



## MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT JANUARY – MARCH 2008 FIELD REPORT

### Introduction

This is the first quarterly field report of 2008 by Al-Haq's Monitoring and Documentation Department, covering the period from January to March 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, covering a broad range of violations, including 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 March 2008, **1,837** Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, **351** of whom were children, and **101** of whom were female (including girls). It is estimated that **306** Palestinians were killed in targeted assassinations. During the same period, Al-Haq documented the demolition for punitive reasons, of **560** 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 **3,320** 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, **524** houses have been demolished for lack of license, **229** 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 January to March 2008

### Highlighted Trend: Excessive Use of Force in the Gaza Strip

Al Haq's fieldworkers documented numerous incidents of Israeli occupying forces using **excessive force** against unarmed Palestinians, particularly in the Gaza Strip. During the reporting period, extensive Israeli military attacks, including ground incursions and air strikes, were carried out in densely populated urban areas, with obvious disregard for the increased risk of harming civilians. The excessive and often indiscriminate attacks resulted in the killing of at least 246 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip alone, almost half of whom were civilians (121), including 14 women and 41 children.

In a notable example, on 1 March 2008, two Israeli military planes hit a civilian residential building with three rockets, destroying it, killing

"I saw two Israeli military planes soaring over Gaza city. All of a sudden I heard a very strong explosion close to where I was standing. As a result of the explosion, windows broke and rubble spread all over. After a few moments, the explosion was followed by another one of the same strength. I looked towards the house of my father and brothers which was about 80 metres away from my home to the west and I saw smoke ascending from their house. I hurried to my father's house, which was completely demolished and burning. Smoke was spreading all over the place. It is worth noting that I had visited my family's house on the same day at 2:00 pm and talked to my father, mother, my two sisters, Ibtisam and Raja', the wives of my brothers Khaled and Ibrahim, and their seven children, who were all in the house. Seeing the demolition and fire, I started screaming "my family died". I was in a hysterical state".

#### **Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4122/2008](#)**

Given by 'Ahed 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Atallah, resident of al-Yarmouk quarter, Gaza Governorate, Gaza Strip

"I heard a very loud explosion. The explosion was very close to our house, making it tremble. I panicked. I thought about my son, his cousins and friends and went out to check on them. I hurried to the playground where my son plays football on a daily basis. No sooner had I arrived at the playground than I saw several children lying on the ground, and dust filling the place. I started searching for my son among the other children. There was a 27 year old man called Ahmad Husein Darduna also looking for the children. I asked him about my son but he did not answer me. As I was searching for my son, I saw from a distance of around five metres the bodies of four children, which looked like coal and were torn into pieces. I could not approach any closer fearing that my son would be one of them. I continued searching for my son all around and I saw body parts of children spread all over the playground, due to the intensity of the explosion. Then I noticed a plastic shoe that was very familiar to me and I realised that the foot attached to the shoe was my son's."

#### **Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4118/2008](#)**

Given by Ghaliya Ahmad Darduna, resident of Jabaliya, Gaza Governorate, Gaza Strip

seven of its residents and wounding another eight family members, including five children (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4122/2008](#)).

On 27 February 2008, excessive force was again used when Israeli reconnaissance planes bombed and completely destroyed the Palestinian Ministry of Interior, devastating surrounding Palestinian houses, injuring civilians and killing a 6 month old child (See Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4148/2008](#)).

In a particularly disturbing incident, on 28 February 2008, Israeli military planes bombed a playground while a group of children was playing soccer, killing four and severely injuring 12 children (See Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4118/2008](#) and Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4119/2008](#)).

"I saw my son Ahmad, 32, standing in the vicinity of that house and looking east in the direction of where the tanks were positioning. Then I heard the noise of a shell landing near Ahmad and I saw smoke rising from that same place. After a few moments, I saw my second son Sami, 29, going out of the house towards the place where Ahmad had been standing. I heard the noise of another shell landing on the same spot where the first shell had landed. Again, smoke rose from the same place. I heard a third shell penetrating Sami's room located in the east side of the house. Directly after the firing of the third shell, I saw my first wife Karima, 60 years old and my 24 year old daughter Asma' leaving the house. The occupying forces opened fire on them. I heard my wife and daughter screaming in the vicinity of the place where Ahmad and Sami were lying on the ground. All of a sudden, I saw my wife and daughter stop screaming and falling to the ground, just in front of the entrance of the house."

