

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



An Israeli soldier fires a tear gas canister at Palestinian protesters during a protest against the construction of the Annexation Wall in Ne'lin village, west of Ramallah.

30 Dec. 2009 - 05 Jan. 2010

N^o 01-2010

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

- Israeli occupation forces killed a Palestinian resistance activist in the Gaza Strip.
- 6 Palestinians, including a child, were wounded by Israeli gunfire in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- Israeli warplanes bombarded areas in the Gaza Strip.
- Israeli occupation forces conducted 17 incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank and 3 limited incursions into the Gaza Strip.
- Israeli occupation forces arrested 23 Palestinian civilians, including 6 children, in the West Bank
- Israeli naval troops have continued to attack Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip.
- Israel has continued to impose a total siege on the OPT and has isolated the Gaza Strip from the outside world.
- Israeli troops positioned at military checkpoints in the West Bank arrested 5 Palestinian civilians, including two children.
- Israel has continued settlement activities in the West Bank and Israeli settlers have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property.
- Israeli occupation forces demolished two agricultural barracks in Hebron, claiming that they were built without licenses.
- The Israeli government approved the first stage of the construction of a new settlement neighborhood in East Jerusalem.

Summary

Israeli violations of international law and humanitarian law continued in the OPT during the reporting period (30 December 2009 – 05 January 2010):

Shooting: During the reporting period, Israeli occupation forces killed one Palestinian resistance activist and wounded 3 others in the Gaza Strip and wounded 3 civilians, including one child in the West Bank.

In the Gaza Strip, on 05 January 2010, Israeli warplanes fired two missiles at a number of Palestinian resistance activists, killing one of them and wounding another 3.

During the reporting period, Israeli warplanes bombarded several areas in the Gaza Strip, and Israeli naval troops fired at Palestinian fishermen and fishing boats.

In the West Bank, 3 Palestinian civilians, including a child, were wounded when Israeli occupation forces used force to disperse peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders in protest of the construction of the Annexation Wall in the West Bank.

Incursions: During the reporting period, Israeli occupation forces conducted at least 17 military incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank. Israeli occupation forces arrested 23 Palestinians, including 6 children.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli occupation forces conducted 3 limited incursions into the Gaza Strip, during which they leveled areas of Palestinian land that they had previously razed.

Restrictions on Movement: Israel has 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

Israel has continuously closed all border crossings to the Gaza Strip over two and a half years. The illegal Israeli-imposed 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.

- 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 main concern of 1.5 million people living in the Gaza Strip is to obtain their basic needs of food, medicines, water and electricity supplies.
- Israel has continued to prevent the entry of raw construction materials into the Gaza Strip for the past two and a half years.
- Israel has not allowed fuel supplies into the Gaza Strip, excluding limited amounts of cooking gas, since 10 December 2008.
- The Rafah International Crossing Point has been opened for a few days for a number of patients who received medical treatment abroad and needed to return to the Gaza Strip.
- Israel has continued to close Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing to Palestinian civilians wishing to travel to the West Bank and Israeli for medical treatment, trade or social visits.
- Living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population have seriously deteriorated; levels of poverty and unemployment are among the highest in the world, at approximately 80% and 60% respectively in the Gaza Strip.
- Israel has continued to prevent the entry of spare parts form water networks and sewage systems. Losses incurred to this sector are estimated at US\$ 6 million.

- Israel has imposed additional restrictions on access of international diplomats, journalists and humanitarian workers to the Gaza Strip. They have prevented representatives of several international humanitarian organizations from entering the Gaza Strip.
- At least 900 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have been deprived for family visitation for more than two and a half years.
- Israeli occupation forces have continued to attack Palestinian fishermen along the Gaza Strip coast.

West Bank

Israeli occupation forces 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.

- Israeli occupation forces 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 630 permanent 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 Israeli occupation forces 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 have already been constructed. Approximately 99% of the Wall has been constructed inside the West Bank itself, further confiscating Palestinian land.
- At least 65% of the main roads that lead to 18 Palestinian communities in the West Bank are closed or fully controlled by Israeli occupation forces (47 out of 72 roads).
- 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 Israeli occupation forces. These permits are extremely difficult to obtain.
- Israeli occupation forces continue to harass and assault demonstrators who hold peaceful protests against the construction of the Annexation Wall.
- Palestinian civilians continue to be harassed by Israeli occupation forces in Jerusalem, and across the West Bank, including being regularly stopped and searched in the streets by Israeli occupation forces.

