

## MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT

### APRIL - JUNE 2008

### FIELD REPORT

#### Introduction

This is the second quarterly field report of 2008 by Al-Haq's Monitoring and Documentation Department, covering the period from April to June 2008. Al-Haq's field reports cover human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law committed by Israel, the Occupying Power in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), namely the West bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The report also covers human rights abuses committed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the West Bank and those committed by the *de facto* Hamas authority in the Gaza Strip.

Since 1967, Israel has occupied the OPT, despite binding United Nations Security Council resolutions ordering it to withdraw. Consequently, Al-Haq's monitoring and documentation activities have traditionally been directed towards the violations committed by Israel, the Occupying Power. However, following the creation of the PNA in 1994, Al-Haq also monitors and documents violations perpetrated by the PNA. In addition, since Hamas's take-over of the Gaza Strip in June 2007 and assumption of *de facto* authority, Al-Haq also monitors violations perpetrated by Hamas and its Executive Forces (EF).

Each field report highlights a particularly important and disturbing trend observed by the Monitoring and Documentation Department during the reporting period. The field reports are based on first-hand information gathered by Al-Haq's Monitoring and Documentation Department, a broad range of violations, including, but not limited to, comprehensive coverage of killings, house demolitions and curfews. Al-Haq's specially trained fieldworkers visit sites of alleged violations, draw maps, draft reports and take sworn witness statements (affidavits) from victims and eyewitnesses. The affidavits excerpted or referenced in field reports are available on Al-Haq's web site [www.alhaq.org](http://www.alhaq.org), as samples of those gathered during the reporting period.

#### The Human Rights Situation since the Outbreak of the Second *Intifada*

The violations committed during the reporting period must be analysed in the broader context of the deteriorating general human rights situation since the outbreak of the second *intifada* on 29 September 2000, and Israel's persistent failure to respect its obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law in the OPT. As Al-Haq only assigned a fieldworker to Gaza in June of 2007, it does not have comprehensive statistics similar to those of the West Bank dating back to the start of the second *intifada*.

According to Al-Haq's documentation, from the outbreak of the second *intifada* until the end of June 2008, **1,850** Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, **355** of whom were children, and **101** of whom were female (including girls). It is estimated that **308** Palestinians were killed in targeted assassinations. During the same period, Al-Haq documented the demolition for punitive reasons, of **563** homes<sup>1</sup> in the West Bank (whereof 502 were totally demolished, 59 were partially demolished and 2 sealed off), leading to the forcible displacement of **3,326** people. Israel has also carried out a large number of house demolitions on the pretext that the houses were built without the required license (administrative house demolition). Since the beginning of 2004, **543** houses have been demolished for lack of license, **248** of which were in East Jerusalem.

Since the outbreak of the second *intifada*, the Occupying Power has almost completely eliminated the already limited authority of the PNA in the OPT. Israel's destruction of ministerial buildings, arrests of PNA officials and unlawful withholding of PNA tax revenues, have strongly limited the ability of the PNA to carry out its basic functions, including upholding law and order. The effects of many of these policies were exacerbated following the victory of Hamas in the democratic PNA elections of 2006, and continue to affect the *de facto* Hamas government in the Gaza Strip, a government that is plagued by economic and diplomatic isolation and whose function therefore does not extend beyond ensuring a minimum of law and order. By virtue of the control it does exercise over the Gaza Strip, Hamas is bound by international human rights and humanitarian law obligations.

## The Human Rights Situation from April to June 2008

### Highlighted Trend: Home Raids

During the reporting period, Al-Haq's fieldworkers documented numerous incidents of **home raids** carried out by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank. The raids were typically accompanied by **threats** and conspicuous **property destruction** and often with the purpose of intimidating, arresting and/or punishing Palestinian civilians for acts they have not personally committed, the latter amounting to collective punishment in breach of international law.

In a typical example, Israeli occupying forces raided the home of Suleiman Abu-Mifreh and destroyed the water cistern on the roof of his house, as a punishment for adolescents allegedly throwing stones in the neighbour-hood (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4209/2008](#)).

