

MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT JULY - SEPTEMBER 2008 FIELD REPORT

Introduction

This is the third quarterly field report of 2008 by Al-Haq's Monitoring and Documentation Department, covering the period from July to September 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, 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 and a second fieldworker in August 2008, 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 Sept 2008, **1,862** Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, **361** of whom were children, and **102** 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 **567** homes¹ in the West Bank (whereof 503 were totally demolished, 62 were partially demolished and 2 sealed off), leading to the forcible displacement of **3,341** 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, **553** houses have been demolished for lack of license, **258** 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 severely limited the ability of the PNA to carry out its most 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 July to September 2008

Highlighted Trend: Harassment/Beating by Israeli Soldiers

During the reporting period, Al-Haq's fieldworkers documented numerous incidents of **harassment and beating by Israeli soldiers** in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Palestinians continued to be gratuitously assaulted, particularly during home raids, and arrests. In a typical example, on 11 July 2008 Muhammad Zghayyar was assaulted by a group of Israeli Border Police officers as he was leaving a wedding party. Muhammad was severely beaten and interrogated for several hours (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4308/2008](#)).

In another incident, in Ni'lin, in Ramallah area, on 7 July 2008, Ashraf Abu-Rahma was shot in the toe by an Israeli soldier, while he was standing, handcuffed and blind-folded, for several hours in the burning sun (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4320/2008](#)). On 8 July, in Nablus city, during a raid on Nablus Mall, Israeli occupying forces physically and verbally abused 52-year-old guard Bashshar al-Banna (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4332/2008](#)).

"Dozens of regular army soldiers were there. They instantly started to fire tear gas grenades as well as rubber-coated steel bullets at us (...) A soldier punched my back, pulled my hair and hit my face against the jeep floor. He also slapped my face several times and shouted obscenities, which I do not like to mention here. In the military jeep, soldiers took me to the entrance to the village of Ni'lin, where a military post was positioned. Having forced me out of the jeep, soldiers blindfolded me and tied my hands behind my back with plastic handcuffs. They also forced me to sit on the ground for three hours. The sun was blazing. A soldier came along and forced me to stand up. I heard soldiers talk in Hebrew. I only understood the word *gomi*, which means rubber. A moment later I heard the sound of an explosion, coming from between my legs. I felt severe pain and fell to the ground. I screamed due to the immense pain."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4320/2008](#)

Given by Ashraf Ibrahim Abu-Rahma, Bil'in village, Ramallah Governorate, West Bank

"Suddenly, a number of Israeli occupying soldiers arrived on foot, including members of the Israeli Border Police. Also, Special Forces troops were on board a tractor. When the soldiers saw me approaching a bulldozer, Israeli Special Forces troops stepped down from the tractor. A soldier beat me on the face with the butt of his M16 rifle, leaving me with an injured jaw. He also punched me. I suffered unbearable pain and felt that my jaw was dislocated. I could not move my jaw. I saw blood gush out of my mouth."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4367/2008](#)

Given by Sa'id 'Atallah 'Amira, Ni'lin village, Ramallah Governorate, West Bank

On 8 August 2008, Sa'id 'Amira, was assaulted by the Israeli army as he was participating in a peaceful march in the village of Ni'lin, demonstrating against the Annexation Wall, illegally built on Palestinian village land. He was severely beaten, resulting in the dislocation of his jaw and the loss of several teeth. Consequently, Sa'id has suffered verbal communication difficulties and is to date unable to consume any solid food (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4367/2008](#)). In another incident, Firas Tashtoush, was beaten gratuitously by several Israeli soldiers, as they raided his family home (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4363/2008](#)).

Israeli military forces continued to open fire at Palestinian fishermen as they go to fish in the sea - even before they

cross the six nautical miles fishing limit unilaterally imposed on Palestinian fishermen by Israel. On 2 September 2008, Israeli naval forces opened fire at 20-year-old fisherman Muhammad al-Sultan and his 14-year-old brother Saddam, as they were fishing in the vicinity of Beit Lahiya Beach, in the Northern Gaza Strip. Muhammad was then handcuffed, blindfolded and interrogated about the Hamas movement for several hours (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4372/2008](#)). In the same month, two boats of the "Free Gaza Movement", a movement of international human rights defenders whose aim was to break the siege of the Gaza Strip, anchored at Gaza port. The human rights defenders onboard have since accompanied Palestinian fishermen to the sea in order to protect them from the Israeli Occupying Power attacking them. Despite the presence of these activists, occupying forces have continued to open fire at Palestinian fishermen.

"Suddenly, I saw two green Israeli boats approaching us at high speed. My brother and I, and my cousins, were afraid and panicked. Five armed naval officers were onboard each boat. The two boats surrounded us and opened fire towards the water near us. They demanded that we do not move and that we follow their orders."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4372/2008](#)

Given by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Bari al-Sultan, resident of Beit Lahiya City, Northern Gaza Governorate

The Occupying Power

Movement Restrictions imposed by the Israeli Occupying Power in the West Bank 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 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. 4315/2008](#) and [Affidavit No. 4384/2008](#)).