Settlement Activities: Israel has continued settlement activities and Israeli settlers living in the OPT in violation of international humanitarian law have continued to attack Palestinian civilians and property.

On 31 December 2009, Israeli occupation forces demolished two barracks for sheep and horses in al-Bwaira area, northeast of Hebron. The Israeli occupation forces claimed that the two barracks, located nearly 30 meters from an Israeli settlement outpost, were established without a permit. On the same day, a number of Israeli settlers from "Nouvim" and "Yakir" settlements razed areas of Palestinian land near "Ya'ir" settlement outpost in Qarawat Bani Hassan village, northwest of Salfit.

On 01 January 2010, Israeli occupation forces troops stationed in the vicinity of "Kharsina" settlement, northeast of Hebron, prevented dozens of activists and volunteers from planting trees in areas of land threatened by confiscation through Israeli occupation forces. The area was declared a closed military zone and Israeli forces confiscated trees and fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the activists and volunteers. No casualties or arrests were reported. On the same day, a number of Israeli settlers from "Yakir" settlement, northwest of Salfit, attacked a car in which two Palestinian civilians were traveling. The front window of the car was smashed and the two civilians were injured.

On 04 January 2010, Israeli occupation forces ordered the demolition of 3 barracks and two agricultural stores in al-Khader village, southwest of Bethlehem. On the same day, the committee of organization and construction in the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem approved the first stage of a new settlement

neighborhood near a Jewish school in the Mount of Olives area. The first stage includes the construction of 4 buildings that would include 24 housing units. This settlement project aims at creating a settlement contiguity between Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives. It would result in the old city of Jerusalem being completely surrounded by Israeli settlements. It is worth noting that when the Jewish school was established 20 years ago, the then Israeli Prime Minister Isaac Shamir promised to turn the area into a settlement neighborhood.

Israeli Violations Documented during the Reporting Period (30 December 2009 – 05 January 2010)

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

Wednesday, 30 December 2009

- At approximately 12:00, Israeli occupation forces moved into the al-Irsal area in the north of Ramallah. They patrolled in the area for some time, and withdrew later. No arrests were reported.

Thursday, 31 December 2009

- At approximately 02:30, Israeli occupation forces moved into Burqa village, northwest of Nablus. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 5 Palestinian civilians, including a child:

1. Shabib Mohammed Shabib, 20;
2. 'Omar Ahmed Shabib, 18;
3. 'Ali Tayseer Salah, 17;
4. Ameen Tayseer Salah, 18; and
5. Samer Ussama Saif, 22.

- Also at approximately 02:30, Israeli occupation forces moved into al-Far'a refugee camp, south of Tubas. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested two Palestinian civilians:

1. Shadi Sa'id Abu Khaizaran, 20; and
2. Fadi Khaled Abu Khaizaran, 22.

- At approximately 21:00, Israeli occupation forces moved into al-'Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron. They chased a number of Palestinian children, raided homes and arrested two children:

1. Hassan 'Abdul Karim al-Titi, 15; and
2. Hassan Maher al-Shareef, 16.

- At approximately 23:00, Israeli occupation forces moved into al-Jab'a village, northwest of Hebron. They raided and searched 6 houses and questioned their residents, claiming that they were looking for "banned objects." No arrests were reported.

Friday, 01 January 2010

- At approximately 17:30, Israeli occupation forces moved into al-'Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron. They stopped and interrogated a number of Palestinian children and arrested 3 of them:

1. Adham Fayez Ayoub, 17;
2. Ahmed 'Ata al-'As'eis, 17; and
3. Adham Mohammed Abu Ta'ma, 17.

- At approximately 20:00, Israeli warplanes bombarded an area near al-Je'el fuel station in the east of Jabaliya in the northern Gaza Strip. No damage or casualties were reported.

- At approximately 23:35, Israeli occupation forces warplanes bombarded an olive farm in al-Qarara village, northeast of Khan Yunis. A bombardment made a crater in the area, but no casualties were reported.