"The immensity of the destruction shocked us. The apartment's infrastructure and furniture were destroyed. More than 20 bullets were fired into the main bedroom, which is the room of my brother and his wife, and hit the closet. As a result all the clothes in the closets were torn or burnt. The children's three beds had collapsed. Dozens of bullets had hit the beds. 30 bullets hit their closets and cupboards. The apartment's curtains had 20 bullet holes. The curtains were burnt as well. The walls were hit with dozens of bullets and so was the fridge. All the kitchen utensils; pots, dishes and plastic plates were on the ground. Moreover, the balcony on the northwest side of the house, which is more than four metres long and three metres wide, was destroyed. The window I mentioned before was part of this balcony. As for the building, the elevator was blasted and so was the door of the apartment I was held in."

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4253/2008](#)**

Given by Iman Mas'oud Diwwaya, resident of Nablus Old City, Nablus Governorate, West Bank

"Once again he asked who slept at our house. I swore to God that nobody else was there. He accused me of lying, saying that my husband taught me what to say. He said that if I did not cooperate with them they would make sure that the children and I would never see my husband again. He added that my noncooperation would destroy my family and our home. He also said that if they found someone in the apartment they would kill me. "Not only in the apartment", he continued, rather if they found the person they wanted in the building they would kill me. I told him that I was responsible for my apartment only, not for the building. I told him, again, that nobody was in my apartment. [...] After ten minutes of questioning and threatening, before he left the room with those who were with him, he told me to listen to what they were about to do to our apartment. A few moments after he went out, I heard heavy and intensive gunfire and explosions. The sounds came from inside the building, especially from the upper floors."

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4257/2008](#)**

Given by Yasmin Hamdi Diwwaya, resident of Ras al-Ein, Nablus Governorate, West Bank

threats of house demolition and separation from her family (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4257/2008](#)).

In another incident, on 14 April 2008, Israeli occupying forces raided the home of Sana' Khuffash, and interrogated her 13-year-old son Hassan about children from the neighbourhood allegedly throwing stones at Israeli military vehicles. The soldiers intimidated Hassan by firing in the air and threatened to beat and arrest him if he did not cooperate (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4156/2008](#)).

In another incident, on 17 June 2008, Israeli occupying forces raided, searched and destroyed the property in the homes of several Palestinian families in the old city of Nablus. Among the homes raided was that of Iman Diwwaya, who together with several of her family members, was handcuffed, blindfolded, detained at a neighbour's house for several hours, and interrogated. The soldiers threatened to arrest Iman and blow up her mother's house if she did not cooperate with them (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4253/2008](#)).

The same night, the Israel occupying forces raided the house of Yasmin Diwwaya, interrogating her about a wanted person allegedly hiding in her house. During the raid of her home, Yasmin was subjected to death threats,

"[I] saw around 30 Israeli soldiers standing outside the house, heavily armed and carrying flashlights. They also had police dogs. A number of them pointed their guns at me, and one of the soldiers ordered me to put my hands up and turn around. He also ordered me to take my family outside the house. I asked my sons, grandchildren and my wife to get out of the house, and then one of the soldiers tied my hands behind my back with plastic cuffs. They then forced me and my family to stand around five metres from the house, while some of the soldiers broke into the house."

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4244/2008](#)**

Given by 'Ayesha Hamdan al-Mour, resident of al-Fukhari area, Khan Younes Governorate, West Bank

On 23 May 2008, Israeli occupying forces raided the neighbourhood of al-Fukhari, in Khan Younes Governorate, conducting house-to-house searches and arbitrarily detaining several Palestinian men (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4244/2008](#)).

#### The Occupying Power

There were continued instances of **settler violence** against and in intimidation of unarmed Palestinian civilians in the West Bank. On 2 June 2008, numerous settlers carrying clubs and chains and accompanied by a number of Israeli policemen, ransacked the Old City of Jerusalem, all the while assaulting Palestinian civilians, including a 13 year old child, and destroying Palestinian property (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4267/2008](#)).

In Far'ata village, in Qalqiliya Governorate, settlers burnt 8 dunums of Palestinian agricultural land planted with wheat. One of the settlers threatened the land-owner that they would burn everything else that any Palestinian would plant (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4212/2008](#)).

