

PCHR

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights LTD (non-profit)

<http://www.pchrgaza.org>



Weekly Report

On Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory



Palestinian photographer Abdul HAFiz Haslamoun, center, from the European Press Photo Agency, is attacked by Israeli settlers while covering the olive harvest in the West Bank town of Hebron

16 - 22 October 2008

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Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) Continue Systematic Attacks against Palestinian Civilians and Property in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

- IOF killed a Palestinian civilian in Ramallah; the victim bled to death.
- Sixteen Palestinian civilians, including three children, were wounded by IOF gunfire.
- Thirteen of the wounded were hit by bullets when IOF used force to disperse a peaceful demonstration against the construction of the Annexation Wall in Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah.
- IOF conducted 15 incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank.
- IOF arrested 12 Palestinian civilians, including a child.
- IOF have continued to impose a total siege on the OPT and have isolated the Gaza Strip from the outside world.
- IOF troops positioned at various checkpoints in the West Bank arrested two Palestinian children.
- The Gaza Strip has continued to suffer from a shortage of cooking gas for the second consecutive week.
- IOF have continued settlement activities in the West Bank and Israeli settlers have continued to attacks Palestinian civilians and property.
- Israeli settlers launched systematic attack against Palestinian farmers during the annual olive harvest.
- Three Palestinian civilians, including a journalist, and an international solidarity activists, sustained bruises and cuts.

Summary

Israeli violations of international law and humanitarian law continued in the OPT during the reporting period (16 – 22 October 2008):

Shooting: During the reporting period, IOF killed a Palestinian civilian and wounded 14 others, including two children, in the West Bank.

On Thursday morning, 16 October, IOF troops that had moved into Kufor Malek village, east of Ramallah, opened fire at 2 Palestinian civilians, who were standing on top of an old house. The two civilians were wounded. One of them was able to escape, but IOF troops surrounded the other child, who subsequently bled to death.

On 22 October, IOF wounded 2 Palestinian civilians, including a child, in 2 separate incidents in al-Far'a refugee camp, south of Tubas, and Ethna village, southwest of Hebron.

During the reporting period, 13 Palestinian civilians, including two children, were wounded when IOF used force against a peaceful demonstration organized in protest at the construction of the Annexation Wall in Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah.

Incursions: During the reporting period, IOF conducted at least 15 military incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank. During these incursions, IOF arrested 12 Palestinian civilians, including a child. The number of Palestinian civilians arrested by IOF in the West Bank since the beginning of 2008 stands at 2,074.

In the Gaza Strip, IOF conducted a limited incursion into the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanoun, during which they leveled areas of land that they had already razed.

Restrictions on Movement: IOF have continued to impose a tightened siege on the OPT and imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. During the reporting period, IOF imposed a comprehensive closure on the OPT for the Jewish festival of Sukkot.

Gaza Strip

IOF have continued to close all border crossings to the Gaza Strip for more than two years. The IOF siege of Gaza, which has steadily tightened since June 2007, has had a disastrous impact on the humanitarian and economic situation in the Gaza Strip.

- More than 1.5 million people are being denied their basic rights, including freedom of movement, and their rights to appropriate living conditions, work, health and education.
- The Egypt-brokered '*Tahdiya*' or truce between Palestinian resistance groups and Israel began on 19 June; however, there have been no major changes regarding the movements of civilians and goods through the six Gaza Strip border crossings.
- Rafah International Crossing Point, the only border crossing from the Gaza Strip to the outside world via a country other than Israel, remains closed.

- Health services continue to be severely affected by the siege, with healthcare facilities also registering a 25% drop in clients due to continuing chronic fuel shortages. Critically ill patients are still being denied permits to access vital health services in the West Bank, Israel and abroad. .
- Water facilities, including access to clean drinking water, and the treatment of raw sewage continue to be severely disrupted by fuel shortages. 50-60 million liters of untreated and partially treated sewage are being dumped into the Gaza Strip Mediterranean Sea daily, posing a public health risk.
- Hundreds of Gazan students are currently unable to resume their university studies abroad as they cannot exit the Gaza Strip. In addition, up to 1,200 school leavers are in the process of applying to study at foreign universities, and are dependent on being issued exit permits by the IOF.
- There are at least 900 Palestinian prisoners incarcerated in jails in Israel who have been denied all visitation rights since 6 June 2007.
- Continuing chronic shortages of construction materials, including cement, aggregate and iron, have led to the collapse of the Gaza construction industry. Thousands of construction workers have been laid off, and vital infrastructure projects have been forcibly suspended.
- IOF have repeatedly closed border crossings of the Gaza Strip claiming that home-made rockets were launched at Israeli towns.