#### **Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4002/2008](#)**

Given by Hamdan 'Abd-al-Rahim Fayyad, resident of al-Zanna village- al-Qarara, Khan Younes Governorate, Gaza Strip

## The Occupying Power

There were continued instances of **wilful killing** of Palestinians by Israeli forces. A number of these killings were carried out during exchanges of gunfire between Israeli forces and Palestinian gunmen. However, most instances of wilful killing occurred in the total absence of armed clashes and included **targeted assassinations**. On 4 February 2008, Israeli occupying forces raided Qabatiya town in the northern West Bank in an attempt to kill the allegedly wanted Palestinian activist Naji Nazzal. Hiding on the roof of a Palestinian home, the soldiers shot Nazzal in the chest, and then shot dead two civilians who came to his aid (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4077/2008](#) and Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4078/2008](#)).

On 1 March 2008, armed clashes between Israeli occupying forces and members of Palestinian armed groups took place in Jabaliya, in the northern Gaza Strip. After the withdrawal of the Palestinian armed groups, occupying forces nonetheless continued their shooting and bombing of the neighbourhood resulting in the killing of 16 year old Iyad Abu-Shbak and his sister Jacqueline. The two children were killed while sitting with their family in the living room of their home, waiting for the bombing to cease (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4117/2008](#)).

**Movement restrictions** remained one of the most widespread forms of human rights violations during the reporting period. Checkpoints, some of which are now run by private security companies contracted by the Israeli government, and various types 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. Al-Haq fieldworkers documented a new case where the movement of a pregnant woman in Nablus was restricted such that she was compelled to give birth at a checkpoint. The responsible soldier delayed her passage, endangering the lives of both mother and child (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4022/2008](#)).

"My husband spoke to the soldiers at the checkpoint in Arabic, asking them to open it and let us pass to go to the hospital. I saw the soldier making a sign with his hand telling us to wait and calling someone. It was now 3:15 am and my labour pains increased with every minute. From time to time, I would scream out of severe pain. My husband repeatedly asked the soldier to let us pass but to no avail. At one point I screamed so loudly that I thought I had pushed out my child. The Israeli soldiers opened the gate after around 25 minutes of continuous waiting. After we passed the checkpoint, I had difficulty walking. After taking ten steps, I sat on the ground screaming because the baby was coming out. Some neighbours heard my screaming and came to help us. I was very cold. It was an extremely cold day. I gave birth at that very spot."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4022/2008](#)

Given by Kifah Rubin Sider, resident of Hebron city, Hebron Governorate, West Bank

Palestinian movement is further restricted by the Annexation Wall, 80% of which is built on West Bank land, and which divides the West Bank into enclaves and prevents Palestinians from reaching 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 regularly requires permits

"The soldier approached me and asked why I was standing there and started to beat me. First he pushed me with his hands, then he kicked me with his foot and hit me with his fist on my chest and abdomen. He then told me to lift my hands and open my legs and started inspecting me. He took my keys and wallet and asked me about my mobile phone. I told him that I do not have a mobile phone. He cuffed my hands to my back with plastic cuffs and threw me inside a very small cell located beside the square at the 'Container' checkpoint near Bethlehem. The soldier closed the door of the cell and through a small window in its door, said "If you talk to anybody, I will fuck you."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4099/2008](#)

Given by Muhannad 'Uthman al-'Azza, resident of al-'Azza Camp, Bethlehem Governorate, West Bank

issued by the Israeli occupying forces. Only a limited number of permits are typically granted to a restricted number of Palestinians (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4031/2008](#)).

Closely linked with movement restrictions is **ill-treatment at checkpoints**. Al-Haq documented new cases of Palestinians being subjugated to delays, humiliation, beatings and detention at checkpoints. Palestinians continued to be forced to strip at checkpoints, and detained for up to several hours without charge or explanation. The motivating factors behind the beatings and detention were hard to identify, with most of them appearing to be purely gratuitous.