In another incident, in Huwwara, in the Nablus area, settlers gratuitously attacked and injured two unarmed Palestinian civilians, Samer 'Ali and Ahmad Khalaf, with a car jack and a sharp metal object, respectively. Samer was wounded in his cheek and forehead, and Ahmad was stabbed in his right hand and heavily bruised. When the Israeli police arrived, they did not properly investigate the incident and left together with the settlers without holding them accountable for the assaults they perpetrated (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4256/2008](#)).

Unfortunately, the non-action of the Israeli police is a widespread phenomenon in the OPT. Despite Israel's obligation to protect the life, property and rights of the occupied Palestinian population, Israeli forces continually turn a blind eye to settler violence. Investigation of such incidents by the occupying authorities remains grossly inadequate to a degree that amounts to a systematic refusal to punish criminal behaviour, thereby effectively encouraging it.

**Movement restrictions** remained widespread during the reporting period. Checkpoints, some of which are now run by Israeli private security companies contracted by the Israeli government, and various types

"Everything that occurs at this checkpoint is subject to the mood of the Israeli soldiers manning it. All citizens and vehicles are inspected when exiting and entering Toulkarem. The inspection of every vehicle lasts 10-15 minutes in normal circumstances, but it may take as long as half an hour, and sometimes even more than that. In cases of military closure, or other similar conditions, the inspecting soldiers force the passengers to step out of their vehicles and show their identity cards. Then the soldiers inspect the vehicles using one of their dogs, which they always keep at the Jbara barrier [...] We have been suffering since the establishment of the Jbara checkpoint in 2001. We are still suffering today. All I wish for is to one day be capable of getting to my University in Toulkarem and returning home without passing through the Jbara barrier. I do not want to be subjected to the inspection and verification operations, which waste our time and frighten us. Not to mention the children and women who are especially frightened. This results in overall stress and panic."

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4230/2008](#)**

Given by Lubna 'Isam Suleiman, resident of Kufr Jammal, Toulkarem Governorate, West Bank

"The settlers broke the doors of shops with sticks. I saw them ransacking the shop of Sayed al-Jundi in al-Wad quarter, but it was empty. While my friends Mahmoud al-Khatib, Amjad al-Malki and Ibrahim Quteina and I were standing in front of our houses in the Bab al-Jadid quarter, located in the vicinity of the gates of the al-Aqsa Mosque, the settlers arrived and started throwing stones at us [...] the settlers were also carrying clubs and chains and that they were accompanied and protected by a number of Israeli policemen. All of a sudden, a number of settlers tried to grab us and we tried to escape through the alleys of our Quarter. With the arrival of more police, the settlers and the police were able to catch us after all. First, they caught Amjad al-Malki and took him somewhere – I do not know where. After a few minutes, I was arrested in one of the alleys and taken to the Wailing Wall, where there were thousands of settlers. Several of them started beating me all over my body with their hands and feet."

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4267/2008](#)**

Given by Ahmad Mahmoud Hdeib, resident of Jerusalem Old City, Jerusalem Governorate, West Bank

of roadblocks, continue to prevent Palestinians from moving freely within the West Bank and between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These physical obstacles and their associated restrictive permit system deny or delay access by Palestinians to their families, places of employment or worship, educational institutions, agricultural lands and markets (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4230/2008](#)).

Palestinian movement is further restricted by the Annexation Wall, 87% of which is built on land confiscated from Palestinians, and which divides the West Bank into enclaves, preventing Palestinians from

ing their land and/or homes while creating irreversible facts on the ground. In many areas, the only way for Palestinians to reach their lands and homes is by passing through **gates in the Wall**, which requires permits issued by the Israeli occupying forces.

In a typical example, occupying forces heavily restricted Rafiq Yasin's access to his land in Qiffin, Toulkarem Governorate, preventing him, *inter alia*, from harvesting his olives. On 8 June 2008, Israeli soldiers obstructed Rafiq's passage and that of the firemen who instantly arrived on site, through the gate in the Wall, after his land had been set on fire. When Rafiq and the firemen were finally allowed passage, one hour after the fire started, 3,000 olive trees were burnt and destroyed (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4229/2008](#)).

