the soldiers accountable. PCHR emphasize that there is no indication that there is a serious investigation into the attack is being conducted. Moreover, this proves that the Israeli investigation authorities are complicit in the crimes committed against the Palestinian civilians by procrastinating the measures.

10. B'tselem, «No one to be held responsible for killing 14-year-old Palestinian boy out picking edible plants», http://www.btselem.org/accountability/20141106_shawamreh_investigation_file_closed





**SECTION (2):
PALESTINIAN VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AND OBSTACLES TO DEMO-
CRATIC REFORM**





VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND PERSONAL SECURITY

In 2014, more violations of the right to life and personal security due to the misuse of weapons, as well as violations of the rule of the law in the oPt were reported. During this year, security chaos escalated especially in the Gaza Strip which witnesses a series of bombing incidents and extra-judicial executions that warn of returning to the state of security chaos in the Gaza Strip in previous years. The Palestinian territories also witnessed the escalation of murdering women on grounds of “Family honour”. PCHR documented the deaths of 99 people (84 in the Gaza Strip and 15 in the West Bank), including 9 children and 8 women. More than 167 persons were also wounded. Violations of the right to life and personal security were perpetrated in the following contexts: the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials; illegal use of weapons; the use of weapons in personal and family disputes, murders motivated by “family honour.” Moreover, during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, Gaza witnessed extra-judicial executions carried out by armed Palestinians affiliated with Palestinian factions against persons on suspicion of collaborating with Israel.

The Excessive Use of Force by Law Enforcement Officials

In 2014, 35 persons were killed during law enforcement operations carried out by the security services (law enforcement officials); 33 in the Gaza Strip and 2 in the West Bank. The most prominent cases were as follow:

1. On 26 January, Ashraf Thaher Farajallah (19) was killed after falling on his head and sustaining shrapnel wounds to the right hand due to the explosion of a suspicious object in al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.
2. On 06 March, Mos’aad Mousa Abu Samrah (22), from Deir al-Balah, was killed by a bullet to the neck when an armed person fired in celebration of one of his relatives’ wedding party.
3. On 11 March, Mohammed Taysir Ismail (26) was killed when an explosion occurred on the third floor of an inhabited house in Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip as armed persons mishandled an explosive device. Two other persons were killed while Ismail was killed when he was by accident near the house as a result of the scattered glass of the house windows. Moreover, 8 persons were wounded, including 2 women and 2 children, one of whom identified as Mohammed Belal Ismail (3) died later on 16 March due to sustaining serious wounds.
4. On 13 March, a home-made rocket landed on a house belonging to the family of Isma’il Abdul Fattah Mohammedin (35) in al-Wadi Street in Beit Hanoun town in the north of the Gaza Strip. The rocket made a hole whose diameter was one meter in the south-eastern wall of the house and exploded inside. As a result, Aisha Atiya Mohammedin (52) sustained shrapnel injuries and amputation to the right hand, and she died because of her serious injuries at approximately 00:30 on Friday, 14 March 2014, at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Additionally, another 5 civilians living in the house, including 3 children, were injured.

5. On 25 May, 'Amid Salim 'Aqoubah (23), from the Old City in Nablus, died due to wounds he sustained in an internal explosion that occurred on 22 May in Nablus market in the north of the West Bank.
6. On 28 May, 'Abdel Rahman Zaki al-Anqah (17) was killed by 2 live bullets from unleashed from a Kalashnikov rifle when his 13-year-old brother mishandled the weapon in their house in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip.
7. On 01 June, 'Abdel 'Aziz Hatem Qashlan (10), from al-Nussairat refugee camp, was killed by a bullet to the chest when he was playing with his friends near Gaza Valley near the camp, around 70 meters away from the training site of a Palestinian armed group, while training was taking place in the site, during which there were shootings and explosions.
8. On 11 June, an explosion occurred in Jalal Ra'fat al-Ghussain's house in Tufah neighbourhood in the east of Gaza. As a result, his son, Khalil (14), died after sustaining injuries in different parts of his body. Moreover, the explosion caused partial damage to the house.
9. On 24 June, 4 children from the al-Danaf family from al-Atatrah neighbourhood in Beit Lahia

in the northern Gaza Strip sustained shrapnel wounds as a home-made rocket landed near them while they were playing. They children who were evacuated to Kamal Edwan Hospital. Medical sources declared on the same day the death of 2-year-old Joud Mohammed Hasan al-Danaf due to her wounds.

10. On 14 August, four unidentified armed persons opened fire at Baker 'Abdel Razeq Ahmed Abu Baker (34) from al-Shokah village, east of Rafah, when he was in front of al-Zahraa' UNRWA School in al-Brazil neighbourhood in the south of Rafah. They kidnapped him in a black Kia Car and then threw him near the housing project area, east of Rafah. Medical sources in Abu Yousif al-Najjar Hospital declared the death of the aforementioned upon his arrival at the hospital due to being shot with 3 bullets to the abdomen and legs and sustaining wounds throughout his body as a result of being stabbed with sharp tools.
11. On 26 August and following the declaration of an Egyptian-brokered truce in the Gaza Strip, dozens of gunmen opened fire in all areas in the Gaza Strip. As a result, a woman was killed and 95 persons, including 33 children and 15 women, were injured.

The most prominent injuries were as follows:

1. On 08 April, 3 civilians, including a child, sustained bullet injuries when an armed person fired in the air to celebrate a wedding party in Balatah refugee camp, east of Nablus, north of the West Bank. Medical sources reported that the wounded persons' conditions were moderate.
2. On 18 April, Samirah Mustafa 'Arayshi (19) sustained a bullet injury to the jaw as an armed person fired in the air to celebrate a wedding party in 'Askar al-Jadid refugee camp, northeast of Nablus in the north of the West Bank. Medical sources at Rafidia Hospital reported that her condition was serious.
3. On 09 June, an armed member of the Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades opened fire at a car in which

3 engineers working at al-Banna Company for Survey and Engineering Services were traveling in Johr al-Deek area, southeast of Gaza City. As a result, Hamzah Suheil Hiji (26) was hit by a bullet to the back and was then taken to the hospital due to the seriousness of his condition.

4. On 07 July, a homemade rocket fell onto a 2-storey house belonging to Fadel 'Abed al-Kafarnah in Beit Hanoun town. As a result of the explosion, 7 civilians sustained glass shrapnel wounds throughout their bodies. Two nearby houses were also damaged.
5. 07 July, unknown gunmen opened fire at a branch of Bank of Palestine near Bahlul Petrol Station in al-Naser neighbourhood, north of

Gaza City. As a result, the bank's façade and two ATMs were damaged. Meanwhile, masked gunmen smashed the ATM at a branch of the Bank of Palestine near al-Shawa Petrol Station in the centre of the city. As a result, the bank's administration decided to close all the branches all over the Gaza Strip for fear of further incidents. It should be mentioned that the Branch of the Bank of Palestine in al-Naser neighbourhood had been attacked by unknown persons on 30 June as they smashed an ATM at the bank in addition to outside surveillance cameras. Moreover, the ATM of the Arab Bank in al-Remal Street was subjected to a similar attack.

6. 04 September, unknown gunmen opened fire at Dr. Hassan Abdel Fattah Khreisha (59), Member of the PLC, when he was driving his Mercedes car near his house in Jabal al-Sayed area, east of Tulkarm in the north of the West Bank. Khreisha's house is only 50 meters away from Prime Minister Dr. Rami al-Hamdallah's house. Khreisha took

shelter by the gate of al-Hamdallah's house. The house guards went out immediately after they heard the shooting. Khreisha's car was hit by 4 bullets which settled in the back body of the car, the rear glass and the seat next to the driver's.

7. On 14 September, unknown gunmen opened fire at 4 civilians who were present in front of a house belonging to Mohammed Nasman in al-Karamah neighborhood in the north of Gaza City. As a result, the four civilians were hit by 4 bullets and were taken to receive medical treatment in al-Shifa Hospital in the city. The wounded persons were identified as:
 - A. Mohammed Ghassan al-Qishawi (21), seriously hit by a bullet to the thigh;
 - B. Mohammed Ahmed al-'Arouqi (21), hit by 2 bullets to the left leg and right hand;
 - C. 'Abdel Hakim Maher Abu Zaid (23), hit by a bullet; and
 - D. Sami Mohammed Nisman (22), sustained a shrapnel wound to the left leg.

Personal and Family Disputes

In 2014, 26 persons, including 16 ones in the Gaza Strip and 10 ones in the West Bank, were killed as a result of the use of weapons in personal and family disputes. The victims included 3 children and 3 women. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 08 January, a family dispute erupted between the Abu al-Khair and Qasem families in al-Zaitoun neighbourhood in the east of Gaza City. The dispute escalated and firearms were used. As a result, Sohair Fo'ad Abu al-Khair (34) sustained a bullet wound to the shoulder while she was at home, and Mos'ab Mazen Azzam (10) sustained a bullet wound to the chest while he was with his father, who is a peddler. In addition, Jawad Majed Abu al-Khair (18) sustained a bullet wound to the lower back.
2. On 08 January, Salim Abdul Hay Abu Eita (14) was admitted to Kamal Odwan hospital in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip. He was pronounced dead upon arrival as a result of a bullet wound to the head. According to investigations conducted by PCHR and statements of eyewitnesses, a dispute about playing children erupted between the Safi and Ghrayeb families in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip. The dispute escalated quick-

ly to throwing stones by the two parties to the dispute. One of the parties then used a firearm and opened fire indiscriminately. As a result, Abu Eita was shot dead. It should be noted that Abu Eita was visiting his grandfather in Jabalia.

3. On 13 January, Khaled Hasan Abu Hammad (24) from al-Eizariya village near Jerusalem residing in Jericho was shot dead on the ground of a family revenge. A gunman fired from a pistol at Abu Hammad when he was at the main square in Jericho. Abu Hammad was instantly killed by 5 bullets to the chest and the head.
4. On 13 February, Raslan Hafez Halabi (25), from Rojib village, east of Nablus, in the northern West Bank, was killed over a family dispute. An armed person in a civilian vehicle opened fire at Halabi while he was in Beit Foreek village. As a result, Halabi was killed by gunshots to the head and chest.
5. On 17 March, Aladdin al-Awawda, from al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, was killed by several bullets in a family dispute. Addition-

ally, a member of the same family was injured in the same incident as he was attacked by a sharp tool. The aforementioned person had intervened to resolve a family dispute on a plot between his cousins. The dispute developed into using firearms and sharp tools, due to which al-Awawda sustained several bullet wounds.

6. On 25 April, the Palestinian police found the corpse of Fadel al-Astal (53), who works as a currency exchanger in the southern Gaza, in a bookshop in the centre of the city. The corpse was tied, and the head was covered with a sack. According to sources of the Palestine police and Public Prosecution in Khan Yunis, the murder was committed on the ground of financial transactions.
7. On 03 May, the body of Bashir Naser Suleiman Abu Sneimah (35) from al-Nasser village, north of Rafah, was brought to the European Gaza Hospi-

tal in Khan Yunis as he was hit by 2 bullets to the head and chest. The police suspect that the crime was committed on the grounds of a 10-year-old family revenge as Bashir was accused of a murder.

8. On 14 June, a family dispute erupted between members of the Abu Halhoul family in al-Zawaida village in the central Gaza Strip. The dispute developed into using firearms. As a result, Sharief Abdullah Abu Halhoul (32) was killed with a bullet to the chest. Another 4 persons were injured in the dispute.
9. On 24 July, the body of Fawwaz Isma'il Hasan Kulab (59), from Jabalia refugee camp, was brought to the Kamal 'Edwan Hospital in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip. PCHR learnt that this crime was committed on the grounds of an old family revenge.

PCHR also documented the injury of 16 persons as follows:

1. On 01 May, a gunman wearing a helmet stormed al-Aneeq tailor shop in Ghayaza neighborhood in Qalqilya in the northern West Bank, fired from a gun at the shop's owner, Saddam Ibrahim Abu al-So'oud (28) and immediately fled. As a result, Abu al-So'oud was wounded by two bullets in the right side of the waist and the right elbow. Abu al-So'oud said that he knew the identity of the gunman who committed the crime, which is on the grounds of a personal dispute between them.
2. On 02 May, two civilians were injured as firearms were used in a family dispute between members of Jarghone family in al-Anwar Wedding Hall in al-

Mashrou' neighborhood in the east of Rafah during a wedding party.

3. On 01 July, a family dispute erupted between members of the Mahani family and those of another family in Baghdad Street in al-Shuja'iya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City, where both families live. The dispute developed into the use of firearms. As a result, 6 members of the Mahani family were slightly injured and identified as Khaled Ibrahim Mahani, 48; Mohammed Ibrahim Mahani, 51; Ibrahim Radwan Mahani, 31; Ussama Mohammed Mahani, 25; Bilal Mousa Mahani, 22; and Mohammed Ussama Mahani, 23.

Murders for “Family Honor”

In 2014, PCHR documented the murders of three women “to protect family honor.” PCHR is gravely concerned about the recurrence of such crimes and calls on the Palestinian authorities to take more measures to confront them.

In 2011, PCHR had observed a remarkable improvement in terms of the measures taken to put an end to violence in the community, especially murders on the grounds of so-called “family honour”. On 15 May 2011, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decision with the force of law putting an end to the issuance of lenient sentences against the perpetrators of so-called “honour killings.” PCHR hoped that this decision would signify a step forward in confronting these crimes, whose perpetrators enjoyed impunity due to the application of lenient sentences that did not exceed three years. These lenient sentences contributed to the increase of these crimes in the Palestinian society in recent decades, undermining the rule of law. In 2014, these crimes were as follows:

1. On 10 January, S.A.D. (35), a woman from Kafr al-Deek village, west of Salfit in the northern West Bank, was killed after being stabbed several times with a sharp tool by a first-degree relative. According to police sources, the Palestinian police immediately arrived at the scene and arrested the suspect.
2. On 20 February, the body of E. M.Sh. (18), a woman from Bani Sheila in the east of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, was brought Naser Hospital in the city after having been stabbed with a sharp tool in the neck. The Palestinian police immediately went to the family’s house and arrested her brother on suspicion of being involved in the murder in addition to confiscating the crime tool.
3. On 03 June, A.Y. (21), a married woman living in Deir Ghassanah village, northwest of Ramallah in the central West Bank, was killed due to having been hit with a sharp tool on the chest. The victim’s brother, M. Y. (30), living in Beit Rima village, north of Ramallah, took his sister’s body to the police station in the village claiming that he committed the crime on the grounds of so-called “family honor”.

Extra-judicial Executions Claiming Collaboration with the Israeli Forces

During the latest Israeli offensive, gunmen affiliated with Palestinian factions carried out extra-judicial executions against persons under claims of collaboration with the Israeli forces. PCHR documented 27 cases as follows:

1. On 05 August, armed gunmen affiliated with Palestinian factions carried out extra-judicial executions against 5 persons, who had been detained in Gaza Central Prison and subjected to the court proceedings before the offensive on Gaza On charges of collaborating with hostile parties.
2. On 22 August, gunmen carried out extra-judicial executions against 18 persons; 9 of whom were executed by firing squad in al-Katiba yard in the west of Gaza City and the others were killed near al-'Omari Mosque in the centre of the city. The gunmen distributed a statement saying that those persons were subjected to revolutionary trials on the grounds of collaborating with the Israeli forces.
3. On 23 August, gunmen carried out extra-judicial executions against 4 persons on the grounds of suspected collaboration with the Israeli forces near al-Khulafaa’ Mosque in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip.

In 2014, PCHR documented cases of attack on the physical and personal security by official and non-official bodies. The most prominent of which were as follows:

1. On 19 February, Wasfi Ezzat Qabha (54), former Prisoners' Minister, from Jenin in the northern West Bank, was beaten up by unknown masked persons near Burqin village, west of the city. Following medical examination and x-ray, it was found that Qabha sustained a fracture in the left hand and bruises in the face, head and left side of the body.
2. On 26 February, a heavy explosion was heard in the yard of the Latin Church and Latin Patriarchate School in al-Zaytoun neighbourhood in the east of Gaza City. The Palestinian police arrived at the scene immediately and opened an investigation to find out the circumstances of the incident. It was found that the explosion resulted from a homemade bomb planted by unknown persons under the church bus, so fire broke out in one of its wheels. The police also found an abusive slogan written on the church's wall.
3. On 13 May, Engineer Muhanned Jom'aah al-Qanou'a (34), from al-Safa neighbourhood, west of Jabalia, sustained fractures in both legs and the left hand and bruises in various parts of his body. Al-Qanou'a said to a PCHR fieldworker that he was hit with steel stick by unknown persons who stepped out of a black Kia car without any registration plate near his house.
4. On 15 July, a group of civilians attacked a car belonging to Dr. Jawad Naji, Minister of Health, and his accompanying delegation near the gate of Rafah International Crossing Point in the southern Gaza Strip and threw stones and shoes at the car. The car driver attempted to escape from the place backwards, but he collided with a truck, which was behind the car. The driver was then forced to break down the checkpoint established at the crossing gate and fled away. Staff members of the Ministry of Health in Gaza, headed by Dr. Yousif Abu al-Rish, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, attempted to protect the minister and prevent the attack on him. However, they were attacked as well, and the attack recurred when the Minister's car arrived at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. A civilian gathering in the hospital yard attacked the car forcing the minister's car driver to flee away.





ARRESTS, DETENTION, TORTURE, AND OTHER FORMS OF CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

This part covers the illegal arrests and repeated summonses of activists and political rivals often under the pretext of security reasons. Such campaigns often failed to follow legal procedures that regulate arrests and their circumstances in order to guarantee the rights, dignity and humanity of persons in addition to their houses and personal belongings. This part also reviews the practice of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in detention facilities of the security services in the West Bank and Gaza either on criminal or political grounds.

In 2014, security services in Ramallah and Gaza continued illegal arrest campaigns and summonses and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against. Most of those summonses and arrests were carried out on political grounds due to the continuation of the political split between Fatah and Hamas. Although a positive atmosphere prevailed in the oPt after the Palestinian reconciliation agreement (al-Shati' Agreement) was signed on 23 April 2014 ending a black era of the political split between Fatah and Hamas and forming a national reconciliation government on 02 June, the political arrests continued. In 2014, PCHR documented torture and maltreatment cases committed by the security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In addition to the political arrests, we can clearly notice in arrests on criminal grounds the accompanying failure to follow the legal procedures for arrests and the practice of torture and humiliation in interrogation and detention centres of the security services in the West Bank and Gaza.

Arrests and Summonses on Political Grounds

In 2014, security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank intensified campaigns of repeated summonses and detentions of political rivals, often under the pretext of security reasons. Such campaigns often failed to follow legal procedures for arrests according to the Palestinian law and international human rights law. Moreover, detainees were held under conditions that violated their human dignity.

Gaza Strip

Dozens of Fatah movement activists were arrested for varying periods, and most of them were subject to inhuman and cruel treatment. They were beaten and forced to repeatedly refer to the Internal Security Service after releasing them. Security officers also searched houses and confiscated property before arresting wanted persons.

One of the most prominent campaigns was in early March when dozens of participants in a commemoration ceremony organized by the Fatah movement and the al-Qassas family for 3 members of the family in the family divan in Khan Younis. One of the persons who were arrested said to a PCHR fieldworker that he was arrested when he was in the family's divan and was taken with dozens of persons to the police station. They were held in prison for an hour and a half. He added that the police officers raided and searched his 3-storey house and a house belonging to one of his relatives.

West Bank

In the West Bank, security services (the General Intelligence Service (GIS), the Preventive Security Service (PSS) and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) continued to illegally arrest and summon Hamas and Islamic *Hizb ut-Tahrir* (Liberation Party) activists. During the arrest campaigns, the detainees were subject to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and prisoners were detained for long periods without trials.

One of the most prominent campaigns took place in the beginning of February when the PSS and ISS launched an arrest campaign against dozens of members of the Islamic Liberation Party (*Hizb ut-Tahrir*) throughout the West Bank. According to information available to PCHR's fieldworkers, the PSS and ISS referred the majority of the detainees to the Public Prosecution and then to judiciary. Later, the Palestinian courts issued decisions ordering release

of some of detainees on bail and extending the detention of others.

On Monday, 09 June 2014, Security service officers attacked a peaceful demonstration that was initiated from several areas in Ramallah and al-Bireh in solidarity with the administrative detainees on hunger strike and arrested a number of civilians taking them away. Around the same time, Palestinian security forces attacked a demonstration organized in Nablus in solidarity with the administrative detainees. Eyewitnesses said to the PCHR's staff that officers of PSS, GIS and National Security Forces arrived at the area and attacked the peaceful demonstration claiming that they were looking for a man who was shooting in the air, and then arrested Nazih Abu Al-'Oun, a Hamas leader, and Imad Ishteivi, who is responsible for the solidarity tent, after beating them up with batons.

Torture and Ill-Treatment

In 2014, torture was considered one of the most significant stages experienced by a detainee during his arrest in the detention facilities and prisons of the security and police services in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. According to PCHR's investigations, the Palestinian security services in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip do not hesitate to use torture against the detainees in their prisons. Torture starts from the very beginning of the arrest, which is carried out within an atmosphere full of intimidation and shooting sometimes in addition to beating, insulting and threatening. When prisoners arrive at a detention centre, they are subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Prisoners were arrested either on political or criminal grounds. The most significant forms of torture that were used in detention centres and prisons of the police and security services are as follows: insults; beating using batons, sharp tools, feet and hands; tying detainees' feet and hands to a chair; and beating with batons or wires. Detainees were also held in cells or small rooms under degrading conditions.

Gaza Strip

In 2014, the security officers continued to practice torture as a primary means when dealing with prisoners and detainees in the detention centres. PCHR documented many testimonies by victims or their relatives that either they or their sons were subject to torture inside the detention centres of the PA in Gaza. These crimes were committed against civilians who were arrested on political or criminal grounds by the security services.

The following are the most prominent cases of the torture monitored by PCHR:

» M. M. H (22), from al-Nussairat refugee camp,

said that on 08 February 2015, officers from the investigation police arrested him from his house accusing him of stealing money from a relative, and took him to Abu 'Areiban police station in al-Nussairat. The complainer said to PCHR that the police officers severely beat him for 10 minutes with their hands and feet upon his arrival at the police station. They then shackled him on a small chair and tied his hands to the back with a rope attached to the ceiling. They did it again with him in order to force him to confess the robbery. They then forced him to stand on one leg, and whenever he tried to put the other leg down, he was severely beaten up. The complainer also empha-

sized that they exerted pressure on him to confess as the officers put him in a room, ordered him to take off his pants and then made him hold a plate with his name on it. They then took photos of him and put him in the investigation room, where they poured water on the ground until the next morning. On the fourth day, he was entered into the investigation room with his hands tied, and they attempted to shackle and hang him to the ceiling. However, he resisted and they severely beat him with a hose and forcibly hanged him to the ceiling. He added that he confessed the robbery out of severe pain, but he was released on the same day afternoon on bail.

- » On 17 March 2014, E. E. Sh (16), from al-Sabrah neighbourhood in Gaza City, who works with his uncle, Sa'ed Ismail Sa'id Shuhaibar in his shop for marble and Jerusalem stones was threatened and subjected to violence. At approximately 13:00, officers of the military police headed to the aforementioned shop, where the boy was alone. They questioned him about the place of his father, who lives abroad, and then beat and threatened him.
- » On 06 August 2014, (B. Kh. 'A) (48), from Tal al-Hawa area in the south of Gaza City, was subject to torture. He said that he received a summons to refer to the police general investigation service in al-Rimal. According to his testimony, he was questioned about his testimony in a theft that happened. He was released on the same day, but was asked to bring his children on the following day. On 06 August 2014, the aforementioned civilian headed with his children to the police investigation station, where they were beaten and insulted. However, they were all released on the following day. According to the aforementioned civilian's testimony, an investigation officer threatened him at gunpoint to expel him from his house. It should be mentioned that the aforementioned civilian submitted many complaints to the competent authorities but in vain.
- » On 24 October 2014, 'A. G. M (31), from al-Nusairat refugee camp, headed to the police general investigation office upon a summons he received to refer there. According to his father's account, on 14 November 2014, he visited his son and saw signs of torture on his body. His son told him that upon his arrival, an officer questioned him about

a theft and he was subject to forms of torture and degrading treatment. On 15 November 2014, the aforementioned civilian was examined by a doctor, and during the first medical examination, it was found that the aforementioned civilian suffer from hemiplegia in the upper limbs and the neck in addition to numbness in both hands due to being shackled for long periods. It should be mentioned that the father of the aforementioned civilian submitted a complaint to the police chief in the central area about the torture committed against his son, but he did not receive any reply.

West Bank

In 2014, the security officers continued to practice torture as a primary means when dealing with prisoners and detainees in detention facilities in the West Bank. PCHR documented many cases, during which torture was clearly practiced by the Palestinian security Services, especially the GIS and PSS. The torture cases in the West Bank were not limited to political activists but also against persons arrested on criminal grounds.

- » N. Sh. (29), from Heron, stated to PCHR that he was tortured by police officers on grounds of establishing a Facebook page. The complainer emphasized that on 29 January, he headed to the Criminal Investigation office upon a call he received. He was entered into the interrogation room and directly beaten and insulted. He was then taken to a cell, where 8 persons were detained. In the morning, all of them were taken to Dura Magistrate Court, and the aforementioned civilian stayed in the defendants cage until 15:00 without appearing before the court. He was then taken back to the investigation office in Hebron and entered into the interrogation room, where there were a number of persons. Two of whom punched the aforementioned civilian many times on the chest for 4 hours until he lost balance and fell on the ground. Despite this, they kept beating and kicking him throughout his body for 10 minutes. They then tied his hands to the back with a plastic wire and beat him again. He fell on the ground, but they kept beating him. One of them put a cigarette out on his hand and forced him to sit on a chair with his hands tied to the back and then beat him se-

verely. He was released four days later and then headed to the hospital to conduct medical tests. It was found that he sustained two fractures in the chest bones, bruises in the left hand and the neck and burns in the skin and left ankle.

- » On 08 September 2014, the PSS arrested and tortured 6 students on political grounds. A 2nd-year Student at Bir Zeit University, M. Y. K. (19), went out with five of his colleagues and rented a car to visit their friend from Shaqba village, west of Ramallah. He said that when they approached the village's entrance near the PSS office, there were 6 persons; 5 ones in military uniform and a police officer. They arrested the 6 students and took them to the PSS office. While the students were under arrest, they were beaten up, insulted and subjected to degrading treatment. During the investigation, he was attacked and threatened. At approximately 23:00, the aforementioned student and his brother were released.
- » On 22 October 2014, 'A. M. Sh. (24), a student at al-Quds Open University from Bedia village in Salfit, was arrested by PSS officers when he was present near an olive press. Two persons dressed in civilian clothes caught him in front of the people and attempted to take him away. During the arrest, they beat and fired at him. He was then taken at gunpoint to the car, and one of them hit him with a frozen water bottle on his face while taking him

to the car. The complainer said to PCHR that when he was taken to the car, he was hit on the head, insulted and threatened. When he arrived at the PSS office, they kept beating him. They then put him in a cell until the following morning when he was taken to the Public Prosecution. They interrogated him, and his case was referred to a judge, who extended his detention for 15 days pending investigation. He was then bailed out until his next hearing. It should be mentioned that the aforementioned civilian was prevented from seeing his lawyer and his relative at that time.

- » On 21 November 2014, M. G. H. (17), a high school student from al-Far'ah refugee camp in Tubas, was subject to torture. According to his account to PCHR on his arrest and detention by Palestinian police officers, the complainer emphasized that Palestinian police officers and members of special units dressed in civilian clothes arrived at the area because some children threw stones at police officers there. They took me in car to Tubas police station as he was in the street and threatened to beat him without introducing themselves. During the arrest, he was beaten many times with batons and hands throughout his body and his face, and his hands were tied to the back for five minutes before he was taken to the police station in Tubas. The complainer said to PCHR that while he was being questioned, he was beaten and asked to confess things he did not do. He was then taken to the medical services and transferred to Tubas Hospital to receive medical treatment.

Deaths in Prisons and Detention Facilities

In 2014, 6 civilians died inside the Palestinian security detention facilities. Four of them died in the Gaza Strip, and the other two ones died in the West Bank. Available information pointed out that the official authorities neglected and failed to provide medical care for prisoners and detainees or provide personal protection for them. Moreover, they deliberately ignored the detainees' diseases, which are supposed to be found in the medical examination upon their arrival at the prisons. PCHR reiterates its demand to conduct an investigation into the circumstances of the deaths of these civilians and publish the investigation results. It should be mentioned that during a PCHR lawyer's visit to a detention facility in April,

he found that it lacked the adequate detention conditions according to the minimal international standards and the Reform and Rehabilitation Centres Law. The lawyer emphasized that the detention facility was a residential apartment comprised of 3 small rooms in a building in the centre of a populated area. Around 130 persons were detained in the apartment, so the rooms were overcrowded and the detainees suffered suffocation. Moreover, the detainees were not allowed to take a break and this is in violation of the most basic health requirements for detention facilities.

Deaths inside prisons were as follows:

- » On 14 May 2014, the family of Saleh Mesleh 'Atiya Abu Hashish (33) was informed about his death when he was in Beit Lahia detention facility. His corpse was taken to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City to be examined by a coroner to identify the causes of his death.

The family said to a PCHR fieldworker that Abu Hashish, who is a former officer of the National Security Forces, married to two women and has 6 children, was arrested by the Anti-Drug Service about 27 days earlier. Abu Hashish was arrested several times on the charge of drug dealing. The family added that they visited him the day before in the abovementioned facility and he was fine. The deceased's family pointed out that they received the corpse from Shifa Hospital without allowing doctors to do the autopsy. Sources at the Forensic Department believed that Abu Hashish died due to a heart attack and that he died at approximately 02:00 on the same day, according to external examination. On its website, the Ministry of Interior in Gaza posted that the detained "S. H." (30) died in the morning and that an investigation was initiated. Moreover, the corpse was examined by a coroner who confirmed that he died because of a "heart attack".

- » On 16 May 2014, W.M.S (28), died in Beit Lahia detention facility. At approximately that day, his father received a call from police officers in "Abu 'Obaidah" detention facility in Beit Lahia telling him that his son was transferred from the detention facility to Martyr Kamal 'Odwan Hospital and he was in a serious condition. The father said that he and members of the family headed immediately to the hospital, where they were informed that Waleed died upon arrival at the hospital. He said that the doctors told him that there were no signs of torture on the corpse and he died due to a heart attack. The father added that the corpse of his son was transferred to the Forensic Department at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Sources at the Forensic Department said that the victim died due to a heart attack. His father said to a PCHR fieldworker that his son was arrested on 10 March 2014, and was held in a detention center in Beit Lahia by the Palestinian police as his detention period was extended on the grounds of a criminal case. He

added that his son was in a good health and had never complained of any chronic diseases.

On 16 May 2014, the Ministry of Interior in Gaza published a statement on its website indicating that Eyad al-Buzom, spokesperson of the Ministry of Interior, stated that "the detainee, W. S. (28), died this morning due to a sudden heart attack." According to the statement, "the corpse was examined by a coroner who confirmed that he died because of dramatic failure of the heart."

- » On 12 March 2014, the deceased's brother Ahmed received a phone call from a relative, who works in Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis, telling him that the body of his detained brother Mohammed Abdul Qader Abu 'Amra (45) was brought to the hospital. He was brought from Khan Yunis prison to the hospital lifeless. Ahmed said to a PCHR fieldworker that his brother, Mohammed, had been arrested by the Palestinian police from his house in al-Mahatta area, east of Deir al-Balah, on the grounds of a financial matter on 01 March 2014, and he was detained in Deir al-Balah prison. Ahmed added that he and his brother's wife used to visit him in Deir al-Balah prison during his detention period. They noticed signs of fatigue and exhaustion, especially as he suffered from chronic diseases such as hypertension, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and clogging in the coronary artery. He also underwent a cardiac catheterization. Ali Madi, supervisor of the Reform and Rehabilitation Program in Khan Yunis prison confirmed to the PCHR fieldworker that the deceased had medical reports proving that he suffered from many diseases, including a cardiac problem.

Ahmed confirmed that he and the deceased's wife requested the officers in the police station in Deir al-Balah many times to provide Mohammed with necessary medical attention. However the prison's administration did not respond. Mohammed stayed in Deir al-Balah prison until 12 March. He was transferred at approximately 14:00 to Khan Yunis prison. His wife visited him there and confirmed that he told her he had suffered from severe fatigue few hours before he was pronounced dead. Madi also confirmed it as he said that Abu 'Amra fell onto the ground in Khan Yunis prison,

when detainees had been moved to another place fearing of Israeli attacks. When Abu 'Amra fell down, he was holding a sprayer in his hand. An ambulance was called to take him to Nasser Hospital, but he died on his way to hospital. The corpse was referred to the Forensic Department in Shifa hospital in Gaza City. The coroner said to a PCHR fieldworker that Abu 'Amra suffered from chronic and serious diseases, the most significant of which were hypertension, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and arteriosclerosis. However, there were no signs of torture or beating on the corpse.

- » On 01 June 2014, Khalil Hasan Abu Seif (64), who was detained in al-Nussairat police station, died due to the deterioration of his health condition. According to PCHR's investigations, on the same day morning, Khalil Hasan Abu Seif was detained by the GIS when he was in his farmland in al-Moghraqah area in Gaza. Abu Seif was taken to al-Nussairat police station in the central Gaza Strip. Shortly, his health condition deteriorated, so he was taken to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, where his death was declared.
- » On 22 May 2014, Salah Jamil Mohammed Saradih (28) died in the Reform and Rehabilitation Centre due to an indisposition he sustained when he was in the center. The aforementioned civilian was taken to Jericho Hospital after sustaining an indisposition. Doctors declared his death, and his corpse was transferred to the Forensic department. The police initiated an investigation into the incident. The Public Relations Department at Qalqilya police service said that: "this morning, the death of the detainee pending court in a case of drug possession and abuse, Usamah Tawfiq Redwan al-Sha'er, was preliminarily considered normal as the body was transferred to the forensic department for autopsy. The police report has not been issued yet."





CONTINUED DISRUPTION OF THE LEGISLATURE

The disruption of the PLC entered its eighth year in 2014. The complete absence of a mandated PLC is a result of actions taken against PLC Members by Israel and the fragmentation of the Palestinian executive which has been ongoing since 2007. This undermined all efforts endeavoured to find good governance in Palestine as the PLC is the legislative and monitoring authority of the PNA otherwise no democratic system cannot be imagined. The year of 2014 ended, and the PLC was not convened nor a date was agreed on to hold legislative elections, which should have been held in 2010, although it was agreed to start implementing the reconciliation agreement since April 2014.

Arbitrary Practices against the PLC Members by Israel

Israeli authorities continued their systematic targeting of the PLC Members in 2014. They arrested dozens of PLC members, especially after the disappearance of 3 settlers on 12 June 2014. The Israeli forces arrested more than 25 PLC Members representing the “Change and Reform” bloc. As a result, the number of arrested PLC Members amounted to 37, including 23 ones who are still under arrest.

Israeli forces continued to detain PLC Members, most of whom are from the Hamas-affiliated ‘Change and Reform’ bloc. Israeli forces continued to detain ‘Aziz Dweik, Speaker of the PLC, while each of Marwan al-Barghuthi, PLC Member representing Fatah Parliamentary bloc, and Ahmed Sa’adat, PLC Member representing the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) are spend their life imprisonment sentences in the Israeli prisons.

It should be noted that Israeli authorities added the Hamas-affiliated ‘Change and Reform’ bloc to the list of terrorist organizations on 02 December 2012. In July 2012, the Israeli military commander issued a decision that the Islamist parliamentary bloc would be considered as “a banned union”.¹ The decision made reference to Article 84 (1) (b) of the Defense Regulations (State of Emergency) which were issued in 1945. The intention of the July decision was to legalize Israel’s systematic oppression of PLC Members since the Israeli authorities refused dealing with the results of the PLC elections in 2006 when the Change and Reform Bloc won the overwhelming majority in the PLC.

Israeli forces attempted to transfer Ms. Khalida Jarra, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) representing Abu Ali Mustafa Parliamentary Bloc, to Jericho claiming that “she poses a threat to the security of the region”. On 20 August 2014, Israeli forces raided her house in Ramallah, and the officer handed her a military notice ordering her transfer from Ramallah to Jericho until 19 February 2015. Jarrar said to PCHR that the notice was written in Hebrew, but the officer read it to her in Arabic and requested her to sign it, but she refused. The officer then gave her a map that specifies her movement inside Jericho.

1. In July 2009, the Change and Reform Bloc changed its name in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, to ‘Islamists Parliament Members’ bloc to avoid the consequences of the arbitrary decision by Israel that considers the Change and Reform bloc as “a banned union”.

The internal political conflict continues to disrupt the PLC despite the reconciliation and formation of the unity government

The disruption of the PLC entered its eighth year despite the application of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement and formation of the national unity government (the seventeenth government) as it made the constitutional oath before the President on 02 June 2014. The provisions of the agreement did not include restoring the PLC's role or obliging the Palestinian President to call the PLC to convene. It should be mentioned that the unity government that was formed in June 2014 did not obtain the vote of confidence. PCHR stresses that the PLC must immediately convene and fully exercise its powers to monitor the unity government until holding elections and having a new council as soon as possible. The PLC elections should have been held since 2010. It should be mentioned that the current PLC elected in 2006 was disrupted and its ability to take decisions was curbed only few months after being elected due to the political conflict between the two major blocs in the PLC, Fatah Parliamentary bloc and the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform bloc. The PLC was fully disrupted following the division in the PA in June 2007 that resulted in establishing two parallel authorities in the West Bank headed by Palestinian President Mahmoud'Abbas and in the Gaza Strip run by the caretaker government headed by Ismail Haniyah. Despite the disruption, the Change and Reform Bloc convened sessions on behalf of the PLC in Gaza and issued laws and decisions on behalf of the PLC. Moreover, the Palestinian President issued presidential decrees according to Article (43) of the Palestinian Basic Law under the pretext of the absence of the PLC. PCHR declared a clear position at that time and expressed its reservation regarding all legislations issued in light of the division. PCHR also called upon the Change and Reform Bloc to stop issuing laws on behalf of the PLC and the Palestinian President to strictly comply with the principle of necessity.