Palestinians, including children, continued to be subjected to unjustified **harassment and beatings by soldiers**. In one case, Israeli soldiers gratuitously attacked a 17 year old unarmed boy near Toulkarem while he was on his way to buy groceries (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4133/2008](#)). In another case, masked soldiers attacked two Palestinians during a home raid, one of whom was later blindfolded, severely beaten and interrogated about his brother who was allegedly wanted by the occupying forces (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4029/2008](#)).

Al-Haq has documented numerous **house demolitions** during the reporting period, either on the pretext of the houses being built without permits (administrative house demolitions) or as part of Israeli military operations (punitive house demolitions). In most cases, punitive house demolitions failed to fulfil the international humanitarian law principles of necessity and proportionality, and amounted to collective punishment of civilians, which under international law is prohibited at all times. In a number of cases, houses in which allegedly wanted Palestinians were assumed to be “hiding” were demolished regardless of whether or not the concerned person was actually present (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4029/2008](#)).

“I asked Captain Feisal why they were demolishing the house. He replied, “We are murderers and we want to demolish the house!” I told him to check the house before demolishing it and if they were to find Mousa in it, to go ahead with the demolition. He replied, “We will demolish the house!” It was 9:00 pm. The elderly from the town, as well as the head of the municipal council, had arrived, but to no use. They started demolishing the house. The demolition process was gradual and they did not allow us to get anything from inside the house. The house with everything in it was demolished.”

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4029/2008](#)**  
(Name and residence of Affiant withheld)

“The march set out from the school and headed to the west of Sa’ir toward the bypass road known as Road 60. Before we arrived at that road, Israeli soldiers who were hiding among the grape vines suddenly appeared and dispersed the march. One of the soldiers fired his weapon, a bullet almost hitting me. When I stopped to see if I had been injured, two soldiers grabbed me. Immediately the soldiers attacked me with their hands, feet and the butts of their guns. I fell to the ground, receiving blows on all parts of my body. I started to scream in pain. Then the four soldiers who participated in beating me stopped and dragged me on the ground to a military jeep standing on Road 60. They dragged me for approximately 300 metres, all while continuing to beat me.”

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4050/2008](#)**

Given by Majed Muhammad ‘Jaradat, resident of Sa’ir, Hebron Governorate, West Bank

Throughout the OPT, the Occupying Power continued its policy of **land confiscation and/or destruction**, mainly in order to build Israeli infrastructure, including the Annexation Wall (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4031/2008](#)) and bypass roads exclusively serving Israeli settlements. In a typical example, Israeli occupying forces levelled the land of farmer Abd-al-Latif ‘Ubeid, uprooted 350 of his olive trees, and physically prevented him from reaching his land. This amounted to de facto confiscation and thereby deprived him and his family of

their only source of income (see [Affidavit No. 4112/2008](#)<sup>1</sup>).

“One of the soldiers prevented me from going to my land. He aimed his weapon at me and threatened to kill me if I went to my land again. I returned home. After two months, I went back to see what happened to the olive trees because the Israeli army had confiscated the second half of the land. I found out that all my trees were uprooted and the land was levelled and two greenhouses were built on it. When I saw this, I got mad and again I took legal action against the Israeli army through Yesh Din, [an Israeli human rights organisation], but so far I have gotten no answer from them. It is worth noting that an Israeli military jeep is continuously placed near my land to prevent us from reaching it. I always hope to reach it, but my hopes are always dashed because the soldiers prevent me every time. Currently, another greenhouse is being built by the Israelis. I thus lost my only source of livelihood and my family is suffering from our dire financial situation.”

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4112/2008](#)**

Given by Abd-al-Latif Muhammad ‘Ubeid, resident of Kufr Qaddoum, Qalqiliya Governorate, West Bank

<sup>1</sup> The violations described in a small number of the affidavits appearing in this report occurred slightly before the current reporting period (January-March 2008). As these violations were either not covered in the last report (October-December 2008), or because their effects are ongoing, they are referred to in the current report.