"I finished my work for the day and headed from the center of Ramallah to Ramallah Tahta, more specifically to Al-Mahtab quarter. Suddenly, more than 15 Israeli soldiers appeared before me. They grabbed me in a blink of an eye and started beating me. They hit me everywhere, but most of their strikes were on my face and head. Then they threw me on the ground and beat me with their feet and their guns. They battered my back and abdomen [...] From time to time, the soldiers would take me from one alley to the next. They would then take turns beating me. I shouted at the soldiers and told them that I was tired. I told them that I had a severe headache but they did not care. I began losing consciousness. At times the Israeli soldiers would pin me to the wall, aim their machine guns at me and then cock them."

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4261/2008](#)**

Given by Ashraf Husein Jabarin, resident of Ramallah, Ramallah Governorate, West Bank

Palestinians, including children, continued to be subjected to **harassment by Israeli soldiers**. In a notable example, Israeli occupying forces detained 11-year-old Sufian Sa'abna for two and a half hours in a military jeep. Driving him from one location to another, the soldiers interrogated Sufian about children throwing stones in the neighbourhood. As a result of his fear and stress, Sufian urinated in his trousers (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4181/2008](#)).

In another incident, in Jenin Governorate, Israeli soldiers harassed two Palestinian men, while taking pictures of their suffering and eventually forcing them to run down a street, handcuffed, blind folded and naked (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4248/2008](#)).

On 15 April 2008, 15 Israeli soldiers subjected Ashraf Jabarin to gratuitous **beatings** as he was walking home from work. Ashraf had to be hospitalised in the Intensive Care Unit and has suffered verbal communication difficulties as a result of the beatings (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4261/2008](#)).

Al-Haq documented a high number of **house demolitions** throughout the West Bank during the reporting period. Most house demolitions documented were based on alleged administrative reasons. The majority of houses were demolished in East Jerusalem (21) under the pretext of being built without a licence (see Al-Haq [Affidavits 4312/2008](#)). Palestinians living in approximately 60% of the West Bank must apply for a building permit, issued by the Israeli Civil Administration, before undertaking any construction on their land and/or property. This process can take an extremely long period of time and in most cases permits are never granted. Thus, many homeowners have received a demolition order and desperately, often in vain, seek legal aid to challenge the destruction of their homes (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4232/2008](#)).

"One of the soldiers lifted me up and placed me on the military jeep's hood. He put me down in an upright sitting position. Then the soldier began interrogating me. He spoke in Arabic and asked: "Who from your village throws stones at us?" I told him I did not know. The soldier then aimed his gun at my face, holding it very close to my face. He threatened to shoot me if I refused to answer his question. I told him I really did not know who threw stones. The soldier then asked: "Who in your town has weapons?" Again I told him I did not know [...] The Israeli forces invaded the city several times in the days after I was detained. I was too afraid to leave the house when the soldiers were in town, and did not dare to join the other boys when they went to throw stones. I am not embarrassed to say that I peed myself while I was amongst the soldiers and while I was in the military jeep. The Israeli soldiers noticed that I had peed myself but that did not bother them on bit. Indeed, they just kept driving around."

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4181/2008](#)**

Given by Sufian Mahmoud Sa'abna, resident of Fahma, Jenin Governorate, West Bank



The Occupying Power continued to use Palestinian civilians as **human shields**, especially in the Northern Gaza Strip. During an Israeli military raid in the Khan Younes area on 23 May 2008, Israeli forces used Ibrahim al-'Mour as a human shield while conducting house-to-house searches (see Al-Haq [Affidavit 4244/2008](#)). In addition, Israeli forces continued to use Palestinian civilians to enter buildings during arrest raids to check if anyone was hiding inside (see Al-Haq [Affidavit 4248/2008](#)).