Despite PCHR's repeated demands to stop the legislative chaos, the Change and Reform Bloc and Palestinian President issued dozens of legislations during the division. This chaos contributed to increasing the fragmentation of the Palestinian law and complicating the rule of law reality in the PA. It should be mentioned that the reconciliation agreement did not include or mention how to deal with these laws

and its consequences during the division.

The Change and Reform bloc has stopped convening session on behalf of the PLC or issue laws on behalf of it since the reconciliation agreement was reached. PCHR considered this a positive development and called upon the Palestinian President not to issue any legislation except in cases of extreme necessity as stipulated in the Palestinian Basic Law. PCHR emphasized that the issue of legislations issued during the division must be resolved very soon, and the Palestinian judiciary and particularly the Constitutional Court must be given the sufficient authority to determine the future of these laws and their consequences.

PCHR followed up with deep concern the new attempts by the government in Gaza to allow physical punishment, including whipping. In March 2014, the parliamentary Change and Reform Bloc in the Gaza Strip presented again the new draft of the Penal Code to be adopted in the second reading. PCHR emphasized that the very attempt to present such law would result in dangerous consequences at both the political and legal levels. The discussion and presentation of such law are illegitimate and unconstitutional, and the bill includes physical punishment such as whipping and restricts freedoms and rights. This constitutes a clear violation of the Palestinian Basic Law and international human rights standards. Once knowing about presenting the law for discussion, PCHR in cooperation with the Palestinian NGO Network and other human rights organizations contacted and held meetings with a number of officials in the Gaza government and Hamas to warn them against continuing the discussion of this law.

Those contacts and meetings came with assurances from the decision-makers in the Gaza government and Hamas not to violate the personal liberties and denial of any attempt to impose Hamas's ideology on the people. Both 'Emad al-Alami, a Hamas Leader, and Mohammed Faraj al-Ghoul, chairman of the Change and Reform Bloc in the PLC, emphasized in a phone call with the representatives of the community-based organizations that the bill was neither

adopted in the first nor the second reading. They also stressed that any decisions would be discussed with the community-based organizations and that what is going in the PLC is only discussion and there was no intention to adopt this law.

It is noteworthy that this is the second time that some of the decision-makers in the Gaza Strip present this bill as this issue had already been raised. Human rights organizations and community-based organizations then intervened to stop these attempts by sending a memorandum to the decision-makers in the Gaza government, and held meetings with a number of officials, who reconfirmed their commitment not to impose a specific ideology on the Gaza Strip and to respect the ideological and cultural diversity in the Gaza Strip.

Replacing PLC Members after Their Death or Resignation

PLC Member Ahmed Hazzaa' Shreim from the Fatah Parliamentary Bloc died on 22 November 2014, so his seat became vacant in the PLC. The issue of vacant PLC seats due to death became a phenomena in the PA due to the continued 8-year disruption of the PLC without holding the election that should have been held in 2010. Eight PLC Members have died since the Palestinian legislative elections in 2006. There is a legal problem regarding replacing PLC members in light of the absence of the PLC and the expiry of its mandate, especially the members who were elected with the system of electoral lists.





EROSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE JUDICIARY

In 2014, the judiciary continued to deteriorate, and its independence continued as well to be abused by the executive authority. Despite the efforts to end the division and the formation of the unity government in June 2014, the division in the judicial system still exists. PCHR considers that negligence by both parties of division to reunite the judicial system will have serious consequences on the steps towards ending the division due to not having an independent and united judiciary, to which people can seek refuge in order to end any dispute. The current reality of the Palestinian judiciary constitutes a violation of the Palestinian Basic Law, especially article 97 which emphasizes that “the judiciary is independent” and Article 2 which as well emphasizes the principle of the separation of powers.

The judiciary has suffered the state of division since 2007, and its independence and work has been as well abused by both parties of division especially in the Gaza Strip. There are currently two separate judicial systems enforced in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In violation of the Palestinian Basic Law, the government in Gaza established a separate judicial system, to which the people of the Gaza Strip are subject. The judicial system in the West Bank applies only to those who live there. PCHR has repeatedly appealed to the concerned parties in Ramallah and Gaza to ensure the independence of the judiciary, despite the ongoing internal political division. However, the absence of a real political will and the lack of the public interest led to the effect of the division on the judiciary. In 2014, the following shows the status of the Palestinian judiciary in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

In the Gaza Strip, the conditions establishing the division in the judiciary and the unconstitutional appointments in the judiciary continued in 2014. Moreover, the High Judicial Council formed in Gaza continued to work despite the application of the reconciliation agreement since April 2014.

In the days following the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in mid-June 2007, the Higher Judicial Council in Ramallah continued to suspend the judiciary in the Gaza Strip due to several measures and violations committed by the government in Gaza against the judiciary and prosecution in the Gaza Strip. The most serious measure took place on 26 November 2007 in the form of an attack on the civil court compound in the Gaza Strip, and the takeover of the office of the President of the Higher Judicial Council and President of the High Court by the “Higher Justice Council” formed by the Council of Ministers in Gaza. As a result, the Higher Judicial Council announced an indefinite suspension of the work of the civil court system in the Gaza Strip. The Government in Gaza then appointed new judges and members of prosecution instead of those who abstained from work.

On 27 October 2009, the Gaza government issued a decision, changing the name of the ‘Higher Justice Council’ to the ‘Higher Judicial Council’. Hence, there are now two Higher Judicial Councils operating in the PNA, which are administratively and financially separate.

Human rights organizations took a clear position at that time against the takeover of the judiciary and called for neutralizing the judiciary from the conflict between the parties to division and supporting its independence. However, the parties to division did not respond. Although the human rights organizations boycotted the judicial system formed in Gaza as

they considered it unconstitutional, they returned to deal with the judiciary in 2011 under the pressure of the need to protect the rights and liberties from the executive authority's abuse considering it as a *de facto* authority. In April 2014, PCHR filed a petition challenging the constitutionality of the ministerial amendment made to the Executive Bill of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law. Moreover, PCHR filed a petition in May 2013 to appeal against the prevention by Internal Security Services (ISS) of two members of its staff from travelling to the West Bank via Beit Hanoun ("Erez") crossing. Both petitions were rejected by the court. Thus, PCHR became certain of the weak power and independence of the judiciary formed in Gaza.

In the West Bank, the executive authority continued to control the judiciary, particularly when abstaining from executing court rulings and decisions. In this context, PCHR emphasizes that refusal to execute court rulings constitutes a crime under the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law, which provides that the person who obstructs or refrains from implementing the judicial ruling shall be subject to dismissal from his position or imprisonment. Article 106 stipulates that: *"Judicial rulings shall be implemented. Refraining from or obstructing the implementation of a judicial ruling in any manner whatsoever shall be considered a crime*

carrying a penalty of imprisonment or dismissal from position if the accused individual is a public official or assigned to public service. The aggrieved party may file a case directly to the competent court and the National Authority shall guarantee a fair remedy for him."

According to Reports prepared by the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR)², they received 23 complaints about not implementing judicial rulings mostly related to illegal arbitrary arrests during 2014. Moreover, 13 rulings have not implemented yet from last years. Although it is in violation of the constitution and constitutes a crime under the Penal Code, it can be said through PCHR's follow-up that non-implementation of court rulings represents a policy adopted by the executive authorities in the West Bank.

PCHR emphasizes that its call upon the parties to division to rehabilitate the judicial authority in Palestine, ensure its independence and neutralizing it from any conflict. PCHR also called upon the decision-makers to immediately take the necessary measures to reunite the judicial system on a sound legal basis and apply them without any delay considering them as one of the priorities to end the division and an important guarantee not to resort to force to resolve disputes.

2. It is an official commission established by the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law to protect and promote human rights in Palestine.



OBSTRUCTION OF GENERAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

The fragmentation of the Palestinian executive continued to be the main obstacle to democratic reform. Despite the formation of the national unity government on 02 June 2014 and emergence of positive signs that would end the division and rehabilitate the PA institutions, including holding presidential and PLC elections, the Presidential and legislative elections were not held in 2014 to renew the legitimacy of the Palestinian people's representatives, who were elected in 2005 and 2006 respectively. By the end of 2014, five and four years had passed since the expiration of the legal terms in office of the Palestinian President and the PLC respectively. The PA remains unable to hold general elections.

By the end of 2014, there had been still no progress in terms of holding or setting a date for the presidential and legislative elections in the oPt. According to the Palestinian law, the Palestinian President must call for legislative elections three months prior to holding them. This did not happen.

Regarding the local elections, nothing happened in 2014. On 20 October 2012, the PA organized local elections in the West Bank. On 12 March 2013, the Council of Ministers in Ramallah issued a decision that the elections in the local councils, in which elections were not held, and in the councils, which lost its legal quorum as the majority of its members resigned, would be held on 01 June 2013. However, the elections of the local councils in the Gaza were not held. Moreover, the government in Gaza continued to appoint local councils close to Hamas and kept some local councils which are affiliated to it.

Although elections are demanded by all national powers and civil society groups, including PCHR, they are not possible without first reaching a comprehensive national reconciliation that can bring an end to the division and restore the integrity of the legislative, executive and judicial institutions. Holding elections requires an appropriate electoral environment, including respect for public liberties, the release of political prisoners, and lifting the bans imposed on political activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

PCHR criticised at that time holding elections on 20 October 2012, as long as the internal political division persists. PCHR demanded that the Gaza and Ramallah governments provide an atmosphere conducive to the organisation of transparent and fair elections. This will allow people to freely choose their public representatives, who will be subject to accountability in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Most importantly, such an atmosphere will ensure protection for public liberties and respect for constitutionally guaranteed human rights, including political rights, and the lifting bans on different political factions.



VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION

In 2014, violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression continued despite the positive atmosphere which accompanied the formation of the national unity government on 02 June and following the Palestinian reconciliation agreement known as (al-Shati' agreement) between Hamas and a delegation empowered by President Mahmoud 'Abbas in the house of Ismail Haniyah, Prime Minister of the Gaza government, on 23 April 2014. Although the Shati' agreement resulted in positive steps regarding the redistribution of newspapers of al-Quds, al-Hayat al-Jadeeda and al-Ayyam in the Gaza Strip, and the newspapers of Palestine and al-Risala in the beginning of May, the situation deteriorated later and the violations of this right in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued by the official bodies. The most prominent violations were as follows:

The Gaza Strip

Major violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression included: summoning, arresting and interrogating journalists and opinion writers as well as citizens for their political opinions; assaulting and disregarding journalists by members of the security services; closing media offices; confiscating journalists' equipment during their work; and preventing journalists from covering events and from traveling. During the reporting period, PCHR also documented the continuation of violations by unidentified or identified parties against journalists on the grounds of their profession.

The most significant violations in the Gaza Strip were as follows:

- » On 25 March, Ayman Ghazi al-'Aloul, a reporter of al-Furat Satellite Channel, headed to the General Investigation Unit in Gaza in al-Jawazat Police Headquarter in the west of Gaza City upon a prior summons he had received from police officers in al-Remal police station. Al-'Aloul was questioned about a video, in which he was giving his personal opinion during a festival organized by Hamas in al-Sarayah Square in the west of the city on 23 March 2014. He shared the video on his personal Facebook page, and other people shared it as well. After hours of detention, Al-'Aloul was released.
- » On 01 June, Bassam al-Madhoun, Dubai TV's correspondent, was stopped by two unknown persons while he was walking near al-Azhar University in al-Remal neighbourhood, west of Gaza City. The two persons forced al-Madhoun to give them his laptop and then fled away.
- » On 05 May, Palestinian police officers beat Yousef Hammad, a correspondent of al-Watan radio station, with batons and gun butts while he was covering the salary crisis in Gaza and making live interviews with a number of civilians near the Bank of Palestine in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip.
- » On 15 June, officers of the National Security Forces beat four journalists with sticks and batons while they were covering a peaceful protest organized by a youth group called

“Palestinian Intifada Youth Coalition” near the eastern borders of Gaza City to commemorate the 66th anniversary of Palestinian Nakba. The journalists were identified as:

1. Mohammed Jadallah Salem, a photojournalist in Reuters;
2. Wissam Nassar, a photojournalist in the Chinese News Agency (Xinhua);
3. Mo'men Fayez Qreiqe'a; and
4. Majdi Fathi Qreiqe'a, both are freelance photojournalists.

The West Bank

Major violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression include: summoning, arresting and interrogating journalists and opinion writers as well as citizens for their political opinions; assaulting and disregarding journalists by members of the security services; closing media offices; confiscating journalists' equipment during their work; and preventing journalists from covering events and from traveling. During the reporting period, PCHR also documented the continuation of violations by unidentified or identified parties against journalists on the grounds of expressing their opinions. The most prominent violations were the following:

- » On 12 January, members of the National Security Forces detained Samer Nazzal and Shadi Hatem, photographers of Rayah Media Network, while they were covering the events that accompanied the re-opening of the main road near Surda village, north of Ramallah. The road had been closed by young men in protest against the bad situation in the nearby al-Jalazoun refugee camp. The security officers confiscated from the aforementioned journalists their ID and press cards as well as the cameras they had while covering. Soon after, the photographers were released after the contents of their cameras had been deleted, and they were given their cameras back.
- » On 07 February, the Palestinian security services launched an arrest campaign against dozens of members of the Islamic Liberation Party throughout the West Bank on the grounds of publishing a statement, titled “President Abbas Paves the Way for New Crusaders' Invasion.” The security services referred the majority of the detainees to the Public Prosecution and then to

judiciary, as they were accused of incitement to sectarian strife and undermining the dignity of the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian courts issued decisions to release some of them on bail and to extend the detention of others. According to information obtained by PCHR's fieldworkers from a number of the released members, they had been questioned on the said statement, while others said that security services raided and searched their houses and confiscated PC sets and books related to the Party.

- » On 08 February, the Palestinian General Intelligence Service (GIS) in Hebron arrested 3 civilians affiliated to a group named “Ahmadiyya Muslim Community” when they headed to the GIS office to obtain a permit to distribute leaflets related to their Community. On the following day, the GIS officers referred the 3 detainees to the Public Prosecution for investigation. The detainees were also accused of inciting for sectarian strife. On 10 February, they appeared before the competent court that issued a decision to extend their detention pending investigation. On the same day, the Palestinian police in the city arrested 8 persons affiliated to the same community on the grounds of distributing leaflets on MTA channel belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. On 11 February, the detainees appeared before Hebron District Court that issued a decision to extend their detention for 15 days.
- » On 29 March, security services stopped 2 staff members of the local Watan TV, Ahmed Melhem, a reporter, and Ahmed Zaki, a cameraman, while covering a religious sermon organized by *Hizb Ut-Tahrir* (Liberation Party) following al-Maghrib prayer in Jamal Abdul Nasser Mosque in al-Bireh in the centre of the West Bank. They also prevented them from covering the subsequent attacks by the security services against dozens of civilians who were inside the mosque. Two officers violently took the aforementioned journalists outside the mosque and beat up Melhem. They then attempted to arrest the two journalists and took them to the security jeeps. However, an officer intervened and released them.
- » On 12 April, security officers dressed in plain clothes arrested 3 young men who peacefully protested in al-Kasabah Theater in Ramallah

against a performance by an Indian troupe, which violated the standards of the academic and Cultural Boycott with Israel. The three young men were then taken to the police station in the city where they were detained and presented the following morning to a judge of the Ramallah Magistrates Court, which decided to release them on bail after charging them with “disturbing order”. Moreover, the security officers also confiscated a camera from Palestine Today Channel crew that was covering the detention of the 3 young men by the security forces. However, they returned the camera on the same day afternoon.

- » On 09 June, a number of journalists were beaten up by Palestinian security officers to prevent them from media coverage, and destroyed the filming materials. Meanwhile, the officers attacked the participants in a peaceful protest organized near al-Bireh Municipality in the centre of the West Bank. Yousef al-Shayeb, a reporter of al-Hayah al-Jadidah Newspaper, was one of the journalists who were beaten and whose filming material was destroyed.
- » On 11 June, Hadi al-Debes, a reporter of Palestine Today Channel, and Ma’az’Amaranah, correspondent of al-Aqsa Channel, were beaten and their cameras were confiscated by Palestinian security officers while they were covering a protest organized by the Journalists Syndicate in Ramallah against the continued attacks on journalists by security officers. ‘Abdel Naser al-Najjar, the head of the Journalists Syndicate, was insulted

by the security officers, who forcibly dispersed and beat a group of civilians and journalists who were participating in a protest organized by the syndicate.

- » On 20 June, officers of Palestinian security services deployed in the vicinity of al-Hussein Bin Ali Mosque in ‘Ain Sarah Street in Hebron in the south of the West Bank prevented journalists from covering the security officers’ attacks against participants in a peaceful demonstration in solidarity with the administrative detainees on hunger strike. The security officers smashed a camera belonging to Kareem Sa’ed Khader, a photojournalist of CNN. The journalists who were prevented from covering the events by the security officers included:
 1. Eiad Nimer Maghribi, who works for the Associated Press (AP);
 2. Yousef ‘Issa Shahin, who works for the PalMedia Agency for Media Production; and
 3. Hazem Bader, who works for France Press Agency (AFP).
- » On 16 July, a number of Palestinian officers dressed in plain clothes detained Palestine TV staff comprised of Murad Abu ‘Omer, a reporter; Mojahed al-Sa’di, a cameraman; and Rabi’a Munir who works in Ramatan Company for Media Production, while they were on duty and covering a peaceful protest organized in Jenin refugee camp against the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. The police officers took the 3 journalists to the Jenin police station, where they confiscated the filming materials of their cameras to delete

them, and released the journalists later.

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

The year of 2014 witnessed continued violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the oPt by both governments in the Gaza Strip and West Bank and their security services. These violations included imposing precautionary measures to prevent and restrict organizing peaceful assemblies in their respective areas of control. Despite the positive atmosphere that spread over the oPt following the reconciliation agreement in April and formation of the national unity government on 02 June, the situation deteriorated. These violations went beyond the official restrictions and affected private meetings as well, which do not fall within the scope the Law (12) of 1998 on Public Meetings, although organizers of such meetings are not required to notify the Palestinian police or governors according to the law. Moreover, the Palestinian Basic Law guarantees the right to hold private meetings without the intervention of the Palestinian police.

In 2014, the most significant violations of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly were the following:

In the Gaza Strip, Security services continued to impose bans on public meetings, disperse a number of public gatherings, and impose precautionary measures to restrict civilians' right to hold public meetings, especially gatherings which contradict the mainstream opinion. These measures were applied inappropriately and beyond their original scope, affecting private meetings, which were held in closed places and whose organization is not required by law to be notified to competent official bodies.

The most notable violations were:

- » On 08 March, the Palestinian police ended a memorial event for 3 Palestinians who were killed by Israeli forces in the al-Qassas family's divan which is located in al-Sheikh Nasser neighbourhood in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip and dispersed the participants. The Palestinian police arrived at the family's divan where a memorial ceremony for Riyadh al-Qassas, major-general Ahmed Mifrej and 'Aref Herzallah was being held in coordination with Fatah movement. Dozens of people participated in the event. The police officers ordered the participants to end the event and evacuate the place immediately. Upon the notice, quarrels erupted between the participants and police officers. More backup forces arrived and started forcibly dispersing the event, beating the participants and opening fire in the air. A number of participants threw stones in response. Some police officers raided the divan, ended the event and arrested a number of participants. They took the detainees to Khan Younis police station. The detained persons were released later.
- » On 16 March, dozens of civilians gathered at the Unknown Soldier Square the west of Gaza City in response to a call by the "Popular Campaign to Maintain Inalienable Rights" to support President Mahmoud Abbas in the negotiations that took place in the United States. Security forces arrived at the area and ordered the participants to evacuate the area for they had no prior permit from the official authorities. The security forces arrested a number of participants, but released them later after interrogating them on the said assembly.
- » On 17 March, dozens of civilians gathered in front of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in al-Shuhada' Street in the west of Gaza City, where a tent to support Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails is weekly established, in response to a call by the "Popu-

lar Campaign to Maintain Inalienable Rights” to support President Mahmoud Abbas in the negotiations that took place in the United States. Security forces deployed in Gaza prevented the participants from marching towards the Unknown Soldier Square and arrested a number of them.

- » On 08 June, police officers dispersed an assembly, in which dozens of Fatah supporters participated, near the house of ‘Arafat ‘Odah Abu Shabab, a Fatah activist, in al-Shabourah refugee camp in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip in protest against arresting him by the Internal Security Service on 03 June 2014.
- » On 12 June, the Palestinian police dispersed 50 members affiliated with the mainstream of Salafi movement near al-‘Awdah square in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. Dozens of Salafi mainstream activists gathered at al-‘Awdah Square and distributed sweets to express their delight at the takeover by Islamic armed groups of Iraqi cities.
- » On 15 June, members of the National Security Forces forcibly dispersed a peaceful demonstration in the east of Gaza City in commemoration of the 66th anniversary of the Palestinian *Nakbah* (the uprooting of the Palestinian people from their lands in 1949). The demonstration that was organized by a youth group called “Palestinian Intifada Youth Coalition” headed from Baghdad Street in al-Shuja’iyah neighbourhood in the east of the city to the eastern borders under the slogan of “the Return Day”. The security officers used batons and sticks to beat the participants in order to disperse and force them to leave the area. The officers also beat 4 journalists, who were covering the event.

Imposing Restrictions on Holding Private Meetings in Gaza Strip:

- » On 13 April, police general investigation officers conducted a tour to a number of restaurants and hotels in Gaza City and demanded the administrations of these places that the associations and organizations must obtain permits from the general command of the police before organizing any symposiums or workshops in the halls. In this context, PCHR emphasizes that the right

to hold private peaceful assemblies in closed places, such as seminars, workshops and celebrations, do not fall within the scope of application of the Public Meetings Law 12/1998, so organizers of such meetings are not required to notify the Palestinian police or governors according to the law. The Palestinian Basic Law guarantees the right to hold private meetings without the intervention of the Palestinian police according to article (26-5) which stipulates: “To conduct private meetings without the presence of police members and to conduct public meetings, gatherings and processions, within the limits of the law”.

The most notable violations in the West Bank were the following:

- » On 29 March, Palestinian security services dispersed a religious sermon organized by *Hizb Ut-Tahrir* (Liberation Party) following al-Maghrib prayer at Jamal Abdul Nasser Mosque in al-Bireh in the centre of the West Bank. The security officers closed the gates, excluding the eastern one, and dispersed the sermon. They then arrested dozens of civilians, who were inside the mosque, while they were on their way out.
- » On 09 June, Palestinian security officers attacked a peaceful demonstration in which dozens of civilians participated, including members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements in solidarity with the prisoners on hunger strike in the Israeli jails, near al-Bireh Municipality in the center of the West Bank. They beat a number of civilians, including Hasan Yousif, a PLC Member. Moreover, a journalist was beaten up, and other journalists were prevented from doing their job and covering the events.
- » Around the same time, Palestinian security officers attacked a demonstration organized in front of a sit-in tent set up in solidarity with the prisoners on hunger strike at al-Shuhadaa intersection in Nablus in the north of the West Bank and dispersed it.
- » On 11 June, a number of journalists and civilians gathered near al-Manarah Square in Ramallah in the centre of the West Bank upon an invitation from the Journalists Syndicate in protest against repeated attacks by security officers against journalists. Security service officers arrived at the area and started beating and insulting the participants in an attempt to disperse the assembly.

Hadi al-Debes, who works for the Palestine Today TV, and Mo'azz 'Amarnah, correspondent of al-Aqsa TV, were beaten and their cameras were confiscated. In the same context, 'Abdel Naser al-Najjar, Chairman of Journalists Syndicate, was insulted by the security officers.

- » On 20 June, members of Palestinian security services deployed in the vicinity of al-Hussein Bin Ali Mosque on 'Ain Sarah Street in Hebron in the south of the West Bank prevented women, including mothers of prisoners, from reaching the mosque for Friday Prayer to participate in a peaceful demonstration, which was supposed to be initiated from the mosque following the Friday prayer in solidarity with the administrative detainees on hunger strike. Following the Friday Prayer, the demonstration, in which women participated, moved from the mosque, but the security officers prevented the demonstrators from heading towards 'Ain Sarah Street and forced them to head to the neighboring Ibn Rushd Street, where other Palestinian security officers were waiting for them. Palestinian security officers used force to disperse the demonstration and attacked the demonstrators, including women, with sticks and batons. As a result, many demonstrators sustained bruises. In the same context, Palestinian security officers attempted to prevent a number of journalists from covering the events near the mosque. They smashed a camera belonging to Kareem Sa'ed Khader, a photojournalist of CNN.
- » On 16 July, Palestinian Security Service Officers attacked a peaceful demonstration organized in Jenin refugee camp in protest against the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. The security officers were waiting for the demonstration in Nazareth Street in the city leading to al-Jalamah checkpoint established by Israeli forces at Jenin's entrance. The police officers fired bullets in the air in addition to tear gas canisters at the participants in the demonstration to disperse them. They also detained 3 journalists working for Palestine TV and Ramatan Company for Media Production.
- » On 20 July, hundreds of civilians gathered at al-Manarah Square in Ramallah in the centre of the West Bank in protest against the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, in particular the crime committed by Israeli forces in al-Shuja'iyah neighbourhood in Gaza City. The demonstrators roamed

the streets of Ramallah and al-Bireh chanting national slogans. When dozens of civilians arrived at Nablus Street in al-Bireh, they were surprised with the closure of the street by large forces of Palestinian security services and police. Following verbal quarrels between the two parties, the security officers immediately fired tear gas canisters at the demonstrators and beat a number of them using sticks and batons. Samih Muhsin, Director of PCHR branch in Ramallah, said that he headed there after he was done with a TV interview on Palestine TV on the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. He added that he was with a number of civilians behind the security officers, who then pushed them without any prior warning. When Muhsen protested at their attitude and identified himself, a security officer strongly pushed him and kicked him with his foot in the bottom of his abdomen causing him severe pains. Moreover, a number of civilians suffered tear gas inhalation.

- » On the same day, hundreds of civilians gathered in the centre of Nablus and organized a demonstration protesting against the Israeli offensive on Gaza and the Israeli attack on al-Shuja'iyah neighborhood. When the demonstration arrived in front of the National Hospital, dozens of Palestinian security service officers stopped the demonstrators in an attempt to disperse them. Clashes broke out between the officers and the demonstrators, so security backups arrived at the area. They fired bullets in the air, rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. As a result, eight civilians were wounded; one of them was hit with a bullet to the abdomen, and the other 7 ones were hit with metal bullets and gas canisters in different parts of their body. Moreover, a number of security officers were wounded due to being thrown with stones.
- On 30 August, hundreds of supporters and leaders of Hamas and national and Islamic factions in Ramallah and al-Bireh gathered in the yard next to al-Bireh municipality in the centre of the city to organize a festival titled as "Allegiance and Victory of Resistance in the Gaza Strip". Palestinian security forces, most of whom were dressed in plain clothes, established checkpoints at all entrances of Ramallah and al-Bireh and to the festival area in order to check all the cars and their travellers. Security officers stopped a car, on which a loudspeaker was set, belonging to

the festival and took it, including the four young men who were in it, to the PSS office. When the festival finished, dozens of security officers, most of whom dressed in plain clothes, stormed the festival yard and confiscated all the tools and equipment that were used in it.

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Association

Violations of the right to freedom of association continued in 2014 in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Despite the formation of the national unity government in June 2014, the chaotic legal regulation of the associations still exists as the laws and decrees issued under the political division in relation to associations continued to be applied. Moreover, the physical and arbitrary attacks against associations and syndicates continued in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These violations included arrests in the West Bank on grounds of practicing in the union action, and explosions in the Gaza Strip targeting local and international associations. This emphasizes that the PA in the West Bank and Gaza Strip failed to respect and protect the right to freedom of association in 2014. This is part of a policy adopted since the establishment of the PA that targets associations and attempts to take over the civil society and undermine its role. This policy escalated following the division in the PA as many associations were arbitrarily and illegally closed. Moreover, many laws and decrees were enacted to impose restrictions on associations' activities.

It should be mentioned that the Palestinian President Mahmoud'Abbas issued during the division two laws related to the right to freedom of assembly in addition to Decree No. 11 of 2012 on Establishment of the Civil Society Organization Affairs Commission. PCHR considers it as a re-establishment of an old organization which failed in the past, which is aimed to take over the civil society and its funding sources. Moreover, the Council of Ministers issued two decisions relating to the right to freedom of association, the most prominent of which was Decision No. (3) of 2010 on Regulation of Non-Profit Companies which constituted a disappointment in its content, including not respecting the formation of non-profit companies as a right and granting arbitrary powers to the Ministry of Economy regarding monitoring and dissolving the non-profit companies.

The Change and Reform Bloc issued two laws on the associations' work, and they are only applied in the Gaza Strip. One of those laws is the Companies Law No. (7) of 2012, which ignored mentioning the right to form non-profit companies and abolished the Companies Law of 1929, whose article 23 allowed the establishment of non-profit companies. Therefore, non-profit companies in the Gaza Strip are subject to a legal vacuum. During the division, the Council of Ministers issued 8 decisions relating to the right to freedom of association in order to take over the associations and undermining their independence. All of these decisions are in violation of the Societies Act and the relevant international standards. One of the most prominent amendments was the one made by the Council of Ministers to the Executive Bill of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations, which granted the Ministry of Interior powers not approved by law. The amendment equalized between the competent authority and the Ministry of Interior in powers. The latest decisions were the Ministry's decision no. (98) issued in October 2013 in regards to the elections in the charitable societies and community organizations and decision no. (61) concerning the financial affairs of charitable societies and community organizations. Both decisions are in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law and relevant international standards. These decisions constituted an interference into the associations' affairs and a violation of their independence and right to privacy.

PCHR called many times upon the parties to the political division to immediately unite the legal system particularly of the right to freedom of association. PCHR also demanded annulling all decisions issued in regards to associations under the division and the need to review all legislations relating to the right to freedom of association especially those issued during the division. The year of 2014 ended, and the Unity Government did not issue any decision to abolish all the decisions, which were issued under the division in regards to associations, or even having any indicator that both parties to division agreed on how to deal with the laws and decisions under the division.

Violations of the right to freedom of association continued in the West Bank in 2014. The executive authority in the West Bank in cooperation with the judiciary targeted the Public Employees Syndicate and

accused it of being an illegal body under the pretext that the syndicate is not duly licensed. PCHR emphasized that if the syndicate is not licensed, it does not mean that it is an illegal association. The most that the PA can do is to ask the syndicate to correct its legal status and give it an opportunity to do so.

On Thursday evening, 6 November 2014, the Palestinian police in Ramallah summoned Bassam Zakarna (46), Head of the Public Employees Syndicate, and his deputy Mu'in 'Ansawi (42). The two were detained until Sunday morning, 09 November 2014, and they were then brought before the public prosecution. They were questioned about their syndicate's work, and were accused of "affiliation with an illegal association." The public prosecution extended their detention for 48 hours. They appeared before the public prosecution for a second time the next day, and their detention was extended for an additional 15 days. Moreover, the PSS detained other members of the Syndicate due to practicing their union work, including Zahi Sawalmah; Mohammed al-A'araj; Hamdi 'Arafah; Ahmed Tawfiq; Usamah Najjar; Ashraf al-Barghuthi; Amjad al-Ahmed; 'Omer 'Odah. They also transferred many other members from their positions for the same reason, including 'Omer 'Abdel Naser, Ahmed 'Odah and Basman Mohammed Ahmed Jeibat. PCHR stressed that targeting the Public Employees Syndicate constitutes a violation of the right to form unions guaranteed according to article (26) of the Palestinian Basic Law.

In the same context, on 08 November 2014, members of the Preventive Security Service arrested Muhammad Basem Hussein (30), Head of the Syndicate of Families of Martyrs and Wounded Persons after summoning him on his phone by the police. He appeared before the public prosecution on 09 November 2014, and the prosecution decided to detain him. On 11 November 2014, he appeared before the Magistrate's Court in Ramallah that decided to extend his detention for 15 days. He was released later.

The Gaza Strip witnessed a series of attacks on associations in 2014, including explosions that targeted local and foreign associations warning of serious risks to the civil society and its freedom to practice its activities, especially as the available information indicates that the attacks' grounds are ideological. These attacks proved the failure of the authorities in the Gaza Strip to protect the right to freedom of as-

sociation according to the international standards, which oblige the authorities to prevent any attack on associations by a third party. The attacks on the associations documented by PCHR were as follows:

- » On 12 December, a heavy explosion was heard throughout Gaza City. It was found that the explosion was caused by an explosive device that unknown persons detonated at the south-eastern side of the fence of the French Cultural Center, which is located near Ansar Security Complex in the west of Gaza City. The explosion caused partial damage to the fence and a neighboring fence. Police officers immediately rushed to the place and opened an investigation into the attack. This was the second attack on the French Cultural Center in two months. On 07 October 2014, two explosive devices were detonated in the south-eastern side of the aforementioned building. The attack resulted in extensive damage to the building and fire broke out as a fuel tank exploded. The security forces opened an investigation into the incident at that time, and the results of the investigation have not been announced so far.
- » On 10 December 2014, unknown persons blew up the entrance of Yabous Charitable Association in Rafah. As a result, a child and woman were wounded as they were near the place at the moment of the explosion. A group called «Supporters of the Islamic State» claimed responsibility for the explosion in a statement published on 11 December 2014 saying that they targeted the aforementioned association because it tried to spread Shiism in the Gaza Strip. The statement also threatened the association not to open again otherwise the people in charge of it would be physically liquidated.
- » On 26 February 2014, a heavy explosion occurred in the yard of the Latin Church and the Latin Patriarchate School in al-Zaytoun neighbourhood in the east of Gaza City. The Palestinian police arrived at the scene immediately, and discovered that the explosion resulted from a home-made bomb detonated by unknown persons under the Church's bus. The police also found offensive words on one of the Church's walls.



CONTINUED APPLICATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

The year of 2014 witnessed the continuation and application of the death penalty despite PCHR's and civil society's efforts to abolish this punishment. In 2014, 8 death sentences were issued; one of them was on the ground of collaboration with the Israel and the rest were on grounds of murders. The Ministry of Interior in Gaza implemented two death sentences by firing squad without ratification by the Palestinian President according to the law against two persons convicted of collaboration with Israel.

According to PCHR's documentation, the death sentences issued by the PA decreased in 2014 compared with 2013, during which 14 sentences were issued, including 13 ones that were issued in the Gaza Strip. The number of death sentences issued by the Palestinian courts since the 1994 has risen to 156; 129 of which were issued in the Gaza Strip, and 27 of which were issued in the West Bank. The total number of death sentences issued in the Gaza Strip since the Hamas' takeover in 2007 has increased to 71. The PA also implemented 32 death sentences since its establishment; 30 of which were in the Gaza Strip and 2 of which in the West Bank; 19 of those sentences were implemented after Hamas' takeover in 2007.

PCHR became optimistic of the possibility of putting an end to executions in the Gaza Strip after the formation of the Unity Government as the Palestinian President adopted in the West Bank a policy under which he refrained from ratifying death sentences. This situation did not last long as unknown bodies took advantage of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and implemented extra-judicial executions against persons accused of collaborating with the Israel. PCHR documented 27 extra-judicial executions against persons convicted of spying, some of whom were serving their sentences in prison on charges of collaboration. Bodies claiming that they are affiliated with the Palestinian resistance claimed responsibility for these executions although those who implemented the executions were masked and nothing showed their affiliation. Moreover, heads of the persons who were executed were covered, and some of those executions were videotaped and broadcasted via media.

PCHR at that time published a press release demanding stopping such executions. Moreover, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, sent urgent letters to a number of Palestinian leaders demanding them to immediately and decisively intervene to stop such extra-judicial executions, considering that they cause damage to all of us. He believed that the circumstances of the offensive must not undermine the rule of law and respect for human rights, especially the right to fair trial.

Death Sentences Issued in 2014

No.	Name	Place of Residence	Sentencing body and sentence	Date	Charge
1.	A. W. E	Gaza	Military court, sentenced in absentia	06 February	Collaboration with Israeli security services
2.	M. S. A	Northern Gaza Strip	First degree sentence issued by the Court of First Instance	13 February	Murder
3.	Gh. N. N	Rafah	First degree sentence issued by the Court of First Instance	20 March	Kidnap and murder
4.	M. A. A	Rafah	First degree sentence issued by the Court of First Instance	20 March	Kidnap and murder
5.	B. E. A	Khan Younis	First degree sentence issued by the Court of First Instance	29 April	Murder
6.	H. A. K	Gaza	First degree sentence issued by the Court of First Instance	08 May	Murder
7.	E. M. M	Gaza	First degree sentence issued by the Court of First Instance	15 May	Murder
8.	A. H. Sh	Khan Younis	Military court, first degree sentence	15 May	Murder

Death Sentences Executed in 2014

No.	Name	Place of Residence	Sentencing body and Sentence	Date of Execution	Charge
1.	A. H. K	Khan Younis	Final sentence issued by the military court	07 May	Collaboration with Israeli security services
2.	Z. A. R	Gaza	Final sentence issued by the military court	07 May	Collaboration with Israeli security services

IMPACT OF THE POLITICAL DIVISION ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS IN THE GAZA STRIP

The economic and social rights of the Gaza population reached the peak of deterioration in 2014 due to the ongoing Palestinian political division for the 7th consecutive year and the absence of the political will of both parties to the division to end the worst era in the Palestinian history. The situation in the Gaza Strip deteriorated to the level of an area of disaster following the latest Israeli offensive on Gaza in summer 2014, which caused unprecedented destruction to the civilian infrastructure and facilities in the cities, refugee camps and villages of the Gaza Strip. The Gaza population expressed their optimism after the parties to the Palestinian political division declared signing the reconciliation agreement known as "Shati Agreement" on 24 April 2014, and formed the Palestinian unity government, which swore the oath before the Palestinian President on 02 June 2014. However, all hopes and optimism of the Gaza population and Palestinian people in general went with the wind due to the continued political conflict over the powers and almost-complete absence of the national unity government, which was expected by people to face the challenges of the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, which was destroyed by the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

In 2014, the governments in Gaza and Ramallah continued to take measures at the economic and social levels that have further aggravated people's economic and social rights. These measures coincided with the continued total closure imposed by Israeli authorities on the Gaza Strip for more than 7 years in a unique case of collective punishment against the civilian population. This created a state of comprehensive economic and social strangulation and obstructed all attempts to improve the living conditions of the population and respect their human dignity.

