



# PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS WEEKLY REPORT

## 21 DECEMBER 2011 – 3 JANUARY 2012

### Key issues

- Thirty-six Palestinian civilians were injured throughout the oPt in conflict related incidents. As during the whole of 2011, most casualties in the West Bank were related to settlement and Barrier activities while in Gaza they occur mainly as a result of Israeli air strikes.
- Twenty-five water collection structures were demolished during the reporting period, increasing the vulnerability of people's livelihoods. Overall in 2011, the number of people displaced was more than twice (over 1,090) the number recorded in the previous year (over 590), with more than 640 structures demolished.

## WEST BANK

### Multiple injuries in clashes with Israeli forces and settlers

A total of 30 Palestinians were injured during the two-week reporting period in conflict-related incidents. Eighty percent of these injuries occurred in incidents involving Israeli settlers or in protests against settlement related measures. One Israeli policeman was also injured during the reporting period.

Three Palestinians were injured by Israeli settlers, including two boys (aged 14 and 15) physically assaulted in the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron City (H2); and a worker stabbed in the Betar Illit settlement (Bethlehem); and one when hit by stones while traveling in a truck near Yitzhar settlement (Nablus). Israeli forces injured another 13 Palestinians in two incidents involving clashes between Palestinians and Israeli settlers, in 'Asira al Qibliya (Qalqiliya) during a settler raid in the village, and in the Old City of East Jerusalem, following a settler provocation of people celebrating a wedding.

Eight additional injuries occurred in three separate weekly demonstrations against the expansion of Hallamish settlement and the construction of the Barrier on Bil'in land in the Ramallah area, and against the continuous closure of the main entrance

#### Palestinian casualties by Israeli forces

Killed during the two weeks: 0

Killed in 2011 vs. 2010: 10 vs. 13

Injured in two-week period: 26; 8 in demonstrations

Of whom were children: 2

Injured in 2011 vs. 2010: 1447 vs. 1140

Israeli soldiers and policemen injured in 2011: 65

Search-and-arrest operations: 109

Weekly average for 2011: 81

of Kafr Qaddum village, that leads to Qedumim settlement in the Qaqiliya area.

During the reporting period Israeli settlers also cut down 27 olive trees in Khirbet Ash Shuweika village (Hebron). A number of other incidents of intimidation by settlers, resulting in no injuries or property damage, were reported in the Bethlehem and Nablus areas. During 2011, Israeli settlers vandalized over 10,000 Palestinian olive trees throughout the West Bank.

#### Settler-related incidents:

Incidents resulting in Palestinian injuries or property damage:

in 2011 vs. 2010: 410 vs. 319

Palestinians injured this week: 4

Palestinians injured in 2011 vs. 2010: 182 vs. 109

Settlers injured in 2011 vs. 2010: 37 vs. 50

Settlers killed in 2011: 10

## Area C: 25 water collection structures demolished

During the reporting period, the Israeli authorities demolished 25 water-related structures used for agricultural and domestic purposes, bringing the total number of water-related structures demolished during 2011 to around 90.

Twenty-one of these demolitions occurred in the Hebron governorate, including four wells, 12 water pools, three cisterns and two water storage tanks, in Idhna community, and in Al-Majnona and Khirbet al Majd areas. Another four cisterns were demolished in Kafr al Dik village (Salfit).

Additional demolitions included a house (in Idna), displacing eight people; an extension to a

Palestinian-owned structures demolished in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem  
Demolished during the reporting period: 40  
Of which residences: 2  
Structures demolished in 2011 vs. 2010: 646 vs. 431.  
People displaced in 2011 vs. 2010: 1,098 vs. 594.

residential house (Barta'a ash Sharqiya; Jenin); and seven agricultural structures (in Idna and Kafr ad Dik). Also during the reporting period, the Israeli authorities delivered eviction and stop work orders against three houses, four cisterns, and 20 dunums of Palestinian-owned land planted with grape vines in the Bethlehem and Hebron governorates.

## GAZA STRIP

### Israeli air strikes and shooting incidents result in civilian injuries

During the two-week period, Israeli forces launched a number of air strikes and opened fire near the fence separating Israel and the Gaza Strip. Palestinian factions also fired a number of rockets and mortar shells towards southern Israel.