"We want to access Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus," I said. "Do you have a permit?" he asked. "No I do not have a permit," I replied. "You cannot cross then," he said. "I have a permit to the Jordan Valley. I also have a vehicle permit to access the Jordan Valley," I said. "This does not work on this checkpoint," he responded. At that point, my mother got out of the car and opened the back door, where my wife was lying, and pointed to her, but the soldier insisted that we were forbidden from crossing the checkpoint. "Look at my wife. She is dying. Allow us to cross (...) my wife was in labour and screamed more and more. I watched her. Part of the baby was out her womb while another part was still inside. We all shouted and we were in a dilemma. I was tormented by fear for my wife and baby's lives. What could I do? (...) At the checkpoint, they (paramedics from the Red Crescent Society) helped my wife deliver the baby. But it was too late. The male baby was still-born."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4371/2008](#)

Given by Mu'ayyad Mahmoud 'Abd-al-Rahman, Qusra village, Nablus Governorate, West Bank

Closely related to movement restrictions is the continuing problem of women having to give **birth at checkpoints**, because of Israeli occupying forces preventing or delaying their passage. In a typical example, on 5 September 2008, pregnant Nahil 'Abd-al-Rahim was denied passage through Huwwara checkpoint to go Rafidiya hospital in Nablus city, despite being in severe labour pain. Nahil gave birth at the checkpoint to a stillborn baby boy (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4371/2008](#)). In another incident on 28 July in Hebron, 24-year-old Majida Ja'afra was forced to give birth in her husband's car, because both roads leading to the nearby Hebron Public hospital had been closed off by the Israeli Occupying Power (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4396/2008](#)).

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 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 requires permits issued by the Israeli military authorities (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4383/2008](#)).

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 typical example, the Israeli Occupying Power confiscated a total of 50 dunums of Palestinian land in the Rummana village in Jenin governorate, using parts of the land for the construction of the Annexation Wall, and others for the expansion of a military training site, previously built there. For this purpose, Israeli occupying forces have levelled the village lands, uprooted olive and almond trees, and prevented the rightful Palestinian owners from reaching their lands, thus denying them their main source of income (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4383/2008](#)).

"On 9 July 2008, yet another order was issued for the confiscation of six *dunums* of the land located near the training site mentioned above, for its expansion. Now, Israeli bulldozers are leveling the seized land and uprooting trees so that the Israeli army can start its training operations. So far, we have lost an approximate area of 50 *dunums* of our land. Only 40 *dunums* have been left to us. Given that the Israeli army is expanding the training site on our land, we are not sure when the next confiscation will take place. The whole land may be seized if the Israeli army does not cease its policy against our land. Should this happen, we will lose the source of income that has been spared for us. I should note that Israeli troops have prevented us from accessing our land on several occasions, particularly during training hours in the morning and afternoon. Moreover, our presence on our land during the training period is very dangerous since Israeli troops use open fire on the training site, posing a threat to the life of any person present."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4383/2008](#)

Given by Taher Mahmoud Bushnaq, Rummana village, Jenin Governorate, West Bank

During the reporting period, Al-Haq field-workers continued to document instances of **wilful killings**. A number of these killings were carried out during exchanges of gunfire between Israeli forces and Palestinian gunmen. However, most instances of wilful killings occurred in the total absence of armed clashes, and included **targeted assassinations**. On 9 July 2008, Talal 'Abed was shot dead at close range by Israeli occupying forces, after having been chased in a car. Talal, who was unarmed at the time of the incident, was allegedly wanted by the Occupying Power for his activity in the Palestinians resistance movement (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4322/2008](#) and [4323/2008](#)).

"Due to their weapons, appearance and behaviour, I realised that these persons were members of the Israeli Special Forces teams. As soon as they stepped out of their military vehicles, they opened intensive fire towards a young man who was running eastwards on agricultural land. The young man had stepped down from the Volkswagen car; he was sitting beside the driver and fled to the agricultural land. He was injured and fell on the ground. He was only 15 metres ahead of the armed persons, making him an easy target. Members of the Special Forces reached the young man after he was injured. I saw them drag him from his clothes to the paved street near the two vehicles and search him. I did not notice the young man move. He did not make any sound that indicated that he was alive."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4322/2008](#)

Given by Muhammad Samir Mir'i, resident of the Kufr Dan village, Jenin Governorate, West Bank

Al-Haq's documentation revealed continued cases of Israeli **settler violence** against, and intimidation of, Palestinians in the West Bank. The reporting period has witnessed a rather recent phenomenon of settler violence in the form of Israeli settlers using homemade rockets. On 1 July 2008, Israeli settlers fired home made rockets at Palestinian land in the Nablus area, 300 metres away from the home of Jamal Najjar, and 100 metres from his neighbours' homes (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4329/2008](#)). Investigation of such incidents by the occupying authorities remained insufficient to a degree that amounted to a systematic refusal to prevent or punish criminal behaviour, thereby effectively encouraging it.