Throughout the West Bank, there was continued **land confiscation and/or destruction** in order either to expand or enclose existing illegal Israeli settlements or build Israeli infrastructure, most notably the illegal Annexation Wall. When completed, the length of the Wall (722 km) will be more than twice the length of the Green Line (315 km) – the 1949 Armistice Line separating Israel and the West Bank – as it cuts deep into the West Bank in several locations. In a notable example, in Qiffin, in the Tulkarem Governorate, Israeli forces confiscated a large part of village land for the construction of the Annexation Wall, isolating Palestinian farmland, and thus making it at the most only partially accessible to its rightful owners (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4229/2008](#)). In a typical example, the Occupying Power confiscated a total of 365 dunums of agricultural land in the Toubas Governorate, in order to build a military base, preventing the owners of these lands to access them (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4272/2008](#)).

Al-Haq's fieldworkers documented numerous incidents of **wilful killings** of Palestinians by Israeli occupying forces during the reporting period. A number of the killings occurred during exchanges of gunfire between Israeli occupying forces and Palestinian gunmen.

On 6 June 2008, during an Israeli military raid of the al Shuja'iyya Quarter in Gaza City, encountered by resistance of Palestinian gunmen, Khalil Sukkar was shot lethally in the heart, at close range, by Israeli occupying forces, as he attempted to aid two injured Palestinians (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4287/2008](#)).

"My brother carried the other wounded person to a civilian vehicle. Then, while putting the injured person into a car, he was shot. I saw him fall to the ground and put his right hand on the left side of his chest- where his heart is. I ran down to my brother with my other brother, 'Layyan, who is 23 years old, and my brother Khalil's friend, Muhammad Saleh Sukkar. I found Khalil with a bullet in his heart. He was bleeding heavily. Khalil was dying, taking his last breaths. The Israeli soldiers who were positioned in 'Ali Abu-Jibba's land started firing at us. They wanted to prevent us from helping Khalil. My brother 'Layyan, Muhammad and I carried Khalil and put him in an ambulance that had just arrived. I went in the ambulance with Khalil. We left to the hospital. The doctors were trying to save his life. But Khalil died five minutes after we arrived at the hospital. Khalil died because of the bullet in his heart. The bullet was fired by Israeli soldiers. Khalil was wearing civilian clothes, carried no weapons and was attempting to save the life of two people. The street he was shot on was visible to the Israeli soldiers."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4287/2008](#)

Given by Ahmad Muhammad 'Abdallah Sukkar, resident of al-Shuja'iyya Quarter. Gaza Governorate. Gaza Strip

Most instances of wilful killings, however, occurred in the total absence of armed clashes. On 14 April 2008, Israeli occupying forces killed Fadel Shana'a, a Palestinian journalist, as he was driving to the Johar al-Dik area in the Gaza Strip, in order to document an Israeli military incursion, which had left 11 Palestinian civilians dead. The soldiers fired a tank shell at the jeep Fadel was driving, which displayed a clearly visible TV sign, killing him and two civilians, who were both children (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4161/2008](#)).

In another instance, during an Israeli military incursion in the Khan Younes area, Israeli occupying forces killed Ibrahim al-Masri and 6 year old Hadil al-Smeiri (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4247/2008](#)).

"The soldiers entered the Centre, confiscated all its contents and put them in the truck. My father was looking at them without being able to do anything, because one of the soldiers was aiming his weapon at him to prevent any movement. Then they took my father out of the Centre, welded the door and stuck three papers on the door. These papers included a closure order for two years. One of these three papers was in Arabic, the second in Hebrew and the third was an aerial photograph of the Centre and the area in which the Centre is located. After this the soldiers left the place while my father was watching them without being able to do anything except to cry over what was going on [...]. The items confiscated from the Centre include three computer sets, a large fridge, a gas oven, a photocopying machine, headsets, stationery, two big cabinets, one box of 10 CD's, an office chair, a table, two HP printers, several screens, 25 lecture chairs, as well as student report cards. The estimated value of these items is NIS 63,795."

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4159/2008](#)**

Given by Ahmad Farah Samhan, resident of Qalqiliya, Qalqiliya Governorate, West Bank

In another incident, Israeli soldiers killed two allegedly wanted Palestinians, in a **targeted assassination**, as they were sleeping in a car (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4165/2008](#)).