In two separate incidents on 27 December, the Israeli air force targeted Palestinian militants on a motorbike and in a vehicle, killing one militant, injuring nine other Palestinians, including four civilians (one of whom is a 14 year-old child) and damaging four structures (including two houses and two commercial shops). In a separate incident on 30 December, one militant was targeted and killed and another injured while they were allegedly preparing to fire a rocket from Gaza towards southern Israel.

In the context of Israeli restrictions on Palestinian access to areas near the fence, two other Palestinians, including a 12 year-old child and a mentally challenged man, were injured by Israeli fire. Also, Israeli forces detained five Palestinians who

Palestinian casualties by Israeli forces  
Killed during two weeks: 2  
Of whom children: 0  
Killed in 2011 vs. 2010: 105 vs. 72  
Injured in two weeks: 12  
Of whom children: 2  
Injured in 2011 vs. 2010: 446 vs. 286

were allegedly attempting to infiltrate into Israel. The men are still in detention. On three separate occasions, Israeli bulldozers and tanks entered nearly 400 meters into the Gaza Strip and withdrew after conducting land leveling. The Israeli navy continued to impose a naval blockade in Gaza by enforcing restrictions on access to fishing areas located beyond three nautical miles from the shore. In one incident, three fishermen were arrested and taken for interrogation; two of the fishermen were released without their boat as of the end of the reporting period. Also, in two separate incidents, Israeli navy vessels opened fire towards Palestinian fishing boats, forcing them ashore. One fishing boat sustained damage.

Palestinian rocket and mortar shells towards southern Israel resulted in no casualties or damage to property. One of the rockets dropped short and hit a Palestinian house, north of Beit Lahiya, injuring one civilian and causing partial damage to the house.

## Some of the remaining infrastructure of Karni crossing demolished

During the reporting period, Israeli forces bulldozed some of the remaining infrastructure at Karni Crossing, including offices, roads and bunkers, located on the Palestinian side inside Gaza. While this move may indicate intentions to remove the crossing completely, it is still not clear if the Israeli authorities are carrying out similar activities on the Israeli side of the crossing. Previously, Karni Crossing served as the principal commercial crossing between the Gaza Strip and the outside world, Israel and the West Bank. However, the crossing was gradually downgraded by first limiting the number of its operating days and hours between 2000 and 2007, then by banning the movement of goods in 2007, except through a single conveyor belt to transfer grain, and finally by completely closing it in March 2011. This leaves Kerem Shalom as the only commercial crossing functioning also after the closure of Sufa (in March 2009) and Nahal Oz crossings (in January 2010). The situation deteriorates when the Kerem Shalom Crossing shuts down (during holidays and security alerts), rendering Gaza almost commercially completely isolated from the outside world. As of the beginning of 2012, the capacity of Kerem Shalom after recent developments is 450 truckloads per day,

### Movement of goods (Kerem Shalom Crossing):

#### Imports:

Weekly average of truckloads (TL) entered during the two-week period: 1,012

TL carrying food: 40%

Weekly average of TL since the beginning of 2011: 948

Weekly average of TL before the blockade: 2,807

#### Exports:

Truckloads that left during the two-week period: 48

Weekly average since the beginning of 2011: 5

Weekly average before the blockade: 240

up from 300 in 2011. This is, however, well below the total capacity of Karni Crossing, which was 900 truckloads per day, prior to 2007.

## Limited agricultural produce continue to be allowed out of Gaza

During the two-week reporting period, a total of 48 truckloads of agricultural produce exited the Gaza Strip, including 40.5 truckloads of strawberries (165.6 tonnes), 3.5 of cut flowers (134,340 stems), 3.5 of sweet pepper (19.75 tons) and 0.5 truckload of cherry tomato (2.7 tons).

In 2011, around 269 truckloads of certain agricultural produce were allowed out of Gaza to the world market compared to over 5,700 truckloads of a wider range of exports, which exited to the West Bank, Israel and external world between January and May 2007, before the blockade. Under the Access and Movement Agreement signed between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority in 2005, the number of export trucks per day processed via Karni Crossing should have reached 400 truckloads.

For more information, please contact Mai Yassin at [yassinm@un.org](mailto:yassinm@un.org) or +972 (0)2 5829962.