There were further incidents of Israeli **settler violence** against, and intimidation of, Palestinians, including children, in the West Bank, particularly in the Hebron and Nablus areas. Armed settlers physically attacked Palestinians, verbally abused them and destroyed Palestinian property (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4008/2008](#)). On 1 January 2008, settlers burnt the al-Hamidiyya Mosque and Shrine Mosque in the Bethlehem area as well as 22 bee hives cultivated on the land surrounding the mosque (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4004/2008](#)).

“At that moment, all five settlers attacked me. They threw me on my back, to the ground and started beating me with their hands, feet and clubs. They continued to beat me for about five minutes. I was screaming out of pain and my head was bleeding. Then the settlers left me and went back to their settlement. When they were 100 metres away, Husein and ‘Amro arrived and took me to the village. Then they took me to Rafidiya Hospital in a private car. The doctor discovered a big wound in my head which needed 16 stitches to be treated and a fracture in my left arm above the elbow resulting from the beating of the settlers.”

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4019/2008](#)**

Given by Hashem Mustafa Hamad, resident of Tel Vilage, Nablus Governorate, West Bank

In Nablus, Palestinians, including a 15 year old child, were intimidated by a group of masked settlers as they were working on their land and grazing their sheep. One of the Palestinians was severely beaten by the settlers and was hospitalised (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4019/2008](#)). In most instances, the responsible Israeli authorities continued to systematically refuse to prevent or punish the criminal behaviour of the settlers, thereby effectively encouraging it.

Occupying forces continued to carry out **arbitrary arrests** of Palestinians, especially children, under a variety of unfounded pretexts including alleged stone-throwing or attempts to make holes the Annexation Wall. On 24 February 2008, Israeli occupying forces arrested 16 year old Saddam Jaradat, after falsely accusing him of throwing

stones against the Wall and at the Israeli military patrols constantly present behind it in the Qalqiliya area. To date, his family has been deprived from seeing or talking to Jaradat, and has been left in limbo as to his whereabouts (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4107/2008](#)). Arbitrary arrests are also part of a larger web of Israeli policies that are having a severely negative impact on the **education** of Palestinian students. In a typical example, in Hebron, Israeli occupying forces attacked and arrested a 14 year old student while he was participating in a peaceful march. The student was detained for several months, missing school and important exams (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4050/2008](#)).

Restrictive Israeli practices, including the significant decrease of fuel deliveries, continued to exacerbate the dire **humanitarian situation** in the Gaza Strip. These restrictions, imposed on the civilian population in the Gaza Strip since June 2006, and amounting to collective punishment, prohibited under international law, were approved by the Israeli High Court of Justice (HCJ) on 30 January 2008. Based on a flawed interpretation of international humanitarian law, the HCJ declared an end to Israel’s “effective control” over the Gaza Strip, thus denying its occupation of the same and legitimising Israel’s minimum delivery of fuel and electricity into the territory.

During the reporting period Palestinians continued to have severely limited access to **food and health**. According to data gathered by Al-Haq’s fieldworkers, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip suffered harsh water shortages, as Gaza’s water authority was unable to operate its wells because many of its facilities had run out of fuel. The shortage in diesel and fuel supplies has further hampered the ability to treat water sewage in the Gaza Strip, compelling the local **water** authority to pump raw sewage into the sea, because they are unable to pump it into the treatment plants. Israel has also impeded the entry of hypochlorite into the Gaza Strip, a chemical used to purify water, which has resulted in a further deterioration of the water quality in the area. The inadequate quantity and quality of (drinking) water impacts the health of Palestinian in the long run. The halting of entry of fuel into the Gaza Strip also has a significant impact on the provision of **health** services. Several **hospitals** in Gaza faced severe shortages of fuel and were forced to declare a “state of emergency”.

In the West Bank, occupying forces continued to hamper relief work, including shooting at **ambulances** attempting to reach injured Palestinians (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4001/2008](#) and Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4002/2008](#)).

Israeli occupying forces have continued to use Palestinians, including children, as **human shields**, particularly in the northern West Bank. In Toulkarem, on 19 March 2008, soldiers used 17 year old Tareq 'Ammar as a shield to protect themselves from stones being thrown at them by Palestinian children (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4133/2008](#)). In another incident, in Nablus governorate, a group of Israeli soldiers forced two Palestinian brothers to walk in front and among them respectively, to avert Palestinian counter-attacks, all the while physically abusing the two brothers (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4070/2008](#)).