Saturday, 02 January 2010

- At approximately 01:30, Israeli occupation forces moved into 'Arraba village, southwest of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 01:30, Israeli occupation forces moved into Kufor Ra'ei village, southwest of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- Also at approximately 01:30, Israeli occupation forces moved into Fahma village, southwest of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 02:30, Israeli occupation forces moved into Jaba' village, southwest of Jenin. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 23:00, Israeli gunboats stationed opposite to Beit Lahiya beach in the northern Gaza Strip opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats. Palestinian fishermen were forced to return to the shore. No casualties were reported.

Sunday, 03 January 2010

- At approximately 23:30, Israeli occupation forces moved into Dura village, southwest of Hebron. They raided and searched a house belonging to the family of Jamal Mohammed al-Zeer, 21, and arrested him.

Monday, 04 January 2010

- At approximately 00:00, Israeli occupation forces moved nearly 200 meters into the Abu Samra area in the north of Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip. They leveled areas of Palestinian land which they had already razed previously. A heavy explosion and sporadic gunfire were heard in the area. Israeli occupation forces withdrew from the area at approximately 16:30, and no casualties were reported.
- At approximately 01:00, Israeli occupation forces moved into al-'Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 4 Palestinian civilians:
 1. Rami Ahmed al-Titi, 25;
 2. Bayan Khaled al-Badawi, 22;
 3. 'Abdul Fattah Mustafa Abu Warda, 22; and
 4. Mo'ayad Mohammed al-Titi, 26.
- At approximately 01:30, Israeli occupation forces moved into Jenin town and refugee camp. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested 4 Palestinian civilians:
 1. Ashraf Hussein al-Aqhash, 30;
 2. Kifah Mohammed Hantouli, 21;
 3. Fu'ad Taher Zakarna, 19; and
 4. Fareed Jalal Jalamna, 20.
- At approximately 17:05, an Israeli drone fired a missile at a number of activists of the Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades (the armed wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine), who were riding motorcycles in the east of Jabaliya in the northern Gaza Strip. No casualties were reported.

Tuesday, 05 January 2010

- At approximately 02:00, Israeli occupation forces moved into Beit Diquu village, northwest of Jerusalem. They raided and searched a number of houses and arrested two Palestinian civilians:
 1. Rami Murad, 18; and
 2. Hussein Bader, 18.
- At approximately 04:00, Israeli occupation forces moved into Bir Zeit village, north of Ramallah. They raided and searched a number of houses, but no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 08:00, Israeli occupation forces moved into several areas in Hebron. They patrolled in the streets for some time and withdrew later. No arrests were reported.
- At approximately 09:00, Israeli occupation forces moved nearly 200 meters in Khuza'a village, east of Khan Yunis. They leveled areas of Palestinian land which they had previously razed.
- At approximately 11:00, Israeli occupation forces moved nearly 150 meters into 'Abassan village, east of Khan Yunis. They leveled areas of Palestinian land which they had previously razed.
- At noon, Israeli occupation forces moved into Khellat al-'Odaissa area in the southwest of Sa'ir village, northeast of Hebron. They patrolled the streets and fired sound bombs at a number of Palestinian boys. They withdrew from the area later and no arrests were reported.
- At approximately 20:20, Israeli warplanes fired two missiles at a number of activists of the Salah al-Din Brigades (the armed wing of the Popular Resistance Committees) in al-Qarara village, northeast of Khan Yunis. As a result, Jihad 'Abdul Rahim al-Sumairi, 22, was killed, and another 3 activists were wounded.

2. Continued Closure of the OPT

Israeli occupation forces 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

Israeli occupation forces have continued to impose a tightened closure for more than two and a half years. The illegal Israeli-imposed closure of Gaza, which has steadily tightened since June 2007, has had a disastrous impact on the humanitarian and economic situation in the Gaza Strip.

- 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 main concern of 1.5 million people living in the Gaza Strip is to obtain their basic needs of food, medicines, water and electricity supplies.
- Israel has continued to prevent the entry of raw construction materials into the Gaza Strip for the past two and a half years.
- Israel has not allowed fuel supplies into the Gaza Strip, excluding limited amounts of cooking gas, since 10 December 2008.
- The Rafah International Crossing Point has been opened for a few days for a number of patients who received medical treatment abroad and needed to return to the Gaza Strip.
- Israel has continued to close Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing to Palestinian civilians wishing to travel to the West Bank and Israeli for medical treatment, trade or social visits.