West Bank

IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians throughout the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. Thousands of Palestinian civilians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continue to be denied access to Jerusalem.

- IOF have established checkpoints in and around Jerusalem, severely restricting Palestinian access to the city. Civilians are frequently prevented from praying at the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.
- There are approximately permanent 630 roadblocks, manned and unmanned checkpoints across the West Bank. In addition, there are some 60-80 ‘flying’ or temporary checkpoints erected across the West Bank by IOF every week.
- When complete, the illegal Annexation Wall will stretch for 724 kilometers around the West Bank, further isolating the entire population. 350 kilometers of the Wall has already been constructed. Approximately 99% of the Wall has been constructed inside the West Bank itself, further confiscating Palestinian land.
- At least 47 out of 72 main roads leading to eighteen Palestinian communities in the West Bank are either closed or else fully controlled by IOF.
- There are around 500 kilometers of restricted roads across the West Bank. In addition, approximately one third of the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, is inaccessible to Palestinians without a permit issued by the IOF. These permits are extremely difficult to obtain.

- IOF continue to harass, and assault demonstrators who hold peaceful protests against the construction of the Annexation Wall.
- Palestinian civilians continue to be harassed by IOF in Jerusalem, and across the West Bank, including being regularly stopped and searched in the streets by IOF.
- During the reporting period, IOF troops positioned at various checkpoints arrested two Palestinian children.

Settlement Activities: IOF have continued settlement activities and Israeli settlers living in the OPT have, in violation of international humanitarian law, continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property. During the reporting period, Israeli settlers launched seven attacks against Palestinian civilians throughout the West Bank, especially against farmers who were cultivating olives. Three Palestinian civilians, including a journalist, and an international solidarity activist sustained bruises and cuts. These types of attacks aim at depriving Palestinian civilians of benefiting from the annual olive harvest, which for many families is their main source of income.

Israeli Violations Documented during the Reporting Period (16 – 22 October 2008)

1. Incursions into Palestinian Areas and Attacks on Palestinian Civilians and Property in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

Thursday, 16 October

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into ‘Anabta village, east of Tulkarm. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 02:10, IOF moved into Qabatya village, southeast of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 4 Palestinian civilians:
 1. Ahmed Khaled Ekmayel, 26;
 2. ‘Izziddin Ahmed Ekmayel, 21;
 3. Mohammed Sobhi Zakarna, 20;
 4. Saleh Ameen Zakarna, 43.
- In the early morning, an IOF undercover unit moved into Kufor Malek village, east of Ramallah. IOF soldiers stationed near the cemetery and the sports club in the center of the village. At approximately 03:15, IOF soldiers opened fire at ‘Abdul ‘Aziz Yousef Ba’irat, 21, and Shadi Saleh ‘Awajna, 20, who were standing on top of an old house. Ba’irat was wounded by a gunshot to the right thigh, and ‘Awajna by a gunshot to the back. ‘Awajna attempted to resort to a neighboring house, while IOF soldiers surrounded B’airat who was lying on the ground, bleeding. IOF soldiers did not offer him first medical aid and did not allow anyone to offer him help. He subsequently bled to death. Soon after, IOF military vehicles moved into the village to secure the withdrawal of the undercover unit. Palestinian civilians were able to evacuate ‘Awajna to the hospital. In his testimony to PCHR, Shadi ‘Awajna stated:

“At approximately 03:15 on Thursday, 16 October, my friend ‘Abdul ‘Aziz Ba’irat and I stepped up to the roof of an old house to fix wires of the internet network. We did not know there were Israeli soldiers in the area, but I was suddenly hit by gunshot that entered my right hand and exited my back, and my friend was wounded by a gunshot to the right thigh. I turned back to see who fired at me, and saw a masked soldier. He and other soldiers continued to fire at us indiscriminately. I attempted to save my friend, but I could not. I jumped from the roof and fled, hiding in another local house. I asked the residents there to help me, and help save my friend. When they went to help my friend, they found IOF soldiers surrounding him. IOF soldier continued to hold him for one hour and 35 minutes, without offering him any medical aid. He bled to death.”

Friday, 17 October

- At approximately 01:40, IOF moved into Jenin town and refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into al-Far’a refugee camp, south of Tubas. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Mahmoud Yousef Khader, 30.