The Occupying Power has also continued to close down Palestinian **charitable institutions** under the pretext of affiliation with the Hamas movement. In a typical example, on 9 April 2008, the Samhan Cultural Centre in Qalqiliya, licensed by the Palestinian Ministry for Education and Higher Education and providing training courses and educational workshops for university and high school students, was closed by Israeli military order. The Occupying Power further confiscated property of the cultural centre, including furniture and utilities (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4159/2008](#)).

The Occupying Power has further continued its policy of subjecting Palestinian civilians to **arbitrary arrests**, particularly in Khan Younes Governorate in the Gaza Strip. In a typical example, on 1 June 2008, Israeli occupying forces arrested Fayez Abu-Jame' in the Khan Younes area, in order to interrogate him about the Palestinian resistance movement (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4248/2008](#)).

On 17 June 2008, Israeli occupying forces arbitrarily arrested Ziyad Diwayya during a home raid in Ras al-'Ein in Nablus Governorate, under the pretext of looking for allegedly wanted Palestinians (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4257/2008](#)).

In another incident, on 23 May 2008, during a raid in Khan Younes Governorate, Israeli occupying forces carried out an arbitrary **mass arrest** of numerous Palestinian men residing in the homes the soldiers were raiding (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4244/2008](#)).

## The Palestinian National Authority and the Hamas De Facto Authority in Gaza<sup>1</sup>

To the extent that the PNA exercises some control over parts of the West Bank and the Hamas *de facto* government exercises control over the Gaza Strip, they are respectively responsible for enforcing law through effective and lawful measures.

Al-Haq fieldworkers received renewed reports of **torture** and other forms of prohibited **ill-treatment** in places of detention under PNA authority in the West Bank and under Hamas authority in the Gaza Strip, especially of persons with alleged affiliation to opposing political fractions. In most cases, the practices of torture and ill-treatment were solely politically motivated and are apparently part of a widespread trend in the West Bank as well as in the Gaza Strip.

In a typical example, on 4 May 2008, in Qalqiliya city, in the West Bank, officers of the PA Preventative Security forces detained 'Awad 'Beid and tortured him in order to coerce his (false) confession of belonging to the Hamas movement (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4195/2008](#)).

"When I tried to shake hands, the director slapped me on the face several times, severely beat me and pushed me on the ground. He then asked me why I wanted to go to the hospital. I answered, "Because I suffer pain in the bottom of my stomach; I suffer from hernia." Then, the Director stepped on my stomach, and his deputy told him that I was fainting. The Director also hit me with a chair. Iyad gave the Director a glass of water, which he poured on my face. He told Iyad to pick me up from the floor, which he did. At this point, the Director started to beat me on my face."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4175/2008](#)

Given by 'Ali Saleh Ahmed, resident of Kufr al-Dik, Salfit Governorate, West Bank

After a home raid in the Salfit Governorate, PA Preventative Security forces abducted 17-year-old 'Ali Saleh Ahmad and physically abused him by continuously beating him because of his father's alleged affiliation with the Hamas movement (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4175/2008](#)).

In the Gaza Strip, Hamas officials tortured 72-year-old Taleb Abu-Sitta. The ill-treatment inflicted on Taleb resulted in his **death in custody** on 27 June 2008 (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4280/2008](#)).

"Three policemen approached us. It seemed to me that the one who was in the middle was their leader. He told us, "You are not allowed to stop here, you should go back to your homes and it is prohibited to gather for the purpose of any march or festival without prior permit from the police". I told him, "I am here to express my opinion and to send a message to Israel, and to the leaders at the Israeli Knesset, who are celebrating the establishment of the State of Israel. I want to tell them that I am a Palestinian refugee, that my land was stolen and that I am here to demand my right to return to my city of origin, Breir, and no-one has the right to take this right from me."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4196/2008](#)

Given by Jamal 'Abd-al-Naser Abu-Habal, resident of Jabaliya Refugee Camp, Gaza Governorate, Gaza Strip

The Hamas *de facto* authority has further infringed on Palestinians' rights to **freedom of assembly**. In a notable example on 15 May 2008, on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Palestinian *Nakba* in the Gaza Strip, Hamas police officers dispersed the festival, assaulting the crowd, which included women, children and elderly, with clubs and tazer guns under the justification that any assembly was forbidden without prior approval of the Hamas police (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4196/2008](#)).