Al-Haq fieldworkers have documented a new trend implemented by the Israeli occupying power, the **closure of charitable institutions** on the basis of their alleged affiliations with Hamas. In a notable example, on 26 February 2008, based on Israeli military orders issued two days earlier, Israeli occupying forces closed the Islamic Charitable Association in Hebron. This politically independent charitable institution manages several orphanages, schools and student residences, as well as a children's library. It also provides students with food packages and money for transportation. The Israeli occupying forces raided several premises of the Islamic Charitable Association and confiscated computers and files before eventually completely shutting it down (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4084/2008](#)).

Al-Haq's work, like that of other human rights organisations working in or on the OPT, continued to suffer from restrictions imposed on **human rights defenders**. Israeli authorities have both directly impeded and assisted in the prevention of human rights work in the OPT. Since 2006, Al-Haq's General Director, Shawan Jabarin, has been banned from leaving the West Bank. Mr. Jabarin's case is not an isolated incident. On 19 January 2008, Issa Amer, human rights defender and field researcher of B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights organisation, was attacked by settlers while he was documenting their attacks on Palestinian houses. The ensuing investigation of this incident was highly flawed. Instead of inspecting the behaviour of the settlers, the occupying forces falsely accused Amer of having attacked them, covering up the criminal behaviour of the settlers and effectively encouraging further such behaviour by allowing them to act with complete impunity. Such restrictions and policies severely impede the work of human rights defenders and jeopardise their ability to effectively carry out their mission of defending human rights in the OPT.

"Of course, all the expenses of the Association are for charitable purposes, and it has no connection with any political fraction. Nevertheless, it has been subject to incursions by the Israeli occupation forces during the past years, starting in the nineties. Each time a number of computers were confiscated, as well as photocopiers and administrative files, and several locations belonging to the Association were closed, the most important one being the administrative offices of the Association in Hebron. The last of these incursions was on the night of 26 February 2008, when a force of the Israeli army attacked a number of the Association's locations (the seven mentioned above). They handed the guards at these locations military orders ordering the seizure and closure of those places, and the confiscation of their contents."

**Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4084/2008](#)**

Given by 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Hakim Farrah, resident of Hebron, Hebron Governorate, West Bank

The Palestinian National Authority and the Hamas De Facto Authority in Gaza<sup>2</sup>

To the extent that the PNA exercises some control over parts of the West Bank and the Hamas *de facto* government exercise 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, especially of persons with alleged affiliations to Hamas. It remains unclear whether these incidents are isolated or part of a wider trend. On Sunday 10 February 2008, 'Azzam Fahel, was detained and over a period of several days physically and verbally abused and tortured because of his alleged involvement with Hamas (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4089/2008](#)).

"Then the officer put several masks on my face and I felt beating all over my body. I recall the presence of three people wearing civilian clothes and one person wearing a uniform in the room with me. The beating continued all over my body for about half an hour, predominantly on my head and back. Then they used a plastic hosepipe and their elbows to hit me all over my body. While they were beating me, the handcuffs slipped and I fell down. I heard Abu Adham telling the people around him, "Get him to the room, and take off his socks!" So they indeed took off my socks and dragged me to the room, where they put my feet inside a chair's hole [*the space between the seat and the backrest of the chair*]. The officer sat on my legs and they beat my feet with a plastic hosepipe of 16 millimetres. I estimate that my feet were beaten one hundred and fifty times. Then they assailed me by beating me all over my body with the pipe and I was hurled on the floor. The officer forced me to stand up against my will. Whenever I stood up, I fell down again, because the floor was covered with water and soap."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4089/2008](#)

Given by Azzam Fathi Fahel, resident of Kobar village, Ramallah Governorate, West Bank

On 14 February 2008, Sheikh Majd 'Abd-al- 'Aziz Barghouti was detained by the Palestinian General Intelligence Service. He was subjected to extensive torture and ill-treatment and provided with insufficient medical care, eventually leading to his **death in custody** on 22 February, 2008.