At the end of 2014 and although the national unity government assumed its powers, the basic characteristic which prevailed was the ongoing deterioration of all health, education and social security services. Thousands of public servants and their families have been deprived of their salaries they used to receive from the PA budget as the government in Ramallah has stopped paying to those employees since the beginning of the political division in 2007. Meanwhile, the suffering of dozens of civil and military public servant, who receive their salaries from the PA budget, especially those affiliated with Fatah, due to being pursued by the Gaza Government and its security services.

Electricity Crisis and Its Impact on Basic Services in the Gaza Strip

In 2014, the chronic electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip was one of the most prominent issues facing 1.8 million Palestinians. It led to deterioration of economic and social conditions of the civilian population as it is associated with access to basic services and people's daily life. Vital facilities, including water supplies, hospitals and medical centres, sewage treatment plants and the educational sector, were severely affected. Finding means of alternative energy has become a key concern for the people of Gaza. The use of power generators or candles to compensate the shortage of electricity supplies has caused many accidents, and resulted in a number of deaths. The Palestinian political division has impacted the electricity crisis as each party blamed the other one for the crisis. The crisis aggravated due to the wide-scale destruc-

tion by the Israeli forces during the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip. The Gaza power plant completely stopped, and the main and sub-networks were comprehensively destroyed and levelled in various areas of the Gaza Strip. PCHR documented the disastrous impacts that resulted from the failure of both parties to the political division to mitigate the dangerous implications on the humanitarian conditions of the civilian population in the Gaza Strip as a result of the electricity crisis, which became chronic:

- » About 1.8 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip are facing deficiencies in all walks of their daily life, which have affected their basic needs, including health services, access to water, environmental health services and ability to meet the educational needs of school and university students.
- » The deterioration of health conditions in the health facilities of the Gaza Strip due to inability to compensate the shortage of electricity for long hours on one hand, and their inability to provide fuel needed to run the alternative generators in these facilities on the other hand, in addition to breakdown of many machines and medical equipment at hospitals and health facilities of the Gaza Strip.
- » Hundreds of patients in the hospitals of the Gaza Strip face serious health risks as the medical equipment and devices are not run regularly, especially in the intensive care units and other medical units like heart and kidney units
- » Local bodies, including municipalities and village councils, are unable to provide alternative fuel to ensure the workflow of their vital facilities serving the population of the Gaza Strip, including water and sanitation facilities. Citizens' complaints started to resound because of their inability to get water in their houses, especially in high buildings.
- » Educational facilities in universities and educational institutions are suffering a serious disorder, which has led to the inactivity of many educational laboratories and the postponement of some educational assignments due to electricity shortage and lack of alternative power sources. The aggravation of electricity crisis coincided

with the mid-term exams in the schools and universities of the Gaza Strip.

- » Hundreds of institutions and associations in the Gaza Strip had to postpone their activities and programs due to the electricity shortage all day and their inability to provide alternative power sources to run their machines and equipment.
- » The suffering of the population of the Gaza Strip has seriously aggravated, especially those living in high buildings that use elevators. Dozens of residents, including elderly people and patients with chronic diseases have been largely affected.

The political conflict between the two parties to the conflict continued as each party blamed the other one for deterioration of the electricity crisis. It became clear that the political conflict and internal division aggravated the humanitarian conditions of the population of the Gaza Strip in light of severe shortage of basic needs especially the electricity. Moreover, maintaining the ongoing political division means violating more economic, social and cultural rights of the Gaza population, including depriving people of sufficient electricity supplies especially after repairing the power plant and periodically provide the fuel supplies required for operating the power plant. The Gaza Electricity Distribution Company (GEDCO) and the Palestinian Energy Authority in Gaza failed to run the electric power sector during the past year and contributed to aggravating the crisis instead of mitigating it. Residents of the Gaza Strip paid high prices in order to get electricity and were forced to afford around 3 times the cost of the monthly bill by trying to find alternatives for electricity such as generators, batteries, candles and neon lamps. However, the generated electrical power did not meet their daily uses. Civilians endured the results of misusing the energy alternatives resulting in the deaths of a number of them. On 26 March 2014, two sisters died in Rafah as their family's house caught fire due to using a candle during the power outage. Moreover, their two sisters sustained severe burns and were transferred to the hospital to receive medical treatment. The number of victims of searching for energy alternatives in the Gaza Strip from the beginning of 2010 until the end of 2014 amounted to 24 persons, including 18 Children. The deterioration of the electricity supplies continued to negatively affect the vital services of the Gaza population.

At the end of the year and in light of the very cold weather and obstruction of the Gaza Reconstruction, the electricity supplies for the residents seriously deteriorated as the power outage continued for 12-16 hours daily, and the power was on for 4-6 hours daily. This coincided with the winter depression which hit the Gaza Strip that resulted in extra consumption of the energy alternatives especially in light of the severe shortage of cooking gas supplies, in addition to high prices of some energy alternatives such as batteries and electricity chargers.

Health Conditions in the Gaza Strip

In 2014, all services provided to the Gaza Strip population were negatively affected by the ongoing political division. Health conditions of the Gaza Strip population, especially patients, deteriorated due to the irregular supply of medicines and medical necessities in all public health facilities in the Gaza Strip, including hospitals and medical centres. The acute shortage of medicines and medical necessities in health facilities became a deep and chronic crisis throughout the year. In addition, the severe financial crisis in the PA as well as lack of pharmaceutical products and various medical necessities meant that hundreds of patients, including those with chronic diseases, psychological conditions, and financial problems, were no longer able to afford their medicines. Hundreds of patients were forced to wait for months to get appointments in order to undergo surgeries decided by the doctors at those hospitals. The Ministry of Health in Gaza declared reducing a number of public health services, including surgeries in the main hospitals, in addition to basic health services, including dental clinics and public and outpatient clinics.

Health facilities suffered from acute shortages of fuel required to make up for the continued power outage. PCHR followed up with deep concern the suffering of hospitals, clinics and first aid centres from a real crisis due to the lack of diesel needed for the operation of generators, especially the UAE Red Crescent Hospital in Rafah, because it ran out of the diesel used for generators and the continued power outage for long hours. The health facilities in the Gaza Strip suffered from a real crisis due to the stoppage of the power plant that was bombarded by Israeli forces on 28 July

PCHR has repeatedly warned that the electricity crisis facing the Gaza Strip population would result in more disastrous consequences on people's daily life, including their right to life and personal security and safety. PCHR believes that the political conflict and internal division aggravated the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip in light of the severe shortage of basic needs, especially the electricity. PCHR also emphasizes that maintaining the political division means more violations of the economic, social and cultural rights of the Gaza Strip population in addition to their political and civil rights.

2014. There was an acute shortage of diesel used for generators at hospitals, clinics and first aid centers in light of the power outages. Sources at the Ministry of Health in Gaza said at that time that the lack of fuel in all the Ministry's facilities threatened all the medical services they provide, especially after the financial donation made by a number of the Ministry's donors ended by the beginning of October 2014 and there was no sufficient funds to buy fuel for hospitals and health facilities in the Gaza Strip. The Gaza Strip health facilities need approximately 700,000 liters monthly, a daily average of 23,000 – 25,000 liters, in light of the frequent power outages. The lives of thousands of patients would be at stake if the health facilities stopped offering health services, including 113 infant incubators in the Gaza Strip hospitals; over 100 patients in the intensive care units; 500 patients suffering from renal failure and use 88 dialysis machines 3 days a week; departments of birth, emergency rooms; 45 operation rooms, 11 of which are used for Caesarean section; and 5 central blood banks, as they all depend on electricity.

At the beginning of December, 750 cleaning workers who are recruited by private cleaning companies contracting with the Ministry of Health for years and work in hospitals and health facilities in Gaza started a labor strike and stopped providing their services because they had not received their financial dues for 6 months. The Ministry decided to close the outpatient clinics and delay 180 non-urgent operations as garbage piles were growing. As a result, garbage piled for a few days in the buildings and departments of all governmental hospitals causing a miserable and dangerous health situation. Moreo-

ver, health conditions of patients and medical staffs were as well in danger. Therefore, the Ministry of Health declared reducing the working hours in the clinics and other departments in the Gaza hospitals, including stopping already-decided surgeries in the operations rooms such as surgeries for children, eye surgeries and cardiac catheterization. Moreover, the

Ministry stopped many laboratory tests and medical imaging in addition to endoscopy, urology, bone and nerve surgeries. The Ministry declared also that the health services were reduced in some first aid departments and hospitals as well as the water and food watch services, child and woman healthcare and environment and occupational health.



Salaries Crisis

PCHR follows up with deep concern the closure of banks in the Gaza Strip for 6 days as the former Gaza government employees prevented the Palestinian Authority (PA) employees from receiving their salaries in protest against the non-payment of their salaries by the new national unity government formed following the Palestinian reconciliation agreement. In June 2014, violence erupted and the PA employees were denied access to the banks and ATMs. The Palestinian police then intervened and beat a number of employees who attempted to approach ATMs.

PCHR warned of the disastrous impacts left by the closure of the banks on the Gaza Strip's economic situation, which had been already deteriorating due to the collective punishment and closure policy imposed by the Israeli forces on the Gaza Strip for 7 years. All financial transactions through the banks were suspended threatening the economic sectors to be paralyzed. This also portended more suffering not only to the public employees but to all citizens, especially the poor ones, including thousands of families of the deceased and wounded as well as socially insecure persons as they were not able to obtain the financial allocations they receive monthly or regularly. The year of 2014 ended and the salaries crisis of the former government employers in Gaza were not solved, except for agreeing on paying them only advances. In light of the continuation of this crisis without any close possible solutions threatening the future of the Palestinian reconciliation and putting it in front of a serious challenge in its beginning:

- » PCHR emphasized that the crisis of salaries is a completely political crisis and that the solution to this crisis must be one of the key priorities of the Palestinian President, Hamas and Fatah movements as well as the national unity government. All efforts must be devoted to ensure the payment of the salaries to all the public employ-

ees on the basis of recognizing the right of each government employee to receive his/her salary regularly, without prejudice or discrimination based on political affiliation or other grounds. PCHR called upon the Prime Minister to contain the crisis and reassure the PA employees, including the former Gaza government employees whose problem was agreed to be solved.

- » PCHR expressed its deep concern over the deterioration of economic and social conditions due to the suspension of the banking activities and warned of further deterioration to these conditions as thousands of families in the Gaza Strip became without any source of income to provide them with their needs of food, clothes and other necessary needs. Moreover, this situation threatened the future of the Palestinian reconciliation.
- » PCHR condemned the acts of violence which accompanied the crisis and demanded conducting an investigation into them. During those acts of violence, many persons, including women and journalists, were beaten by police officers. PCHR demanded taking all legal measures against whoever violated the law. Respecting human rights must be the ultimate goals of law enforcement. PCHR stressed the role of the Palestinian police and security services, which are considered as law enforcement bodies, to promote the principle of the rule of law, maintain the public order and protect the safety and security of civilians and public and private property, including banks and ATMs. The role of the law enforcement officials was to open the Gaza banks immediately and facilitate their work as well as protecting civilians and enabling them to have safe access to them. The continued closure of the banks constituted a dangerous precedent that must be ended. Moreover, banks must not be involved in the problems resulting from reconciliation issues or the division remnants.

Conditions of Persons with Disabilities in the Gaza Strip

In 2014, persons with disabilities in the Gaza Strip suffered from acute shortage and serious deterioration at the level of enjoyment of their rights in light of the ongoing internal division and having two governments in Gaza and Ramallah in addition to the absence and non-application of Law No. 4 of the 1999 the Rights of Disabled Palestinians' Law which guarantees their rights in the field of health services, rehabilitation, health-care, education and employment in addition to their rights in the field of entertainment and sports and participation in the cultural life of the society. Despite of the formation of the national unity government in June 2014, their periodic social allowances continued to be delayed and irregularly paid in spite of their deteriorating economic and social conditions. Those persons and their families became poorer and were deprived of rehabilitation and health care services and lack of the medical devices they need. The situation aggravated more due to the increase in the number of persons with permanent disabilities due to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip as many of them suffered from the lack of adequate health and rehabilitation services. Although Palestine acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 02 April 2014 and the Convention entered into force, the PA did not take any steps or measures to harmonize the Palestinian legislations or apply Law No. 4 of the 1999 the Rights of Disabled Palestinians' Law especially the issuance of the disabled card, which gives them access to the main services in the fields of health, rehabilitation, training and education. PCHR calls for an immediate end to the ongoing internal division that has had a catastrophic impact on the rights of Palestinians in general, and disabled persons in particular. PCHR also urges the Palestinian Authority to implement the provisions of law and take all the steps required for applying all the rights in the Law. PCHR also calls upon ministries and governmental organizations to respect the Law pertaining to the disabled persons' quota of at least 5% in the number of employees in these institutions as a prelude to generalize it in the NGOs and private sector institutions.





PART (2): PCHR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2014

INTRODUCTION

The first part of this report reviews the human rights conditions in the oPt, and highlights violations of human rights and the international humanitarian law. This part details PCHR's activities in 2014 according to its 2012-2014 plan, to which PCHR was committed in spite of the serious obstacles arose by the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and the internal Palestinian political division. In 2014, PCHR prepared a strategic plan for 2015-2017 through which it seeks to promote its activities at all levels. PCHR's activities and efforts in 2014 are detailed below.

First: PCHR's Efforts during and after the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip

PCHR enhanced its efforts during and after the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in order to stop it, monitor and document Israeli violations of human rights, contribute to achieving redress for Palestinian victims and ensure prosecution of suspected Israeli war criminals to prevent the recurrence of such offensive. PCHR employed its extensive experience, capabilities and relations to monitor and document Israeli crimes and human rights violations, communicate with diplomats and the international and local media to show the real picture of Israeli human rights violations, stop them and hold accountable those responsible for their perpetration. PCHR prepared legal files for victims, supported by necessary evidence, relying on its accumulated experience during previous offensives on the Gaza Strip. PCHR further enhanced its cooperation with other human rights organizations in an unprecedented manner to reach the best and most accurate results and have a stronger and faster access to the international judiciary and public opinion. The most notable efforts made by PCHR during and after the offensive were as follows:



Mr. Raji Souarni during a field tour to investigate results of Israeli attacks during the offensive on the Gaza Strip



Yasser Abdel Ghafour, PCHR's field worker, take a testimony from an eyewitness



PCHR's staff during a visit to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City

1. Monitoring, Documentation and Publication

Since the very beginning of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, PCHR had monitored and documented Israeli crimes and human rights violations. PCHR's field workers throughout the Gaza Strip worked day and night during the 50-day offensive to monitor and document Israeli crimes and human rights violations, gather testimonies of eyewitnesses and affidavits from Palestinian victims and their families, photograph scenes of attacks and collect other evidence from the field. The Field Work Unit issued daily reports on all human rights violations it documented during the offensive, which were published on PCHR's web page in both Arabic and English. These reports served as a major reference for interested people at both the international and local levels. These efforts contributed to exposing to the world the invalidity of Israeli claims that Israel did not target civilians. PCHR provided well-documented information and it enjoys credibility throughout the world.

2. Communication with the Media

During the offensive, PCHR enhanced communication with the international, regional and local media. In this context, it received dozens of journalists, representatives of local and international TV channels and reporters of local radio stations and news web sites during and after the offensive to explain the situation and comment on it. PCHR's Director and staff members conducted dozens of media interviews

on the offensive, during which they highlighted Israeli crimes and violations of human rights, Israel's responsibilities towards the civilian population in the Gaza Strip and the international community's obligation to immediately stop the offensive. PCHR's follow-ups of the media reveal the extensive media coverage of PCHR's reports and statements about the offensive by major international, regional and local news agencies and TV channels.



3. Creating Legal Files

Since the very beginning of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, PCHR had collected all necessary field information and evidence, relying on its accumulated experience in monitoring and documenting Israeli crimes during the past years, in order to create legal files to ensure the realization of the victims' right to justice and remedy. PCHR was able to create hundreds of legal files, 225 of which were submitted to the Israeli Military Advocate General demanding opening investigations into crimes committed by Israeli soldiers. PCHR further established files for compensation claims for the interest of victims of the offensive.

A PCHR lawyer gathering evidence from the scene of the attack on children of the Shuhaiber family

4. Joint Work with Other Human Rights Organizations to Confront the Offensive

During and after the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, PCHR enhanced cooperation with other human rights organizations. Cooperation and networking with human rights organization reached unprecedented levels, and joint crews were formed to monitor and document Israeli crimes and human rights violations. These efforts produced unprecedented results at the levels of accuracy and extensiveness of information, and employment of information to expose Israeli crimes and ensure the victims' access to justice.

» **Joint efforts in monitoring and documentation:** Since the very beginning of the Israeli offensive, Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights, Al-Haq, PCHR and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights coordinated efforts to monitor and document Israeli crimes and human rights violations during the offensive. After the offensive, the coordination turned into joint work by field work units in the four organizations, which contributed to producing unprecedented extensive documentation of Israeli crimes and human rights violations during the offensive. The human rights organizations recruited 76 volunteers for field surveys, in addition to the core crews of field work units in the four organizations. Additionally, seven per-

sons were recruited to enter the collected data in a designated database. Most of these volunteers were reporting to PCHR and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights. They were equally deployed in the five major areas of the Gaza Strip. They were trained on the methodology of joint work among the organizations, and were provided with special forms to collect extensive information about the victims and the circumstances of their deaths or about houses and other civilian property. Dozens of thousands of these forms were completed. The crew was divided into three major teams: the first team documented crimes and human rights violations in the south and center of the Gaza Strip; the second team documented crimes and human rights violations in Gaza City and the north and the Gaza Strip; and the third team entered the data in a computerized database. These efforts produced a comprehensive database of human rights violations perpetrated by Israeli forces during the offensive. In parallel with activities, investigations were conducted and testimonies and affidavits were collected from witnesses and victims on crimes committed against Palestinian civilians and property.

» **Joint legal work:** The joint work amounted to a maximal level through categorizing and legally characterizing the collected information and collating necessary evidence relating to war

crimes committed during the offensive. PCHR coordinated with the other three human rights organizations to unite the efforts before the Israeli judiciary. Such coordination allowed access to the Israeli judiciary equipped with all necessary documents and evidence professionally and in a timely manner, which enhanced the victims' positions before the judiciary. The human rights organizations systematically and seriously provided assistance to the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict established by the UN Human Rights Council.

- » **Joint advocacy activities:** The human rights organizations enhanced advocacy activities during and after the offensive to stop it and hold suspected Israeli war criminal accountable. They used various methods, including holding joint press conferences, submitting joint interventions with international bodies and organizations and preparing a joint comprehensive report on the offensive. These activities included:
 - » Holding joint press conferences: PCHR and the other human rights organizations held joint press conferences during the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip to highlight Israeli crimes and human rights violations in the Gaza Strip and remind the international community of its responsibilities. These conference were met by extensive media interest and coverage at the international, regional and local levels, which made the world largely aware of the situation in the Gaza Strip. In this context, the human rights organizations held four press conferences during the offensive. All the conferences were held in Shifa Hospital in Gaza City due to the intensive media presence in the hospital during the offensive.
 - » **Joint meetings with the ICRC and UNRWA:** PCHR and the other human rights organizations held meetings with representatives of the ICRC and UNRWA for the purpose of exchanging information on the humanitarian conditions dur-

ing the offensive and their impact on the human rights conditions, and coordinating efforts to ensure providing necessary care for victims and internally displaced persons and complying with human rights standards in this regard.

- » **Communication with the UN Human Rights Council:** PCHR and the other human rights organization held a meeting with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, via Skype. They provided her with information supported by figures about Israeli crimes and human rights violations during the offensive. They highlighted the willful and extensive targeting of Palestinian civilian and objects, which raises concerns that crimes against humanity and war crimes were committed against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip. This meeting was held one day before Ms. Pillay's speech before the UN Human Rights Council in its special 21st session on 24 July 2014, in which the Council decided to form a commission of inquiry to investigate the situation in Palestine, respect for international law in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, especially during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, and Israeli violations of the rights of the Palestinian people in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, which had escalated since 12 July 2014.
- » **Preparing a joint comprehensive report on the offensive:** After the Israeli offensive, the human rights organizations prepared a comprehensive report on it. The report provided a comprehensive documentation of the offensive, including war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against Palestinian civilians, the economic and social impact of the destruction, the suffering of the civilian population and the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip. The human rights organizations rely on this report to serve as a major toll in the upcoming stage to pressurize the international community to prosecute suspected Israeli war criminals, reconstruct the Gaza Strip and lift the siege imposed on it.

Second: Intensive Advocacy Efforts at the International Level

In 2014, PCHR enhanced its efforts to network and cooperate with international and local allies and partners to influence the international community's positions and urge it to take serious action to confront crimes committed by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians, especially during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, and the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian conditions throughout the oPt.

1. Following-up the Work of the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict

Since the UN Human Rights Council established the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict (Operation Protective Edge), PCHR had expressed willingness to provide necessary assistance and information to the Commission. PCHR contacted the Commission to coordinate their visit to the Gaza Strip to allow them to observe Israeli crimes and human rights violations during the offensive, but Israel prevented the Commission from entering the Gaza Strip. Consequently, the Commission were forced to hold its meetings in Jordan and limit its work to following up field reports. PCHR observed with utmost concern the Israeli measures and complicity of some international parties that prevented UN investigators from entering the Gaza Strip. The year ended and five months had passed since the end of the Israeli offensive without the Commission having been able to enter the Gaza Strip. PCHR and the other human rights organizations demanded in a joint statement condemning the Israeli ban on the Commission and explicitly holding Israel responsible. PCHR emphasized that no objective, professional and independent investigation could be conducted without the Commis-

sion's presence in the Gaza Strip to directly observe the impact of Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians and civilian objects.

Appreciating the Commission's inability to enter the Gaza Strip, PCHR and the other human rights organizations communicated with the Commission to provide assistance by providing them with all information, evidence, affidavits and testimonies they collected during their ongoing field work during and after the offensive. The human rights organizations sought to enable the Commission to conclude accurate results that could ensure justice for the victims. The Commission welcomed cooperation with the human rights organizations in a letter sent by Mr. William Schabas, Head of the Commission, to Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR.

PCHR and the other human rights organizations provided the Commission assistance to investigate Israeli attacks on UN buildings during the offensive. They provided the Commission with accurate information, testimonies and affidavits they collected during and after the offensive.



A consultation meeting held by human rights organizations concerning the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict

2. Working with UN Human Rights Mechanisms

PCHR has a consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council. Therefore, it is able to directly intervene with UN human rights mechanisms, including human rights treaty bodies. In 2014, PCHR continued to cooperate with these bodies and provide them with information relating to the human rights conditions in the oPt.

3. PCHR's Efforts to Internationalize the Cause of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

As part of its ongoing efforts in support for Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli prisons and advocacy for this humanitarian, legal and political cause, on 12 June, PCHR received an international delegation from the committees of solidarity with the Palestinian people in Spain, Venezuela and France. The visit aimed to explore living conditions of the Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails, especially the prisoners who suffer from health problems and the administrative detainees. The delegation members intended to organize campaigns in their countries targeting politicians and members of the parliaments in order to encourage them to support the cause of the Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike.

4. Traveling abroad and Receiving International Delegation

In spite of the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and the continuous restrictions on movement, PCHR continued its efforts to increase the awareness of the international community about human rights violations perpetrated against the Palestinian people. When PCHR's Director and staff members were able to travel, they held meetings with relevant organizations that discussed the human rights conditions in the oPt. PCHR also received a number of international delegations and figures and provided them with first-hand information about the human rights conditions in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip after the latest Israeli offensive.

5. Palestine's Accession to the Rome Statute of International Criminal Court

PCHR welcomed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' ratification of the Rome Statute of International Criminal Court. PCHR viewed this important

development as a major turning point in the legal struggle to combat the culture of impunity, which would allow prosecuting suspected Israeli war criminals before the International Criminal Court. On 31 December 2014, it was reported in Ramallah President Abbas ratified the Rome Statute together with 19 international treaties.

Palestine's accession to the Rome Statute had been a major demand by PCHR and other Palestinian and international human rights organizations since Palestine was recognized as a non-member observer State in the United National according to the UN General Assembly's Resolution on 29 November 2012.

On 10 December 2012, PCHR launched a campaign to lobby with the Palestinian Authority and the international community to allow Palestine to accede to the Rome Statute and ensure prosecution of suspected Israeli war criminals. PCHR believes that the ratification of the Rome Statute constitute a victory of the human rights movement and victims in Palestine. Accession to the Rome Statute constitutes a major development in the legal struggle to confront crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinian civilians and civilian objects in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, especially settlement activities and land confiscation, the construction of the annexation wall, willful killings, the illegal siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and other crimes and policies of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilians.

PCHR is currently preparing all necessary information, documents and evidence for any future investigations that may be conducted by the International Criminal Court in crimes committed by Israel in the oPt, some of which may amount to the level of crimes against humanity. PCHR hopes that the Palestinian Authority will refer all necessary data to the International Criminal Court as soon as possible to allow it to immediately investigate Israeli crimes. PCHR is willing to fully cooperate in this regard by providing all the information and experience it has in this field. PCHR will contact the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to initiate inquiries and investigation based on the authorities is has according to article 15 of the Rome Statute.

Third: Joint Report with IDMC

On 01 February 2014, "Under Fire", a joint report prepared by PCHR and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, was published in London. The report addresses Israeli human rights violations in the Access-Restricted Areas (ARA) on land and in the sea in the Gaza Strip, highlighting the suffering of the civilian population, including farmers and fishermen, in these areas as a result of Israeli attacks, including the restrictions on the movement, repeated targeting of civilians by gunfire and limiting the fishing area. The publication of the report was declared in a special event organized in London, in which Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated from Gaza via Skype. On 3 April 2014, the report was published in Gaza City in an event, in which international diplomats and representatives of civil society groups and international organizations working in the oPt participated.



A meeting organized on 14 April to present "Under Fire", a report prepared jointly by IDMC and PCHR



Mr. Raji Sourani during the meeting organized by NRC on 3 April to announce the publication of "Under Fire", a report issued jointly with PCHR

Fourth: Networking with Other Organizations

In 2014, PCHR promoted networking with the Palestinian civil society. It maintained coordination with human rights organizations, Palestinian NGO Network and dozens of other NGOs in order to promote human rights and democracy in the Palestinian society to confront Israeli war crimes and the Palestinian Authority's violation of human rights. These efforts played a major role in establishing common positions highlighting human rights violations perpetrated against the Palestinian people and stopping some of them. Networking with other human rights organizations was evident during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

PCHR held several meetings with civil society organizations to discuss developments, coordinate efforts, issue joint statements and organize conferences and workshops. These efforts played a major role in forming common positions that highlighted human rights violations perpetrated against the Palestinian people and contributed to stopping some of them.

1. Activating Efforts of the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC)

In 2014, PCHR enhanced its activities in the PHROC, a body that includes 12 Palestinian human rights organizations, which was established in order to unify efforts to promote and protect human rights in the Palestinian society, report on Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians and confront violations of rights and liberties in the Palestinian Authority areas. PCHR joined PHROC in 2013. In 2014, PHROC united the efforts in regards to a number of issues relating to systematic and serious human rights violations in Palestine. PHROC issued a number of statements in 2014:

- » On 10 March 2014, PHROC issued a statement demanding opening Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian border immediately.
- » On 14 June 2014, PHROC issued a statement condemns attacks on peaceful demonstrations organized in the West Bank in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.



Human rights organizations express solidarity with Palestinian prisoners on hunger strikes by visiting a solidarity sit-in tent on 10 June



A meeting of the Human Rights Secretariat Council held in PCHR's head office in Gaza on 4 September

2. Promoting Joint Work with Civil Society Organizations, Including PNGO and Human Rights Organizations

The year was characterized by enhanced joint work with human rights organizations and the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO). The cooperation included organizing conferences and preparing joint memoranda and statements. On 25 November 2013, PCHR and PNGO published an appeal calling for immediately ending the Palestinian political division in light of the deterioration of socio-economic and political conditions in the oPt, especially following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. On 15 October 2014, human rights organizations and PNGO issued a joint statement demanding Mr. Pan Ki Moon, UN Secretary-General, to work towards lifting the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip rather than legitimizing it by adopting the Serri Plan for Gaza reconstruction. On 29 March 2014, PNGO and human rights organizations issued a statement rejecting a bill for physical penalties in the Gaza Strip, which violates human rights.

PCHR cooperated with human rights organizations concerning a number of important issues, on which a number of joint statements were issued. In this context, PCHR, Al Mezan Center of Human Rights and Al Dameer Association for Human Rights organized a joint visit to Shifa Hospital to check the conditions there in light of the strike declared by cleaning workers. They then issued a joint statement demanding concerned authorities to fulfill their obligations towards this crisis.

PCHR and the other human rights organization suspended their work on 5 June 2014 to join the sit-in tent established in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails who were on hunger strike.

In 2014, PCHR presented a research paper on the mechanisms of incorporating human rights standards in the legal system of associations in Palestine, in a joint event with PNGO and human rights organizations.

3. Networking with Grassroots Organizations and Youth Movements

PCHR continued to coordinate and cooperate with grassroots organizations and youth movements to organize joint activities. In this context, PCHR organized 150 events that included training courses, workshops and awareness meetings, in cooperation with 145 grassroots organizations and youth movements. PCHR continued also to encourage youth activities by maintaining cooperation with youth movements. PCHR pays a special attention for ensuring attendance by representatives of grassroots organizations and youth movements of all activities organized by PCHR. PCHR supports these organizations by using their resources to organize workshops in return for a certain amount.

Fifth: Efforts to Enhance Activities on Gender Issues

In 2014, PCHR continued its efforts to incorporate gender aspects in its policies and programs. PCHR started in the past years working on incorporating gender aspects in its plans and programs and by increasing women's representation in decision-making and management of PCHR's programs and activities. In 2014, these efforts were reflected at several levels the most notable of which are:

1. **Incorporating gender issued in** PCHR's strategic plan for the upcoming years, which was based on establishing a comprehensive and integrated vision to incorporate gender issues in PCHR's policies and programs, in addition to taking steps and actions at the levels of programs and activities to enhance gender incorporation.
2. PCHR followed a balanced employment and training policies, and it absorbed a number of trainers most of them were women.
3. PCHR organized a two-training days on well-being and self-care for the female staff following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. The female staff put a strategy to complete efforts to enhance well-being and self-care which had a positive effect on them.
4. PCHR paid attention to gender balance in all its activities in 2014, and a large number of women from various social, education and age background were targeted by these activities.
5. PCHR monitored, documented and highlighted violations of women's rights, especially killings in various contexts.

Sixth: Libeling Campaigns against PCHR

Right-wing Israeli groups, supported by the Israeli government, launched more labeling campaigns against PCHR by publishing rumors and lies concerning PCHR's activities, inciting against it and demanding the international community and organizations to boycott PCHR. These efforts reached the meanest level when they were carried out by Israeli officials, when the Israeli envoy to the United National criticized Palestinian human rights organizations, especially PCHR. He accused OCHA of deviating from its humanitarian mandate by funding PCHR, which seeks to hold Israeli soldiers accountable in order to cause damage to Israel, according to his claims. He demanded the UN Secretary General to monitor UN funds because they are allegedly used for incitement against Israel.

These efforts are part of a systematic policy adopted by the Israeli government to silence the Palestinian voice in the international arena by desperate attempts to undermine PCHR's credibility. The Israeli government plays this suspicious role through extremist organizations under several names, the most extremist of which is an organization known as "NGO Monitoring", which claims to be a civil society organization in spite its explicit goal to undermine any civil society group that criticizes Israeli practices which constitute serious human rights violations, and even war crimes and crimes against humanity. On 10 August 2014, this organization published a statement introducing PCHR, through which it attempted to distort some positions of PCHR in an attempt to undermine its credibility.



Continued Institutionalization and Capacity Building in PCHR



In 2014, PCHR continued efforts to enhance the processes of institutionalization and capacity building in various directions: 1) Holding regular meetings of leading administrative and program bodies; 2) Setting a strategic plan for 2015-2017; and 3) Capacity building of human resources.

1. Regular Meetings of Leading Bodies

A meeting of PCHR's Board of Directors in November



Meetings of the Board of Directors

In 2014, the Board of Directors held six meetings during which it discussed various issues relating to administrative and financial policies. It also extensively discussed the strategic plan for 2015-2017.

The meeting of PCHR's General Assembly on 23 December

Meetings of the General Assembly

On 22 December 2014, the General Assembly of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) held two consecutive meetings in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of National Economy and Corporate Comptroller of the Palestinian Authority. The meetings were headed by Dr. Riyadh al-Za'noun, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and was attended by the Board members, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, and members of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly held its first extraordinary meeting to discuss the letter of the acting undersecretary of the Ministry and Corporate Comptroller on correcting the status of the company according to the Council of Ministers' decision no. 412/2011 relevant to non-profit companies. The General Assem-

bly decided to increase the capital of PCHR from US\$ 10,000 to JD 20,000 and to amend article 6 of the rules of procedure in conformity with the Council of Ministers' decision. Moreover, the General Assembly decided to amend article 22 of the rules of procedure and increase the minimum number of Board members from 2 to 5 and the maximum from 4 to 11 members.

The General Assembly dedicated its ordinary annual meeting to address and approve the 2013 administrative report and the 2013 auditor's report and to select an auditor for 2014. The administrative report presented by Mr. Sourani and auditor's report were both approved by the General Assembly. Furthermore, the General Assembly agreed on the Board's

nomination of Ernst and Young as the auditor for 2014.

Meetings of the Program Committee

The Program Committee, which supervises PCHR's activities and which includes directors of the units, headed by Director of PCHR or his Deputy for Program Affairs, held 19 meetings. A number of meetings were devoted to discuss strategic planning for the upcoming stage, including setting a new action plan for the next three years.

2. Setting a Strategic Plan for 2015-2017

By the end of 2014, PCHR had completed setting the new strategic action plan for 2015-2017, as the previous plan for 2012-2014 ended. The process of preparing the plan took several months and was suspended during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. All PCHR's bodies and staff contributed to this process. The Board of Directors and the Program Committee held a number of joint meetings. PCHR's leading bodies also held a series of meetings with representatives of civil society organizations, political powers, human rights organizations and the media. In addition, PCHR's units held meetings with various segments of the beneficiaries.

3. Capacity Building and Human Resources Development

This includes capacity building of the staff through training, scholarships and experience exchange. This process continued in 2014 as a number of staff members participated in local and international activities, the most notable of which were:

a. In May 2014, the finance staff participated in a training course on preparing financial reports and balance sheets and structuring projects implemented by the Training and Management Institute (Tami) funded by Christian Aid.

- b. In May 2014, Rawan Abu Shahla, from the Finance Department, participated in a training course on need assessment organized by Dan Church Aid.
- c. Mohammed Abu Hashem, from the Democratic Development Unit participated in an online training course in January-April 2014 on advocacy and campaigning organized by NOVACT and Barcelona University. Abu Hashem was selected to participate in two training courses in Madrid and Barcelona organized by NOVACT on lobbying and advocacy campaigns for three weeks, which were followed by a two-month online training to present and discuss projects.
- d. In November 2014, the directors of PCHR's units and a number of staff members participated in a training course on strategic planning implemented by Oxfam in the context of a project funded by the European Union.
- e. In the period 20 October-17 December 2014, Fadel al-Muzeini, from the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, participated in the rest and respite program organized by Frontline Defenders in Ireland.
- f. Hany Abu Nahla, from the Translation Unit, joined postgraduate studies in Ireland to obtain the master degree in human rights under a scholarship offered by Irish Aid.
- g. In the period 6 October-10 December 2014, Mohammed Alami, a lawyer in the Legal Aid Unit, participated in the exchange program with the European Center of Constitutional and Human Rights in Berlin.
- h. In the period 1-8 June 2014, Mahmoud al-Efrangi, a researched in the Democratic Development Unit, participated in a training course on accountability under international law organized in Jordan by Al Haq and Al Haq Center for Applied International Law.
- i. In December 2014, a number of field workers participated in a training course on monitoring, documentation and reporting organized by the Arab Organization for Human Rights in Cairo.



Participants in a training course on preparing financial reports and balance sheets and structuring projects



ACTIVITIES OF PCHR'S UNITS



FIELD WORK UNIT

In 2014, the Field Work Unit continued to monitor and document the human rights situation throughout the oPt as set out in its annual plan. This year was characterized by additional activities and workload especially in its second half, as in June Israeli forces escalated their violent attacks against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, particularly in Hebron, while in July they launched an unprecedented offensive on the Gaza Strip, so field workers had to work 24 hours a day throughout the 51 days of the offensive. PCHR, in cooperation with other human rights organizations in the Gaza Strip, recruited a number of volunteers in order to document human rights violations during the offensive. The unit supervised these volunteers who worked for two months.

The unit is the major artery that provides PCHR with information and data on human rights violations. The field workers of the unit in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip monitor and document human rights violations, and interview victims or their families and encourage them to refer to PCHR to seek legal assistance and remedy. The unit further produces weekly reports and several press releases on Israeli human rights violations in the oPt. Additionally, the unit monitors and documents human rights violations at the internal Palestinian level both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and refers the documented materials to relevant PCHR units. Staff members of the unit participate in various community activities and constitute a means of communication between PCHR and the society.

In the second half of 2014, the Israeli forces launched an unprecedented offensive on the Gaza Strip, which left disastrous consequences on all aspects of life. Thousands of Palestinian civilians were killed or wounded and extensive destruction was inflicted on houses, civilian facilities and the infrastructure. At the same time, the Israeli forces have continued to impose a total closure for more than seven years, violating all fundamental rights of the Palestinian civilian population. In 2014, the Israeli forces continued to bombard Palestinian civilian property and conduct limited incursions into Palestinian areas located along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. They also continued to attack Palestinian civilians in access-restricted areas along the eastern and northern border of the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, the Israeli forces and settlers escalated attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property, and continued efforts to create a Jewish demographic majority in East Jerusalem. They further maintained hundreds of checkpoints which restricted the movement of Palestinian civilians throughout the West Bank. In June, the Israeli forces launched violent attacks against the Palestinian civilian population following the deaths of three Israeli settlers.