Saturday, 18 October

- At approximately 01:00, IOF moved into Dura village, southwest of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Hamza Mohammed al-Rajoub, 19.
- Also at approximately 01:00, IOF moved into al-Fawar refugee camp, southwest of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Is'haq Mohammed al-Sous, 23.

Sunday, 19 October

- At approximately 01:40, IOF moved into Jenin town and refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Mohammed Mahmoud Tawalba, 33.
- At approximately 02:10, IOF moved into Nablus and the neighboring 'Askar refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 3 Palestinian civilians:
 1. Nizar Mahmoud Ghanem, 71;
 2. Nidal Ghassan Yamen, 24;
 3. Mohammed Hussam Abu Mayala, 19.

Monday, 20 October

- At approximately 03:00, IOF moved into Beit Fourik village, northeast of Nablus. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 08:00, IOF moved nearly 150 meters into the northeast of Beit Hanoun town in the northern Gaza Strip. They leveled areas of land they had already razed. IOF withdrew from the area at approximately 14:00. Neither casualties nor arrests were reported.
- At approximately 14:40, IOF moved into al-Khader village, southwest of Bethlehem. They patrolled the streets and raided a number of houses located near a settler bypass road. IOF troops stopped and attacked a number of Palestinian civilians claiming that stones were thrown at Israeli vehicles traveling on the bypass road. Three Palestinian civilians, including an old woman, sustained bruises:
 1. Mahmoud Abu Sbaiha, 37;
 2. Hassan Abu Sbaiha, 28;
 3. Na'ima Abu Ras Salah, 63.

Tuesday, 21 October

- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into Nablus and the neighboring Balata refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Dura village, southwest of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested Ra'ed Hussein al-Darabee', 35.

Wednesday, 22 October

- At approximately 01:30, IOF moved into al-Far'a refugee camp, south of Tubas. They raided and searched a number of houses, and arrested Mohammed Shihada Subeh. Dozens of Palestinian children gathered and threw stones at IOF military vehicles. IOF troops immediately fired at the children. Ma'ath 'Eissa Ghazalawi, 17, was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the head.
- At approximately 02:00, IOF moved into Ethna village, southwest of Hebron. They patrolled the streets and opened fire indiscriminately. As a result, 'Awadh Ahmed Eslaimiya, 26, was wounded by 2 gunshots to the chest and the foot.

2. Continued Siege on the OPT

IOF have continued to impose a tightened siege on the OPT and imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Occupied East Jerusalem.

Gaza Strip

IOF have continued to impose a siege on the 1.5 million civilians of the Gaza Strip. The border crossings of the Strip have been closed for more than two years as part of IOF's collective punishment policy, imposing severe restrictions on the movement of civilians and goods. As a result, the territory is unable to secure its basic needs of food, medicine, and other supplies, pushing the poverty rate above 80%.

The continued Israeli ban on fuel supplies required for civilian life in the Gaza Strip has led to the near paralysis of the educational sector. In addition, the health sector is struggling amidst a chronic fuel crisis. Healthcare facilities have registered a drop in clients due to the transport crisis.

The tightened siege has led to the collapse of the Gaza Strip economy. Most production facilities have ceased to operate due to the siege and restriction on movement of goods and individuals.

During the reporting period, IOF continued to close Sofa crossing, northeast of Rafah. Concerning the movement at Karm Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) crossing, southeast of Rafah, during the reporting period, it was as shown below:

Date	Details
15 October 2008	73 containers of goods were allowed into the Gaza Strip
16 October 2008	78 containers of goods were allowed into the Gaza Strip
17 October 2008	65 containers of goods were allowed into the Gaza Strip
18 October 2008	Closed
19 October 2008	57 containers of goods were allowed into the Gaza Strip
20 October 2008	56 containers of goods were allowed into the Gaza Strip
21 October 2008	Closed

During the reporting period, IOF partially reopened al-Mentar (Karni) commercial crossing, east of Gaza City, on Sunday, 19 October, and allowed the entry of 2,600 tons of animal fodder and seeds into the Gaza Strip.

With regard to Rafah International Crossing Point on the Egyptian border, the Egyptian authorities started to open it limitedly for some patients. During the reporting period, the movement at the crossing point was as shown below:

Date	Details
16 October	32 Palestinian civilians, including pilgrims and patients, were allowed to travel back to the Gaza Strip.
20 October	128 Palestinian civilians, including pilgrims and patients, were allowed to travel back to the Gaza Strip.
21 October	128 Palestinian civilians, including pilgrims and patients, were allowed to travel back to the Gaza Strip.