- Living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population have seriously deteriorated; levels of poverty and unemployment are among the highest in the world at approximately 80% and 60% respectively in the Gaza Strip.
- Israel has continued to prevent the entry of spare parts form water networks and sewage systems. Losses incurred to this sector are estimated at US\$ 6 million.
- Israel has imposed additional restrictions on access of international diplomats, journalists and humanitarian workers to the Gaza Strip. They have prevented representatives of several international humanitarian organizations from entering the Gaza Strip.
- At least 900 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have been deprived for family visitation for more than two and a half years.
- Israeli occupation forces have continued to attack Palestinian fishermen along the Gaza Strip coast.

Movement at Border Crossings during the Reporting Period:**Movement at Rafah International Crossing Point
29 December 2009 – 04 January 2010**

Date	Details
29 December 2009	One Palestinian was allowed to travel to Egypt, and 13 others, as well as the body of a deceased Palestinian, were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
30 December 2009	9 Palestinians were allowed to travel to Egypt, and 84 internationals from "Life Artery Convoy" as well as 78 Palestinians were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
31 December 2009	6 Palestinians were allowed to travel to Egypt and 61 others were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
01 January 2010	One Palestinian was allowed to travel to Egypt.
02 January 2010	80 internationals from "Life Artery Convoy" were allowed to travel to Egypt and 3 Palestinians were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
03 January 2010	1,074 Palestinians were allowed to travel to Egypt and 228 others were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
04 January 2010	834 Palestinians were allowed to travel to Egypt and 217 others were allowed into the Gaza Strip.

**Movement at Karm Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) Crossing
29 December 2009 – 04 January 2010**

Date	Details
29 December 2009	119 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
30 December 2009	92 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
31 December 2009	121 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
01 January 2010	Closed.
02 January 2010	Closed.
03 January 2010	81 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.
04 January 2010	86 containers of food aid for international humanitarian organizations and goods for local traders were allowed into the Gaza Strip.

Nahal Ouz Crossing: Israeli occupation forces opened the crossing on Wednesday, 30 December 2009, and allowed 242 tons of cooking gas and 1,187,020 liters of energy fuel into the Gaza Strip. On Friday, 01

January 2010, Israeli occupation forces decided to close the crossing permanently, and to direct the entry of fuels through Karm Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) crossing, southeast of Rafah, citing security reasons.

Al-Mentar (Karni) Crossing: Israeli occupation forces partially opened the crossing on Wednesday, 30 December 2009, and allowed the entry of 600 tons of wheat and 1,600 tons of fodder. They opened it again on Monday, 04 January 2010, and allowed the entry of 1,440 tons of wheat and 2,440 tons of fodder.

Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing: Israeli occupation forces have continued to close Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing for the movement of Palestinian civilians. They have allowed only diplomats, a number of international journalists, employees of international agencies, and a small number of patients who suffer from serious diseases to pass through the crossing. They have continued to prevent Palestinian civilians from visiting their relatives who are detained in Israeli jails. As mentioned above, Israeli occupation forces have allowed a small number of patients to pass through the crossing, but under severe restrictions that include prolonged checking.

**Movement at Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing
29 December 2009 – 05 January 2010**

Date	Patients	Companions	Arabs from Israel	Ambassadors	International Journalists	International Workers	Travelers abroad	Traders
29 December	29	28	8	2	9	10	Nil	6
30 December	33	26	9	5	5	16	23	4
31 December	23	21	21	Nil	4	17	3	1
1 January 2010	2	2	13	Nil	1	4	Nil	Nil
2 January 2010	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3 January 2010	32	28	69	Nil	4	8	6	6
4 January 2010	32	34	36	2	Nil	2	2	2
5 January 2010	32	34	42	Nil	5	12	4	3

The West Bank

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

- **Jerusalem:** Israeli occupation forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians to and from the city. Thousands of Palestinian civilians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been denied access to the city. Israeli occupation forces have established many checkpoints around and inside the city. Restrictions of the movement of Palestinian civilians often escalate on Fridays, preventing Muslim Palestinians from praying at the al-Aqsa Mosque. Israeli occupation forces often violently beat Palestinian civilians who attempt to bypass checkpoints and enter the city.