The PNA has further infringed on Palestinians' rights to **political freedom**. On 24 March 2008, in a search for premises of Islamic Charitable Societies, Palestinian Preventive Security forces raided the Muhammad Rashid Al Maktoum School and the Islamic Charitable Society School for Boys in Ramallah. The forces arrested the principle of the Islamic Charitable Society School for Boys and confiscated the school's property, including computers and other equipment (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4141/2008](#)).

On 6 February 2008, the Reconciliation Court in Gaza issued a decision preventing the publication and distribution of the Palestinian al-Ayyam daily newspaper in the Gaza Strip, thus infringing on the Palestinians' right to **freedom of press**. The judgement was rendered after editor-in-chief Akram Haniya and caricaturist Baha' Bukhari had been charged with defamation for a caricature published in issue No. 4242 that implies the "illegitimacy" of the PLC members in their capacity as representatives of the Palestinian people.

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<sup>2</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

01 JANUARY-31 MARCH 2008

## STATISTICS

## THE WESTBANK

## KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER

Total number of killings	25
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## Special Types of Killings

Death in custody	8
Targeted assassination	8
Assassination in custody	5
Death at checkpoints	1
Women	1
Children	4

## Special Types of Victims

## Killings by District

Bethlehem	5
Hebron	2
Jenin	5
Jericho	1
Jerusalem	-
Nablus	5
Ramallah	2
Toulkarem	3
Israel	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

## Killings by Age Group

12 or younger	-
13-17	4
18-25	10
26-35	5
36-50	4
Over 50	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

## Killing by Perpetrator

Israeli Occupying Forces	-
- Soldiers	17
- Special undercover units	5
- Snipers	-
Israeli Border Guards	-
Israeli Policemen	-
General Security Services	-
Settlers	2
Armed Israeli civilians	-
Collaborators	-
Others	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>



### Situation during Killing

Normal/calm	11
Incursion	-
Demonstration and stone-throwing	4
Armed clashes	4
Shelling	-
Closed military area	1
Bystanders killed during attempted assassination	-
Unclear	-
Curfew	-
Raid	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

### Methods of Killing

Live bullet	20
Fragmented bullet	-
Rubber-coated metal bullet	1
Explosives and small missiles	3
Shrapnel	-
Mine	-
Tear gas	-
Blunt instrument	-
Sharp instrument	-
Missile	-
Medical Obstruction	-
Others	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

### HOUSE DEMOLITIONS BY DISTRICT

#### Punitive House Demolitions

Bethlehem	2
Hebron	-
Jenin	-
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	-
Nablus	-
Ramallah	-
Toulkarem	4
Qalqiliya	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

#### House Demolitions for Lack of Licence

Bethlehem	-
Hebron	1
Jenin	1
Jericho	4
Jerusalem	14
Nablus	1
Ramallah	4
Toulkarem	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

### CURFEWS BY DISTRICT

District	Hours
Bethlehem	-
Jenin	-
Nablus	153
Toulkarem	197
Jerusalem	-
Ramallah	8
Hebron	-
Jericho	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>358</b>

## KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER IN THE GAZA STRIP

<b>Total of Killings</b>	<b>261</b>
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<b>Special target groups</b>	
Death in custody	-
Targeted assassination	-
Assassination in custody	-
Death at checkpoints	-
Women	<b>14</b>
Children	<b>35</b>

### Killings by District

Gaza	<b>73</b>
North Gaza	<b>128</b>
Rafah	<b>22</b>
Khan Younes	<b>28</b>
Deir al-Balah	<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>

### Killings by Age Groups

Less than 12	<b>12</b>
13-17	<b>25</b>
18-25	<b>141</b>
26-35	<b>56</b>
36-50	<b>16</b>
Over 50	<b>11</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>

### Situation during Killing

Normal/calm	-
Incursion	<b>135</b>
Demonstration and stone-throwing	-
Armed clashes	<b>1</b>
Shelling	<b>116</b>
Closed military area	-
Bystanders killed during attempted assassination	-
Unclear	<b>8</b>
Raid	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>