<sup>1</sup> Due to the reluctance of many Palestinians to provide affidavits relating to intra-Palestinian violence, the information in this section of the Monitoring and Documentation Report is primarily based on reports drafted by Al-Haq's specially trained fieldworkers.

**MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT**  
**01APRIL-30JUNE 2008**  
**STATISTICS**

**THE WESTBANK**

**KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER**

<b>Total number of killings</b>	<b>13</b>
---------------------------------	-----------

**Special Types of Killings**

Death in custody	6
Targeted assassination	2
Assassination in custody	2
Death at checkpoints	2
Women	0
Children	4

**Killings by District**

Bethlehem	-
Hebron	3
Jenin	3
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	-
Nablus	5
Ramallah	1
Toulkarem	-
Israel	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

**Killings by Age Group**

12 or younger	-
13-17	4
18-25	7
26-35	2
36-50	-
Over 50	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>



### Killing by Perpetrator

Israeli Occupying Forces	-
- Soldiers	10
- Special undercover units	-
- Snipers	-
Israeli Border Guards	-
Israeli Policemen	-
General Security Services	-
Settlers	1
Armed Israeli civilians	1
Collaborators	-
Others	-
Israeli driver	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

### Situation during Killing

Normal/calm	11
Incursion	-
Demonstration and stone-throwing	-
Armed clashes	1
Shelling	-
Closed military area	-
Bystanders killed during attempted assassination	-
Unclear	-
Curfew	-
Raid	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

### Methods of Killing

Live bullet	12
Fragmented bullet	-
Rubber-coated metal bullet	-
Explosives and small missiles	-
Shrapnel	-
Mine	-
Tear gas	-
Blunt instrument	-
Sharp instrument	-
Missile	-
Medical Obstruction	-
Others	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

## HOUSE DEMOLITIONS BY DISTRICT

### Punitive House Demolitions

Bethlehem	-
Hebron	-
Jenin	1
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	-
Nablus	-
Ramallah	-
Toulkarem	-
Qalqiliya	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

### House Demolitions for Lack of Licence

Bethlehem	-
Hebron	-
Jenin	-
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	19
Nablus	-
Ramallah	-
Toulkarem	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>

## CURFEWS BY DISTRICT

District	Hours
Bethlehem	-
Jenin	-
Nablus	-
Toulkarem	47
Jerusalem	-
Ramallah	-
Hebron	-
Jericho	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>

## KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER IN THE GAZA STRIP

<b>Total of Killings</b>	<b>128</b>
--------------------------	------------

Special target groups	
Death in custody	
Targeted assassination	12
Assassination in custody	-
Death at checkpoints	-

Women	<b>3</b>
Children	<b>23</b>

#### Killings by District

Gaza	<b>23</b>
North Gaza	<b>36</b>
Rafah	<b>13</b>
Khan Younes	<b>26</b>
Central district	<b>30</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>

#### Killings by Age Groups

12 or younger	<b>7</b>
13-17	<b>16</b>
18-25	<b>65</b>
26-35	<b>27</b>
36-50	<b>7</b>
Over 50	<b>6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>

#### Killing by Perpetrator

Israeli Occupying Forces	-
- <b>Soldiers</b>	<b>15</b>
- <b>Special undercover units</b>	<b>9</b>
- <b>Snipers</b>	-
Israeli Border Guards	<b>12</b>
Israeli Policemen	-
General Security Services	-
Settlers	-
Armed Israeli civilians	-
Collaborators	-

#### Situation During Killing

Normal/calm	<b>13</b>
Incursion	<b>18</b>
Demonstration and Stone-Throwing	-
Armed clashes	<b>11</b>
Shelling	<b>82</b>
Closed military area	-
Bystanders killed during attempted assassination	<b>4</b>
Curfew	-