At the internal Palestinian level, the political split continued to impact on all aspect of life in the Palestinian Authority controlled areas. In this regard, the unit continued to monitor and document human rights violations at the Palestinian level in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

output (1)

Documentation of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the oPt

- A. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the Israeli forces
- B. Palestinian violations of human rights

A. Documentation of Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law by the Israeli Forces

The unit carried out the following activities:

1. Documentation of willful and extra-judicial killings, injuries, bombardments, incursions, house raids and arrests perpetrated by the Israeli forces

According to the unit's documentation, in 2014 the Israeli forces killed 2,281 Palestinians, including 1,693 civilians (including 566 children and 291 women). They also wounded 11,724 Palestinians, including 3,443 children and 2,136 women. During the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer, 2,217 Palestinians were killed, including 1,642 civilians (including 554 children and 290 women), and 10,895 others were wounded, including 3,306 children and 2,114 women.

Additionally, the Israeli forces arrested 3,340 Palestinians, including 46 fishermen and 24 Palestinians who were arrested while attempting to infiltrate into Israel through the Gaza Strip border. This number includes 459 children and 49 women.



Emad Hawash, PCHR's field worker in Hebron, documents Israeli attacks

The unit further documented at least 3,215 Israeli incursions into Palestinian communities, during which 3,035 Palestinians were arrested. The Israeli forces also launched approximately 10,000 aerial, ground and naval bombing attacks, mostly during the offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer.

2. Documentation of restrictions imposed by the Israeli on the freedom of movement

The unit monitored and documented restrictions imposed by the Israeli forces on the freedom of movement, including the tightened closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its impacts on the Palestinian civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. In this context, field workers wrote 192 reports on the movement of goods and persons, including patients, at border crossings of the Gaza Strip. The unit also documented establishing 1,182 temporary checkpoints, in addition to 99 permanent ones, in the west of Bank, which restricted the movement of Palestinian civilians and the denied access of Palestinian farmers to their lands. In this context, the unit documented 292 cases of arresting Palestinians at military checkpoints in the West Bank and at Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in the Gaza Strip, including 73 children and 8 women. It also documented two deaths as a result of denial of their access to medical treatment. The unit also wrote dozens of reports on the impacts of the closure on the infrastructure, education, health and other vital sectors, including fishing, in the Gaza Strip.

3. Documentation of civilian property confiscation and destruction

The Gaza Strip:

In 2014, excluding the offensive in summer, the Israeli forces demolished 13 houses and destroyed 7 civilian facilities.

During the offensive, according to monitoring and documentation by PCHR and other human rights organizations in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli forces destroyed 8,347 houses completely and 23,685 other partially, in which 251,675 individuals, including 125,117 children

and 67,607 women, live. The Israeli forces also leveled 10,894.017 dunums of agricultural land, and destroyed 125 educational facilities, 1,592 commercial facilities, 214 industrial facilities and 194 mosques.

The West Bank:

The Israeli forces destroyed 198 houses, including 96 ones in East Jerusalem. They also blew up three houses in Hebron and East Jerusalem. Additionally, they destroyed 149 civilian facilities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The document further documented uprooting and damaging hundreds of trees.



Sabreen al-Tartour, a PCHR field worker in Gaza City, takes an affidavit from a victim

4. Documentation of settlement activities, attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property and developments related to the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank

In 2014, the unit documented at least 200 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and property. The unit documented also 305 attacks by the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders during the dispersion of peaceful demonstrations organized in protest to the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank. These attacks resulted in at least 363 injuries and 66 detentions. The unit documented also 12 cases of denial of farmers' access to their lands.

5. Documentation of violations of the right to freedom of expression attacks against journalists and media institutions

In 2014, the unit documented 12 attacks by the Israeli forces against journalists and media institutions, including closure of a number of institutions, and at least 305 attacks against local and international human rights defenders to prevent them from participating in activities against the construction of the annexation wall.

6. Database of killings, injuries, house demolitions and land leveling, bombardments and detentions

In 2014, the unit entered at least 4,700 files into the database. The unit and other human rights organizations entered 49,426 files relating to the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip into the database.

To be able to document such human rights violations, field workers carry out the following activities:

1. Field Visits and First-Hand Information

Field workers conduct visits to the sites of violations of human rights, despite the dangers often existing in these areas. On average, a field worker can make 2-3 field visits to document one incident.

In 2014, field workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank conducted approximately 50,000 field visits.

2. Interviews with Victims and/or Their Families and Eyewitnesses

Field workers usually make interviews with several people on every single violation in order to verify the accuracy of information. Eyewitnesses are very important to draw a clear and real picture of single violations, especially when field workers are not able to reach immediately following a violation having taken place due to dangers they may face. Field workers have to work hard in this regard as they have to interview as many people as possible to ensure the accuracy of information, and interviews usually take long times.

In 2014, the field workers made at least 40,000 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses. They also gathered at least 1,000 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

3. Completion of Forms for Reports on Violations of Human Rights

These forms are designed to gather clear and accurate information to be entered into the database. Each form requests basic details on an incident, its location, timing, victim and witnesses. Field workers are required to complete a form for each violation they report. Many incidents require a number of different individual reports.

4. Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

Field workers are required to take photographs or video footages of the scenes of violations wherever possible. Photographic or video evidence can provide valuable record of incidents for both legal and historical records.

The unit took hundreds of photographs of human rights violations.

5. Collating Other Documentation Related to Human Rights Violations

Documents, including medical reports, ownership documents, personal photographs, clichés and maps, are also necessary evidence for legal and historical record of incidents.

In 2014, approximately 8,000 documents were collected.

6. Writing Reports on Human Rights Violations

Field workers wrote detailed reports on human rights violations, in which eyewitnesses' testimonies and the field workers' notes are included, to give a comprehensive description of violations.

In 2014, the field workers wrote at least field reports on human rights violations.

7. Scanning of Documents to Be Entered into the Database.

The documents were scanned and then entered into PCHR's database under the unit's supervision.

Indicators

- » The number of visits, the number of reports, the number of interviews, the number of affidavits, the number of photographs, the number of press releases, the number of forms and the number of documents entered into the database.
- » All documented human rights violations were entered into PCHR's database.
- » All human rights violations were covered in 51 weekly reports.
- » A number of cases were referred to PCHR Legal Aid Unit.
- » Documents related to restrictions on the freedom of movement were referred to PCHR Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- » Materials available at the unit were used in writing PCHR's annual report on the human rights situation in the oPt.
- » Documents related to attacks on journalists were used in *Silencing the Press*, a report prepared by the Democratic Development Unit's on Israeli attacks against journalists.
- » Photographs taken by field workers were put on PCHR's web site and publications.
- » Materials available at the unit were used in press releases and reports issued by PCHR, especially the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit.
- » The unit director received dozens of phone calls from other organizations inquiring about human rights violations.
- » Materials available at the unit, including figures and statistics, were used in media interviews by PCHR staff, and they were also used by international inquiry missions that visited the Gaza Strip.

Means of Verification

- » Documentation of the number of visits, the number of reports, the number of interviews, the number of affidavits, the number of photographs, the number of press releases, the number of forms and the number of documents entered into the database.
- » Dozens of photographs taken by field workers were published on PCHR's web site.
- » The unit received dozens of phone calls inquiring about certain human rights violations.
- » The unit wrote 51 weekly reports and 114 press releases.
- » PCHR published 6 updates on Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR published a report on violations of children's rights in the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR published 12 updates on Israeli attacks in access-restricted areas in the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR published a report on the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR published two reports on the human rights situation in the oPt in the first and second quarters of 2014.
- » PCHR, in cooperation with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, published a report on Israeli attacks in the access-restricted areas in the Gaza Strip.
- » Weekly reports and press releases prepared by the unit were published on PCHR's web site.
- » All human rights violations were entered into PCHR's database.
- » The unit's staff conducted 16 media interviews.

B. Documentation of Palestinian Violations of Human Rights

The unit carried out the following activities:

1. Documentation of the State of Lawlessness and Proliferation of Weapons

- » Documentation of Killings and Injuries

In this context, the unit documented 132 killings, including 3 women killed allegedly to protect “family honor.” The unit documented also 110 injuries, including 26 children and 8 women.

2. Documentation of cases of medical negligence at health care facilities that result in deaths

The unit documented 6 cases of alleged medical negligence.

3. Documentation of mass and individual arrests (political arrests) by security services of the Gaza government and Security Services in the West Bank

The unit documented 70 political arrests in the West Bank, and dozens of summonses for members of Fatah movement or on the ground of opinion and expression in the Gaza Strip.

4. Documentation of cases of torture in detention centers administered by security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

The unit documented 22 cases of torture.

5. Documentation of Attacks on Public Freedoms and the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Attacks on Journalists and Media Institutions

In this context, the unit documented 15 attacks.

To be able to document human rights violations, field workers carry out the following activities:

1. Field Visits and First-Hand Information

Field workers conducted field visits to scenes of incidents, police stations, and hospitals to obtain further information on incidents. They also interviewed eyewitnesses. Field workers conducted at least 630 field visits in 2014.

2. Interviews with Victims and/or Families and Eyewitnesses

Field workers are required to conduct interviews with several people regarding each incident in order to verify/cross-check information. Difficulties in obtaining accurate and detailed statements include witnesses’ fears of reprisals. In 2014, field workers made at least 350 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses, and gathered at least 300 testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses.

3. Completion of Forms for Reports on Violations of Human Rights

These forms are designed to gather clear and accurate information to be entered into the database. Each form requests basic details on an incident, its location, timing, victim and witnesses. Field workers are required to complete a form for each violation they report. In 2014, field workers completed 273 forms.

4. Collating Photographic/Video Evidence

Dozens of photographs of human rights violations were collated.

5. Collating Other Documents Related to Human Rights Violations

The unit collected 130 documents that were transferred to other units.

6. Writing Reports on Human Rights Violations

In 2014, field workers wrote at least 537 reports on human rights violations.

Indicators

- » Information related to killings and injuries was entered into the database.
- » Cases documented by the unit with regard to the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons were transferred to PCHR Democratic Development Unit to write press releases and field updates.
- » Cases documented by the unit with regard to killings for family honor were transferred to Women's Rights Unit and Democratic Development Unit.
- » These activities were widely covered by the media.
- » Information gathered by the unit was used in PCHR's annual report.
- » Photographs taken by field workers were used on PCHR's web site and publications.
- » Many cases related to assaults on public liberties, attacks on private property, political arrests, torture in detention facilities and closure of civil societies organizations or charities were referred to the Democratic Development Unit and the Legal Aid Unit.
- » Cases of violations of the right to freedom of opinion and the rights to peaceful assembly were referred to the Democratic Development Unit.
- » PCHR was accredited as a reliable source of information and statistics for international, regional and local organizations. The unit received many phone calls and e-mails requesting information.

Means of Verification

- » The unit has a well-classified database on such violations, which has been used by PCHR units and the media.
- » The unit has an archive of field photographs.
- » Information and photographs gathered by the unit were used by other local, regional and international organizations.
- » The unit received at least 15 phone calls from interested people inquiring about certain violations.
- » Information gathered by the unit and figures from the database were used in a number of reports, including "Report on the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression in the oPt."
- » PCHR issued 45 press releases on Palestinian human rights violations in the oPt.
- » PCHR issued 22 updates on the state of border crossings in the Gaza Strip.

output (2)

Reporting on Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the oPt

Verifiable Indicators

1. **Weekly Report on Israeli violations of human rights in the oPt**
2. **Press Releases on Israeli violations of human rights in the oPt**
3. **Strengthening relations with the community.**
4. **Escorting visiting international delegations in field tours**

1. **Weekly Report on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the oPt**

The unit prepares weekly reports on Israeli violations of human rights in the oPt. The weekly reports are based on information collated each week by the field workers and aim to provide a comprehensive account of Israeli violations of human rights of Palestinians throughout the oPt each week. They are published on Thursday in both Arabic and English.

Indicators

- » Preparation of weekly reports on Israeli violations of human rights in the oPt.
- » Dissemination of the report.

Means of Verification

- » The unit prepared 51 weekly reports in 2014.

- » Summaries of the reports are often published in local newspapers and some web sites.
- » The unit director received dozens of inquiries from a number of organizations and media institutions.
- » Some information included in the reports was used by PCHR's staff in their interventions at conferences and meetings abroad.

2. **Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the oPt**

The unit staff members prepare press releases on specific incidents as they occur. Press releases are issued on events that are of particular significance. Sometimes, two or more press releases are issued on a day.

Indicators

- » Preparation of press releases.

Means of Verification

- » The unit prepared 114 press releases on Israeli violations and another 45 ones on the internal situation.
- » Press releases are published on PCHR's web page and distributed by e-mail.
- » Press releases are often covered by local and international media.

3. Strengthening Relations with the Community

- **Meetings and Contacts with Victims of Human Rights Violations**

Field workers meet with victims of human rights violations, provide them with information about the services provided by PCHR and encourage them to go to PCHR's offices to receive appropriate legal aid and assistance.

- **Media Activities**

The unit's staff members were interviewed by the local and international media on violations of human rights perpetrated by IOF and on the deterioration of the internal situation in the oPt. In 2014, the unit's staff conducted 16 media interviews.

Indicators

- » People's visits to PCHR's offices to receive legal consultations or to know more about PCHR's activities.
- » Dissemination of copies of the weekly reports in the Gaza Strip and most areas in the West Bank.
- » Media interviews.
- » Cooperation of people with field workers
- » Cooperation of public institutions and security services with field workers.
- » Cases investigated by PCHR and legal aid provided accordingly.
- » Participation in community activities.
- » Interventions by the unit's staff at conferences and workshops.
- » Requests for information by scholars and university students for their research.

Means of Verification

- » Hundreds of victims refer to PCHR's Legal Aid Unit through field workers.
- » Dozens of people referred to PCHR to submit complaints with regard to human rights violations.
- » Hundreds of people participated in activities organized by PCHR, including conferences, workshops and training courses.
- » Hundreds of copies of weekly reports were circulated by field workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
- » The unit provided data and statistics to scholars and university students on human rights violations to assist them in their researches.
- » The unit's director and staff conducted 16 media interviews.

4. Escorting International Delegations on Field Visits

In 2014, the unit staff members escorted visiting international delegations and individuals on visits to locations throughout the Gaza Strip and provide on the spot briefings on recent incidents. They also organized meetings for international figures and PCHR international staff with victims.

Indicator

The unit staff members briefed the international delegations they escorted on the human rights situation in the oPt.

Means of Verification

In 2014, the unit staff members escorted visiting international delegations and individuals in at least 45 field visits throughout the Gaza Strip.

Other Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan

- The unit's staff participated in a meeting on combatting crimes held in Khan Yunis Municipality.
- The unit's staff participated on a conference against "family honor" killings.
- The field workers observed elections of the Chamber of Commerce.
- The unit's staff participated in two seminars on the youth and unemployment organized by the Community Media Center in Khuza'a village and al-Satar al-Gharbi area in Khan Yunis.
- The unit's staff participated in a course on psychological release organized by PCHR for its staff following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- The unit's staff participated in a number of activities organized by PCHR or other organizations in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails who were on hunger strikes.
- The unit held a meeting with activists of civil society groups to discuss its strategic plan.
- The unit's staff participated in a solidarity activity organized by Solidarity Association for Human Rights following detention of a number of its staff members.
- The unit's staff participated in a course on dealing with traumas.
- The unit's staff participated in a course on documentation and monitoring mechanisms organized by OHCHR.
- The unit's staff participated in a training or trainers course organized by PCHR.
- The unit's staff participated in a course on human rights documentation, monitoring and reporting organized by the Arab Organization for Human Rights in Cairo.
- The unit's staff participated in a training course on the documentation of violations by Israeli private security companies at checkpoints in the West Bank.





LEGAL AID UNIT

The unit made persistent efforts to complete all activities included in its annual plan for 2014 and made efforts to carry out all of these activities. The unit provides legal assistance to Palestinian victims of human rights violations at both the Israeli and Palestinian levels.

Israeli Agenda

The unit attempted to carry out all activities set out in its annual plan regarding to providing legal assistance to victims of human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli force.

output (1)

Legal Aid for Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails

1. Providing Medical Care to Prisoners
2. Ensuring Release, or Better Detention Conditions for Detainees
3. Determining the Legal Status and Places of Detention of Detainees
4. Participating in Meetings and Colloquia
5. Issuing Press Release

1. Providing Medical Care to Prisoners

The unit coordinated and cooperated with a number of Israeli health care organizations, including Physicians for Human Rights and the Public Committee against Torture in Israel, to follow up health conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails through providing physicians who visit the prisoners. In 2014, the unit followed up the health conditions of 13 Palestinian prisoners.

2. Ensuring Release of, or Better Detention Conditions for Detainees

The unit was able to provide legal aid to 5 Palestinian detainees to ensure their release from Israeli jails.

3. Determination of the Legal Status and Places of Detention of Detainees

a. Representing Palestinian Prisoners before Israeli Courts

- » The unit provided legal aid for 59 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, specifying places of their detention, visiting them and representing them before court.
- » The unit followed up detention conditions of 27 Palestinians who were arrested by Israeli forces during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. A unit lawyer visited 12 of those detainees in Ashkelon Prison.
- » The lawyer authorized by the unit conducted 10 visits to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails to check their health conditions and legal status.

b. Submitting Complaints and Petitions

- » The unit submitted 13 complaints to concerned Israeli authorities, including the Israeli Prison Service, the Public Prosecutor and the Military Advocate General, demanding release of detainees for the deterioration of their health conditions or transferring them to other places with adequate health services.

c. Legal Consultations to Families of Detainees

- » In 2014, the unit provided 132 legal consultations to families of detainees.

4. Participation in Meetings and Colloquia

In 2013, the unit lawyers held 5 meetings in regards to detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jail:

- » A meeting with ICRC protection department to discuss the human rights situation, possible cooperation and the detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
- » An interview with al-Quds TV on detention of patients at Erez crossing.
- » An interview with a-Hayat al-Jadeeda newspaper on detention of patients at Erez crossing.
- » An interview with al-Quds Radip on the deten-

tion of a wounded Palestinian.

- » An interview with ARTE TV on legal assistance provided to detained Palestinian fishermen.

5. Issuing Press Releases

- » On 16 June 2014, PCHR issued a press release on receiving an international delegation in the context of PCHR's efforts to internationalize the cause of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
- » On 11 September 2014, PCHR issued a press release condemning detention of a Palestinian who was wounded during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- » On 14 September 2014, PCHR issued a press release on its follow-up of detention conditions of Palestinians who were arrested during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- » On 23 November 2014, PCHR issued a press release on arresting a Palestinian patient at Erez crossing.

Indicators

- » The unit followed up health conditions of 13 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails to ensure better health conditions for them.
- » The unit provided legal assistance to 59 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
- » 5 prisoners, whose cases were pursued by the unit, were released.
- » The lawyer authorized by the unit conducted 10 visits to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
- » The unit submitted 13 complaints to concerned Israeli authorities.
- » The unit provided 132 legal consultations to families of Palestinian prisoners.
- » The unit participated in 5 meetings.
- » The unit issued 4 press releases.

Means of Verification

- » Observation of the number of detainees suffering from health problems.
- » Observation of the number of released detainees.
- » Observation of positive feedbacks to services provided by the unit.
- » Observation of increased cases of detention of Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip.

output (2)

Legal Aid for Victims of Israeli Violations of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law

1. Compensation for Victims
2. Prosecution of War Criminals

1. Compensation for Victims

To achieve this output, the unit carried out a number of activities as set out in its annual plan:

a. Legal Documentation

The unit has continued to document Israeli violations of human rights. The unit intensified its efforts to prepare legal files, especially for human rights violations perpetrated during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip (8 July – 26 August 2014), through the following steps in order to ensure access of victims to justice and remedy:

- » Examining the scenes of attacks.
- » Collating affidavits from eyewitnesses.
- » Taking photos and preparing sketches and aerial images of the scenes of attacks.
- » Obtaining necessary documents related to attacks.
- » Collecting any documents or statements issued by Israeli authorities with regard to attacks.
- » Collecting exhibits from the scenes of attacks.
- » Obtaining technical reports from EOD concerning the weapons used in attacks.
- » Obtaining powers of attorney from victims to legally represent them.

In 2014, the unit documented 254 files on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights related to 1,080 victims, as shown in the following table:

Table (1): Legal Files Prepared by the Unit on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in 2014

Violation	Number of Files
Killings	473
Injuries	348
Destruction or robbery of property	259
Total	1,080

b. Submitting Legal Complaints on Behalf of Victims to Concerned Bodies

In 2014, the unit submitted 254 complaints in regards to 1,080 Palestinian civilians who were subject to Israeli violations of human rights. These complaints were submitted to the Israeli Military Advocate General demanding reparation for the victims. They included cases of killings, injuries and destruction or robbery of property.

Table (2): Complaints Regarding Cases of Killing, Injuries and Destruction and Robbery of Property and Results of Pursuits in 2014

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints
Killing	473
Injuries	348
Destruction or robbery of property	259
Total	1,080

The unit also sent a number of reminding letter to the Israeli Military Advocate General and the compensation officer of the Israeli Defense Ministry regarding previous complaints.

In the addition, the unit sent written notices to the Israeli Defense Ministry in accordance with amendments made on 24 July 2002 to the Tort Law – Liability of the State of 1952, which requires sending a written notice within 60 days from the date of an incident to ensure that the right to judicial claims within two years from an incident is not lost. In 2014, the unit sent 1,080 written notices to the compensation officer of the Israeli Defense Ministry, including 1,062 ones concerning victims of “Operation Protective Edge” launched by Israel against the Gaza Strip.

c. Complaints Concerning Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

In 2014, the unit pursued 16 complaints concerning attacks against Palestinian fishermen, including some from previous years. These complaints were sent to the legal advisor of the Israeli Defense Ministry, the compensation officer, the claims and compensation department and the legal advisor of the Israeli Navy.

Table (3): Complaints Concerning Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen

Subject of Complaint	Number	Current Status		
		Positive	Negative	Under pursuit
Confiscation of fishing boats	14	1		
Destruction of fishing boats	1			1
Wounding fishermen	1			1
Total	16	1		15

d. Claims before the Israeli Judiciary

- » In 2013, the unit filed two compensation claims before the Israeli judiciary concerning journalists who were killed by Israeli forces. It also followed up several cases in the Israeli courts filed against the State of Israel on behalf of victims of Israeli violations of human rights, including killings, injuries, house demolitions and destruction of fishing boats. The unit demanded compensation for the victims.
- » The unit submitted an objection to the Israeli Military Advocate General concerning limiting the area of fishing in the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit filed dozens appeals at Israeli courts against decisions to dismiss cases based on Amendment No. 8/2012, and in regards to procedures related to powers of attorney.
- » The unit followed up a petition filed on 27 December 2012, in cooperation with a number of human rights organizations, before the Israeli Supreme Court against preventing Palestinians from the Gaza Strip who file

claims against Israeli forces from entering Israel to appear before Israeli courts.

It should be noticed that Israeli courts issued a number of decisions that makes it impossible for Palestinian victims to judicial remedy. These decisions compel each claimant in a civil case to pay a court insurance fee (guaranty) of 20,000 NIS before the court will allow the case to proceed. If the money is not paid within 120 days, the claim will be dismissed.

According to the Israeli law, civil claims must be filed within two years from the date of the event; otherwise, victims would lose their right to effective remedy. Fulfilling this condition is extremely difficult, especially in light of the Israeli restrictive measures imposed on the Gaza Strip. Two years of restrictions mean that victims would not be able to file their

claims on due time. Before the 1st of August 2002, such period had been 7 years, but the Israeli Knesset amended the law decreasing it to two years, apparently to deprive Palestinians of their right to file judicial claims.

Israeli courts often require plaintiffs to pay insurance fees before initiating the judicial procedures. Such fees are left for estimations of courts. Concerning claims related to damages incurred to property, the fees are proportions of the values of property. In claims related to killings and injuries, there is no specific range for fees.

Under the Israeli law, for a testimony or an affidavit to be legal, an eyewitness or a victim must physically appear before a court. Since 2007, in spite of decisions by courts summoning victims or eyewitnesses, IOF have prevented them from traveling outside the Gaza Strip.

e. Meetings and Seminars

In 2013, the unit held 8 meetings concerning Israeli violations of human rights and legal assistance provided to victims:

- » Two interviews with al-Quds TV on the anniversary of the Israeli attack on al-Fakhoura School during “Operation Cast Lead”, and on legal developments relating to al-Quds TV’s case before Israeli courts.
- » An interview with al-Aqsa TV on the sixth anniversary of “Operation Cast Lead” and PCHR’s legal work in this regard, and two interviews about journalists killed during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit held a meeting in the office of the Human Rights Defenders Network on preparing legal files.
- » Due work requirements, the unit director, lawyer lyad Alami, and lawyer Mohammed Alami held two meetings on 25 and 30 December 2014 with the Israeli Deputy Military Advocate General, his assistant, a member of the inquiry committee established by the Israeli military and the manager of Erez crossing in the latter’s office at Erez crossing. The meeting discussed complaints submitted by PCHR concerning Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians and property during “Operation Protective Edge”. The meeting discussed also some cases related the right to freedom of movement.
- » Based on the unit’s interventions with the Israeli military police concerning cases that have been investigated, the unit sent evidence concerning the attack on Mohammed al-Abadla, an ambulance driver, in Khan Yunis, and the attack on Ahmed al-Bura’ei, a paramedic, in the northern Gaza Strip. The evidence included medical reports and testimonies of witnesses. The unit coordinated for the witnesses to meet with the Israeli military police in the present of PCHR lawyers.

Lawyer Mohammed Alami takes an affidavit from a victim of «Operation Protective Edge»



f. Issuing Press Releases

The unit issued a press release on the unit's success to ensure compensation for the al-Tilbani family through Israeli courts.

Indicators

- » The unit documented 254 legal files.
- » The unit submitted 254 complaints concerning cases of killing and destruction and robbery of property, on behalf of 1,080 victims.
- » The unit sent 1,080 written notices to the Compensation Officer of the Israeli Defense Ministry.
- » The unit received 10 responses to complaints concerning "Operation Protective Edge": 4 negative ones; 5 ones on decisions to initiate investigations; and a general one concerning 225 complaints that they were referred to concerned authorities.
- » The unit submitted 16 complaints regarding attacks against Palestinian fishermen.
- » A fishing boat were returned.
- » An objection was submitted to the Israeli Military Advocate General concerning limiting the area of fishing in the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit received 9 negative responses to objection submitted to the Israeli Military Advocate General concerning closing criminal complaints relating to attacks during "Operation Pillar of Defense".
- » 5 claims were dismissed because of non-payment of financial guaranties.
- » The unit pursued 27 compensation claims before Israeli courts on behalf of victims.
- » Israeli courts issued a number of arbitrary decisions against victims by compelling each claimant to pay a financial guaranty that amounts to 20,000 NIS.
- » The unit lawyers held 8 meetings.
- » The unit issued one press release.

Success Stories

- » *The unit succeeded in ensuring remedy for the family of 'Ahed al-Telbani, from al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, who was killed by the Israeli forces 13 years ago. Following years of legal work and persistent follow-up, a settlement was concluded with the Israeli Military Advocate General's representatives to pay 175,000 NIS for the heirs of the aforementioned civilian in exchange for closing the case. On 31 January 2001, Israeli forces stationed at al-Shuhadaa' intersection "previously called Netzarim", south of Gaza City, opened fire at a cap belonging to al-Telbani from a very close range while he was passing the intersection. As a result, he was killed.*
- » *During "Operation Protective Edge", PCHR lawyers were able to assist 15 families who were caught in a dangerous area. The lawyers made contacts with the ICRC to secure their evacuation by ambulances to a safer area.*



PCHR lawyers delivers a compensation amount obtained from Israeli authorities to the al-Talbani family

Means of Verification

- » The unit established 241 files of human rights violations that were sent to the Israeli Military Advocate General, including killings, injuries and destruction or robbery of property.
- » In 2014, the unit received 39 responses from Israeli official bodies to its correspondences.

Table (4): Responses Received by the Unit from Israeli Authorities in 2014

Concerned Party	Positive	Negative	Under pursuit	Total
Compensation officer at Defense Ministry	Nil	1	7	8
MAG	Nil	13	18	31
Total	Nil	14	25	39

- » The unit received a response from the Israeli Military Advocate General confirming that the 225 complaints submitted by PCHR concerning “Operation Protective Edge” were received and were being considered by concerned authorities.
- » Observation of Israel’s disregard for the rights of Palestinian victims and the international law, as 4 complaints relating to “Operation Protective Edge” were dismissed.
- » Observation of continued Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen.
- » Arbitrary Israeli court rulings, especially concerning compensation claims as a number of claims were dismissed because the victims were not able to pay the financial guaranties.
- » Observation of the threats of dismissing many claims at Israeli courts because of non-payment of financial guaranties
- » Decisions by Israeli court to dismiss 5 compensation claims.

2. Prosecution of War Criminals

Prosecution of Israeli war criminals occupies a major part of the unit’s activities, as the Israeli judicial system has failed to ensure justice for Palestinian civilians and has worked to provide a legal cover for crimes committed by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians. To achieve this output, the unit carried out a number of activities as set out in its annual plan:

a. Legal Documentation

The unit has continued to document Israeli violation of human rights. In 2014, the unit established 254 files on Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights.



Lawyer Khalil al-Wazeer takes an affidavit from a victim of torture

b. *Contacts with International Attorneys and Legal Experts*

The unit has maintained contacts with international attorneys and legal experts in the context of its efforts to search for and prosecute Israeli war criminals before international tribunals. Following the end of “Operation Protective Edge”, PCHR lawyers held a series of meetings via video conference with a committee of international legal expert for the purpose of cooperation in investigating war crimes committed by Israeli forces during the operation. The committee was comprised of 7 legal and military experts from Italy, UK and Ireland. These meetings served to enrich PCHR lawyers’ long experience in establishing legal files, as the experts discussed with the lawyers a number of legal files to be prepared in accordance with international legal standards to be usable before international tribunals.

PCHR has also continued its regular activities in this regard:

- PCHR has prepared files and cases on behalf of victims of Israeli violations of human rights to be sued before national courts in other countries, especially the United Kingdom and Spain.
- PCHR has maintained cooperation with the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in New York and Hickman & Rose in London, which work on the prosecution of war criminals.
- PCHR has continued to follow up lawsuits filed against Israeli war criminals in the Netherlands and Spain.

c. *Meetings and Consultations with Experts on the Issue of Universal Jurisdiction*

The unit was not able to organize any meeting due to the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- » The unit has documented 254 legal files.
- » PCHR has prepared dozens of cases to be pursued under the principle of universal jurisdiction.
- » PCHR has continued to follow 3 claims against Israeli war criminals before the national judiciaries of the Netherlands and Spain.
- » PCHR has maintained efforts to prosecute Israeli war criminals before the national judiciaries of a number of European countries.
- » Movement of a number of Israeli officials responsible for war crimes against Palestinians has been restricted in a number of countries due to claims brought against them before courts.
- » The arrest warrant issued on 10 September 2005

by Chief London Magistrate Timothy Workman against Major General (retired) Doron Almog is still effective.

Means of Verification

- » This issue has attracted a special Palestinian, Israeli and international legal attention.
- » Raising this issue can deter many individuals from committing war crimes fearing from being prosecuted before the international judiciary.
- » Restricted movement of Israeli officials due to concerns that arrest warrants may be issued against them.

output (3)

Legal Aid to Those Who Are Denied Freedom of Movement

The unit continued to provide legal aid for Palestinian civilians with regard to restrictions imposed on their freedom of movement. Israel has continued to impose a tightened closure on the Gaza Strip and continued to close its border crossings. They imposed additional restriction on the movement of Palestinian civilians, including patients who need advanced medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip. To achieve this output, the unit carried out a number of activities as set out in its annual plan.

1. Complaints Regarding Freedom of Movement

In 2014, the unit pursued 219 complaints submitted to the humanitarian cases center at Erez crossings.

Table (5): Complaints Regarding Freedom of Movement and Results of Pursuits in 2014

Subject of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Current Status		
		Positive	Negative	Under pursuit
Denial of traveling to Israel for medical treatment	47	23	14	10
Denial of traveling to the West Bank and Jordan for medical treatment	118	44	41	33
Denial of traveling to accompany patients	9	4	2	3
Denial of traveling of traders to Israel and the West Bank	43	8	18	17
Denial of traveling of Palestinians to Israel and the West Bank to join their families	11	0	11	0
Preventing Palestinians from Jerusalem from entering Gaza	9	7	2	0
Preventing Palestinians from traveling to the West Bank to attend meetings or interviews in embassies	2	1	1	0
Denial of traveling to the West Bank and Jerusalem for religious purposes	5	1	4	0
Preventing Palestinians from traveling abroad for studying and for other purposes	47	27	15	5
Total	291	115	108	68

Additionally, the unit sent dozens of reminding letters in regards to complaints related to restriction on the freedom of movement.

2. Networking with Human Rights Organizations

PCHR has strong relations with a number of human rights organizations to ensure the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians. In this context, PCHR has relations with Physician for Human Rights in Israel. In 2014, the unit sent 102 letters to the External Medical Treatment Department in Gaza and to Physicians for Human Rights in Israel with regard restrictions imposed on access of patients from the Gaza Strip to medical treatment abroad and in Israel.

Indicators

- » In 2014, the unit pursued 219 complaints concerning freedom of movement.
- » The unit received 115 positive responses to the complaints it submitted.
- » The unit sent 102 letters to the External Medical Treatment Department in Gaza and to Physicians for Human Rights.
- » The unit received 100 positive responses to its letters to health organizations concerning patients.

Success Stories

1. “I have never realized the risk of being deprived of the ID card... at a moment it could mean life”

A. A., 36, began her talk to a PCHR lawyer when she resorted to PCHR seeking help to save her life.

Her problem started in February 2014, when she suffered from a cerebral hemorrhage due to hypertension, which resulted in paralyses to the right hand and foot. Doctors decided to urgent fix a filter in the leg to prevent the spread of clots to sensitive parts of the body. As this kind of treatment was not available in Gaza, she was immediately referred to al-Mezan Hospital in Hebron. Her family submitted an application to the Civil Affairs Department, but they did not receive any response because she did not have an ID card. On 23 February 2014, her husband came to PCHR seeking assistance. Immediately, PCHR intervened with concerned authorities, especially the humanitarian center at Erez Crossing and the Palestinian Ministry of Health. On 24 February, the lawyers' efforts proved fruitful and the patient travelled to al-Mezan Hospital in Hebron where she received the necessary medical treatment. She returned to Gaza one week later in a good health condition.

2. The unit provided legal assistance to a cancer patient

On 28 May 2014, N. J, traveled to the Arab Care Center to have atomic scanning, after the unit had intervened with concerned authorities. N. J. suffers from breast cancer, and doctors confirmed that medical treatment for her was not available in the Gaza Strip. Accordingly, she was referred to a hospital in the West Bank. On 29 April 2014, Israeli authorities rejected her application to travel to the West Bank through Erez crossing. She resorted to PCHR seeking assistance. Immediately, PCHR lawyers made necessary efforts to ensure her travel, and their efforts succeeded.

Means of Verification

- » The unit noticed continued restrictions imposed on the movement of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli forces.
- » The unit noticed cooperation between PCHR and many health and human rights organizations.

output (4)

Contribution to International Advocacy Projects

This output included a number of activities which were carried out in cooperation with PCHR's International Unit.

1. Contribution to interventions before UN bodies

The unit carried out this activity in cooperation with the International Unit, by providing it with necessary data to prepare interventions before UN bodies.

2. Providing assistance to international fact-finding missions

In 2013, the unit did not provide such assistance because no fact-finding missions came to the Gaza Strip. However, the unit director held 6 meetings with international figures who wished to know about the human rights situation in the oPt. He briefed them on the human rights situation in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip.

3. Testifying before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories.

In 2014, the unit director did not testify before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories.

output (5)

Providing Legal Aid to Ensure the Release Bodies of Palestinians Held by IOF

1. Complaints Demanding Release of Bodies

In 2014, the unit continued to follow up 14 cases of requests for return of victims' bodies, including cases from previous years. It also submitted 2 complains in this regard. Israeli authorities have continued to hold the bodies of some Palestinians, refusing to deliver them to their families for burial in violation of humanitarian norms.

2. Filing Claims

As the Israeli occupation authorities procrastinated in responding to PCHR's correspondences with regard to the release of bodies of victims, the unit filed an appeal at the appeal department of the Israeli Military Advocate General.

Indicators

- » The unit has followed up one appeal submitted to the appeal department of the Israeli military prosecution with regard to the release bodies of 16 victims.

Means of Verification

- » The unit noticed interest in its efforts in this regard.

Obstacles

- » Israeli authorities have continued to keep bodies of Palestinian victims.
- » The unit noticed political extortion by the Israeli occupation authorities in dealing with this use.

output (6)

Promotion of the Right of Health

1. Ensuring Financial Coverage and Ensuring Access to Medical Treatment

The unit has continued to provide legal services to patients. For this purpose it maintained communication with some health organizations, especially the External Medical Treatment Department of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, to ensure appointments and financial coverage for patients. In 2014, the unit provided assistance to 554 patients.

2. Coordination with Concerned Bodies to Ensure Travel of Patients

The unit facilitated coordination for the travel of 481 patients to hospitals outside the Gaza Strip through Erez crossing and Rafah International Crossing Points.

It should be noted that each patient has to pass through a series of complicated procedures in order to be able to travel for medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip. The unit provides another form of assistance with regard to patients whose condition cannot be diagnosed at local hospitals. It contacts relevant organizations, in order to ensure financial coverage and an appointment at an Israeli hospital.

Indicators

- » The unit ensured appointments and financial coverage for 554 patients.
- » The unit facilitated coordination for the travel of 481 patients.

Success Stories

1. During "Operation Protective Edge", the unit was able to facilitate the referral and travel of 149 patients to hospitals in Israel through Erez crossing. It obtained appointments for those patients and coordinated their travel through the crossing.
2. "I have made everything to save my sister, and you are my last resort..."

These were the words of a man who came to the unit on 6 January 2014 asking for help to save the life of his sister, A. M., who was suffering from leukemia and was in need for urgent transplantation of a spinal cord, but he could not afford to pay the high amount of money required for the operation. He pointed out that the Ministry of Health provided him with a small portion of the required amount, but he could not provide the remaining amount. Immediately, PCHR lawyer made contract with the Ministry of Health to cover the expenses of her treatment. The Ministry referred her to an Israeli hospital, and the maximum limit of the Ministry's financial coverage was 245,000 NIS, while the required amount was 357,713 NIS. Following PCHR's efforts, on 16 January 2014, the patient obtained the required amount for the operation.