- **Nablus:** Israeli occupation forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. Israeli occupation forces troops positioned at an iron gate established on Nablus-Tulkarm road have continued to conduct prolonged checks on Palestinian civilians, especially in the morning. Israeli troops positioned at Shavi Shomron checkpoint on the Nablus-Jenin road, and at Za'tara checkpoint, south of the city, have also continued to restrict the movement of Palestinian civilians. Israeli occupation forces have continued to close Shavi Shomron checkpoint on the Nablus-Jenin road since 10 December 2009. The road is vital for the movement of Palestinian civilians to and from Nablus. On Saturday morning, 02 January 2010, Israeli occupation forces erected a checkpoint at Salem-'Azmout intersection, east of Nablus. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles. At the same time, Israeli occupation forces erected a checkpoint nearly 500 meters to the north of Hawara checkpoint, south of Nablus. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles. At approximately 18:00 on the same day, Israeli occupation forces closed Hawara checkpoint after dozens of Israeli settlers had demonstrated in the area. On Sunday morning, 03 January 2010, Israeli troops stationed at Hawara checkpoint imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Monday evening, 04 January 2010, Israeli occupation forces closed the main entrance of Qaryout village, south of Nablus.
- **Ramallah:** Israeli occupation forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of the Palestinian civilians in Ramallah. Israeli troops positioned at Jaba' and Qalandiya checkpoints, southeast of Ramallah, have imposed additional restrictions on movement and conducted prolonged checking on Palestinian civilians. During the reporting period, Israeli occupation forces erected a number of temporary checkpoints, and stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles.
- **Tulkarm:** Israeli occupation forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. On Sunday, 03 January 2010, at noon, Israeli occupation forces erected a checkpoint at al-Kafriyat intersection, south of Tulkarm. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles and questioned a number of young men. On Monday, 04 January 2010, Israeli occupation forces established an iron gate at the eastern entrance of Shoufa village, southeast of Tulkarm. With the closure of this entrance, the village was entirely isolated from its surroundings. It is worth noting that the "Avni Hevetz" settlement is located in the middle of the village, dividing it into two parts.
- **Bethlehem:** Israeli occupation forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. During the reporting period, Israeli occupation forces troops stationed at the Container checkpoint imposed additional restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. Israeli occupation forces also established more checkpoints on roads leading to the town. On Monday morning, 04 January 2010, Israeli occupation forces closed the southern entrance of Bethlehem for two hours for no apparent reason.
- **Hebron:** Israeli occupation forces have continued to impose severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians. At approximately 08:00 on Tuesday, 05 January 2010, Israeli occupation forces erected a checkpoint at the Tarqoumia-Beit Oula intersection, and another one at the Be'r al-Mahjar-Farsh al-Hawa intersection, northwest of Hebron. They stopped and searched Palestinian civilian vehicles.

Arrests at Military Checkpoints

- At noon on Thursday, 31 December 2010, Israeli troops stationed at military checkpoints near the Ibrahim Mosque in the south of Hebron arrested Nabeel Ref'at Abu Rahma, 25.
- At approximately 16:00 on Friday, 01 January 2010, Israeli troops stationed at Qalandiya checkpoint, north of Jerusalem, arrested 'Odai Ahmed Abu al-Rub, 17, and 'Ali Nafe' Abu al-Rub, 16, from Qabatya village southeast of Jenin.

- On Friday evening, 01 January 2010, Israeli troops stationed at a military checkpoint at the eastern entrance of Ethna village, northwest of Hebron, arrested Samer Ahmed Matar, 24.
- At approximately 18:30 on Tuesday, 05 January 2010, Israeli troops stationed at the Container checkpoint, northeast of Bethlehem, arrested Mazen 'Awadh al-Batran, 25, from Ethna village near Hebron.

3. Construction of the Annexation Wall

Israeli occupation forces have continued to construct the Annexation Wall inside West Bank territory. During the reporting period, Israeli occupation forces used force against peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders in protest to the construction of the Wall.