Concerning the movement at Nahal Ouz crossing, east of Gaza City, IOF closed it on Tuesday, 21 October 2008. During the reporting period, the movement at the crossing was as shown below:

Date	Benzene	Diesel	Cooking Gas	Energy Fuel
15 October	Nil	Nil	156.570 tons	733,810 liters
16 October	Nil	Nil	94.80 tons	336,420 liters
19 October	Nil	179,430 liters	186.210 tons	284,410 liters
20 October	Nil	208,410 liters	182.560 tons	353,410 liters

IOF allow a very limited number of seriously ill patients and staff of international organizations to pass through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing. IOF have also prevented families of at least 900 Palestinians detained in Israeli jails from visiting them since 6 June 2007. During the reporting period, the movement at Erez crossing was as shown below:

Date	Patients	Companions	Businessmen	International Journalists	International workers	Travelers abroad
15 October	10	10	Nil	1	24	Nil
16 October	9	9	Nil	4	22	4
17 October	3	3	Nil	4	16	Nil
18 October	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19 October	15	14	Nil	2	5	6
20 October	14	14	Nil	7	9	2
21 October	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The closure of these border crossings deprives the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip of their right to freedom of movement, education and health. IOF have also continued to impose severe restrictions on fishing in the Gaza Strip. Approximately 35,000 people in and around Gaza's coastal communities rely on the fishing industry, including 3,500 fishermen, 2,500 support staff and their families. Fishermen are subjected to intensive monitoring by IOF, which use helicopter gunships and gunboats to monitor and harass them. The Oslo Interim Agreement permits Palestinian fishermen to fish up to 20 nautical miles from the Gazan coastline. However, the Interim Agreements on fishing have been consistently violated by the IOF.

The West Bank

IOF have imposed a tightened siege on the West Bank. During the reporting period, IOF imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians.

- Nablus: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Thursday morning, 16 October, IOF troops positioned at various checkpoints around Nablus impose additional restriction on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Saturday morning, 18

October, IOF troops positioned at Za'tara checkpoint, south of Nablus, conducted prolonged checking on Palestinian civilians passing through the checkpoint. On Sunday morning, 19 October, IOF troops positioned at Hawara checkpoint, south of Nablus, conducted prolonged checking on Palestinian civilians. On Monday morning, 20 October, IOF troops positioned at Hawara and Za'tara checkpoints, south of Nablus, and Beit Eiba checkpoint, west of the city, imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians.

- Tulkarm: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Thursday morning, 16 October, IOF closed Wad al-Teen checkpoint, south of Tulkarm, until 10:00. On Friday, 17 October, IOF erected a checkpoint at the entrance of 'Attil village, north of Tulkarm. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles. On Saturday, 18 October, IOF erected a checkpoint at the entrance of al-Ras village on Tulkarm-Qalqilya road. They stopped and searched dozens of Palestinian civilian vehicles. On Sunday, 19 October, IOF erected a checkpoint near the entrance of Qiffin village, north of Tulkarm. They prohibited movement to and from the village and obstructed the movement between Tulkarm and Jenin. On Monday, 20 October, IOF erected a checkpoint at 'Allar intersection, north of Tulkarm. They stopped and checked Palestinian civilians. On Tuesday, 22 October, IOF troops positioned at Wad al-Teen checkpoint, south of Tulkarm, imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Wednesday, 23 October, IOF troops closed Ennab checkpoint, east of Tulkarm.
- Hebron: IOF have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. During the reporting period, IOF reinforced their presence throughout Hebron. They stopped, checked and interrogated hundreds of Palestinian civilians. On Thursday, 16 October 2008, IOF moved into Ras al-Joura neighborhood in the north of Hebron, and erected a checkpoint near Zaid fuel station. They stopped and held five Palestinian children for two hours.

At approximately 18:00 on Thursday, 16 October 2008, IOF troops positioned at a checkpoint in the camp area to the north of Hebron arrested 'Odai Mousa Basal, 16, and Ibrahim Ahmed Basal, 15.

3. Construction of the Annexation Wall

IOF have continued to construct the Annexation Wall inside West Bank territory. During the reporting period, IOF used force against a peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders in protest at the construction of the Wall in Bal'ein and Ne'lin villages, west of Ramallah.