Means of Verification

- » Positive feedbacks by clients.
- » The unit noticed cooperation by medical organizations and the Ministry of Health in Ramallah, especially during the closure of the External Medical Treatment Department.

Palestinian Agenda

In 2014, the negative developments at the internal Palestinian level impacted on activities conducted by the unit.

output (1)

Providing Legal Aid for Prisoners in Palestinian Jails

1. Stopping Political Arrests

The unit has made efforts to ensure the release of political prisoners. In 2014 the unit received 23 notifications about arrests. In the context of its legal assistance program, the unit determined places of detention of the detainees, and held meetings with competent authorities to urge them to stop illegal arrests.

2. Ensuring the Release of, or Better Detention Conditions for Detainees

A. Representation of Detainees and Visits to Detention Centers

The unit continued to provide legal aid to Palestinian prisoners in Palestinian jails. PCHR lawyers visited detainees in detention centers to observe their health conditions and legal status and ensure better detention conditions.

1. The unit lawyers made 10 visits to detention centers of the Internal Security Service in Gaza.
2. The unit lawyers visited 10 detainees to check their health conditions.

B. Meetings and Contacts

1. On 18 February 2014, a meeting was held with the chief of the Internal Security Service to discuss the detention conditions of prisoners.
2. On 2 July 2014, a meeting was held with ICRC protection department in Gaza. The meeting discussed the human rights situation, cooperation between PCHR and the ICRC and the detention conditions of prisoners.

4. Observation of Court Hearings

The operation of Palestinian courts has continued to be instable due to the political fragmentation in the Palestinian National Authority and the subsequent measures taken by the government in Gaza. Such measures have largely undermined respect for human rights and the separation of powers.

- » In 2014, the Military Court and a civil court in Gaza issued 6 death sentences.
- » The unit documented extra-judicial execution death sentences against 11 persons, including 9 ones during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

3. Stopping Torture

Complaints

- » The unit submitted 13 complaints to the Minister of Justice, the Attorney General and the comptroller of security services in the Ministry of Interior concerning illegal detention and beating and inhuman and degrading treatment of persons.



PCHR lawyers and trainees during an NRC training project for lawyers

Indicators

- » The unit was informed about the detention of 23 persons.
- » The unit lawyers conducted 10 visits to detention centers in the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit visited 10 detainees.
- » The unit submitted 13 complaints.
- » The unit has not received any responses to its complaints.
- » The unit held 2 meetings with regard to detainees.
- » Courts in Gaza issued 6 death sentences.
- » The unit documented extra-judicial execution death sentences against 11 persons.

Means of Verification

- » The unit observed illegal detention and torture of persons in detention facilities.
- » The unit observed positive cooperation by concerned authorities.
- » The unit noticed an increase in the number of death sentences by courts in Gaza.
- » The unit noticed the execution of death sentences without the Palestinian President's ratification.

output (2)

Legal Assistance to Victims of the Misuse of Authority

1. Ensuring the application of the Civil Service Law
2. Ensuring the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly

1. Ensuring the Application of the Civil Service Law

The unit was not able to carry out this activity due to the ongoing political split between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

» Complaints and Claims before Courts on Behalf of Victims of the Misuse of Authority

In 2014, the unit submitted a number of complaints to concerned authorities and held a number of meetings with concerned parties with regard to the misuse of authority.

Complaints Submitted by the Unit to Concerned Bodies

Concerned Body	Number of Complaints
Ministry of Justice	1
Ministry of Transportation	1
Attorney-General (Ramallah and Gaza)	3
Ministry of Interior (Ramallah and Gaza)	5
Ministry of Health	2
Ministry of Finance	1
Total	13

» Meetings and Interventions

In 2014, the unit held 5 meetings:

1. A meeting with the public relations officer of the Ministry of Interior, which discussed the human rights situation.
2. A meeting with the chief of the Internal Security Service, which discussed the detention conditions of prisoners in Palestinian jails.
3. A meeting with the chairman of the Palestinian Fishermen Syndicate on fishermen's complaints.
4. A meeting with the project manager of the Water Authority to discuss the problem of drinking water in the east of the Gaza Strip.
5. A meeting with the director-general of social care and medical rehabilitation department to ensure providing disabled persons with health insurance.

Indicators

- » 13 complaints were submitted by the unit in 2013.
- » The unit received 4 positive responses and a negative one to these complaints.
- » The unit held 5 meetings with concerned authorities concerning the misuse of authority.

Success Story

“No words can be enough to thank you all,” Z. D. said to PCHR lawyer when she received her passport.

Z. D., 76, was suffering from heart problems, and as treatment for her condition was not available in Gaza, doctors decided to refer her to hospital aboard. As she did not have a passport, she was not able to travel. She came to Gaza in 2008 by an Egyptian travel document, and since then she had not left the Gaza Strip. She resorted to PCHR to solve her problem. When she came to PCHR, the lawyer immediately sent a letter to the Minister of Interior to issue a passport for her for external uses. On 14 September 2014, PCHR's efforts proved fruitful, and a Palestinian passport was issued for the woman.

Means of Verification

- » The unit noticed continued misuse of authority by executive bodies.
- » The unit received a number of responses to its complaints.
- » The unit noticed cooperation by concerned bodies during meetings with the unit lawyers.

2. Ensuring the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly

The unit made serious attempts to carry out this activity, but it faced some problems because victims of violations of this right refused to submit complaints.



output (3)

Legal Aid to Victims of Lawlessness

1. Confronting the state of lawlessness and the proliferation of weapons

The unit did not implement this activity.

2. Making efforts to stop encroachments on public property

The unit did not implement this activity.

output (4)

Legal Aid for Victims of Medical Negligence

1. Complaints and Meetings

- » The unit submitted 3 complaints concerning medical negligence.
- » On 16 January 2014, a report was published in al-Risala newspaper on the legal assistance provided by the unit to victims of medical negligence.
- » PCHR lawyers were interviewed by Palestine TV and Hona al-Quds TV on the legal assistance provided by the unit to victims of medical negligence.

2. Compensation Claims

The compensation claim filed by PCHR in 2006 before Gaza initial proceedings court demanding compensation for the deaths of twins due to medical negligence is still delayed to the judicial situation in the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- » The unit submitted 3 complaints.
- » The unit has not received any responses to the complaints.
- » The unit held 3 meetings.

Means of Verification

- » The unit documented cases of medical negligence.
- » Clients were satisfied by the legal aid provided by the unit.

output (5):

Capacity Building of Staff

In 2014, the unit lawyers participated in a number of training courses:

- In the period 20-22 January 2014, the unit director and a unit lawyer participated in an international conference organized by Palestine Bar Association in Jericho on Palestine and international law.
- On 12 May 2014, a unit lawyer participated in a meeting on law judicial proceedings organized by the Palestinian Center for Conflict Resolution in Gaza City.
- On 25 June 2014, a unit lawyer participated in a workshop organized by al-Mezan Center for Human Rights on legislation under the ongoing political split.
- In the period 6 October to 10 December 2014, a unit lawyer participated in the exchange program with the European Center of Constitutional and Human Rights in Berlin.



Lawyer Ahlam al-Aqra' delivers a lecture on women's political participation

Indicators

- » The unit lawyers participated in 5 activities.
- » 5 lawyers participated in these activities.

Means of Verification

- » Increased skills of lawyers.
- » Invitations to lawyers to participate in training courses.

output (6):

Raising Legal Awareness

1. Legal Consultation

The unit provided 4,230 legal consultations to 5,850 clients.

2. Contribution to Training Courses Organized by PCHR

The unit delivered 20 lectures on the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, requirements for a fair trial, judicial remedy for victims and challenges facing Palestinian fishermen and farmers.

Indicators

- » The unit received 5,850 clients.
- » The unit provided 4,230 legal consultations.
- » The unit lawyers delivered 20 lectures in training courses organized by PCHR.
- » The number of trainees who attended these lectures was 429.

Means of Verification

- » Positive feedbacks by clients.
- » Positive feedbacks by trainees.

Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan

1. The unit sent a letter to the Embassy of Jordan in Ramallah to help a Jordanian patient who lives in Gaza travel through Erez crossing to be able to travel to Jordan to receive medical treatment.
2. On 1 October 2014, the unit started a one-year training program in international humanitarian law and criminal law for 6 young lawyers who participated in the International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition.



DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The unit carried out the activities as set out in its 2014 annual plan, with some adjustments due the developments on the ground, especially the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. The unit was supposed to supervise preparing a comprehensive report on the Israeli offensive, but it was agreed later that a joint report would be prepared by the four partner organizations that jointly worked on the documentation of human rights violations during the offensive: PCHR, Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights and Al-Haq.

output (1)

Raising Awareness of the International Community and the Local Public on Violations of Civil and Political Rights and International Human Rights Law in the oPt

Activities

1. PCHR's Annual Report 2013

1. The report occupied a large portion of the unit's burden of work in the first quarter of 2014.
2. The report was published by PCHR on 25 March 2014.
3. On 25 March 2014, PCHR held a reception in the Roots Restaurant in Gaza City to declare the publication of the report. The event was attended by about 150 representatives of civil society organization and political factions, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, jurists and journalists. Electronic copies of the report and hard copies of its summary. The report was widely disseminated locally and internationally.



Announcement of the publication of PCHR Annual Report 2013, 27 March

2. Two Quarterly Reports on the Human Rights Situation in the oPt

- The first report, which covered the first quarter of the year, was published on 1 April 2014, while the second one, which covered the second quarter of the year, was published in July 2014
- The two reports were widely disseminated and two news released about them were issued.

3. Press Releases and Other Media Outputs

- The unit issued 58 press releases on Palestinian violations of human rights, including violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to freedom of association, the death penalty and other issues, as well as Israeli violation of Palestinian human rights in the oPt, including willful killings, torture and other violations.

4. Media Interviews:

The unit's staff made more than 70 interviews with the local, Arab and international media

5. Participation in Activities Organized by Civil Society Organizations

The unit's staff participated in a number of activities organized by civil society organizations in 2014. The unit's staff presented working papers or facilitated discussions in the following activities:

- On 8 June, the unit director submitted an intervention on civil and political rights in an activity organized by the Center for Political and Development Center in Gaza.
- On 26 June, the unit director participated in a conference on administrative detention and forcible feeding of detainees as violations of hu-

man rights. The conference was organized by the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Roots Restaurant in Gaza. The unit director facilitated a session that addressed torture, administrative detention and hunger strikes.

- On 27 September, the unit director participated in a seminar on the possibility of prosecuting Israeli occupation officials, which was organized by the Center for Political and Development Studies in Gaza. He submitted an intervention of the Palestinian and international efforts that should be made in order to prosecute Israeli occupation officials at international tribunals and the obstacles facing such efforts.
- On 1 October, Mohammed Abu Hashem, a researched in the unit, participated in a seminar organized in Madrid for Spanish and international activists on the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. In his intervention, Abu Hashem addressed the European official position which contributed to the continuity of the offensive, PCHR's efforts to prosecute war criminals and the role that should be played by human rights and peace activists around the world to end the suffering of the Palestinian people.
- On 7 October 2014, Mohammed Abu Hashem, a researched in the unit, participated in a seminar held in Barcelona on the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- » Media coverage of the annual report: Several journalists attended the press conference held by PCHR, and the media reported on it.
- » The report was used in reports and publications issued by local and international organizations.

Means of Verification

- » PCHR has a documentation of news published in the media about the unit's activities.
- » PCHR has a documentation of some reports which depended on information included in the annual report.

output (2)

Documentation of the State of Lawlessness and Attacks on the Rule of Law and

Activities

1. Press Releases

They units issued 12 press releases in 2014 focusing on the state of lawlessness and murders of women motivated by the so-called family honor.

2. Field Updates

In 2014, the unit issued 38 field updates on human rights violations related to the state of lawlessness and attacks on the rule of law, including violations of the right to life and the misuse of weapons.

Indicators

- » The number of press releases and field updates: PCHR issued 12 press released and 38 field updates.
- » Wide media coverage of these activities.

Means of Verification

- » Observation of the use of such materials by local and international organizations.
- » Documentation of media reports in this regard.

output (3)

Efforts to Minimize Violations of the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly through Reporting on These Violations

Activities

1. Periodic Report on Violations of the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly

The report is being prepared.

2. Silencing the Press: Israeli Attacks on Journalists and Media Institutions

This is the 16th in this series of reports. It covered the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2014. It was published on 3 May 2014, and PCHR issued a news release on its publication.

3. A Paper on Israeli Attacks against Journalists and Media Institutions during the Offensive on Gaza

- » The unit prepared a paper on Israeli attacks against journalists and media institutions during the offensive in the Gaza Strip. It documented all Israeli attacks in this context, and it was published on 3 August 2014.

4. Foldouts

- » The unit updated a foldout on the right to freedom of expression. It is distributed locally, especially during meetings and activities organized by PCHR.

5. Press Releases

- » The unit issued 3 press releases on violations of the right to freedom of expression.

6. Advocacy Activities

- » On Monday, 05 May 2014, PCHR organized an activity on press freedoms in Palestine on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, 03 May. The event that was held in the Light House Restaurant's hall in Gaza City was attended by a large number of journalists, representatives of community-based organizations, politicians, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and the Government Information Office, and public figures. In conjunction with this occasion, PCHR issued two reports; the first is about Israeli

violations against journalists and media personnel, "Silencing the Press," and the second is on the human rights situation in the oPt from 01 January to 31 March 2014. Three focused discussion sessions were held later as part of the activity. First, a discussion on the "Reality of Press Freedoms", in which Lana Shaheen, a reporter of al-Mayadeen channel, was hosted and interviewed by Abdul Nasser Abu 'Oun, an announcer at al-Quds Radio. Second: a discussion on "Defending Press Freedoms". Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, was interviewed by Samia al-Zubaidi, a journalist at Media Development Center – Bir Zeit University. The third discussion was about "Governmental Policies towards Press Freedoms". Ehab al-Ghussain, Director of the Governmental Information Office – Gaza, was interviewed by Fat'hi Sabbah, Director of the Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development.

- » Three of the meetings organized under Output (9) were devoted to discuss issues relating to the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- » On 5 January, the unit director participated in a seminar organized on media freedoms in light of regional changes, which was organized by the Democratic Media Community in Laterna Restaurant in Gaza City. He submitted a working paper of media freedom under the ongoing Palestinian political split.
- » On 8 December, Mohammed Abu Hashem, a researched in the unit, participated in a program broadcasted by Hona al-Quds Television on the freedom of thought and expression. He explained the rights and legal restrictions under internal law and standards.



Meetings organized by the Democratic Development Unit on media freedoms in Palestine, 5 May

Indicators

- » Decreased attacks against journalists and media institutions: Regrettably, the political split and conflict between the two governments in Gaza and Ramallah contributed to increased attacks on the freedom of opinion and expression in the oPt.
- » Media coverage: The unit's activities were covered by the media.

Means of Verification

- » PCHR has a documentation of violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression.
- » PCHR has a documentation of media coverage of the activities.

output (4)

Efforts to Protect the Right to Peaceful Assembly, Including Annuling the Executive Bill of the Public Meetings Law of 1998 Which Restricts This Right

Activities

1. Periodic Report on Israeli Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

The report is being prepared.

2. Press Releases on the Right to Peaceful Assembly

The unit issued 6 press releases on violations of the right to peaceful assembly.

3. Foldout

The unit updated and published a foldout on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. It is distributed in activities organized by the unit.

Indicators

- » Decreased violations of the right to peaceful assembly: There was no decrease in these violations.
- » Media coverage: The unit's activities were covered by the media.

Means of Verification

- » PCHR has a documentation of violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression.
- » PCHR has a documentation of media coverage of the activities.

output (5)

Efforts to Protect the Right to Freedom of Association through Reporting on Violations of This Right and Advocacy Activities

Activities

1. Report on the State of the Right to Freedom of Association

The report was not published due to the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, as the unit's staff members were involved in preparing a comprehensive report on the offensive.

2. Press Releases

The unit issued one press release on violations of the right to freedom of association.

3. Advocacy and Lobbying in Support for Freedom of Association

The unit was involved in several activities to protect the right to freedom of association, including activities in cooperation with human right organizations and the Palestinian NGO Network.

- » On 21 May 2014, the unit prepared a letter that was sent by PCHR to political leaders in Gaza. The letter highlighted major decisions and laws relating to the right to the right to freedom of association, which were issued under the ongoing political split in violation of Palestinian laws and international standards. A report on the impact of the role and regulation of associations, the section on the right to freedom of association in the Annual Report 2013 and the section on the right to freedom of association in the first quarterly report 2014 were enclosed with the letter.
- » On 24 December 2014, Mohammed Abu Hashem, a researched in a unit, submitted a research paper in a conference organized by al-Dameer Association for Human Rights on the right to freedom of association. The paper was entitled "Mechanisms of Incorporating International Standards Relating to the Right to Freedom of Association in Palestinian Legislation".

Indicators

- » Decreased violations of the right to freedom of association: Such violations continue under the ongoing political division.
- » Media coverage: The local media reported on the unit's activities.

Means of Verification

- » PCHR has a documentation of media coverage of the activities.
- » Documentation of violations.

output (6)

Contribution to the Protection of the Right Not to Be Subject to Illegal Detention, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Degrading Treatment

Activities

1. Report on Detention of Torture under the Palestinian National Authority

The report covers torture cases in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in the period from May 2013 until June 2014. It was published in July 2014.

2. Press Releases

The unit issued 6 press releases.

3. Advocacy Activities

On 26 June, the unit director participated in a conference on administrative detention and forcible feeding of detainees as violations of human rights. The conference was organized by the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Roots Restaurant in Gaza. The unit director facilitated a session that addressed torture, administrative detention and hunger strikes.

Indicators

- » Decreased cases of illegal detention and torture: cases illegal detention and torture are still reported.
- » Media coverage of these activities.

Means of Verification

- » Observation of decreased cases of illegal detention and torture.
- » Documentation of media publications based on PCHR's publications.

output (7)

Abolishment or Suspension of the Death Penalty

Activities

1. Press Releases

The unit issued 6 press releases condemning death sentences.

2. Workshops and Meetings with Youth Groups and Civil Society Activists to Raise Debate on the Death Penalty and the Need to Abolish It

- » On 27 October 2014, the unit organized a panel discussion on “Prosecuting Suspected Collaborators with Israeli Forces and Extra-judicial Executions” in the Laterna hall in Gaza City. A number of politicians, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and CBOs, representatives of the police and security services, public figures, academics and media figures participated in the panel discussion. The panel discussion was held in view of extra-judicial executions applied during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, as PCHR believes such crimes undermine the rule of law, security and serenity of the Palestinian society. Therefore, PCHR works on putting an end to this phenomenon in cooperation with different competent bodies, stressing the importance of prosecuting suspected collaborators in the context of the rule of law and guarantees to a fair trial. Furthermore, the panel aimed to highlighting the phenomenon of prosecuting suspected collaborators with the Israeli forces, the application of extra-judicial executions and the position of human rights organizations regarding this phenomenon.



A seminar on extra-judicial execution of persons suspected of collaboration with Israeli authorities, 27 October

- » In an unprecedented step in the process of increasing human rights awareness, on 27 November 2014, the unit coordinated with the Social Media to broadcast a workshop on the abolishment of the death penalty through social media networks – Twitter and Facebook – and allow followers to watch the Power Point training material, express their opinions and ask questions. The workshop was followed by 33,000 persons

in Arabic and English. They were involved in the discussion, expressed their opinions and asked questions. The attendants in the hall and via the social media network discussed their viewpoints and visions concerning the death penalty and the need to abolish it. the workshop was attended by 24 persons, including 12 women, and was organized in Light House Hall in Gaza City. The workshop discussed a number of top-

ics, including the death penalty in international and domestic laws; guarantees regarding the application of the death penalty under international and domestic standards; the debate over the abolishment of the death penalty; and legal and objective justifications for PCHR's rejection for the death penalty in Palestine. The workshop also addressed extra-judicial executions for alleged collaboration with Israeli occupation authorities, and their serious impact on the security and rule of law in the Palestinian society.

» Additionally, two awareness meetings addressed the abolishment of the death penalty as detailed under Output (10) below.

3. A Position Paper and a Foldout

- » The unit updated and published a position paper of extra-judicial execution for alleged collaboration with Israeli forces.
- » The unit updated and published a foldout on the abolishment of the death penalty in the Palestinian Authority.

Indicators

- » Abstention from implementing death sentences: Regrettably, 2 death sentences were executed in the Gaza Strip, while no one was executed in the West Bank.
- » For the 7th consecutive year, the Palestinian President has not ratified any death sentences.
- » Abstention from issuing new death sentences: 8 death sentences were issued in Gaza, while no sentences were issued in the West Bank.
- » Amendments to laws: No amendments have been made to laws that allow the death penalty.
- » Media coverage of activities: The unit's activities were covered by the media.
- » Contribution to raising debate in the society over the death penalty.

Means of Verification

- » Monitoring and documentation.



Mohammed Abu Hashem, a legal researcher, during a meeting with civil society activists on the death penalty

output (8)

Monitoring the Performance of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and Urging It to Assume Its Full Responsibilities

1. Monitoring the Work of the Change and Reform Bloc in Gaza and Legislations Promulgated in the PLC's Name

» The unit monitors and documents legislations passed by the Change and Reform Bloc.

2. Monitoring Decrees That Have the Power of Laws Issued by the Palestinian President Allegedly Because the PLC Is Absent

- » The unit monitors and documents decrees that have the power of laws issued by the Palestinian President.
- » On 3 December 2014, Mohammed Abu Hashem, a researched in the unit was interviewed via telephone by al-Kitab Television on the legislative process under the ongoing political split and their fate if a Palestinian reconciliation is achieved.

Indicators

» More awareness of the work mechanisms of the PLC and criticism to its performance.

Means of Verification

» Media coverage of activities.

output (9)

Contribution to Support of Efforts to Hold General and Local Elections in the Palestinian National Authority

No public or local elections were held in 2014. During the year, the issue of elections was part of advocacy activities by PCHR and the unit, including support for the national reconciliation and creation of an appropriate environment for elections.

The unit updated and issued a foldout on the right to political participation. It is distributed in events organized by the unit.

output (10)

Raising Awareness of 600 Young Men and Women of Values of Democracy and Fundamental Freedoms through Workshops and Lectures Organized in Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations

The unit organized 26 workshops on democratic concepts and human rights, which targeted 549 persons, including 280 women, in cooperation with 12 society organizations and youth groups.

Table of Workshops

No.	Topic	Partner Organization	Place	attendants			Date
				Males	Females	Total	
1	Political participation	Youth Capacity Development Team	PCHR, Gaza	14	5	19	23 Jan.
2	Democracy and political regimes	Youth Capacity Development Team	PCHR, Gaza	18	5	23	26 Jan.
3	Political participation	Youth Defenders of Human Rights	PCHR, Gaza	5	12	17	28 Jan.
4	Legitimate restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression	Youth Capacity Development Team	PCHR, Gaza	17	9	26	30 Jan.
5	Democracy and political regimes	Youth Defenders of Human Rights	PCHR, Gaza	7	10	17	3 Feb.
6	Abolishment of the death penalty	Youth Capacity Development Team	PCHR, Gaza	13	8	21	6 Feb.
7	Legitimate restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression	Youth Capacity Development Team	PCHR, Gaza	7	9	16	11 Feb.
8	The death penalty	Youth Defenders of Human Rights	PCHR, Gaza	7	10	17	18 Feb.
9	Political participation	Adwaa Training Center	Adwaa Training Center	3	11	14	23 Feb.
10	Freedom of opinion and expression	Adwaa Training Center	Adwaa Training Center	3	8	11	24 Feb.
11	Legislation and parliamentary monitoring	Palestinian Defenders of Human Rights	PCHR, Gaza	11	14	25	25 Feb.
12	Transitional justice	Palestinian Defenders of Human Rights	PCHR, Gaza	8	14	22	4 Mar.

No.	Topic	Partner Organization	Place	attendants			Date
				Males	Females	Total	
14	Legitimate restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression	Southern Female Media Professionals Forum	The forum's office, Rafah	11	15	26	29 May
15	Transitional justice	Southern Female Media Professionals Forum	The forum's office, Rafah	10	12	22	5 Jun.
17	Abolishment of the death penalty	Southern Female Media Professionals Forum	The forum's office, Rafah	8	13	21	18 Sep.
18	Abolishment of the death penalty	Culture and Development Youth House	Culture and Development Youth House, Jabalya	0	27	27	22 Sep.
19	Abolishment of the death penalty	National Association for Democracy and Law	National Association for Democracy and Law, Rafah	7	7	14	24 Sep.
20	Abolishment of the death penalty	265 Days Youth Movement	265 Days Youth Movement, Gaza	16	8	24	10 Nov.
21	Abolishment of the death penalty	Highness Youth Group	Light House Restaurant	14	9	23	17 Nov.
22	Abolishment of the death penalty	Social Media Club	Light House Restaurant	14	10	24	27 Nov.
23	Abolishment of the death penalty	Merciful Hands Association	Merciful Hands Association, Gaza	16	6	22	2 Dec.
24	Abolishment of the death penalty	Union of Palestinian Trainers	Union of Palestinian Trainers, Gaza	13	6	19	10 Dec.
25	Abolishment of the death penalty	Gaza Cultural Council	Museum Hotel	18	6	24	11 Dec.
26	Abolishment of the death penalty	Land and Human Research and Studies Center	Land and Human Research and Studies Center, Gaza	19	6	25	17 Dec.

Indicators

- » Positive feedbacks.
- » These activities were organized in cooperation with 12 organizations.
- » Media coverage: the activities were covered by the local media.

Means of Verification

- » The unit has lists of participants and partner organizations.
- » Feedbacks.
- » Media coverage.

output (11)

Capacity Building

1. Nominating Staff Members of the Unit to Participate in Training Courses on Human Rights and Democracy

- » Mahmoud al-Efrangi, a researcher in the unit, participated in a training course on accountability under international law, national experiences, which was organized in Jordan in the period 1-8 June 2014 by al-Haq and al-Haq Applied Center for International Law.
- » Mohammed Abu Hashem, a researcher in the unit, participated in an online training course on advocacy and campaigning organized by NOVACT and Barcelona University in the period from January to April 2014. Abu Hashem was selected to participate in two training courses organized by NOVACT in Madrid and Barcelona on training skills for advocacy. The training continued for three weeks, completed by two months of online activities to present and discuss projects.





WOMEN AND CHILDREN RIGHTS UNIT

In 2014, the unit carried out most of the activities set out in its annual plan, but it was not able to carry out some activities due to the 51-day Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, which impacted on all activities, especially awareness and advocacy activities. On the other hand, there was an increase the number of women who resorted to the unit seeking legal assistance after the offensive. Following the offensive, the unit organized a number of meetings with community-based organizations focusing the rights of widow women.

output (1)

Legal Aid for Women

1. Representation of Women and Their Children before Sharia Courts

The unit continued to represent women before *Sharia* courts. In 2014, the unit pursued 1,249 cases in *Shar'ia* courts, including 69 ones from 2013.

Table (1): Shar'ia Court Cases Pursued by the Unit in 2014

Case Type	Number
Alimony	691
Rights to household property	214
Custody rights	49
Access rights to children	44
Hosting	39
Payment for childbirth	40
Delayed dowry	40
Separation	65
Obedience	2
Divorce confirmation	17
Marriage confirmation	1
Custody payment	30
House rental	3
Others	14
Total	1,249

Table (2): Results of Cases Followed by the Unit before Sharia Courts in 2014

Rulings	Under consideration	Reconciled	Cancelled	Total
812	90	293	54	1,249

Notes: The work in *Sharia* courts faced several obstacles that impacted on the consideration of cases, including delayed service of notices by the judicial police, which organized several labor strikes. This is evident by the fact that 90 of the cases that were filed in courts in 2014 were transferred to 2015.

Table (3): Distribution of Cases at PCHR's Offices

Gaza Office	Jabalya Office	Khan Yunis Office	Total
513	338	329	1,180

1.2. Coordination with Sharia Courts

In 2014, cooperation and coordination enhanced with the *Shar'ia* Courts in the Gaza Strip, which refer women who need legal assistance to the unit. The unit in its turn provides free legal assistance to women. Cooperation between the unit and *Shar'ia* courts is not limited to cooperation with judges, rather it extends to all staff of the courts, thus facilitating the work of lawyers.

1.3. Coordination with Women's Organizations

The unit pursued a number of cases referred to it by women's organizations, especially Women's Health Center in Jabalya, the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution, the Independent Commission for Human Rights and Women's Health Center in Al Boreij.

Indicators

- » The unit received 1,121 cases.
- » The courts issued 700 judgments in favor of women.
- » Sharia courts referred 576 cases to the unit.
- » Community and women's organizations referred 90 cases to the unit.
- » The unit represented 574 women at courts.
- » 370 children benefited from the unit's legal assistance.

Means of Verification

- » The unit observed the number and nature of cases received in 2014.
- » The unit observed the number of cases transferred by the Sharia courts.
- » The unit observed the number of cases transferred by community and women's organizations, especially following the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit observed the cases referred to the unit by women who had previously received legal assistance from the unit.
- » The unit observed an increase in the number of women seeking legal assistance after the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit observed a number of success stories:

Case No. (1): Verification of Lineage

(N. D.) is a woman from Gaza. She got married to a man, but under his family's pressure, he was forced to divorce her before the Sharia Court. Later, he decided to re-marry her without informing his family, and he did but without registering their marriage at the Sharia Court. During their marriage, they had a child but they did not obtain a birth certificate for him from the Ministry of Interior. When the child reached the age of six, the woman wanted to enroll him at school, but the school refused to enroll him due to the lack of a birth certificate. She went to the Ministry of Interior to obtain the certificate, but they refused to issue the certificate under the pretext that she was divorced according to their records, and the child was born more than one year after her divorce.

The woman referred to the Sharia Court seeking a solution for her problem, and the court referred her to the unit. After receiving information from her, the unit filed a claim for verification of marriage and lineage, and the Sharia Court ruled that her marriage and her child's lineage to her husband were legal. Accordingly, she obtained a birth certificate from the Ministry of Interior and the child joined school.

Case No. (2):

(F. Gh.) is a 40-year old woman who got married to a man who lives in the United Arab Emirates. There, she was subjected to violence by her husband, who was not spending for her subsistence. He left her and travelled to Malaysia, so she decided to return to the Gaza Strip to live with her family. She referred to the unit seeking legal consultation and inquiring about her legal rights. A unit lawyer explained to the woman her legal rights. She then asked the lawyer to file a claim for alimony. Six months following the execution of the alimony ruling, the lawyer filed a claim for separation due to the husband's failure to spend for her subsistence, and the court issued a positive ruling, which was certified by the *Sharia* Court of Appeal.

2. Providing Legal Consultations to 500 Women

In 2014, the unit provided 618 legal consultations to women in person or by phone: 287 consultations in Gaza office; 164 ones in Jabalya office; and 167 ones in Khan Yunis office.

Indicators

- » The unit provided 618 legal consultations to women.

Means of Verification

- » The unit observed the number of legal consultations provided to women in person or by phone.

3. Enforcement of Judgments Issued by Sharia Courts

In 2013, the unit worked towards the enforcement of 41 judgments issued by *Sharia* courts through enforcement departments at *sharia* courts.

Indicators

- » The number of women who benefited from the enforcement of judgments was 41.
- » The number of judgments issued by Shar'ia court that were enforced was 41.

Means of Verification

- » The benefiting women's positive feedbacks.

4. Providing Legal Consultations to Female Prisoners

In 2014, the unit lawyers conducted three visits to the detention facility of women, where 30 women were detained, and checked their detention conditions. They also met with the manager of the facility and discussed with her the prisoners' demands.

The unit, in coordination with the Children's Protection Network at the Ministry of Social Affairs, intervened to ensure absorption of homeless children of female prisoners in SOS Village in Rafah.

The unit provide female prisoners with 15 legal consultations.

Indicators

- » The unit lawyers conducted 3 visits to the detention facility of women.
- » The unit lawyers visited 30 female prisoner.
- » The unit lawyers provided 15 legal consultations to female prisoners.

Means of Verification

- » The unit observed living and detention conditions of female prisoners.

output (2)

Legal Awareness for Women: Raising Awareness of 2,000 Women of Their Rights Ensured by Domestic Laws and Human Rights Instruments

1. Organizing Legal Awareness Lectures, for Women

In 2014, the unit organized 82 legal awareness lectures. Of these lectures: 25 ones focused on the Family Law; 33 ones addressed violence against women; two ones focused on the rights of the child; six ones addressed the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; four ones addressed women's political participation; and 12 ones following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip which addressed the rights of widows and violence against women during the offensive.

The unit also received requests from community and women's organizations and preparatory and secondary schools to organize legal awareness lectures. In this context, the unit cooperated with 33 community and women's organizations and 12 schools.



Majeda Shihada, a researcher in the unit, delivers a lecture

Table of Lectures in 2014

No.	Date	Place	Area	Topic	Attendants
1.	12 Jan.	Women's Activities Center	Deir al-Balah	CEDAW	27
2.	15 Jan.	Union of Social Work Committees	Khan Yunis	CEDAW	25
3.	23 Jan.	Afaq Charity	Al-Nussairat	Personal Status Law	20
4.	26 Jan.	Akka Secondary School for Girls	Khan Yunis	Violence against women	40
5.	5 Feb.	Vocational Training Center	Khan Yunis	Personal Status Law	35
6.	10 Feb.	National Center for Rural Development	Khan Yunis	Women's political participation	17
7.	12 Feb.	Vocational Training Center	Rafah	Personal Status Law	33
8.	13 Feb.	Women's Struggle Bloc	Rafah	Violence against women and honor killings	15
9.	16 Feb.	Aman Center of the Ministry of Social Affairs	Gaza	Women's rights to inheritance	30
10.	18 Feb.	Al-Boreij Elementary School	Al-Boreij	Personal Status Law	22
11.	25 Feb.	«If We Stop Dreaming» Society	Khan Yunis	UN Security Council Resolution 1325	27
12.	26 Feb.	Gaa al-Qurain Neighborhood Committee	Khan Yunis	Women's political participation	40
13.	27 Feb.	Law students of al-Azhar University	Gaza	Violence against women	22
14.	10 Mar.	Women's Department in Khan Yunis Municipality	Khan Yunis	Women's rights in the Personal Status Law	22
15.	11 Mar.	Khan Yunis Elementary School	Khan Yunis	Women's rights in the Personal Status Law	19
16.	13 Mar.	Union of Agricultural Work Committees	Khuza'a	Women's rights in the Personal Status Law	35
17.	16 Mar.	Khan Yunis Elementary School	Khan Yunis	Women's rights in the Personal Status Law	32
18.	17 Mar.	Women's Struggle Bloc	Jabalya	Women's rights in the Personal Status Law	24
19.	20 Mar.	Al-Shawka Preparatory School	Rafah	Women's rights in the Personal Status Law	22
20.	26 Mar.	Women's Activities Center	Al-Maghazi	Women's rights in the Personal Status Law	27
21.	15 Apr.	Abu Tu'aima Elementary School	Bani Suhaila	Convention of the Rights of the Child	12
22.	16 Apr.	Disabled Persons Rehabilitation Society	Jabalya	CEDAW	20

No.	Date	Place	Area	Topic	Attendants
23.	21 Apr.	Gizan Abu Rashwan Neighborhood Committee	Khan Yunis	CEDAW	45
24.	22 Apr.	Khan Yunis Elementary School B	Khan Yunis	Children's rights	17
25.	24 Apr.	Women's Activities Center	Al-Maghazi	Personal Status Law	24
26.	8 May	Middle East Council of Churches	Gaza	Violence against women	22
27.	14 May	Women and Children Development Society	Rafah	CEDAW	20
28.	19 May	Women's Work Department	Jabalya	CEDAW	18
29.	20 May	Safa Charity	Khan Yunis	Violence against women.	20
30.	22 May	Citizenship Association	Khan Yunis	Personal Status Law	20
31.	27 May	Palestine Liberation Front	Khan Yunis	Women's political participation	12
32.	11 Jun.	Palestinian Women Development Society	Al-Boreij	Violence against women	18
33.	18 Jun.	General Union of Palestinian Women	Abassan	Violence against women	20
34.	25 Jun.	Gizan Abu Rashwan Neighborhood Committee	Khan Yunis	Violence against women	18
35.	26 Jun.	Wifaq Charity	Rafah	Violence against women	20
36.	28 Oct.	Nawar Educational Center	Khan Yunis	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
37.	30 Oct.	Gaa al-Qurain Development Society	Khan Yunis	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
38.	30 Oct.	Middle East Council of Churches	Gaza	Personal Status Law	35
39.	2 Nov.	Riada Charity	Khan Yunis	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
40.	3 Nov.	Al-Haneen Association	Khan Yunis	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
41.	4 Nov.	Right and Justice Association	Khan Yunis	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
42.	4 Nov.	Middle East Council of Churches	Gaza	Personal Status Law	35
43.	4 Nov.	Middle East Council of Churches	Gaza	Personal Status Law	35
44.	5 Nov.	Palestinian Women Development Society	Al-Boreij	Violence against women	35
45.	6 Nov.	Women's Activities Center	Deir al-Balah	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

No.	Date	Place	Area	Topic	Attendants
.46	9 Nov.	Khuza'a Sprouts Society	Khuza'a	Violence against women	35
47.	10 Nov.	Information Center	Abassan	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
48.	11 Nov.	Aman Center	Gaza	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
49.	12 Nov.	Middle East Council of Churches	Gaza	Inheritance	35
50.	13 Nov.	Rescue Society	Abassan	Violence against women	35
51.	13 Nov.	Middle East Council of Churches	Gaza	Violence against women	35
52.	14 Nov.	Afaq Society	Al-Nussairat	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
53.	17 Nov.	Women's Work Department	Beit Lahia	Violence against women	35
54.	18 Nov.	Women's Struggle Bloc	Gaza	Violence against women	35
55.	19 Nov.	Al-Safa Society	Khan Yunis	Violence against women	35
56.	20 Nov.	Bait al-Maqdis School	Al-Nussairat	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
57.	23 Nov.	Women's Struggle Bloc	Al-Nussairat	Violence against women	35
58.	24 Nov.	Human Development Association	Al-Qarara	Violence against women	35
59.	25 Nov.	Khan Yunis Elementary School for Girls	Khan Yunis	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
60.	27 Nov.	Al-Qarara Development Center	Al-Qarara	Violence against women	35
61.	3 Dec.	Smiley Kids Institution	Al-Qarara	Violence against women	35
62.	4 Dec.	Al-Quds Society	Al-Qarara	Violence against women	22
63.	8 Dec.	Akka School	Khan Yunis	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
64.	8 Dec.	Al-Safa Association	Khan Yunis	Violence against women	35
65.	9 Dec.	Palestinian Women Development Society	Al-Boreij	Violence against women	35
66.	10 Dec.	National Society for Disabled Rehabilitation	Rafah	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
67.	11 Dec.	Khan Yunis Elementary School for Girls	Khan Yunis	Violence against women	30
68.	14 Dec.	Ministry of Social Affairs	Khan Yunis	Violence against women	35

No.	Date	Place	Area	Topic	Attendants
69.	15 Dec.	Riada Association	Khan Yunis	Violence against women	35
70.	16 Dec.	Lara Society	Al-Qarara	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
71.	17 Dec.	Aman Center	Gaza	Violence against women	35
72.	18 Dec.	Khan Yunis Elementary School for Girls C	Abassan	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
73.	21 Dec.	Khan Yunis School for Girls	Khan Yunis	Violence against women	35
74.	21 Dec.	Khan Yunis School for Girls	Khan Yunis	Violence against women	35
75.	22 Dec.	Ministry of Social Affairs	Khan Yunis	Violence against women	35
76.	23 Dec.	Al-Qarara Development Society	Al-Qarara	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
77.	24 Dec.	Women's Work Department	Beit Lahia	Violence against women	35
78.	25 Dec.	Women's Activities Center	Deir al-Balah	Violence against women	35
79.	28 Dec.	Women's Struggle Bloc	Rafah	Violence against women	33
80.	29 Dec.	Al-Safa Association	Khan Yunis	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
81.	30 Dec.	Human Development Association	Al-Qarara	Violence against women	35
82.	31 Dec.	Aman Center	Gaza	The Israeli offensive on Gaza	35
Total					2,467



Lawyer Sameer Hassaniya delivers a lecture

Indicators

- » In 2014, the unit organized 82 legal awareness lectures, including: 25 ones on the Family Law; 33 ones on violence against women; two ones on the rights of the child; six ones on the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and four ones on women's political participation.
- » 2,347 women attended these lectures.
- » 112 men attended these lectures.
- » 120 women referred to the unit seeking legal aid after having attended these lectures.
- » The unit provided 320 on-spot legal consultations to women during these lectures.
- » These lectures were organized in cooperation with 33 organizations and 12 schools throughout the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit's activities covered marginalized areas which lack community and women's organizations.