- Following the Friday Prayer on 01 January 2010, dozens of Palestinian civilians and international and Israeli human rights defenders gathered in the center of Bil'ain village, west of Ramallah. The demonstrators moved towards the Wall and some threw stones at Israeli occupation forces troops positioned in the area. Immediately, Israeli occupation forces troops fired rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs, and tear gas canisters at the demonstrators. Dozens of demonstrators suffered from tear gas inhalation, and Ashraf Yasser Abu Rahma, 27, was hit by a tear gas canister to the right hand.
- Also following the Friday Prayer on 01 January 2010, dozens of Palestinian civilians and international and human rights defenders organized a peaceful demonstration in Ni'lin village, west of Ramallah, in protest of the construction of the Annexation Wall. They clashed with Israeli troops positioned near the Wall. Israeli occupation forces fired rubber-coated metal bullets, sound bombs, and tear gas canisters at demonstrators. Two civilians, including a child, were wounded:
 1. Mo'taz Salah Khawaja, 10, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the head; and
 2. Jom'a Hussein Khawaja, 21, wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet to the right shoulder.

Dozens of demonstrators also suffered from tear gas inhalation, and Israeli occupation forces arrested 'Abdul Raziq Hassan. 17.

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

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

- On Thursday morning, 31 December 2009, Israeli occupation forces, accompanied by officers from the so-called Civil Administration and a bulldozer, moved into al-Bwaira area, northeast of Hebron. They demolished two barracks for sheep and horses belonging to Ghaleb Mohammed al-Za'tari. Israeli occupation forces claimed that the two barracks, located nearly 30 meters from an Israeli settlement outpost, were established without a license. It is worth noting that Israeli settlers seized 3 donums of land belonging to the family and set up 10 tents on them. They often attack Palestinian homes in the area.
- Also on Thursday morning, a number of Israeli settlers from "Nouvim" and "Yakir" settlements razed areas of Palestinian land near the "Ya'ir" settlement outpost in Qarawat Bani Hassan village, northwest of Salfit. At approximately 12:00, Palestinian farmers who arrived in the area were able to drive the settlers away. The following morning, Palestinian farmers came to the area and found that Israeli settlers had razed approximately 1,500 square meters of their land. The settlers informed the farmers that they would establish parks and swimming pools to replace irrigation fountains.

- On Friday morning, 01 January 2010, Israeli troops stationed in the vicinity of "Kharsina" settlement, northeast of Hebron, prevented dozens of activists and volunteers from planting trees in areas of land threatened by confiscation through Israeli occupation forces. They declared the area a closed military zone, confiscated trees, and fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the activists and volunteers. No casualties or arrests were reported.
- At approximately 13:00 on Friday, a number of Israeli settlers from "Yakir" settlement, northwest of Salfit, attacked a car, in which Ziad Mahmoud Sawan, 27, and Ussama Mustafa Sawan, 30, from Ematin village east of Qalqilya, were traveling. According to the two civilians, the settlers threw stones at the car. The front window of the car was smashed and the two civilians were injured.
- On Monday morning, 04 January 2010, Israeli occupation forces ordered the demolition of 3 barracks and two agricultural stores belonging to Ibrahim Mahmoud Mousa, Fawzi Ahmed Salah and Ibrahim Khalil Hussein in al-Khader village, southwest of Bethlehem.
- On Monday, 04 January 2010, the committee of organization and construction in the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem approved the first stage of a new settlement neighborhood near a Jewish school in the Mount of Olives area. The first stage includes the construction of 4 buildings that would include 24 housing units. This settlement project aims at creating a settlement contiguity between Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives. It would leave the old city of Jerusalem completely surrounded by Israeli settlements. It is worth noting that when the Jewish school was established 20 years ago, the then Israeli Prime Minister Isaac Shamir promised to turn the area into a settlement neighborhood.

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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 their 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 immediate 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 that international civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, bar associations and NGOs, participate in the process of exposing those accused of grave breaches of international law and urge their governments to bring the perpetrators 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 in September 2005, 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 demand Israel 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 process or agreement must be based on respect for international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law.

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For further information please visit our website (<http://www.pchrgaza.org>) or contact PCHR's office in Gaza City by email (pchr@pchrgaza.org) or telephone (+972-(0)8-282-4776).