- Following the Friday Prayer on Friday, 17 October, dozens of Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders gathered in the center of Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah. They moved towards the area where IOF were razing land to construct a section of the Wall in the village. Immediately, IOF troops fired rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. As a result, 13 demonstrators, including 2 children, were wounded:
 1. Nemer Shukri al-Khawaja, 48, wounded by 3 rubber-coated metal bullets to the right side and thigh and the left leg;
 2. Barakat 'Ali al-Khawaja, 28, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right hand;
 3. Rateb Maher 'Amira, 26, hit by shrapnel from a tear gas canister to the back;
 4. Mohammed Hussein Sorour, 19, wounded by 2 rubber-coated metal bullets to the right leg;
 5. Mohammed Falah 'Amira, 21, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the
 6. Salah Mustafa 'Amira, 37, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the left leg;

7. Samer Ahmed ‘Amira, 24, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the head;
8. ‘Abdullah Mazen Nafe’, 7, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the eye;
9. Ibrahim Mustafa ‘Amira, 12, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the back;
10. Mohammed Mousa al-Habbazi, 19, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right hand;
11. Mohammed ‘Aayed Sorour, 18, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the back;
12. Khamis ‘Abdullah ‘Amira, 21, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right hand;
13. Ahmed Daoud al-Khawaja, 19, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right leg.

- Also following the Friday Prayer on Friday, 17 October, scores of Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders demonstrated in Bal’ein village, west of Ramallah, in protest at the construction of the Wall. The demonstrators moved towards the Wall. Immediately, IOF troops fired rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the demonstrators. As a result, dozens of demonstrators suffered from tear gas inhalation.

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

IOF have continued settlement activities in the OPT in violation of international humanitarian law, and Israeli settlers have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property.

- At approximately 10:00 on Thursday, 16 October, a number of Israeli settlers from “Qidomim” settlement, east of Qalqilya, set fire to a tract of agricultural land planted with olives belonging to the heirs of Fat’hi Hamed ‘Aamer in the southeast of Kufor Qaddoum village. The land is the only source of income for at least 10 families. According to eyewitnesses, dozens of trees were burnt.
- Also on Thursday morning, 16 October, a number of Israeli settlers from “Alon Moreh” settlement, which stands on lands of ‘Azmout and Deir al-Hatab villages northeast of Nablus, attacked a Palestinian civilian vehicle belonging to Hamdallah Yousef ‘Afana, 43, from ‘Azmout village, while he and his family were busy cultivating olives. According to ‘Afana, at approximately 10:30, while he and his family were cultivating olives on his land in the northeast of ‘Azmout village, he saw a number of Israeli settlers coming from “Alon Moreh” settlement, moving towards him holding sticks. When they were 100 meters away from him and his family, he warned them to stay away from his family. The settlers then moved towards his car, broke the windows and slashed the tires. IOF troops positioned in a military site at the entrance of the aforementioned settlement saw the attack, but did not intervene. ‘Afana went to IOF troops asking them to intervene, but they pointed their guns at him and forced him to retreat.
- At approximately 13:40 on the same day, dozens of Israeli settlers from “Kfar Etzion” and “Efrat” settlements, south of Bethlehem, escorted by IOF, stormed Esh al-Ghurab area in the southeast of Beit Sahour town and conducted Jewish prayers. IOF troops imposed severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the area, which serves as a park.
- On Saturday morning, 18 October, a number of Israeli settlers from “Ramat Yishai” settlement outpost in Tal al-Rumaida neighborhood in the center of Hebron, attacked a number of Palestinian farmers, international solidarity activists and journalists while they were harvesting olives. A journalist and an international solidarity activist were injured.

According to investigations conducted by PCHR, a number of Palestinian civilians and a number of international peace activists were harvesting olives on agricultural lands in Tal al-Rumaida

neighborhood in the center of Hebron. A number of journalists were covering the incident. At approximately 10:15, a number of Israeli settlers from “Ramat Yishai” settlement stormed a field. They also attacked journalist ‘Abdul Hafeez Diab al-Hashlamoun, 45, while he was photographing the settlers’ raid. His brother, Nayef Diab al-Hashlamoun, 55, who is a reporter for Reuters, intervened to save him, but the settlers pushed him to the ground. Soon after, a Scottish solidarity activist, Janet Benvie, 63, intervened to retrieve al-Hashlamoun’s camera, but was struck violently in the face by one of the settlers, and fell to the ground. IOF troops were present in the area, but did not intervene to stop the attack. Journalist al-Hashlamoun was injured in the nose and the right eye, and Janet Benvie sustained facial injuries as well as bruises throughout her body. When the Israeli police arrived, they closed the area and forced the activists to leave.