Means of Verification

- » Observation of the number of women who referred to the unit seeking legal assistance after having attended these lectures.
- » Observation of the number of on-spot legal consultations.
- » Observation of the numbers of women and men who attended the lectures.
- » Observation of the number of community and women's organizations with which the unit cooperated.
- » Observation of women's interest to know about widows' rights, especially after the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit was invited to deliver legal awareness lecture, including an invitation by the Ministry of Social Affairs to organize lectures on the rights of widows.

2. Press Release on International Women's Day

The unit issued a press release on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March titled "On International Women's Day: Conjugating Efforts to Put an End to the Killing of Palestinian Women".

The International Women's Day coincided with an increase in the number of killings of women for various motives.

Indicators

- » The press release was issued.
- » It was published on PCHR's webpage and on PCHR's page on Facebook.

Means of Verification

- » Positive feedbacks to the press release.

3. Cooperation with the Media

- » On 21 June 2014, lawyer Sameer Hassaniya participated in an episode of the Consultant program on al-Kitab TV, which was allocated for discussing the issue of depriving women of inheritance.
- » On 22 June 2014, lawyer Hanan Matar, participated in a program broadcasted by al-Iman Radio the reasons for divorce.
- » On 22 June 2014, lawyer Hanan Matar was interviewed by Alwan Radio about the issue of inheritance.

4. Contribution to Training Courses Organized by PCHR Training Unit

In 2014, the unit contributed to training courses organized by PCHR Training Unit in the field of democracy and human rights. The unit delivered lectures on the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, gender issues and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.



Mona al-Shawa, director of the unit, delivers a lecture



Lawyer Hanan Matar during a meeting

output (3)

Contribution to the Elimination of Violence against Women, Including Murders Related to "Family Honor"

1. Awareness Lectures on Violence

- » In 2014, the unit organized 34 awareness lectures on violence against women, and 18 ones on violence against women during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- » The unit organized 33 awareness lectures on violence against women.
- » The unit organized seven lectures on violence against women during the Israeli offensive.
- » 1,694 women attended these lectures.

Means of Verification

- » There was an interest by women to know about the rights of widows after the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- » The unit received an invitation by the Ministry of Social Affairs to organize lectures on the rights of widows.

2. Periodic Visits to Women's Shelter House and Raising Women's Awareness

In 2014, the unit visited the women's shelter house, which was established by the Ministry of Social Affairs to provide protection to women who are subjected to violence. The unit followed up the women's living conditions, organized legal awareness lectures and provided legal assistance to some women.

Indicators

- » The unit conducted 4 visits to the women's shelter house.
- » The unit provided 14 legal consultations.
- » The unit organized 3 awareness lectures to women in the shelter house.
- » 45 women attended these lectures.

Means of Verification

- » In 2014, the unit observed a number of cases which it followed up with the administration of the shelter house.

3. A Press Release and a Poster on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Additionally, the unit issued a press release on 25 November 2014 titled "On International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: An Open Call to the International Community to Offer Protection to Palestinian Women".

The unit issued also a poster on this occasion, and disseminated 500 copies of it.

Indicators

- » The press release was published on PCHR's webpage and PCHR's page on Facebook.
- » 500 copies of the poster were disseminated

Means of Verification

- » Positive feedbacks to the press release and poster.

4. Cooperation with the Field Work Unit to Document Women's Killings

In 2014, the unit coordinated with the Field Work Unit to prepare special records of women who are victims of violence in light of the increase of killings of women for various motives. In 2014, PCHR documents 15 murders of women, including three ones for the so-called "family honor". In this context, PCHR issued two press releases condemning "family honor" killings, and calling for investigating these crimes and prosecuting the perpetrators.

Indicators

- » PCHR documents 15 killings of women for various motives, including 3 killings for the so-called "family honor".

Means of Verification

- » PCHR issued two press releases condemning "family honor" killings.

5. Cooperation with Amal (Hope) Coalition against Violence against Women

In 2014, the unit director participated in meetings of the Coalition. The unit participated also in a number of activities organized by the Coalition. In this context, on 3 March 2014, the unit participated in a protest organized by the Coalition, in cooperation with the General Union of Palestinian Women, in front of the office of the Attorney General in Gaza City against increasing killings of women. The participants issued a press statement that was distributed during the protest condemning these crimes and calling for prosecuting their perpetrators.

The unit participated in activities organized in the context of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence:

- » On 10 December 2014, the unit participated in a march organized by the Coalition calling for freedom and dignity for Palestinian women. The participants moved from the gate of the Palestinian Legislative Council to Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, where the 450 participants handed a petition signed by them to be sent to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.
- » On 28 December 2014, the unit participated in a conference titled "Voices of Women during the Offensive – Gaza 2014" organized by the Coalition and the Forum for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

6. Coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs

The unit visited the Ministry of Social Affairs to coordinate organizing awareness lectures at vocational training centers of the Ministry.

Success Stories

A case of a woman and her daughters who were subjected to domestic violence was referred to the unit by the Women's Affairs Technical Staff. Ms. A. Sh. was subjected to physical violence by her husband, and her daughters were subjected to sexual and physical violence by their father. The women sought assistance to stop the violence practiced against her and against her seven daughters, while it was difficult for her to submit a complaint to the police fearing from her husband's family. The unit contacted the police public relations officers, informed him about the case and demanded the police to intervene to protect the woman and her daughters from the violence practiced against them. He came to PCHR and heard the woman's complaint. On the same day, the husband was summoned and questioned, and he signed a pledge not to hurt his wife and daughters.

output (4)

Qualifying Young Lawyers to Litigate before Sharia Courts

1. Training Young Lawyers to Litigate before Sharia Courts

In 2014, the unit, in cooperation with PCHR Training Unit, organized a training course for lawyers wishing to obtain licenses to practice the *Sharia* legal profession. The 18-hour course was held in PCHR's office in Khan Yunis in the period from 29 April to 7 May. The number of lawyers who participated in it was 22.

2. Training Young Lawyers in the Unit

The unit began to train two young female lawyer in March in PCHR's head office in Gaza City and in its office in Jabalya to qualify them to defend women's rights at sharia court and facilitate women's access to justice.

Indicators

- » 22 lawyers participated in the training courses.
- » Two young female lawyers received training in the unit.

Means of Verification

- » Positive feedbacks to the training course.
- » Following the training, the unit observed the number of lawyers who passed the examination to obtain licenses to practice the *Sharia* legal profession.

output (5)

Capacity Building

On 21 May 2014, the unit participated in a training seminar on gender organized by the Swedish Consulate General in the offices of the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Gaza City.

Training on Safety and Self-Care for PCHR's Staff

In the period 22-25 September 2014, the unit, in cooperation with the Swedish Kvinna till Kvinna, organized a special training course on safety and self-care for PCHR's staff. The training program included the following:

- » Special training for the female staff, 7 hours daily.
- » A recreational day for all PCHR's staff.
- » A meeting for all PCHR's staff.

The training had special importance as it was organized a short period after the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- » 25 female staff members of PCHR participated in the training.
- » 60 staff members of PCHR participated in the recreational activities.

Means of Verification

- » Positive feedbacks by PCHR's female staff and permanent strategy was set for self-care.
- » Positive feedbacks by PCHR's staff concerning the recreational day and the collective meeting.

Participation in Activities Organized by Other Civil Society Organizations

- On 10 January 2014, Majeda Shehad, a researcher, presented a working paper on women's rights to work and property in a conference on the elimination of violence against women organized by Bunian Training Association.
- On 18 February 2014, lawyer Hanan Matar presented a working paper on inheritance in the conference organized by Zakher Association on inheritance.
- On 11 March 2014, lawyer Sameer Hassaniya presented a working paper on "family honor" killings in a meeting on legal assistance held in PCHR's office.
- On 13 April 2014, lawyer Sameer Hassaniya presented a working paper in a workshop organized by al-Quds Association for Islamic Research and Studies on the right of woman to inheritance.
- On 12 June 2014, the unit's staff visited the Social Care Office to coordinate for a joint activity to train the female staff of the Ministry of Social Affairs on women's rights.
- On 17 June 2014, Majeda Shehad, a researcher, presented a working paper on the concept of empowerment in a conference organized by the Society's Voice Association on women's empowerment.
- On 18 June 2014, lawyer Hanan Matar presented a working paper of khula' (divorce instigated by the wife), law and practice, in a meeting held in the Islamic University.
- On 28 June 2014, Majeda Shehad, a researcher, presented a working paper on the rights of old people in a workshop organized by the Elderly Care Institution.
- On 16 December 2014, the unit director presented a working paper on violence against women from a human rights perspective in a conference organized by the Palestinian Medical Relief Association on the youth's support for women.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS UNIT

In 2014, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit undertook implementing all activities set out in its annual plan. However, there was a change to some its activities due to the impact of the latest Israeli offensive on the economic, social and cultural rights of the population of the Gaza Strip. During and after the offensive, the unit was involved in advocacy activities and reporting on violations of these rights. Over the year, the activities focused on two major issues: 1) Ongoing monitoring of the total closure imposed on the oPt, especially Gaza Strip; and the continuous military operations which IOF carry out throughout Gaza Strip, especially in areas near the border; 2) Following up the impact of the latest Israeli offensive on the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, include the wide-scale destruction of civilian facilities, including houses; and 3) Monitoring the repercussions of the political split on the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian population. The unit contributed in many ways to following up the impact of Israeli policies on the Palestinian civilian population, and the deterioration of its social, economic and cultural rights. The unit focused also on pursuing all field developments related to the social, economic and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilians and their continuous suffering due to the closure imposed by Israeli authorities for the seventh consecutive year.

The unit also monitored, studied and documented the social, economic and cultural rights in the oPt in general, and specifically in Gaza Strip. In addition, the unit continued its work on the Palestinian agenda in the field of promoting and protecting the social, economic and cultural rights of the Palestinian people.

Furthermore, the unit issued a number of periodic and special reports and contributed to implement other PCHR's activities, especially in the training unit. Outstandingly, the unit also promoted partnerships and networking with NGOs and international organizations and co-operated with them in carrying out activities. The unit also partook in activities of civil society organizations in Gaza Strip. Finally, the unit was distinguished at promoting its activities at the media level. The following is a detailed description of the unit's activities in 2014.

output (1)

Contribution to Raising Awareness of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the oPt, Especially the Gaza Strip

Activities:

1. Establishing a database on the situation of social, economic and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip
2. Meetings with development experts, officials from local and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Academics, donors and UN bodies.
3. Issuing a report on the closure policy and its impact on the economic, social and cultural rights in the oPt.

4. Issuing field updates on the state of border crossings in the Gaza Strip
5. Organizing a workshop on the economic and social rights in the oPt, especially the Gaza Strip.
6. Issuing fact sheets on violations of Palestinian children's rights in the Gaza Strip.
7. Issuing press releases and other media activities.

The unit focused on monitoring the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip and the repercussions of the closure imposed by Israel on the social, economic and cultural rights of Palestinian civilian populations. These activities included the following:

1. Establishing a database on the situation of social, economic and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip

In 2014, the unit continued to create a database on economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip. This database has been the main source of information for the unit of violations of the rights of education, adequate housing, work, health and development; attacks on fishermen; destruction of economic facilities; attacks on medical crews; deaths at border crossings and military checkpoints; and poverty and unemployment.

2. Meetings with development experts, officials from local and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Academics, donors and UN bodies

The unit held several meetings to raise the awareness on violations of the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilian population. These meeting focused on the impacts of the total closure imposed by Israel on the oPt on the Palestinian economic, social and cultural rights.

- » Meetings with international delegations representing NGOs, relief organizations, solidarity movements and diplomatic missions.
- » Meetings with representatives of UN agencies, including UNRWA, WHO, OCHA, UNDP, OHCHR and ILO.
- » Meetings with ministers in the government of Gaza, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and representatives of local NGOs.

The most significant meetings were as follows:

- On 19 January 2014, the unit director escorted a delegation from the Irish Trocaire in a field tour that included Gaza fishing harbor. The delegation met with a number of Palestinian fishermen who were subjected to Israeli attacks.
- On 6 March 2014, the unit director escorted a Japanese delegation in a field tour that included Gaza fishing harbor, border areas in the north and east of the Gaza Strip and al-Mentar (Karni) crossing.
- On 26 March 2014, the unit director participated in a meeting with Martin Oelz, from the International Labor Organization. The meeting discussed living conditions of the Palestinian labor force in the Gaza Strip under the ongoing Israeli closure.

Intervention at UN Human Rights Committee's Hearing

On 20 October 2014, Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, made an intervention at the UN Human Rights Committee's heading no. 112. Shaheen presented his intervention via the video conference at the UN headquarter in Gaza, because PCHR's representative were not able to travel to Geneva due to the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, as the Committee was conducting the periodic review of Israel. In his intervention, Shaheen reviewed the human rights situation in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip. He highlighted the wide-scale serious violations perpetrated by Israeli forces during their offensive on the Gaza Strip, the ongoing blockade and the obstruction of the process of reconstruction.

3. Issuing a report on the closure policy and its impact on the economic, social and cultural rights in the oPt

The report was supposed to be published in the second half of the year, but it was delayed because the unit was involved in following up the impact of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. In this regard, the unit prepared a report on the humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip during the Israeli offensive. .was published on 25 August 2014

4. Issuing field updates on the state of border crossings in the Gaza Strip

In light of the closure of border crossings of the Gaza Strip, the unit continued to issue monthly updates on the state of border crossings of the Gaza Strip and the impacts of their closure on the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian civilian population.

5. Organizing a workshop on the economic and social rights in the oPt, especially the Gaza Strip

On 14 April 2014, PCHR organized a meeting to present a report titled “Under Fire” that was jointly issued by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). The meeting was held in PCHR’s head office in Gaza City, where a number of representatives of community-based and international organizations and media agencies attended. The meeting was opened by Mr. Khalil Shaheen, Director of the PCHR’s Economic and Social Rights’ Unit. He explained that the meeting was held in the context of PCHR’s efforts to monitor and follow up the living conditions of civilians in the Gaza Strip, especially under the Israeli-imposed closure on the Gaza Strip for over 7 years and the constant Israeli attacks against civilians who are protected according to the international humanitarian law. Mr. Shaheen added that the report seeks to shed light on the Israeli violations in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA) in land and sea in the Gaza Strip and on the motivations and consequences of such violations in the ARA, including the impacts related to internal displacement, health, financial conditions and livelihood.

Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, highlighted the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, pointing to the Israeli-imposed closure on the Gaza Strip, which is illegal and inhumane and constitutes a form of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. He added that the closure has hindered any communication between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on the one hand and the Gaza Strip and the outside world on the other hand. He explained that Israeli violations against the Palestinian civilians in the ARA are a limited sample of the closure, indicating that Israeli violations and restrictions imposed on the access to livelihood reflect the daily suffering of fishermen and farmers in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli measures in the ARA despoil 35% of the best agricultural area and deny the Palestinian farmers and fishermen access to 85% of their livelihood. Sourani pointed that “Under Fire” report was launched in February in London in the presence of about 40 members of the European Parliament, politicians and journalists. Sourani delivered a speech on that occasion on the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip via Skype.

6. Issuing fact sheets on violations of Palestinian children’s rights in the Gaza Strip

The unit continued to issue monthly fact sheets on violation of children’s rights in time of armed conflicts in the Gaza Strip, depending on the monitoring and reporting mechanism established by the UN Security Council Resolution 1612 of 2005. The facts sheets documentation Israeli violations of children’s rights, and attacks against children in the context of the state of security chaos and misuse of weapons in the Gaza Strip.



A workshop on the future of housing policies in the Gaza Strip, 5 June

7. Issuing press releases and other media activities

» Press Releases

- In 2014, the unit issued 34 press releases on violations of economic, social and cultural rights calling upon the international community to intervene to stop the collective penalties and protect the Palestinian economic, social and cultural rights to avoid deterioration of the humanitarian conditions. The press release also addressed the right of health and the impact of the Palestinian political split

on all economic and social rights of the Gaza Strip's population.

- The unit issued a number of news releases about its activities under this output.

» Media Activities

In 2014, the unit's staff members were interviewed by the local, Arab and international media. The interviews focused on human rights violations perpetrated against the Palestinian civilian population in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip. The number of these activities was more than 100.

output (2)

Promotion of the Right to Education

Activities

1. Monitoring the impact of the closure on education in the Gaza Strip
2. Meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education.
3. A report on the right of education in the Gaza Strip.
4. Press releases and media activities.

1. Monitoring the impact of the closure on education in the Gaza Strip

In 2014, the unit monitored the impact of the total closure imposed by Israeli authorities on the Gaza Strip on the educational sector, including denial of access of students to education outside the Gaza Strip, the entry of educational technical supplies into the Gaza Strip and the obstacles to reconstruction of educational institutions in the Gaza Strip.

2. Meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education

Staff members of the unit held a number of meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education, UNRWA Education Department, the private education sector in the Gaza Strip to discuss mechanisms to develop education. The meetings discussed also ways to overcome challenges facing the educational sector in the Gaza Strip.

3. A report on the right of education in the Gaza Strip

The unit was supposed to prepare a report on the right of education in the Gaza Strip. However, in light of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, the unit focused on documenting Israeli attacks on schools and educational institutions. It also prepared a special report on these attacks as a part of a comprehensive report issued by PCHR on the Israeli offensive.

4. Press releases and media activities

In 2014, the unit carried out several media activities highlighting violations of the right of education and attacks on schools and educational institutions in the Gaza Strip by Israeli forces. These activities included interviews with the local, Arab and international media.

output (3)

Promoting of the Right to Health

Activities

1. Monitoring health services in the Gaza Strip
2. Meetings with bodies that provide health services
3. Advocacy activities to promote the right of health
4. A factsheet on health services in the Gaza Strip
5. Press releases and other media activities

1. Monitoring health services in the Gaza Strip

The unit monitored health services in the Gaza Strip through updating the data available in the unit, including following up the procedures of granting medical transfers to patients to hospitals in Israel and the West Bank, including Jerusalem. The unit further monitored health conditions in the Gaza Strip in light of shortages in medicines and medical consumables, especially during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces attacked health facilities, medical crews, ambulances and civil defense crews while attempted to rescue the wounded. Additionally, the unit followed up the impact of the political split on health services in the Gaza Strip, especially the supplies of medical consignments and paying operational expenses in health departments.

2. Meetings with bodies that provide health services

In 2014, the unit enhanced its relations with all bodies that provide health services in the Gaza Strip. It held several meetings with the Ministry of Health, WHO and patients who were victims of violations of the right to health. In this context, the unit's staff held a number of meetings with these bodies:

- » On 25 April 2014, Azzam Shaat, a researcher in the unit, met with Dr. Ashraf Abu Mahadi, Director General of the Pharmacy Department in the Ministry of Health in Gaza. The meeting discussed health conditions of patients in the Gaza Strip in light of the shortages of medicines and medical needs.

3. Advocacy activities to promote the right of health

The unit implemented a number of advocacy activities aimed to promote health services in the Gaza Strip. These activities included following up the work of the External Medical Treatment Department of the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip, and the shortage of medicines and medical needs in public health facilities. Media activities carried out by the unit contributed to highlighting the deteriorating health conditions and services in the Gaza Strip.

4. A workshop on health services in the Gaza Strip

The unit prepared a factsheet on the health conditions in the Gaza Strip. It highlighted Israeli attacks on medical facilities, crews and ambulances during the offensive on the Gaza Strip, the shortages of medicines and medical needs and obstruction of patients' access to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip and reconstruction of the health infrastructure due to the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. It further addressed

5. Press releases and other media activities

The unit issued a number of press releases on health conditions in the Gaza Strip, including the shortages of medicines and medical needs, the strike of cleaning workers in hospitals, medical negligence which caused deaths of a number of patients, obstruction of patients' access to medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip and the impact of the electricity crisis on health services:

- » On 7 January 2014, the unit issued a press release on the detention by Israeli forces at Erez crossing of a patient who was on his way to the West Bank to receive medical treatment.
- » On 4 February 2014, the unit issued a press release on the death of a girl in Rafah while she was allegedly being treated by Quran.
- » On 9 February 2014, the unit issued a press release on the death of a child in Rafah following a surgery.
- » On 12 February 2014, the unit issued a press release on the obstruction of passage of Palestinian patients by Israeli forces through Erez crossing allegedly because of the logo of State of Palestine.
- » On 17 March 2014, the unit issued a press release calling for investigating the death of a man in Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis.
- » On 19 June 2014, the unit issued a press release

on the detention by Israeli forces at Erez crossing of a patient who was on his way to Jordan to receive medical treatment.

- » On 21 October 2014, the unit issued a press release warning of the shortage of fuel at Gaza hospitals, and calling on the Palestinian President and government to intervene and ensure supplying the hospitals with fuel.
- » On 4 December 2014, the unit issued a press release warning of the impact of the strike declared by clearing companies at hospitals and medical centers in the Gaza Strip.

The unit's staff made several media interviews on health services in the Gaza Strip, especially the shortages of medicines, medical negligence, the impact of the electricity crisis on health facilities and detention of Palestinian patients while traveling to hospitals in the West Bank or Israel.

output (4)

Enforcement of the Palestinian Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (4) of 1999

Activities

1. Monitoring the situation of the rights of disabled persons
2. Advocacy and lobbying activities
3. A media workshop on the rights of disabled persons.
4. A factsheet on the rights of disabled persons in the Gaza Strip
5. Lectures on the rights of disabled persons
6. Press releases and media activities

1. Monitoring the situation of the rights of the disabled

In 2014, the unit pursued building its database on the situation of the rights of the disabled with regard to work, education, health and social security. Other activities included preparation of statistical figures on the number of persons injured or killed and the destruction of their rehabilitation facilities. This data was compiled through holding interviews and meetings with victims or their families, and employees from institutions which were destroyed or damaged.

2. Advocacy and lobbying activities

The unit's staff held a number of meetings to discuss the government's policies towards disabled persons, including a meeting of the director of the Rehabilitation Department in the Ministry of Social Affairs and a meeting with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The meetings discussed the enforcements

of Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and efforts to issue special cards for disabled persons that covers a series of basic services to disabled persons. The unit's staff also participated in a number of meetings organized by organizations that provide rehabilitation, educational and employment services to disabled persons with various ministries, especially the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Labor to lobby for the enforcement of Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, included the percentage of employment assigned to disabled persons and exemption of disabled persons and their families from health fees in public health facilities.

3. A factsheet on the rights of disabled persons in the Gaza Strip

The unit prepared a brief report on Israeli attacks against disabled persons during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. The report highlighted also the destruction of institutions that provide services to disabled persons. It will be included in a comprehensive report on the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip which will be published in 2015.

4. Lectures on the rights of disabled persons

The unit organized a number of lectures and workshops on the rights of disabled persons. The staff members participated also on a number of activities organized by organizations that provide services to disabled persons.

- » On 17 March 2014, the unit organized a workshop in cooperation with the Swedish Organization for Individual Relief on the rights of disabled

persons under the international and national laws. Azzam Shaat, a researcher in the unit, delivered a lecture on the rights of disabled persons in the Gaza Strip and obstacles to the application of Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The workshop was held in the office of the Swedish Organization in the northern Gaza Strip and was attended by its staff and families of disabled persons.

- » On 24 March 2014, the unit organized a lecture on rights of disabled persons in the Gaza Strip for 30 students of Abassan Preparatory School, east of Khan Yunis. The lecture addressed in particular the right to health of disabled persons.
- » On 9 November 2014, the unit director participated in a workshop organized by Future Association for the Adult Deaf on the rights and duties of disabled persons under the law.
- » On 7 December 2014, the unit participated in a conference organized by Atfaluna Association for Deaf Children on documentation of violations of the rights of disabled persons. The unit director presented an intervention on the human rights approach to violations of the rights of disabled persons.

5. Press releases and media activities

In 2014, the unit carried out a series of media activities, including interviews with the local, Arab and international media, on the rights of disabled persons. These activities highlighted the obstacles to the implementation of Law No. 4 of 1999 on Persons with Disabilities due to the ongoing political split, Israeli attacks on institutions that provide services to disabled persons.

output (5)

Promotion of the Right to Adequate Housing

Activities

1. Monitoring the right to adequate housing in the Gaza Strip
2. Meetings with the Ministry of Housing, UNRWA, the Palestinian Housing Council, housing associations, contractors and beneficiaries
3. A factsheet on the right to adequate housing in the Gaza Strip
4. A seminar on the right to adequate housing in the Gaza Strip
5. Lectures on the right to adequate housing
6. Press releases and media activities

1. Observation of housing projects for victims of the right to adequate housing

The unit followed up housing projects for victims of the right to adequate housing. In this regard, the unit documented the number of houses that were destroyed in the Gaza Strip during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip ("Operation Protective Edge"), and the areas of land that were razed by Israeli forces during their military operations in the Gaza Strip, including greenhouses, irrigation networks, wells, animal and bird farms and agricultural pools.

2. Meetings with the Ministry of Housing, the Palestinian Housing Council, housing associations, contractors and beneficiaries

Staff members of the unit held meetings with representatives of the Palestinian Ministry of Housing, the Palestinian Housing Council, UNRWA and contractors to discuss housing conditions in the Gaza Strip in order to overcome the impacts of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

3. A factsheet on housing in the Gaza Strip

The unit issued a factsheet entitled "Governmental Policies: A Critique from the Perspective of Economic and Social Rights". It called upon the Palestinian Authority to adopt policies and plans to promote the right to adequate housing and taken into consideration the urgent needs of thousands of civilian who lost their homes during the Israeli offensive on

the Gaza Strip. It called further for re-evaluating the Palestinian Authority's obligation in regards to the right to adequate housing, and protecting people from forcible eviction of their houses by providing adequate alternatives. Additionally, it called for making information relating to the allocation of public lands accessible, and evaluating such policies for the purpose of best investment of available lands.

4. A seminar on the right to adequate housing in the Gaza Strip

On 5 June 2014, the unit organized a workshop on the future of housing policies in the Gaza Strip. The workshop was held in Commodore Hotel in Gaza City. Representatives from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the Palestinian Housing Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in the workshop. Eng. Naji Sarhan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, presented an intervention on housing in the Gaza Strip. Dr. Fadel al-Muzieni, a researcher in the unit, presented an intervention on the impact of the Israeli closure on housing projects in the Gaza Strip. Saber al-Nairab, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, presented an intervention on the Palestinian development plan from the perspective of the right to adequate housing. The unit director presented an intervention on governmental policies towards housing issues from the perspective of economic and social rights.

5. Press releases and media activities

In 2014, the unit carried out several media activities, including interviews with the local, Arab and international media, on the right to adequate housing. These activities highlighted the impact of the Israeli closure on the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip following the Israeli offensive that destroyed many housing units.

output (6)

Promotion of Economic and Social Rights of the Population of Access-Restricted Areas (ARA)

Activities

1. Monitoring violations of the economic and social rights of the population of the ARA
2. Meetings with the population to determine their needs
3. Meetings with development experts, representatives of the Palestinian Authority, international organizations, academics and donors
4. Advocacy and lobbying for the rights of the population
5. A report on Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip
6. Six fact-sheets on attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip
7. Press releases and media activities

The unit monitored the economic and living conditions of the population of the Israeli-imposed ARA in the Gaza Strip, including farmers and fishermen, and the impact of the Israeli closure on their subsistence. The unit highlighted the impact of Israeli attacks against Palestinian farmers and fishermen.

1. Monitoring violations of the economic and social rights of the population of the ARA, including fishermen

In 2014, the unit monitored violations of the economic and social rights of the population of the Israeli-imposed ARA in the Gaza Strip, including farmers and fishermen. It highlighted restrictions on access to farmers to agricultural areas and fishermen to the sea, and it documented attacks against them. The unit has been a major source for data on the ARA, including daily attacks on farmers and fishermen and their property.

2. Meetings with the population to determine their needs

The unit's staff held periodic meetings with residents of the ARA, including representatives of the civil societies in the area and the Fishermen Syndicate. These meetings addressed efforts to support

the population and its basic needs, and document Israeli attacks against farmers and fishermen.

3. Meetings with international and local organizations, including donors

The unit director held several meetings with international organizations to highlight the suffering of Palestinian civilians living in ARA and violations of their rights. He also escorted several visiting international delegations and representatives of international organizations operating in the Gaza Strip in field tour to border areas and Gaza fishing harbor to meet with farmers and fishermen.

- » On 6 March 2014, the unit director escorted a Japanese delegation in a field tour that included Gaza fishing harbor, border areas in the north and east of the Gaza Strip and al-Mentarl (Karni) crossing.

On 26 March 2014, the unit director participated in a meeting with Martin Oelz, from the International Labor Organization. The meeting discussed living conditions of the Palestinian labor force in the Gaza Strip under the ongoing Israeli closure.

4. Advocacy and lobbying for the rights of the population

The unit carried out a number of activities to highlight the suffering of the population of border areas and fishermen:

- » Meetings with societies operating in border areas, including fishing associations, to discuss the economic and social conditions in these areas.
- » Escorting international delegations in field tours in these areas to witness the suffering of the population.
- » Providing information and statistics to international relief organizations to provide assistance to victims of Israeli attacks.
- » Media interviews on violations against the population of border areas and fishermen.
- » Coordination and cooperation with international solidarity activists to organize activities to support for the population of border areas and fishermen.
- » On 14 April 2014, PCHR organized a meeting to present a report titled “Under Fire” that was jointly issued by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). The meeting was held in PCHR’s head office in Gaza City, where a number of representatives of community-based and international organizations and media agencies attended. The meeting was opened by Mr. Khalil Shaheen, Director of the PCHR’s Economic and Social Rights’ Unit. He explained that the meeting was held in the context of PCHR’s efforts to monitor and follow up the living conditions of civilians in the Gaza Strip, especially under the Israeli-imposed closure on the Gaza Strip for over 7 years and the constant Israeli attacks against civilians who are protected according to the international humanitarian law. Mr. Shaheen added that the report seeks to shed light on the Israeli violations in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA) in land and sea in the Gaza Strip

and on the motivations and consequences of such violations in the ARA, including the impacts related to internal displacement, health, financial conditions and livelihood. Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, highlighted the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, pointing to the Israeli-imposed closure on the Gaza Strip, which is illegal and inhumane and constitutes a form of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. He added that the closure has hindered any communication between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on the one hand and the Gaza Strip and the outside world on the other hand. He explained that Israeli violations against the Palestinian civilians in the ARA are a limited sample of the closure, indicating that Israeli violations and restrictions imposed on the access to livelihood reflect the daily suffering of fishermen and farmers in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli measures in the ARA despoil 35% of the best agricultural area and deny the Palestinian farmers and fishermen access to 85% of their livelihood. Sourani pointed that “Under Fire” report was launched in February in London in the presence of about 40 members of the European Parliament, politicians and journalists. Sourani delivered a speech on that occasion on the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip via Skype.

5. A report on Israeli attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip

The unit issued a report documenting Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip in the period from 1 September 2013 to 1 December 2014. The report reviews incident of shooting and wounding fishermen, confiscating and damaging fishing equipment and chasing and arresting fishermen. The report indicates that all attacks against Palestinian fishermen took place within the six-nautical-mile limit imposed by Israeli forces for Palestinian fishing.

6. Fact-sheets on attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip

The unit issued six fact-sheets on Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen, including shooting and detention of fishermen and damaging and confiscation of fishing boats.

7. Press releases and media activities

In 2014, the unit carried out a number of media activities, including eight interviews with the local, Arab and international media, highlighting the living and economic conditions of the Palestinian population and Israeli attacks in the ARA.

- » On 10 February 2014, the unit director participated in the meeting of the Protection Cluster in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Gaza City. The meeting

o Contribution to Training Courses Organized by the Training Unit

In 2014, the unit actively contributed to training courses organized by PCHR's Training Unit. In this context, the unit's staff contributed to 8 training courses, facilitating lectures on the economic, social and cultural rights, including the right of education, health and development.

o Contribution to PCHR's Annual Report

The unit contributed to PCHR's annual report by preparing a number of reports that focused on the following issues:

- » Continued closure and violation of the right to freedom of movement.
- » Destruction of civilian property.
- » Impact of the political division on the economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip.

was attended by representatives of member local and international organization. The unit presented "Under Fire", a report jointly issued by PCHR and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, which documents Israeli attacks in the ARA.

- » On 18 February 2010, the unit director participated in the meeting of the Protection Cluster in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Gaza City. The meeting was attended by representatives of member local and international organization.

Other Activities

- » The unit's staff members were involved in PCHR's activities to document Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians and property during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer 2014. They prepared press releases and special reports on the humanitarian conditions, violations of economic and social rights and attacks against medical personnel. They also contributed to media activities exposing Israeli violations of human rights.
- » The unit's staff members were involved in preparing a report on the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. They prepared sections in the report on destruction of civilian property, attacks against medical and humanitarian personnel and the impact of the Israeli closure during the offensive.
- » On 13 March 2014, the unit director held a skype meeting with Carrol Palf, from Christian Aid, on seizure of land in the Gaza Strip and the situation in the ARA.



Khalil Shaheen, director of the unit, with the Yemeni Minister of Justice and Polish Ambassador to Tunisia



TRAINING UNIT

In 2014, the unit carried out activities detailed in its annual plan. In spite of the complicated changes and conditions in the oPt, the unit continued to implement its activities with the new groups it began to target, in addition to the groups it already targets. The human rights education has continued to be faced by a state of frustration among Palestinians due to the impunity granted to alleged Israeli war criminals, the failure of the international community to fulfill its moral and legal obligations to hold Israel accountable for crimes committed against the Palestinian civilian population and dual standards adopted by European governments. In summer, Israel launched a large-scale offensive on the Gaza Strip, which lasted for 50 days. During that period, Palestinian were to unprecedented violent attacks and they lacked security even inside their homes.

Additionally, the ongoing political division in the Palestinian territory has led to extensive human rights violations and obstruction of democratic reform, causing more frustration to the Palestinian populations. Although a Palestinian national unity government was formed, the situation in the Gaza Strip did not improve and it even deteriorated. Palestinians have little hope in the success of reconciliation, which has served to increase their frustration.

All these factors have obstructed the education of human rights and democracy and have added more burdens on human rights defenders to revive and disseminate the human rights culture in the Palestinian society.

output (1)

Organizing raining courses for 400 young man and women who are university graduates or students, journalists, lawyers or members of civil society organizations in the field of human rights and democracy

This output was distributed into 18 activities, but the unit was able to organize 10 training courses only due to the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, and its subsequent impacts. The number of participants in these courses 267 persons representing more than 20 community-based organizations throughout the Gaza Strip. The unit organized training courses in cooperation with local organizations, including Palestinian Women Development Association; Tawasul Association for Culture and Arts; youth groups at universities; and activists defending the rights of prisoners.

Training Courses Organized by the Unit in 2014

No.	Number of Courses and Targeted Groups	Number of Participants	Number of Training Hours	Women's Participation
1	4 courses for university students (youth groups)	158	80	48.5%
2	5 courses for members of CBOs	130	100	53%
3	One course for young lawyers	22	20	32%

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

In total, the unit organized 10 training courses for 267 persons, including 132 women (49.5%), in 200 training hours. Attendance was estimated at 93%. A specialized team of trainers from PCHR and external trainers provided the training.



A meeting in PCHR's head office with a student parliament of an UNRWA school, March 2014

Training Courses Organized by the Unit in 2014

No.	Target Group	Number of Trainees	Place	Training Hours	Period	Women's Participation
1	Students of the Faculty of Sharia and Law at the Islamic University	28	PCHR's office in Gaza City	20	21 Apr. – 4 May	57%
2	Members of Somow Youth Group	30	PCHR's office in Gaza City	20	22 Apr. – 6 May	63%
3	Young lawyers in Khan Yunis	27	PCHR's office in Khan Yunis	18	29 Apr. – 7 May	32%
4	Members of CBOs in Rafah	31	Office of Tawasul Association in Rafah	20	11-15 May	61%
5	Members of Palestinian Women Development Association in the central Gaza Strip	22	Office of Palestinian Women Development Association in al-Boreij	20	1-5 Jun.	100%
6	Members of Binaa Association for Development and Empowerment in North Gaza	26	Office of Binaa Association for Development and Empowerment	20	8-12 Jun.	46%
7	Members of the Legal Youth Community (a youth group in the Islamic University)	26	PCHR's office in Gaza City	20	16-22 Jun.	61.5%
8	Members of the Youth Media Community	23	PCHR's office in Khan Yunis	20	22-26 Jun.	69.5%
9	Members of the Youth Legal Community	31	Al-Dar Restaurant, Gaza City	20	30 Nov. – 4 Dec.	48%
10	Activists defending the rights of prisoners	28	Al-Dar Restaurant, Gaza City	20	16-20 Dec.	0%

It is worth noting that the unit developed tools to measure the effects of training:

No.	Tool	Indicators
1	Observation	<p>The unit director, who attended all lectures, noticed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A state of confusion towards human rights was noticed over the year, which disappeared by the end of courses. » Participants were increasingly involved in discussions. » Trainees demonstrated increased respect for discussion and other opinions. » Attendance was satisfactory.
2	Comparison between the participants' expectations at the beginning of training courses and the outcome and suggestions and at the end of the courses through questionnaires	<p>The participants identified the following expectations at the beginning of the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Knowing about the role of human rights organizations, especially PCHR. » Making new contacts. » Obtaining certificates of participation. » Acquiring new information on human rights and the rights of women and children. <p>It should be noted that details were different from one category to another. For example, civil society volunteers focused on human rights in general; young lawyers focused on the Sharia Law expression their wish to obtain licenses to work before Sharia courts; media professionals focused on their status under the international human rights law; university students focused on the role and rights of the youth; female activists focused on women's rights; fishermen and farmers focused on mechanisms of access to justice; and participants in the regional courses focused on understanding the mechanisms of the international human rights system and monitoring and documentation of human rights violations.</p> <p>The participants evaluated the courses as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » They knew more about the role of human rights organizations, especially PCHR in the prosecution of war criminals and defending human rights. » They acquired new information on human rights and international humanitarian law. » They made new contacts. » They acquired new theoretical and practical knowledge. <p>The participants suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Holding more similar training courses. » Holding training courses on the rights of women for youth groups. » Organizing a series of lecture on the rights of detainees under international humanitarian law. <p>The questionnaires explained the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The contents of lectures were appropriate to the trainees' expectations. » The trainers were qualified and efficient. » Training methods varied. » Interaction between trainers and trainees and between the trainees and the contents of training courses was good. » Attendance was high. » Commitment to the rules of discussion and respect for others' opinions were good. » Training places were adequate, excluding one. » The trainees benefited of PCHR's publications, especially the training guide.



A training session for a youth group, November 2014

No.	Tool	Indicators
3	Tracing effects of training at the personal and professional levels	<p>Although it is difficult to trace effects of training on trainers at the personal and professional levels, the unit director was able to notice the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased efforts to document Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights in border areas and in the sea. » 5 trainees were involved in human rights projects as volunteers. » 25 trainees volunteered in PCHR to assist in documenting human rights violations during the Israeli offensive on Gaza. » A number of trainees expressed their wish to work as volunteers. » At least 70 trainees visited PCHR's offices over the year. » Many trainees participated in PCHR's activities following the training. » 45 teachers who received training in PCHR facilitated visits of school children to PCHR's offices; the number of visiting students in 2014 was 988 children. » Directors of a number of other organizations stated to the unit director that their employees who received training acquired more knowledge and experience and their relations with their colleagues and organizations improved. » The unit organized 4 training course upon initiatives of persons who had received training at PCHR.
4	Informing about human rights violations and referring victims to PCHR	<p>In 2014, the unit director received information from trainees on human rights violations at least 54 times; 10 trainees came to PCHR to inform about human rights violations; and 17 trainees accompanied victims to PCHR.</p>
5	Participation in PCHR's activities	<p>Many trainees participated in PCHR's activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A number of trainees participated in workshops organized by PCHR. » A number of trainees assisted in organizing 3 training courses in their organizations. » A number of trainees informed PCHR about human rights violations and some of them accompanied victims to PCHR. » A number of trainees invited PCHR's staff members of deliver lectures or participated in meetings.
6	Trainees' initiatives	<p>Trainees made a number of initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Trainees coordinated 36 visits for school children to PCHR's offices. » A number of trainees invited a number of PCHR staff members to participate in workshops organized by their organizations. » A number of trainees informed PCHR on human rights violations and escorted victims to PCHR's offices. » A number of trainees wished to work as volunteers at PCHR. » A number of trainees worked as volunteers in human rights programs.
7	Requests for organizing training courses	<p>In 2014, the unit received 12 requests from a number of civil society organizations to organize training courses for their members on human rights and democracy, and to be invited to participate in activities organized by PCHR. The unit director held meetings with director of 10 of these organizations.</p>



A training session for defenders of prisoners' rights, November 2014

Issuing News Releases Related to the Unit's Activities

In 2014, the unit issued 13 press releases covering its activities. Local newspapers reported on these activities.

output (2)

Organizing a Training Course for Human Rights Trainers

The unit planned to organize two training courses to train human rights trainers, but it was able to organize one inside the Gaza Strip. The number of participants was 23 persons representing 11 CBOs throughout the Gaza Strip. The 35-training course lasted for five days from 24-30 December 2014. It was held in the Museum Hotel in Gaza City.

output (3)

Rising Awareness of 250 Individuals of Rights Ensured by International Human Rights Law

In 2014, the unit delivered 11 training sessions and lectures on basic human rights concepts, democracy, citizenship, preparing legal files, women's rights and children's rights. The number of attendants was 287 representing various segments of the society. The unit organized these activities in cooperation with the Independent Commission of Human Rights, Creative Woman Forum, al-Adham Association for Development and the Youth Media Community.



A working group in Train of Trainers course

Activities to Raise Awareness

Activity	Implementation	Means of Verification	Indicators
Raising awareness of 250 individuals of rights ensured by international human rights law	The unit organized 11 lectures throughout the Gaza Strip on human rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Gaining more knowledge about human rights issues. » Attendance. » The increase in the number of requests to organize or to be invited to attend lectures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The participants expressed that they gained more knowledge about human rights issues. » 287 individuals attended the lectures. » The unit received 13 requests.

Details of Lectures

No.	Partner Organization	Target Groups	Subject	Place	Number of participants	Date
1.	Creative Woman Forum	University graduates	Democracy	Museum Hotel	18	18 Jan.
2.	Creative Women Forum	University graduates	Citizenship	Museum Hotel	18	19 Jan.
3.	Creative Women Forum	University graduates	Civil society	Museum Hotel	18	20 Jan.
4.	Palestine Legal Community	University students	Introduction to human rights	Palestine University	26	14 Apr.
5.	Human Rights Defenders Network	University students	Building legal files	PCHR's office in Gaza City	38	24 Jun.
6.	Independent Commission of Human Rights	NGO workers	Research methodology and standards	Office of the Independent Commission of Human Rights	33	16 Oct.
7.	PCHR	Field workers of human rights organizations	Collecting evidence without traumatizing victims	Al-Dar Restaurant	20	4 Dec.
8.	Al-Zaytoun Preparatory School	Parents	Women's rights	The school	51	14 Dec.
9.	Al-Adham Association for Development	Members of the association	Human rights concepts	The association's office	30	17 Dec.
10.	PCHR	Bloggers	Human rights	PCHR's office in Gaza City	16	21 Dec.
11.	Palestinian Youth Media Community	Members of the community	Introduction to human rights	The community's office	19	22 Dec.

output (4)

Maintaining Contacts with Trainees and Establishing an Alumni Organization

The unit continued its efforts to establish an alumni body that combines individuals who receive training at PCHR. In 2014, the unit filed contact details of 213 trainees. The list includes names, places of residence, work places, telephone and fax numbers, e-mails, the coordinating institutions, and the dates and places of courses.

Persons who received training at PCHR contributed to a number of activities organized by PCHR and other organizations:

1. 25 persons who received training at PCHR assisted PCHR in documenting human rights violations perpetrated by Israeli forces during the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip.
2. The unit added at e-mail addresses of at least 130 trainees to PCHR's mailing list.
3. The unit received many visitors who received training.
4. There was an increasing interest in the documentation of Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights in border areas and the sea in the Gaza Strip. A Facebook page was established to monitor and document Israeli attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip, and a person who received training at PCHR documents Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians, especially farmers, in border areas, on his own Facebook page.
5. Five of the trainees were involved in a project relating to violations of children's rights in the Gaza Strip.
6. A number of PCHR's staff members were invited to participate in workshops and meeting organized by organizations whose members had training at PCHR.
7. A number of trainees participated in workshops and conferences organized by PCHR.
8. A number of participants assisted in the organization of 4 training courses.
9. A number of participants informed PCHR about human rights violations.
10. 15 trainees volunteered to assist PCHR in a survey of CBOs in the Gaza Strip.
11. Friends of PCHR organized 36 visits for 988 school children to PCHR's offices.

Visits by School Children to PCHR's Offices in 2014

No.	School	Office	Number of Children	Date
1.	Khan Yunis School «B» for Girls	Khan Yunis	22	19 January
2.	Jabalya School «B» for Boys	Jabalya	35	10 February
3.	Rafah Elementary School for Boys	Khan Yunis	25	12 February
4.	Qulaibu Preparatory School	Jabalya	17	17 February
5.	Khan Yunis Elementary School «C»	Khan Yunis	40	26 February
6.	Al-Shujaiya Elementary School «C»	Gaza	25	24 February
7.	Jabalya Elementary School «A» for Boys	Jabalya	23	27 February
8.	Tal al-Sultan Preparatory School for Girls	Khan Yunis	40	27 February

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

No.	School	Office	Number of Children	Date
9.	Khan Yunis Elementary School «A» for Girls	Khan Yunis	14	10 March
10.	Rafah Preparatory School «A» for Boys	Gaza	40	12 March
11.	Khan Yunis Elementary School «B» for Girls	Khan Yunis	12	12 March
12.	Khan Yunis Preparatory School for Boys	Khan Yunis	25	13 March
13.	Al-Fukhari School for Boys	Khan Yunis	25	16 March
14.	UNRWA School Central Parliament	Khan Yunis	30	17 March
15.	Al-Fukhari School	Khan Yunis	15	30 March
16.	Deir al-Balah Elementary School	Gaza	25	20 March
17.	Deir al-Balah Elementary School «B»	Gaza	31	20 March
18.	Maan Preparatory School for Boys	Khan Yunus	21	24 March
19.	Bani Suhaila Preparatory School	Khan Yunis	33	25 March
20.	Al-Mamouniya Elementary School	Gaza	29	25 March
21.	Al-Maghazi Elementary School «B»	Gaza	52	26 March
22.	Deir al-Balah Elementary School «B»	Gaza	15	31 March
23.	Abu Tuaima Preparatory School for Girls	Khan Yunis	5	2 April
24.	Rafah Elementary School «A» for Boys	Gaza	61	3 April
25.	Al-Junaina Preparatory School in Rafah	Gaza	25	8 April
26.	Beit Lahia Elementary School «A» for Boys	Jabalya	24	15 April
27.	Rafah Elementary School «D»	Gaza	25	26 April
28.	Jabalya Elementary School «A» for Girls	Jabalya	22	3 November
29.	Jabalya Elementary School «B» for Girls	Jabalya	30	26 November
30.	Al-Qarara Elementary School	Khan Yunis	20	30 November
31.	Khan Yunis Preparatory School for Girls	Kahn Yunis	30	1 December
32.	Student Parliaments of Rafah	Khan Yunis	29	16 December
33.	Al-Zaytoun Preparatory School «A» for Girls	Gaza	45	17 November
34.	Al-Nussairat Preparatory School «A» for Boys	Gaza	26	11 December
35.	Jabalya Elementary School «A» for Girls	Jabalya	22	3 November

output (5)

Maintaining Relations with Civil Society Organizations through Training Activities

The unit contributes to promote PCHR's relations with civil society organizations through participating in training activities organized by these organizations. The unit receives many invitations from governmental and non-governmental organizations to organize training courses for their members, delivering lectures or designing training programs due to the unit's high professionalism.

The unit responded positively to invitations from community-based organizations to deliver lectures or facilitate training sessions in the field of human rights. In 2013, the unit implemented 7 of such activities, which were attended by 192 persons.

Lectures Delivered by the Unit at Training Courses Organized by Other Organizations

No.	Partner Organization	Target Groups	Subject	Place	Number of participants	Date
1.	Creative Woman Forum	University graduates	Democracy	Museum Hotel	18	23 Jan.
2.	Creative Women Forum	University graduates	Citizenship	Museum Hotel	18	23 Jan.
3.	Creative Women Forum	University graduates	Civil society	Museum Hotel	18	24 Jan.

output (6)

Q&A Manuals of Human Rights

In 2014, the unit prepared 3 manuals; one is being printed, another one is being reviewed and the third one will be published in 2015.

Details of the Manuals

No.	Manual	Process
1.	Updated human rights training manual	Under print
2.	Manual for human rights trainers	A draft has been prepared and it is being revised
3.	Two Q & A manuals on a number of human rights instruments	They will be published in 2015

Activities Not Included in the Annual Plan

1. Preparing a form for institutions to examine their activities in the field of defending human rights.
2. 85 forms were completed by institutions throughout the Gaza Strip.
3. Designing a form for individuals to monitor the human rights conditions and the conceptual and behavioral changes in the field of combating human rights violations.
4. More than 300 interviews were conducted with persons who received or will receive training at PCHR, and forms were completed to monitor the human rights conditions.
5. A monitoring, evaluating, accountability and learning course was organized on 1 and 3 December 2014 for 15 staff members of PCHR. The training was provided by Ibrahim al-Tamimi from Oxfam-Novib via the video conference.



ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

PCHR pays a special attention to develop a network of relations based on joint cooperation in order to be able to achieve its goal of protection of human rights and international humanitarian law. PCHR's efforts to activate advocacy and lobbying activities at the local level are aimed at protecting human rights in the Palestinian territory and promoting democratic awareness in the Palestinian society. At the international level, PCHR makes use of such efforts to defend Palestinian human rights and influence the international public opinion against human rights violations and crimes perpetrated by the Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians.

In 2014, PCHR made intensive efforts to make use its relations with partner international organizations and visiting international delegations towards achieving justice, enforcing human rights standards and ending Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians.

Participation in international and regional conferences and meetings

Visit to Spain

In the period 7-13 January 2014, PCHR participated in a number of meeting in Spain, including a meeting of the international legal team, in which PCHR was represent by its Director, Raji Spurani. Sourani participated also in a seminar organized in the cultural conference center in Madrid by civil society organizations and solidarity groups. He also held a series of meetings, including meetings with the Mayor of Madrid and his deputy and members of solidarity groups.

International Conference in Germany on the Annexation Wall

Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs participated in an international conference that was organized in Berlin on 7 July 2014 about the annexation wall on the 10th anniversary of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. organized by MISEREOR and Brot fur die Welt, in cooperation with Human Rights Center of Potsdam University. During his stay in Germany, Shaqqura participated in several meetings:

- » A meeting with Sibylle Pfwiffer, Member of Parliament for the Christian Democratic Union and head of the Parliamentary working group of economic and developmental cooperation;
- » A meeting with Anitie Groth, Member of Parliament for Dei Linke;
- » A meeting with Dr. Simone Raatz and Gabriele Schmidt, from the parliamentary working group of Arab nations;
- » A meeting with Omid Nouripour, Member of Parliament for the Green Party and the foreign affairs spokesperson for the party's parliamentary bloc;
- » A meeting with Achim Post, Member of Parliament for the Social Democratic Party and member of the foreign affairs committee;
- » A meeting with Dr. Karamba Daiby, Member of Parliament for the Social Democratic Party and member of the human rights and aid committee;
- » A special meeting was held with the Middle East department in Brot fur die Welt or-

ganization, which is one of the largest developmental organizations in Germany, where the oPt is covered in the scope of its work. The meeting was held in the organization's headquarter in which the role of PCHR was introduced and an in-depth discussion of the circumstances of the oPt, including the influence of regional changes of the Arab world on the oPt, took place;

- » A meeting with Christoph Strasser, the German Human Rights' Commissioner;
- » A meeting with representatives of the Middle East Unit in the department and their counterparts in Angela Merkel's office;
- » A meeting with Dr. Martin Dutzmann, Ambassador of the Protestant Church in Germany for the European Union;
- » The European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights organized a discussion seminar for the members of the center and lawyers from various countries. The seminar addressed the status of human rights in the oPt and the legal intervention procedures to protect human rights, with a detailed presentation of the recent developments in the Israeli judiciary and the Palestinian civilians' right to justice. Subsequently, another meeting was held with the director of the center Folvngang Kalik to identify cooperation opportunities in the international judiciary;

- » A meeting with Robert Grabosch and Katharina Heinzmann about the chances of using German judiciary to legally peruse business, which violate human rights of civilians in the oPt.

Conference for Palestine – Italy

Upon an invitation by Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs in the American University of Beirut, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in a conference in the period 26-30 September 2014, on the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip ("Operation Protective Edge"). The conference addressed issues of protection of civilians, accountability for war crimes and the need to lift the closure imposed on Gaza to allow its reconstruction. Sourani delivered the opening speech in the conference which constituted a ground for discussion over two days. The UNRWA Commissioner General Pierre Krähenbühl and the former UNRWA Commissioner General Filippo Grandi, and academics and jurists from America, Europe and Palestine participated in the conference.

Sourani met in Beirut with Dr. Kamel Muhanna, Head of Amel Association; Mr. Ziad Abdul Samad, Head of the Arab NGO Network; Dr. Salman Abu Sitta; Islah Salah; and Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta, who are all supporters of the Palestinian cause and the rights of Palestinian refugees.

Visit to Japan

Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, visited Japan in the period 8-21 October 2014. He was co-invited to visit Japan by Professor Egy Najasawa from Tokyo University, Kamakoura, a director at NHK TV channel, and Dowi Toshikino, a filmmaker specialized in the Palestinian cause. During this visit, he conducted a series of meetings and lectures in Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Fukushima. Sourani lectured on two consecutive days in Tokyo University before a large audience of academics, experts, lawyers, solidarity activists, and journalists. The lectures were introduced by Prof. Najsawa Origy, from Tokyo University. They were preceded by two films, one is about the latest war and the targeting of civilians and the other one is about the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip prepared by Dowi Toshikino, a historian and filmmaker.



Mr. Raji Sourani delivers a lecture

- » Prof. Mary Okeh, a writer and specialist in Arabic language, hosted a meeting with Sourani in Kyoto University, which was attended and a large audience of Japanese and Arabs. It should be noted that Prof Mary Okeh translated the full works of Ghassan Kanafani.
- » In Hiroshima, Sourani visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park where he met with four survivors of the nuclear attack and listened to their stories. They showed great sympathy towards the Palestinians and condemned Israeli attacks against them. Sourani also visited Hiroshima University where he met with its president who is an expert in Middle Eastern affairs and delivered a lecture before a large audience of professors and students.
- » Upon returning to Tokyo, Sourani met with the director general of the Middle East Department in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and informed him of the latest developments related to the Palestinian cause and human rights conditions in the light of the

last offensive of the Gaza Strip. Moreover, Sourani asserted that international donors are not an insurance policy for Israeli crimes. Prof. Egy Najasawa and Dowi Toshikino attended the meeting.

- » Sourani was interviewed by NHK TV network which recorded a debate between him and an Asian thinker Prof Suh*. The debate was administered by the famous director Kamakura. The debate focused on the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. Sourani explained the situation as it is on ground and the western complicit position towards the people of Palestine. He also highlighted the international laws in this regard and the positions of peoples of the world communities, which demonstrated in solidarity with the Palestinians, especially the peoples and governments of Latin America. Additionally, Sourani stressed the optimism and strength of the people of Palestine despite the obvious imbalance of power.

Press Conference

In the conclusion of his visit to Japan, on 20 October 2014, Sourani held a Press conference in Japan National Press Club (JNPC) (Journalists Syndicate), which was facilitated by Mr. Yasoushi, JNPC Secretary-General. Around 40 Japanese journalists representing major Japanese televisions and newspapers and prominent journalists specialized in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and Middle East issues attended the conference.

Mr. Raji Sourani during a lecture in Japan National Press Club



In the beginning of the conference, Sourani made a 40-minute presentation on the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and the unprecedented crimes committed by the Israeli forces, including the complete destruction of neighborhoods and populated areas, such as al-Shija'iyah neighborhood, Khuza'a village and Beit Hanoun town, over the heads of their residents. He also addressed the annihilation of complete families, such as the families of al-Najjar, Kaware', al-Batsh, Hamad, al-Helo and others, as well as targeting schools used as shelters for the civilians who left their houses that had been attacked as well. He also talked about targeting hospitals and medical crews, the destruction of sewage plants and the only power plant in the Gaza Strip and other war crimes committed against civilians.



Mr. Raji Sourani with the director general of the Middle East Department in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PCHR continued advocacy activities at the international level in the context of efforts to defend the rights of the Palestinian people, but it faced several obstacles as Israeli authorities closed all border crossings and tightened the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip. As PCHR was not able to physically participate in activities to which it was invited abroad, its participation in a number of activities was limited to presence through the video conference.

Testifying before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories

- On 2 June 2014, Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, testified before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories. The testimony was made via Skype because member of the Committee were not allowed in the oPt. Israeli has refused to officially receive the Committee and has denied it access to the oPt. In his testimony, Shaqqura highlighted violations of human rights and international humanitarian law perpetrated by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians. He highlighted two main issues: the excessive and disproportional use of force by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians; and the blockade and the collective punishment imposed on the Gaza Strip for seven years.

Intervention at UN Human Rights Committee's Hearing

- On 20 October 2014, Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, made an intervention at the UN Human Rights Committee's heading no. 112. Shaheen presented his intervention via the video conference at the UN headquarter in Gaza, because PCHR's representative were not able to travel to Geneva due to the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, as the Committee was conducting the periodic review of Israel. In his intervention, Shaheen reviewed the human rights situation in the oPt, especially in the Gaza Strip. He highlighted the wide-scale serious violations perpetrated by Israeli forces during their offensive on the Gaza Strip, the ongoing blockade and the obstruction of the process of reconstruction.

VISITING INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

PCHR regularly receives international delegations and public figures as part of its efforts to provide the international community with a comprehensive overview of and background to violations of human rights perpetrated by Israeli forces in the oPt. PCHR provides visitors with the required information, testimonies, affidavits, numbers and statistics. PCHR also briefed the delegations and visitors on the human rights situation in the oPt.

Program Advisor of the Norwegian Representative Office

On 14 January 2013, PCHR received Marte Teie Helum, Program Advisor of the Norwegian Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority. The visitor met with Mr. Jaber Weshah, PCHR's Deputy Director for Branch Affairs, and Mr. Hamdi Shaqqoura. The meeting discussed the deteriorating human rights situation in the oPt due to the continued Israeli violations.

South African Representative to the Palestinian Authority

On 14 January 2014, PCHR received Mr. Mlungisi W. Makalima, the South African Representative to the Palestinian National Authority, and Mr. Goodman Molate, Political Advisor, at PCHR's head office in Gaza City. The two visitors met with Mr. Jaber Weshah, PCHR's Deputy Director for Branch Affairs. The meeting discussed the latest developments in regards to the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. Weshah addressed the most prominent Israeli violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He talked particularly about the ramifications of the Israeli-imposed closure on the Gaza Strip and how it has denied the Palestinian civilians their economic, cultural and social rights. He highlighted the importance of taking a real action to put an end to the closure as it is a form of collective punishment.

Deputy Head of European Union Delegation in Jerusalem

On 15 January 2014, PCHR received Mr. David Geer, Deputy Head of European Union Delegation in Jerusalem, and Mr. Joris Van Winckel, Officer of Political Affairs at the Office of the European Union Representative, at PCHR's head office in Gaza City. The two visitors met with Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, who discussed with them the latest developments in regards to the human rights situation in the oPt.

Delegation from Friedrich Ebert Foundation

On 15 January 2014, Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, met at PCHR's head office in Gaza with a delegation from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, which is one of the most prominent active German foundations in the field of development and democracy and has close cooperation relations with the PCHR. The delegation of German foundation included: Ingrid Ross, Director of Friedrich Eibet; Flex Ikenberg, Palestine Desk Officer; and Dr. Osamah 'Antar, Representative of the Foundation in the Gaza Strip. The meeting reviewed PCHR's activities and the work conducted by PCHR's different units in light of the current situation of human rights in the oPt. The meeting also addressed the consequences of the closure imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip for years as it results in catastrophic conditions that prevent Palestinian civilians from enjoying many of their economic, social, and cultural rights.



Mr. Raji Sourani receives Head of the Representative Office of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority, 11 June

Senior Japanese Delegation

On 3 March 2014, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, met with a senior Japanese delegation composed of Mari Oka, Professor of Contemporary Arabic at Kyoto University and coordinator of the Japan International Volunteer Center, who translated the works of Ghassan Kanafani into Japanese; Professor Ohashi Masaaki at Keisen University and Chairperson of Japan NGO Center; Dr. Rika Fujiya at Keio University, and their assistants. Sourani briefed them about the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), especially in the Gaza Strip. He answered a number of questions that were raised by the delegation.

International Solidarity Delegation

On 12 June 2014, PCHR received an international delegation from the committees of solidarity with the Palestinian people in Spain, Venezuela and France. The delegation included Manu Pineda, Valeria Cortes, Brigitte Challanole, Arlette Charlot, and Olivier Bremond. The visit aimed to explore living conditions of the Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails, especially the prisoners who suffer from health problems and the administrative detainees. The delegation members will organize campaigns in their countries targeting politicians and members of the parliaments in order to encourage them to support the cause of the Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike. The delegation met with Jaber Wishah, PCHR's Deputy Director for Branch Affairs, in PCHR's head office in Gaza. He reviewed the conditions inside the Israeli jails and the inhumane and humiliating detention conditions. Wishah expressed PCHR's willingness to fully cooperate with the delegation members to ensure carrying out campaigns in their countries in solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinian prisoners.

Secretary General of Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

On 14 October 2014, Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director for PCHR, and Essam Younis, Director of Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, met Jan Egeland, Secretary General of NRC, in the NRC's office in Gaza City. Shaqqura and Younis called for an international action to combat the impunity enjoyed by Israel.



Mr. Raji Sourani receives the Swedish Consul General, 16 November

Representative of Federal Republic of Germany

On 22 October 2014, PCHR received Mrs. Barbara Wolf, Head of the Representative Office of Federal Republic of Germany, and Mr. Rimette Von Holtz, Director of Consular and Legal affairs, in its head office in Gaza City. The two visitors met with Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, who appreciated their visit. During the meeting, Shaqqura reviewed the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories and the current situation. He also emphasized the importance of the international action on two main issues. The first is accountability as Israel would not have committed crimes against civilians and their property without having impunity. He added that war crimes must not go unpunished, and the culture of impunity must be fought. The second issue is the 7-year closure imposed on the Gaza Strip which caused devastating consequences on all aspects of lives.

Delegation from the Swedish and Swiss Consulates

On 24 and 25 October 2014, PCHR received a delegation from the Swedish and Swiss Consulates in the context of a fact-finding mission organized by the International Federation of Human Rights. PCHR organized a field tour for the delegation to witness the disastrous impact of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

Delegation from Right Livelihood Foundation

PCHR hosted a delegation of the Swedish Right Livelihood Foundation in the period 28-30 October 2014. The delegation was headed by Mr. Jakob von Uexkull, the founder of the Right Livelihood Award (RLA) and co-chair of the Board of Trustees, and it included: Archbishop Emeritus Andres Wejryd, European President of the World Council of Churches (WCC); Lawyer Agneta Johansson, Deputy Director of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC); Bitte Hammargren, Swedish journalist specializes in Middle East affairs; and Helen Mack Chang, a human rights defender from Guatemala and 1992 Right Livelihood Award laureate. PCHR prepared an intensified schedule which included field tours to observe the destruction and consequences of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, as well as various meetings with ministers in the Palestinian unity government, political factions, civil society organizations, business men and others.



Mr. Raji Sourani with a number of Japanese citizens in Japan

Delegation from Grassroots International

Sameeh Mohsen, PCHR's Coordinator in the West Bank, received a delegation from Grassroots International – USA. The delegation visited PCHR to witness the role played by PCHR in defending human rights in the oPt. Mohsen briefed the delegation on the human rights situation in the oPt, including Israeli policies in East Jerusalem that separate the city from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; settlement activities and house demolitions in East Jerusalem; and Israeli assaults on the religious sites in the city.



A delegation of Right Livelihood Foundation during a visit to Gaza

Spanish Consul General

On 11 November 2014, PCHR received Mr. Juan Jose Escobar, the Spanish Consul General, and Ms. Eva Suarez Leonardo, Senior Program Manager of the Spanish Cooperation Office. Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, received the visitors at Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing. He accompanied them in a field visit to a number of areas that were targeted during the Israeli offensive and witnessed war crimes and crimes against humanity, including al-Nada housing project, Beit Hanoun town and al-Shujaiya neighborhood. The visitors met with a number of victims and their relatives; owners of destroyed houses, factories and property; survivors and families that lost other members. Moreover, the visitors met with a



A delegation of Right Livelihood Foundation during a visit to Gaza

number of Palestinian businessmen, who explained the deteriorating economic situation in the Gaza Strip and the reconstruction plan that has not been implemented so far. Palestinian businessmen confirmed their strong condemnation of the so-called plan of Robert Serry, the UN Secretary-General's Personal Representative. The visitors met also with representatives of Palestinian factions and CBOs at PCHR's head office in Gaza City.

Swedish Delegation

On 17 November 2014, PCHR received a Swedish delegation comprised of Mr. Robert Rydberg, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden; Ms. Ann-Sofie Nilsson, the Swedish Consul General; her deputy Ms. Johanna Strömquist; and representative of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat. The delegation met with a number of representatives of member organizations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat: Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights; al-Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Women's Affairs Centre, Independent Commission for Human Rights, and

Palestine Bar Association. Representatives of the organizations briefed the visiting delegation on the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), especially in the Gaza Strip after the latest Israeli offensive and the massive killing and destruction of lives and property. The meeting addressed the Israeli closure that has been imposed on the Gaza Strip for 7 years and the attempts to institutionalize it instead of completely lifting it. The organizations' representatives also emphasized the importance to hold Israel accountable for the war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip during the latest offensive.

Trocaire Delegation

On 17 November 2014, PCHR received a delegation from the Irish "Trocaire" Foundation. The delegation included: Garry Walsh, Program Director; and Niall O'keeffe, Trocaire's Programme Leader for Governance and Human Rights. Mr. Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and PCHR's staff met with the Irish delegation and explained the human rights situation in the oPt especially in the Gaza Strip following the offensive. This visit is the first of its kind for the delegation members after the offensive on Gaza.



A reception organized by PNGO for Mr. Raji Sourani for being awarded the Alternative Nobel Prize, January 2014



Mr. Raji Sourani receives the Italian Consul General, 22 September



A visit by a delegation of the Organization of Islamic States to PCHR, 2 September



Palestine Bar Association honors Mr. Raji Sourani for being awarded the Alternative Nobel Prize



Mr. Raji Sourani receives an ICRC delegation, 10 March



Mr. Raji Sourani and the Spanish Consul General during a field tour to see the destruction caused by the Israeli offensive, 11 November

International figures and visitors who met with PCHR in Gaza in 2014

Date	Visitors
06 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Rami Murad , Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat » A meeting with Hiba al-Zayan, Director of UN Women Gaza
9 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Wafaa al-Kafarna, Norwegian Refugee Council
12 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat
14 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Marte Teie Hellum, Program Advisor of the Norwegian Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority. » A meeting with Mlungisi W. Makalima, the South African Representative to the Palestinian National Authority
15 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with David Geer, Deputy Head of European Union Delegation in Jerusalem, and Joris Van Winckel, Officer of Political Affairs at the Office of the European Union Representative
19 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Ingrid Ross, Director of Friedrich Eibet; Flex Ikenberg, Palestine Desk Officer; and Dr. Osamah 'Antar, Representative of the Foundation in the Gaza Strip
23 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Caoimhe De Barra, Trocaire's Head of International Programs, and Garry Walsh, Program Officer, Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel, Trocaire, Ireland
28 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Pradeep Wagle, Head of OHCHR sub-office in Gaza, and Saber al-Nairab, OHCHR » A meeting with Martine Van de Velde, Consultant
3 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with a French minister and Majdi Shaqqura, Consul of France in Gaza, in the French Cultural Center
4 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with a delegation from the Representative Office of South Africa to the Palestinian Authority » A meeting with representatives of Toni Blair's office
10 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat » A meeting with UNRWA Commissioner-General and Director of Operations
12 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Toni Blair, the Quartet's Envoy, and Hadi Abu Shahla » A meeting with James Rawley, Humanitarian Coordinator, OCHA
13 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with an Australian delegation and Ms. Suhaila Tarazi, from the Arab National Hospital » A meeting with Deputy Ambassador of South Africa
13 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Fredrik Westerholm, from the Swedish Consulate

Date	Visitors
16 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Ms. Yoshiko Tanaka, director of a Japanese organization » A meeting with a US delegation
17 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Assistant UN Secretary-General and civil society organizations » A meeting with Leonard Mohl, from the Austrian Development Agency, and Christopher Sternat, from the Representative Office of Austria to the PA
18 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with Cathy Bergen
19 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A meeting with the First Secretary of the Representative Office of South Africa to the PA





MEDIA INTERVIEWS

PCHR continues to promote cooperation with local and international media. PCHR considers that the media plays a vital role in disseminating information on the human rights and humanitarian situation in the oPt to influence the international public opinion. PCHR provides facilitations to journalists, especially international ones. In 2014, PCHR continued to conduct interviews with local and international media and respond to requests for information on human rights in the oPt. PCHR's Director and staff were interviewed by hundreds of local and international journalists. The interviews focused on the human rights situation in the oPt, especially during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer 2014. The major media institutions that interviewed PCHR's staff were: The Telegraph; New York Times; CNN; Financial Times; The Guardian; The Independent; Daily Mirror; Der Spiegel; al-Ghad al-Arabi TV; Swiss RTS; al-Jazeera; Irish TV; Egypt TV; Le Monde; Le Figaro; BBC; Newsweek; and Portuguese TV.

PCHR'S PUBLICATIONS IN 2014

PCHR's publications include: press releases; field updates on the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons; filed updates on the Israeli closure; Aftermath (a series of reports at the aftermath of Israel's offensive on the Gaza Strip); periodic and special reports; foldouts; position papers; interventions to UN and other international bodies; and working papers at international and local conferences.