- Also on Saturday morning, Israeli settlers from “Alon Moreh” settlement, northeast of Nablus, attacked Mustafa Mahmoud Thawabta, 63, and his family while he and his family were harvesting olives from their land. The settlers stole his mobile phone and scattered olives on the ground. In his testimony to PCHR, Thawabta stated:

“On Saturday morning, 18 October, my wife, my three daughters and I went to our land in Um al-Tyour area, about 3 kilometers to the north of ‘Azmout village, and we started cultivating olives. At approximately 13:30, I saw a number of settlers coming from “Alon Moreh” settlement towards us. Immediately, I asked my family to put the olives into sacs, so we could leave the area before the settlers’ arrived. We gathered the olives and put them in sacs. We then carried the sacs and moved towards a dirt road leading to our village. However, the settlers, who were a group of at least ten, chased us. They attacked us with stones. My wife was hit by a stone to her back, and my daughter Nidaa’ was also hit by a stone. We put the sacs on the ground, and I picked up a stone and threw it at one of the settlers, but it did not hit him. I attempted to pick up another stone to protect my family and myself, but two settlers moved towards me and pushed me to the ground. I fell onto stones and thorns and I was bruised. My mobile phone fell onto the ground and one of the settlers stole it. The settlers then cut the sacs of olives open, using sharp tools. They scattered the olives on the ground and then left the area.”

- At approximately 08:45 on Sunday, 19 October, dozens of Israeli settlers attacked a number of Palestinian farmers while they were harvesting olives in Kufor Qaddoum village, east of Qalqilya. IOF troops were present in the area and forced the farmers out of their lands.
- Also on Sunday morning, a number of Israeli settlers from “Mavi Dutan” settlement, south of Jenin, violently beat a Palestinian farmer from ‘Arraba village. According to eyewitnesses, the settlers violently beat Naji Lutfi Zuhair, 45, when he was on his way to harvest olives from his land, which is located near the settlement. He sustained bruises throughout the body, and the settlers forced him and his family from their land.

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Recommendations to the International Community

1. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to fulfill their legal and moral obligations under Article 1 of the Convention to ensure Israel's respect for the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. PCHR believes that the conspiracy of silence practiced by the international community has encouraged Israel to act as if it is above the law and encourages Israel continue to violate international human rights and humanitarian law.
2. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to convene a conference to take effective steps to ensure Israel's respect of the Convention in the OPT and to provide immediate protection for Palestinian civilians.
3. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to comply with its legal obligations detailed in Article 146 of the Convention to search for and prosecute those responsible for grave breaches, namely war crimes.
4. PCHR calls for the immediately implementation of the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice, which considers the construction of the Annexation Wall inside the West Bank illegal.
5. PCHR recommends international civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, bar associations and NGOs to participate in the process of exposing those accused of grave breaches of international law and to urge their governments to bring these people to justice.
6. PCHR calls upon the European Union to activate Article 2 of the Euro-Israel Association Agreement, which provides that Israel must respect human rights as a precondition for economic cooperation between the EU states and Israel. PCHR further calls upon the EU states to prohibit import of goods produced in illegal Israeli settlements in the OPT.
7. PCHR calls on the international community to recognize the Gaza disengagement plan, which was implemented last year, for what it is - not an end to occupation but a compounding of the occupation and the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.
8. In recognition of ICRC as the guardian of the Fourth Geneva Convention, PCHR calls upon the ICRC to increase its staff and activities in the OPT, including the facilitation of family visitations to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
9. PCHR appreciates the efforts of international civil society, including human rights organizations, bar associations, unions and NGOs, and urges them to continue their role in pressuring their governments to secure Israel's respect for human rights in the OPT and to end its attacks on Palestinian civilians.
10. PCHR calls upon the international community to pressure Israel to lift the severe restrictions imposed by the Israeli government and its occupation forces on access for international organizations to the OPT.

11. PCHR reiterates that any political settlement not based on international human rights law and humanitarian law cannot lead to a peaceful and just solution of the Palestinian question. Rather, such an arrangement can only lead to further suffering and instability in the region. Any peace agreement or process must be based on respect for international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law.

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Public Document

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