1. Press Releases

PCHR regularly issues press releases providing detailed and timely information regarding specific incidents, violations of human rights or international humanitarian law, or other important developments. In 2014, PCHR issued 170 press releases, including 44 that highlighted events relevant to human rights violations related to the PNA and internal Palestinian issues, and 116 press releases that focused on human rights violations perpetrated by Israeli forces. The Remaining 10 press releases were focused on general violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

PCHR's Press Releases on Palestinian Violations of Human Rights in 2014

No.	Date	Title
1.	9 January	PCHR Demands an Investigation into the Killing of a Woman and 2 Children in 2 Shooting Incidents during Familial Disputes
2.	4 February	PCHR Demands Immediate Investigation into Death of Girl While Treating Her with Quran
3.	9 February	PCHR Calls for Investigating the Death of Child Following Surgery
4.	9 February	Permanent Military Court in Gaza Issues New Death Sentence
5.	13 February	PCHR is Concerned over the Arrest of Dozens of Civilians on the Grounds of Freedom of Opinion, Expression and Belief in the West Bank
6.	13 February	The Court of First Instance in Khan Younis Issues New Death Sentence
7.	14 February	Former Minister Wasfi Qabha was Attacked by Unknown Persons in Jenin
8.	22 February	Increase in Violence against Women, Two Girls Killed in Jabalia and Khan Younis by Their Relatives
9.	27 February	PCHR Strongly Condemns the Attack on the Latin Church in Gaza
10.	9 March	PCHR Denounces Forcible Dispersal of Private Assembly and Arrest of Number of Participants in Khan Yunis
11.	12 March	PCHR Condemns 2 Incidents That Caused Civilian Casualties Due to Mishandling Explosive Devices in Houses

No.	Date	Title
12.	13 March	PCHR Calls for Investigating the Death of Detained Person in Khan Yunis Prison
13.	16 March	Palestinian Civilian Killed and 5 Others Injured, Including 3 Children and a Woman, by Home-Made Rocket in Beit Hanoun
14.	17 March	PCHR Condemns Dispersal of 2 Peaceful Assemblies in Gaza and Detention of Some Participants
15.	19 March	PCHR Calls for Investigating Young Man's Death in Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis
16.	20 March	Khan Yunis Court of First Instance Issues Two Death Sentences
17.	27 March	2 Children Killed and 2 Others Injured by House Fire during Electricity Outage
18.	29 March	Statement issued by the Palestinian NGO Network and human rights organizations concerning the draft Penal Code
19.	30 March	PCHR Condemns Dispersal of Private Meeting of Hizb Ut- Tahrir and Attacking Journalists in al-Bireh
20.	1 April	PCHR Concerned over Injuries of 11 Civilians, Including 7 Children, Due to Explosions of 2 Suspicious Objects in Rafah and Khan Yunis
21.	16 April	PCHR Denounces Imposing Prior Permits for Holding Private Meetings in Gaza
22.	17 April	PCHR Follows up with Deep Concern Sentence Issued by Military Court in Gaza against 12 Persons on Charges of "Undermining the Revolutionary Unity"
23.	30 April	Khan Yunis Court of First Instance in Issues New Death Sentence
24.	7 May	PCHR Calls for Investigations into Incidents in Yatta Town
25.	8 May	PCHR Condemns Implementation of 2 Death Sentences in Violation of Law in Gaza
26.	14 May	PCHR Calls for Investigating Death of Detainee in Beit Lahia Detention Facility
27.	15 May	PCHR Concerned over Lack of Fair Trial Procedures, Gaza Military Court Issues Death Sentence against Man Convicted of Committing Murder Less Than Month ago
28.	18 May	Gaza Court of First Instance Issues New Death Sentence
29.	18 May	Another Detainee Dies in Beit Lahia Detention Facility, PCHR Calls for Establishing Independent Inquiry Committee to Investigate Detention Conditions in the Facility
30.	18 May	PCHR Expresses Satisfaction over the Investigations and Punitive Measures Taken by Ministry of Interior in Gaza Regarding Dispersal of Peaceful Protest and Attacks against Journalists by Security Officers
31.	5 June	PCHR Condemns Killing Palestinian Woman on the Ground of "Family Honor" in Ramallah

No.	Date	Title
32.	10 June	In Light of Continued Salaries Crisis in the Gaza Strip, PCHR Demands Opening Gaza Banks Immediately and Calls upon the Parties to Crisis to Contain Its Implications
33.	11 June	PCHR Condemns Use of Force to Disperse Peaceful Demonstrations in Solidarity with the Administrative Detainees on Hunger Strike and Attacks on PLC Members and Journalists
34.	21 June	PCHR Condemns the Dispersal of Peaceful Demonstration in Solidarity with the Administrative Detainees on Hunger Strike by Palestinian Security Forces in Hebron
35.	25 June	PCHR Concerned for Death of Child and Injury of 5 Others as Home-Made Rockets Hit Populated Areas
36.	15 July	PCHR Condemns Attack on the Palestinian Minister of Health
37.	22 July	PCHR Condemns Dispersal by Security Services of Demonstrations Organized in Solidarity with Gaza in Nablus and al-Bireh
38.	22 August	PCHR Calls for Stopping Extra-Judicial Executions in Gaza
39.	4 September	PCHR Condemns Shooting at Dr. Hassan Khreisha by Unknown Persons
40.	21 October	Urgent Appeal to Palestinian President and Government: PCHR Warns of Consequences of Fuel Shortage at Gaza Hospitals and Expected Suspension of Health Services at UAE Red Crescent Hospital
41.	7 November	PCHR Condemns Gaza Explosions and Warns of Return to Security Chaos
42.	10 November	PCHR Condemns Firing in Front of Member of Farah Revolutionary Council and Threats to Fatah Members
43.	13 November	PCHR Concerned over Detention of Head of Public Employees Syndicate
44.	13 November	PCHR Condemns Explosion in the Vicinity of French Cultural Center

PCHR's Press Releases on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in 2014

No.	Date	Title
1.	7 January	Israeli Forces Continue the Policy of Arresting Gazan Patients at the Beit Hanoun Crossing (Erez)
2.	9 January	Israeli Navy Forces Escalate their Attacks, Arrest Fisherman and Damage Fishing Boat
3.	21 January	Israeli Navy Forces Arrest 2 Fishermen off Beit Lahia Shore and Seize Fishing Equipment
4.	22 January	In Extra-Judicial Execution Attempt, Israeli warplanes kill Member of Palestinian Armed Group and his Cousin in Beit Hanoun, Northern Gaza

No.	Date	Title
5.	25 January	In Excessive Use of Force, Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Civilian and Wound Five Others in Two Separate Incidents in the Northern Gaza Strip
6.	30 January	Israeli Forces Willfully Kill Palestinian Civilian North of Ramallah
7.	11 February	Israeli Naval Forces Arrested three Fishermen and Confiscated two Fishing Boats
8.	12 February	Concerning «Pillar of Defense» Victims, For the First Time Israeli Committee Headed by General Doron Almog Initiates Investigation in a Case Followed-up by PCHR
9.	12 February	PCHR Condemns Prevention of Gaza Strip Patients from Traveling to Hospitals in the West Bank and Israel
10.	15 February	Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian in the Gaza Strip and Wound 17 Others, Including 4 Children, in 2 Separate Shooting Incidents
11.	22 February	In Excessive Use of Force, Israeli Forces Wound 12 Palestinians, Including 2 Children and a Journalist, in the Northern Gaza Strip
12.	11 February	Israeli Forces Wound Two Palestinian Civilians, including a Journalist, East of Gaza City
13.	27 February	In Extra-Judicial Execution, Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian in Bir Zeit, North of Ramallah
14.	1 March	Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian with Mental Disorder, South of the Gaza Strip, and Wound Another in the North
15.	4 March	2 Palestinian Children Wounded During Israeli Attack on 2 Palestinians in Beit Hanoun village, north of the Gaza Strip
16.	11 March	Israeli Forces Kill a Judge in Cold Blood at al-Karamah Border Crossing with Jordan
17.	11 March	Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Civilian, Northeast of Ramallah
18.	13 March	Israeli Naval Forces Arrest Two Fishermen, Wound Two Others and Confiscate a Fishing Boat in Gaza Waters
19.	19 March	Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Child in the Southwest of Hebron and Arrest Two Others
20.	24 April	Israeli Forces Target 2 Armed Group Members Wounding 13 Palestinian Civilians, Including 5 Children, in Beit Lahia in the Northern Gaza Strip
21.	8 May	PCHR Concerned over Lives of Palestinian Prisoners on Hunger Strike in Israeli Jails
22.	16 May	Israeli Forces Kill Two Palestinian Children and Wounded 8 Civilians, including a Child, in the West of Ramallah
23.	21 May	Israeli Naval Forces Arrest 2 Fishermen, Wound One and Confiscate Fishing Boat in Gaza Sea
24.	25 May	Administrative Detainees' Hunger Strike Enters Its Second Month; PCHR concerned over Lives of the Detainees on Hunger Strike in the Israeli Jails
25.	3 June	PCHR Calls for Investigating the Circumstances; Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Civilian in Nablus
26.	11 June	Following 13 Years of Legal Pursuit, PCHR Succeeds in Ensuring Remedy for the Family of Civilian Willfully Killed by Israeli Forces
27.	12 June	3 Palestinian Civilians, Including Child, Wounded When Israeli Forces Targeted Member of Palestinian Armed Group in the Northern Gaza Strip
28.	15 June	Israeli Forces Arrest Dozens of Hamas Members and Supporters in the West Bank, Launch Air Strikes on the Gaza Strip and Impose More Collective Punishment Measures

No.	Date	Title
29.	16 June	Israeli Forces Escalate Attacks in oPt; Palestinian Civilian Killed and 4 Others Wounded in al-Jalazon Camp North of Ramallah and 5 Air Strikes Launched on Targets in the Gaza Strip
30.	19 June	Israeli Naval Forces Escalate Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea; Fishermen Arrested and Fishing Boat Confiscated
31.	19 June	PCHR Concerned He May Be Subjected to Torture, Israeli Forces Arrest Patient while Heading to Jordanian Hospitals for Medical Treatment
32.	19 June	For the 7th Consecutive Day, Israeli Forces Continue Attacks on the West Bank; 245 Palestinian Civilians Arrested, Including Speaker and 6 Members of PLC
33.	21 June	For the 9th Consecutive Day, Israeli Forces Continue to Attack the West Bank and Launch Airstrikes on the Gaza Strip; Palestinian Child Killed, Old Man Dies Due to Heart Attack, 6 Civilians, including a Child, Wounded and 320 Palestinian Civilians Arrested
34.	22 June	Israeli Forces Use Excessive Lethal Force Killing a Palestinian Civilian Suffering Mental Problems in 'Ein Beit al-Maa' Refugee Camp in Nablus
35.	29 June	Forcible Feeding Constitutes Torture Crime; PCHR Warns of Israeli Efforts to Legitimize Forcible Feeding against Palestinian Detainees and Calls upon the International Community to Immediately Intervene
36.	1 July	Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Civilian in Jenin, Destroy 2 Houses in Hebron and Launch Airstrikes on Targets in the Gaza Strip
37.	3 July	In Heinous Crime by Israeli Settlers, Palestinian Child Kidnapped, Tortured and Killed and His Body Mutilated in Occupied Jerusalem
38.	6 July	Reprisals Escalate in the oPt; Settlers and Special Israeli Military Units Continue to Attack Palestinian Civilians in the West Bank and Occupied Jerusalem, and the Israeli Warplanes Continue to Launch Airstrikes on Targets in the Gaza Strip
39.	8 July	Serious Israeli Escalation: Israeli Warplanes Launch Dozens of Airstrikes on Targets in the Gaza Strip, Including Houses; 27 Palestinian Civilians, Including 10 Women and 5 Children, Wounded
40.	9 July	Israeli Offensive on Gaza Continues for the Second Consecutive Day: Houses Destroyed While Residents Inside; Palestinian Deaths Rise to 22, Including 6 Children 3 Women, and 255 Wounded, Including 107 Children and 64 Women; and 29 Houses Destroyed
41.	10 July	Israeli Offensive on Gaza Continues: 69 Palestinians Killed, of Whom 60 Are Civilians, Including 22 Children and 13 Women, and 469 Others Wounded, Mostly Civilians, Including 166 Children and 85 Women; Driver of Press Vehicle Killed; 70 Houses Destroyed
42.	10 July	Israeli Forces Engaged in Punitive Destruction of Homes in the Gaza Strip
43.	11 July	Another Family Killed under Debris of Their Targeted House in Rafah
44.	12 July	On the 5th Day of the Offensive on the Gaza Strip, Israeli Warplanes Attack Civilian Facilities, Including Charities, Parks, Disabilities Rehabilitation Centers, Sport Clubs and Mosque, and Increasingly Target Houses
45.	13 July	156 Palestinians Killed, of Whom 132 Are Civilians, Including 34 Children and 27 Women, and 938 Others Wounded, Mostly Civilians, Including 280 Children and 194 Women
46.	14 July	Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Civilian, South of Hebron, and Arrest 11 PLC Members
47.	14 July	Ongoing Israeli Offensive on Gaza: 162 Palestinians Killed, of Whom 137 Are Civilians, Including 34 Children and 28 Women, and 1,058 Others Wounded, Mostly Civilians, Including 332 Children and 212 Women

No.	Date	Title
48.	15 July	Ongoing Israeli Offensive on Gaza: 181 Palestinians Killed, of Whom 147 Are Civilians, Including 36 Children and 29 Women, and 1,181 Others Wounded, Mostly Civilians, Including 368 Children and 253 Women
49.	16 July	On the 9th Day of the Offensive on the Gaza Strip, Israeli Warplanes Escalate Attacks on Houses, Especially Those of Political Leaders
50.	17 July	Since the Beginning of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza: 221 Palestinians Killed, of Whom 179 Are Civilians, Including 45 Children and 32 Women, and 1,458 Others Wounded, Mostly Civilians, Including 432 Children and 298 Women
51.	18 July	On the 11th Day of the Israeli Offensive: Israeli Forces Launch Ground Operation in the Gaza Strip Covered by Unprecedented Shelling; Dozens of Palestinian Civilians Killed or Wounded
52.	19 July	On the 12th Day of the Israeli Offensive: Israeli Forces Continue Ground Operation in the Gaza Strip Covered by Unprecedented Shelling; Israeli Forces Use Flechette Shells; Approximately 50,000 Palestinians Forcibly Displaced in Border Areas
53.	20 July	Worst and Bloodiest Day Since the Beginning of the Offensive
54.	21 July	Another Bloody Day On the 14th Day of the Israeli Offensive: Complete Families Attack While inside Their Homes; Rescue Crews to Search for Victims in al-Shuja'iya Neighborhood; More Palestinians Forcibly Displaced in Border Areas
55.	22 July	On the 15th Day of the Israeli Offensive: Dozens of Palestinian Civilians Killed or Wounded as Israeli Forces Attack Apartment Buildings, Mosques, Hospitals and Schools; White Phosphorous Bombs and Flechette Shells Fired by Israeli Forces in Border Areas
56.	22 July	PCHR Condemns Israeli Forces' Direct Targeting of Medical Facilities and Medical Crews
57.	22 July	PCHR Strongly Condemns Israeli Attacks against Journalists
58.	23 July	Living Conditions of Civilians Similar to the Palestinian Nakbah; Massive Displacement of Civilians in the Gaza Strip; Over 300,000 Displaced Civilians, over 118,000 of Whom Have Resorted to 77 UNRWA Schools
59.	23 July	On the 16th Day of the Israeli Offensive: Dozens of Palestinian Civilians Killed or Wounded by Israeli Attacks; More Palestinians Forcibly Displaced in Border Areas
60.	24 July	Another Bloody Day of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza: Dozens Palestinian Civilians Killed or Wounded by Israeli Attacks in Khuza'a, 'Abassan and al-Qarara Villages; Israeli Forces Attack Gaza from the Air, the Sea and the Ground; More Palestinians Forcibly
61.	24 July	Israeli Forces Kill 3 Palestinian Civilians and Wound 71 Others in the West Bank
62.	25 July	On the 18th Day of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza: Israeli Warplane Attack Shelter of Displaced Civilians Killing 11 and Wounding Dozens; Israeli Forces Attack Medical Crews and Ambulances; Israeli Forces Attack Gaza from the Air, the Sea and the Ground
63.	25 July	New Bloody Attack on UNRWA Shelter in Beit Hanoun, Israeli Artillery Shells Kill 11 Civilians and Wound over 100 Others
64.	26 July	On the 19th Day of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza: Before Declaration of Humanitarian Truce, Israeli Forces Escalated Attacks against Palestinian Civilian; 20 Members of One Family, Including 11 Children and 5 Women, Killed
65.	26 July	Israeli Forces Target Medical Personnel and Facilities in the Gaza Strip; 2 Paramedics Killed and 6 Others Wounded
66.	26 July	Israeli Forces Kill 9 Palestinian Civilians, Including 2 Children, and Wound 221, Including 35 Children and 6 Women, in the West Bank

No.	Date	Title
67.	27 July	On the 20th Day of the Israeli Offensive: During Declared Humanitarian Truce, Medical and Defense Crews Have Access to Areas Invaded by Israeli Forces; Israeli Forces Cause Extensive Damage to These Areas; Dozens of Corpses of Palestinian Recovered
68.	29 July	Most Violent Daye Since the Beginning of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza, On the 22nd Day of the Israeli Offensive: Extremely Violent Attacks on Palestinian Civilians; Complete Families Annihilated; Mosques, Media Offices and Gaza Power Plant Destroyed
69.	30 July	On the 23rd Day of the Israeli Offensive: Indiscriminate Artillery Shelling; Complete Families Annihilated; UNRWA Shelter Shelled and 15 Civilians Killed; More Corpses Recovered from Debris of Houses; Extreme Shortages of Electricity and Water Supplies
70.	31 July	On the 24th Day of the Israeli Offensive: Indiscriminate Artillery Shelling Most Dangerous to Civilians; 30 Palestinian Civilians, Including 10 Members of One Family Killed in Public Market in al-Shujaiya
71.	1 August	On the 25th Day of the Israeli Offensive: Humanitarian Truce Collapse Less Than One Hour of Its Entry into Force; Dozens of Palestinian Civilians Killed and Hundreds Wounded by Israeli Shelling in Rafah; Before Collapse of Truce, Bodies of Dozens of Palestinian Civilian Recovered
72.	2 August	Heinous Crimes against Humanity, On the 26th Day of the Israeli Offensive: Massacre in Rafah, Most Violent Since the Beginning of the Offensive; Rafah Isolated and Unprecedented War Crimes Committed
73.	2 August	During Protests in the West Bank against the Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip, 2 Palestinian Civilians Killed and 95 Others Wounded, Including 30 Children
74.	3 August	On the 27th Day of the Israeli Offensive:Rafah Under Israeli Fire; War Crimes Committed against Palestinian Civilians; Complete Families Annihilated
75.	3 August	6 Journalists Killed since the beginning of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza, PCHR Condemns the Israeli Crimes against Journalists and Media Institutions
76.	3 August	New War Crime in UNRWA Shelter in Rafah Kills 9 Civilians and Wounding over 45 Others
77.	4 August	On the 28th Day of the Israeli Offensive: Israeli Forces Redeploy in Invaded Areas in the Gaza Strip; Complete Neighborhoods Destroyed; 11 Palestinian Civilians, Including 5 Children, Killed by Israeli Bombardment of UNRWA Shelter in Rafah
78.	5 August	On the 29 th Day of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza: Israeli Forces Redeploy outside the Gaza Strip; Complete Neighborhoods and Civilian Infrastructure Destroyed; More Houses Destroyed;72-Hour Humanitarian Truce Declared; Bodies of Victims Recovered
79.	7 August	During Humanitarian Truce, Bodies of Victims Recovered from Invaded Areas amidst Unprecedented Destruction
80.	9 August	Following End of Humanitarian Truce, Israeli Offensive on Gaza Resumed: 10 Palestinians, 6 of Whom Are Civilians, Including 3 Children, Killed, and 88 Others, Including 24 Children and 14 Women Wounded
81.	10 August	Israeli Offensive on Gaza Continued: 5 Palestinian Civilians, Including Child and Woman, Killed, and 57 Others, Including 19 Children and 9 Women, Wounded; 13 Houses and One Mosque Destroyed
82.	10 August	3 Palestinian Civilian, Including Child, Killed and 63 Others, Including 16 Children, Wounded in Protests against Israeli Offensive on Gaza
83.	11 August	Ongoing Israeli Offensive on Gaza:6 Palestinians, Including 4 Civilians, Killed, and 85 Others, Including 17 Children and 11 Women, Wounded; 14 Houses and One Mosque Destroyed

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

No.	Date	Title
84.	11 August	PCHR Strongly Condemns Killing of Anwar al-Za'anin, Staff Member of Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and Calls for Investigation
85.	13 August	5 Persons, Including 2 Journalists One of Whom Is Italian, Killed by Explosion of Missile Left by Israeli Forces in North Gaza
86.	20 August	Israel Forces Resume Offensive on Gaza and Commit More Crimes; 12 Palestinian Civilians, Including 5 Children and 3 Women, Killed and 78 Others, Including 29 Children and 19 Women, Wounded; 11 Houses Destroyed
87.	20 August	PLC Member Khaleda Jarrar's Transfer Jericho Illegal and Condemned
88.	21 August	Israel Forces Continue Their Offensive on Gaza Amidst Threats to Expand It; 30 Palestinians, 22 of Whom Are Civilians, Including 10 Children and 3 Women, Killed and 110 Others, Including 36 Children and 22 Women Wounded
89.	22 August	Israel Forces Continue Their Offensive on Gaza for 47th Consecutive Day; 20 Palestinians, 16 of Whom Are Civilians, Including 6 Children, Killed and 49 Others, Including 11 Children and 7 Women Wounded; Victims Include 5 Civilians, Including Child
90.	23 August	On the 48th Day of Israeli Offensive on Gaza: 9 Palestinian Civilians, 5 of Whom Are Members of One Family, Including 2 Children and 2 Women, Killed and 99 Others, Including 30 Children and 19 Women, Wounded; 5 Houses Destroyed
91.	24 August	On the 49th Day of Israeli Offensive on Gaza: 7 Palestinians, 4 of Whom Are Civilians, Including Woman and Her Child, Killed and 92 Others, Including 34 Children and 19 Women, Wounded
92.	25 August	On the 50th Day of Israeli Offensive on Gaza: 14 Palestinians, 10 of Whom Are Civilians, Including 2 Women and 6 Children, Killed and 120 Others, Including 38 Children and 31 Women, Wounded; 27 Houses, Charity, 2 Mosques, Workshop and Poultry Farm Destroyed
93.	26 August	Systematic Attacks on Multi-Storey Buildings and Palestinian Civilians Terrified and Forcibly Displaced from Centers of Cities
94.	26 August	No Safe Place in Gaza Strip: Israeli Adopts Policy of Multi-Storey Buildings' Destruction... Palestinian Civilians... Where to Go?
95.	27 August	On the Last Day of the Israeli Offensive and Few Hours before Ceasefire: 11 Palestinians, 5 of Whom Are Civilians, Including 2 Children, Killed and 55 Others, Including 14 Children and 12 Women, Wounded; Child Dies of Previous Wound; 5 Houses and Mosque Destroyed
96.	9 September	Since the Truce into Force, 25 Shooting Incidents at Fishing Boats, Detention of 6 Fishermen and Confiscation of 3 Boats Reported
97.	10 September	PCHR Calls for Investigating Death of Palestinian Detainee at Israeli Hospital
98.	14 September	PCHR Follows up Detention Conditions of Palestinians Arrested by Israeli Forces in Latest Offensive on the Gaza Strip
99.	18 September	Palestinian Fisherman Wounded by Israeli Forces in Gaza
100.	24 September	Israeli Forces Kill 2 Palestinians Accused of Killing 3 Israeli Settlers
101.	29 September	In Breach of Truce, Israeli Forces Wound 2 Workers in the Northern Gaza Strip
102.	15 October	Israeli Settlers Set Fire to Abu Baker al-Siddiq Mosque in 'Aqraba Village near Nablus

No.	Date	Title
103.	22 October	Israeli Naval Forces Escalate Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea;5 Fishermen Arrested and Boat Confiscated
104.	23 October	2 Palestinian Fishers Arrested and Fishing Boat Confiscated by Israeli Forces
105.	3 November	Israeli Government Persistently Challenges the International Community and Approves Additional Arbitrary Measures in Occupied Jerusalem
106.	12 November	Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Civilian in al-'Aroub Refugee Camp, North of Hebron
107.	12 November	Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Condemn Israel's Ban on Access of International Independent Commission of Inquiry to Gaza
108.	23 November	Israeli Forces Arrest Palestinian Patient at Erez Crossing
109.	24 November	Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Civilian and Wound Child near the Border in the Gaza Strip
110.	24 November	Israeli Settlers Continue Their Attacks against Palestinian Civilians in the West Bank
111.	5 December	Four Female Civilians, Including 3 Children, Wounded by Explosion of Suspicious Object in Khan Yunis
112.	6 December	Israeli Forces Wound 2 Palestinian Civilians in New Excessive Force in the North of the Gaza Strip
113.	7 December	Israeli Naval Forces Escalate Attacks against Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea; 12 Fishermen Arrested, 5 Fishing Boats Confiscated and Fishing Equipment Damaged
114.	10 December	In Excessive Use of Force, Israeli Forces Kill Minister Ziad Abu'Ain, Director of the Committee against the Annexation Wall and Settlement Activity
115.	16 December	Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Civilian in Qalandya Refugee Camp, North of Occupied Jerusalem
116.	30 December	Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Child and Wounds another One Southeast of Nablus

Other PCHR's Press Releases in 2014

No.	Date	Title
1.	8 March	On International Women's Day: Conjugating Efforts to Put an End to the Killing of Palestinian Women
2.	10 March	Appeal to Open Rafah Crossing
3.	13 April	Following Palestine's Accessions to a Number of International Conventions: PCHR Calls upon Palestine to Immediately Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
4.	29 June	Forcible Feeding Constitutes Torture Crime; PCHR Warns of Israeli Efforts to Legitimize Forcible Feeding against Palestinian Detainees and Calls upon the International Community to Immediately Intervene

No.	Date	Title
5.	9 July	Joint Statement: Human Rights Organizations Calls on the International Community to Immediately Act to Stop and the Israeli Offensive and Protect Palestinian Civilians
6.	31 July	Urgent Call to the international Community, Israeli Offensive on the Gaza Strip Continues: Civilians on the Verge of Humanitarian Crisis, Power Outage Denies Civilians' Access to Water and Sewage Services; Over 1.6 Million Civilians Have No Access to Water
7.	30 September	PCHR Calls for Full and Immediate Ending of the Closure and Warns of Repercussions of Its Institutionalization and Continuity
8.	25 November	On International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: An Open Call to the International Community to Offer Protection to Palestinian Women
9.	4 December	Following Field Visit to Observe Situation at Shifa Hospital in Light of Cleaning Workers' Strike, Human Rights Organizations Call for Humanely Offering Healthcare Services Aside from Political Issues
10	8 December	PCHR Praises the Swiss Government's Bid to Convene Conference on Palestine

2. Field Updates on the State of Lawlessness and Proliferation of Weapons

In 2006, the Democratic Development Unit began to issue field updates highlighting the state of lawlessness and proliferation of weapons in the OPT; the updates are based on information gathered by the Field Work Unit. In 2014, PCHR issued 22 of these updates, all of which are available on PCHR's web page.

Field Updates on the State of Lawlessness and Proliferation of Weapons in 2014

No.	Date	Title
1.	14 January	Young Man Killed in Jericho in Family Revenge
2.	27 January	Civilian Died by Explosion of Suspicious Object in al-Bureij Refugee Camp
3.	16 February	Palestinian Killed over Familial Dispute in Nablus
4.	2 March	Man Kidnapped and beaten by Unknown Gunmen in Rafah
5.	9 March	Palestinian shot in a Wedding Party in Deir al-Balah
6.	18 March	Civilian Killed in Family Dispute in al-Bureij Refugee Camp in the Central Gaza Strip
7.	14 April	Child Injured Due to Explosion of Suspicious Object in Khan Yunis
8.	27 April	Moneychanger's Corpse Found in Khan Yunis
9.	4 May	Civilian Killed and 5 Others, Including Woman, Injured by Firearms in Personal and Family Disputes in the West Bank and Gaza
10.	27 May	Man Dies after Sustaining Injuries due to an Internal Explosion in Nablus
11.	29 May	Young Man Killed Mistakenly in Jabalia and Another One Wounded in Personal Dispute in Gaza

No.	Date	Title
12.	2 June	Child Killed in al-Nussairat and Another One Wounded Mistakenly in Rafah
13.	10 June	Man wounded by Member of Izziddin al-Qassam Brigades in Gaza
14.	12 June	Death of Child in Internal Explosion East of Gaza
15.	15 June	Palestinian Civilian Killed and 4 Others Injured in Family Dispute, and Woman and Child Injured by Home-Made Rocket in Beit Hanoun
16.	22 June	Civilian and His Son Injured by Live bullets in Family Dispute
17.	2 July	6 Persons Injured in Family Dispute in Gaza
18.	7 July	Unknown Gunmen Fire at 2 Branches of Bank of Palestine in Gaza
19.	7 July	7 Persons, Including 3 Children, Injured by Home-Made Rocket
20.	16 September	4 Persons Injured by Unknown Gunmen
21.	26 October	Man Killed in Family Dispute in Nablus
22.	11 November	Bombs Detonated in Front of 3 Houses in al-

3. News Releases

In 2014, PCHR issued 55 news releases

No.	Date	Title
1.	14 January	PCHR Receives South Africa's Representative to the Palestinian National Authority
2.	15 January	PCHR Receives a Number of Visiting Figures and International Delegations
3.	16 January	PCHR Organizes 2 Training Courses for Fishermen and Farmers on Human Rights and Mechanisms of Access to Justice in al-Maghazi
4.	30 January	PNGO Organize Ceremony to Honor Lawyer Raji Sourani for Winning «Alternative Noble Prize»
5.	30 January	PCHR Conducts Series of Workshops on Democracy Concepts in Cooperation with Youth Groups
6.	2 February	PCHR and IDMC Issue Report on Israeli Violations in Access Restricted Areas
7.	9 February	Gaza Centre for the Freedom of Media Organizes Ceremony to Honor Lawyer Raji Sourani for Winning «Alternative Noble Prize»
8.	20 February	PFLP Honors Lawyer Raji Sourani for Winning «Alternative Noble Prize»
9.	25 February	PCHR Organizes 7 Training Courses for Farmers and Fishermen on Human Rights and Mechanisms of Access to Justice
10.	3 March	PCHR Organizes Training Course for Female Farmers on Human Rights
11.	4 March	Sourani Meets with Senior Japanese Delegation
12.	18 March	PCHR Organizes One-Day Training Course for Fishermen on Human rights and Mechanisms of Access to Justice

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

No.	Date	Title
13.	24 March	PCHR Organizes Special Event to Launch Its 2013 Annual Report
14.	25 March	PCHR Publishes Its 2013 Annual Report
15.	3 April	The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) Launch Joint Report on the Access Restricted Areas in the Gaza Strip
16.	14 April	PCHR Organizes Meeting on Launching Report on Access Restricted Areas in the Gaza Strip
17.	29 April	PCHR Starts Issuing Quarterly Reports on the Human Rights Situation in the oPt
18.	3 May	On World Press Freedom Day, PCHR Publishes «Silencing the Press»
19.	5 May	On World Press Freedom Day, PCHR Organizes Activities on Press Freedoms in Palestine
20.	5 May	PCHR Concludes Training Course in Human Rights and Democracy for the Students of Sharia and Law Faculty in Islamic University
21.	6 May	PCHR Concludes Training Course in Human Rights and Democracy for Somow Youth Group
22.	15 May	PCHR Concludes Training Course in Human Rights in Cooperation with Tawasol Association for Youth and Culture in Rafah
23.	22 May	PCHR Concludes Workshop on Political Participation in Rafah with Participation of Journalists and Media Activists
24.	3 June	PCHR Gives Testimony before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Rights of Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the 1967 Occupied Territories
25.	5 June	PCHR Organizes Workshop on “The Future of Housing Polices in the Gaza Strip”
26.	5 June	PCHR Concludes Training Course in Human Rights in cooperation with the Development of Palestinian Women Society
27.	5 June	Human Rights Organizations Suspend Work in Solidarity with Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails
28.	12 June	PCHR Concludes Training Course in Human Rights in Cooperation with Bena’ Association for Development and Empowerment in the Northern Gaza Strip
29.	12 June	In the Context of Its Efforts to Internationalize the Palestinian Prisoners Cause, PCHR Receives International Delegation and Brief Them on Latest Developments Concerning Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Jails
30.	22 June	PCHR Concludes Training Course on Children’s Rights for the Youth Legal Community at Gaza Universities
31.	26 June	PCHR Concludes Training Course in Freedom of Opinion and Expression and Human Rights for Youth Media Assembly in Khan Yunis
32.	8 July	On 10th Anniversary of ICJ Advisory Opinion: PCHR Participate in the Annexation Wall International Conference
33.	11 September	PCHR Condemns Arresting Civilian Wounded in the 2014 Israeli Offensive on Gaza
34.	18 September	PCHR Organizes Workshop for Journalists in Rafah on Abolishing Death Penalty

No.	Date	Title
35.	22 September	PCHR Organizes Workshop on Abolishing Death Penalty in Jabalia
36.	22 October	Sourani Concludes His Visit to Japan by Holding Press Conference in Japan National Press Club
37.	22 October	PCHR Receives Representative Office of Federal Republic of Germany to the PA
38.	27 October	PCHR Organizes Panel Discussion on «Prosecuting Suspected Collaborators with Israeli Forces and Extra-judicial Executions»
39.	27 October	PCHR Received Rights Livelihood Delegation During Solidarity Visit to Gaza
40.	30 October	Right Livelihood Foundation Delegation Ends its Solidarity Visit to Gaza
41.	4 November	PCHR's Coordinator in Ramallah Receives Grassroots International Delegation
42.	10 November	PCHR Organizes Workshop for Youth Activists on Abolishment of Death Penalty
43.	12 November	Sourani Meets with the Spanish Consul General
44.	15 November	PCHR Organizes Consultative Meeting with Political Factions and CBOs on Repercussion of Israel's Ban on Access of International Independent Commission of Inquiry (Schabas Commission) to Gaza
45.	17 November	PCHR Organizes Workshop for Human Rights Activists on Abolishment of Death Penalty
46.	18 November	PCHR Receives International Delegations
47.	23 November	PCHR Concludes Training Course on «Prisoners' Rights/Human Rights» for Prisoners Rights Defenders in the Gaza Strip
48.	27 November	Unprecedented Awareness Activity: Thousands of Bloggers and Social Media Activists Participate via Twitter in Workshop on Death Penalty Abolishment Organized by PCHR
49.	2 December	PCHR Organizes Workshop for Government Employees and Civil Community Activists on Abolishment of Death Penalty
50.	4 December	PCHR Concludes Training Course on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in the Gaza Strip
51.	10 December	PCHR Organizes Workshop for Civil Society Activists on Abolishment of Death Penalty
52.	11 December	PCHR Discusses with Intellectuals and Creative People Abolishment of Death Penalty and Phenomenon of Extra-Judicial Executions
53.	17 December	PCHR Organizes Workshop for University Students and Graduates on Abolishment of Death Penalty
54.	23 December	PCHR's General Assembly Holds Its Annual Meeting
55.	31 December	PCHR Concludes 1 st Human Rights TOT Course

4. Field Updates on the State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings

In light of the unprecedented closure imposed by the Israeli Forces on the Gaza Strip, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights started to issue field updates documenting the state of the Gaza Strip border crossings. In 2014, PCHR issued 7 of these updates in both Arabic and English.

No.	Date	Title
1.	16 January	01 – 31 December 2013
2.	18 February	01 – 31 January 2014
3.	12 March	01 – 28 February 2014
4.	13 April	01 – 31 March 2014
5.	15 May	01 – 30 April 2014
6.	17 June	01 – 31 May 2014
7.	29 July	01 – 30 June 2014

5. Fact Sheets

In 2014, PCHR published (17) fact sheets highlight specific violations of human rights; including violations of Children's rights in the Gaza Strip, Attacks on the Gaza Strip and their consequences, the Buffer Zone in the Gaza Strip, the illegal closure imposed by the Israeli Forces on the Gaza Strip, and the Israeli attacks on the Palestinian Fishermen in the Gaza Strip.

No.	Date	Title
1.	03 January	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
2.	08 January	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
3.	23 January	Violation of Children's Rights in the Gaza Strip (01 October – 31 December 2012)
4.	3 February	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
5.	18 February	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
6.	19 March	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
7.	1 April	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
8.	8 April	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
9.	8 April	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
10.	14 May	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
11.	14 May	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
12.	20 October	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea
13.	20 October	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
14.	6 November	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
15.	15 December	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
16.	15 December	Gaza Strip: Attacks and their Consequences
17.	17 December	Israeli Attacks on Palestinian Fishermen in Gaza Sea

6. Reports, Studies and Other Publications

Publication	Kind	Number	Language
Under Fire, a report issued by the PCHR and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) on the Israeli violations in Access Restricted Areas (ARA) in the Gaza Strip	Report	1	Arabic and English
Annual Report 2013	Periodic report	1	Arabic and English
Quarterly Report on the Human Rights Situation in the oPts (1 st Quarter 2014)	Quarterly report	1	Arabic and English
Quarterly Report on the Human Rights Situation in the oPts (2 nd Quarter 2014)	Quarterly report	1	Arabic and English
Silencing the Press: Report of Israeli Attacks against Journalists (1 January 2013 – 31 March 2014)	Report	1	Arabic and English
Justice Slaughtered by Politics; PCHR Shocked by Israel's Election by UN General Assembly as Vice-Chair of UN Special Committee on Decolonization	Position Paper	1	Arabic
Report on the Humanitarian Conditions in the Gaza Strip	Report	1	Arabic
Crimes of Torture in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Facilities (May 2013 – June 2014)	Report	1	Arabic
Weekly Report on Israeli Human Rights Violations in the oPt	Regular report	51	Arabic and English



PCHR'S WEB PAGE

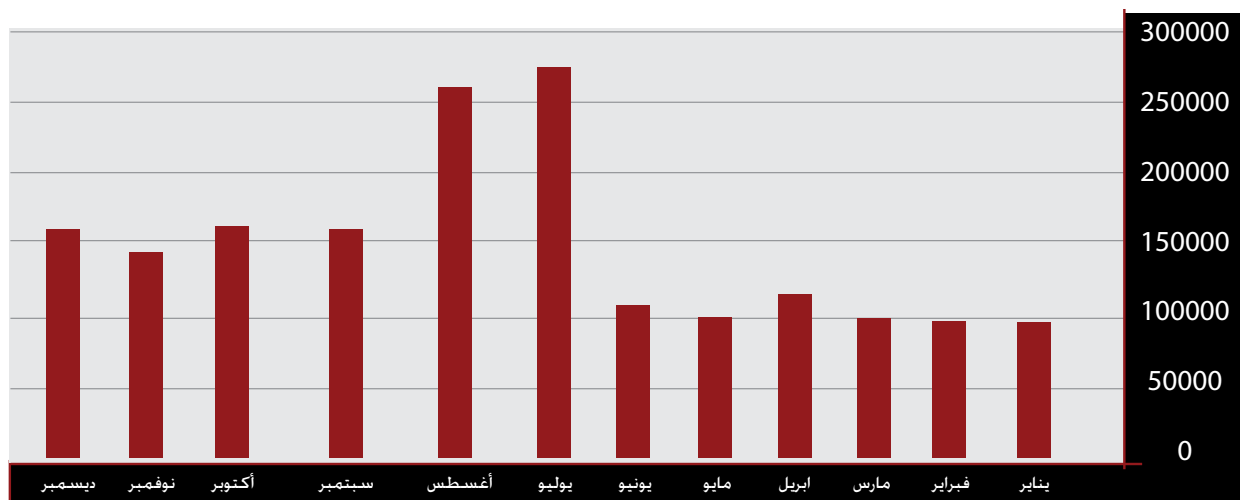
(www.pchrgaza.org)

PCHR realizes and appreciates the increasing importance of information technology in the contemporary world. PCHR increasingly depends on its website as a means of disseminating human rights information. PCHR updates its web site on a daily basis with publications and information on its activities and events on the ground. The material on the website is available in both Arabic and English. PCHR also distributes its publications via e-mail; about 10,147 subscribers to the mailing list receive PCHR's publications via e-mail. In 2014, PCHR's web site received 1,808,523 visits with an average of 150,710 visits monthly and 5,023 visits daily.

Additionally, PCHR uses social networks to disseminate its publications. The number of people who like PCHR's page on Facebook is estimated at 36,508, and the those who follow PCHR's page on Twitter is estimated at 8,142.

Visits to PCHR's Web Site in 2014

Month	Number of Visits	Access
January	101,388	1,858,849
February	101,388	1,858,849
March	102,301	1,632,032
April	123,301	1,938,251
May	103,301	1,731,232
June	111,489	1,854,424
July	280,212	3,454,254
August	265,212	2,941,244
September	156,036	1,990,551
October	158,381	1,738,508
November	147,194	1,618,577
December	158,320	1,689,912
Total	1,808,523	24,306,643



عدد الزيارات





THE LIBRARY

PCHR has a specialized library that includes Arabic and English reference materials and periodicals that focus on various subjects, including international law, domestic laws, human rights, democracy, the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict. By the end of 2014, the library included 4,952 books (3,109 books in Arabic and 1,843 in English), and 1,221 periodicals (422 in Arabic and 799 in English). The library is available to the public and it is mainly used by students, academics, scholars and other interested individuals.