Al-Haq field researchers have further documented a particularly high number of **home raids** during the reporting period, accompanied by **property destruction and/or confiscation**, **theft**, as well as arbitrary arrests, particularly in the Nablus area. In a notable example on 21 July 2008, Israeli occupying forces raided the home

of Muna Mansour, in Nablus city, in the middle of the night, intimidating her children. During their raid, the occupying forces seized property, including a computer, papers and documents as well as four mobile phones (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4328/2008](#)).

"The flat shook. The metal door was stormed in. An air pressure device was pointed to the door. An explosion did not take place; there were no signs for an explosion. After the door opened, over 15 soldiers entered. They were all masked, in military uniform, carried long weapons and shouted at us in a language which I did not understand. A number of soldiers turned the dining table over (...) In the house, damage was grave. All contents of the house, including clothes and pieces of furniture, were scattered on the ground. Three wooden beds were also destroyed completely. Moreover, five windows and three wooden doors were damaged. The dining table and food were on the ground."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4363/2008](#)

Given by Sana' Fou'ad Muhammad Tashtoush, resident of Nablus city, Nablus Governorate, West Bank.

In another incident, on 5 August 2008, Israeli occupying soldiers raided the home of Sana' Tashtoush. They opened the house door by force, broke windows, destroyed several beds, damaged doors and scattered clothes and other items on the floor (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4363/2008](#)).

seizing some money belonging to the family (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4330/2008](#)). On 9 July 2008, Israeli Occupying forces raided the premises of Nablus Municipality, destroying doors and confiscating items such as computers and files (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4331/2008](#)).

On 15 July 2008, Israeli occupying forces raided the home of the Qataloni family in Nablus city, searching it and confiscating a computer, telephone directories, personal documents and

There were new cases of **house demolitions**, some under the pretext of the absence of a building licence, (rarely granted to Palestinians who apply for such permits) others as part of military operations. On 10 July 2008, Israeli bulldozers demolished the home of Hana Karama in Hebron city along with the furniture inside as well as two neighbouring houses (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4313/2008](#)).

"A soldier holding a crowbar and vice broke the lock and padlock. The officer and other soldiers entered the office, which consisted of several rooms. I waited outside the office supervised by a number of soldiers. Within minutes I saw them exit, carrying three computers, a fridge, an electric fan, a number of chairs and several files. Using a machine, a soldier welded the door shut with oxygen. Then, I was taken to a number of shops on the first and third floor. Though empty and unused, they also welded their doors shut with oxygen. While moving around the Mall, I saw soldiers put notices on doors of shops (...) Only then could I see the content of the notices posted on doors of commercial shops. They stated that by an order from the Commander of the Area of Judea and Samaria, the Mall would be closed and placed under control as of 15 August 2008."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4332/2008](#)

Given by Bashshar Yaser al-Banna, Nablus city, Nablus Governorate, West Bank

The Israeli Occupying Power has continued their policy of **closing institutions** based on their alleged affiliation with an "illegal" political faction, most notably Hamas. In a typical example on 8 July 2008, Israeli occupying forces raided Nablus Mall in Nablus city, destroying property, and confiscating several items, including computers, chairs, a fridge, as well as an electric fan. After having sealed off several rooms, the soldiers ordered the closure of the Mall by military order (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4332/2008](#)).

Israeli occupying forces have continued to forcefully disperse demonstrations in the West Bank, thus infringing on the **freedom of assembly** of Palestinians. In a notable example on 30 July 2008, occupying forces dispersed a funeral march in the village of Ni'lin. In the process, they shot 17-year-old Yousef 'Amira with a rubber coated steel bullet, leaving him in a coma since (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4347/2008](#)). In another incident on 7 July 2008 Israeli soldiers dispersed a demonstration in the West Bank

village of Ni'lin, using force, such as tear gas and rubber coated steel bullets (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4320/2008](#)).

The Israeli Occupying Power has continued its widespread and unlawful policy of **arbitrary arrest**, particularly in the West Bank governorate of Nablus. In a typical example, on 15 July 2008, during their raid of the Qataloni family home, Israeli occupying forces detained 23-year-old Mus'ab Qataloni as well as his father Husam Qataloni. Mus'ab was taken to Huwwara Military Camp, where he was blindfolded, handcuffed and interrogated about his father's alleged affiliation with the Hamas movement. He was further subjected to threats of lifetime imprisonment in case of his non-cooperation (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4330/2008](#)).

On 5 August 2008, Israeli occupying forces arrested Firas Tashtoush, who was allegedly wanted by the Israeli military, after having severely beaten him (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4363/2008](#)). In another incident on 10 July 2008 in Hebron city, Jamal Karama was arbitrarily arrested by occupying forces as they were raiding Hebron city (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4313/2008](#)).

The Occupying Power further continued to arbitrarily arrest members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). In a typical example, on 21 July 2008, Israeli occupying forces arbitrarily arrested PLC member Muna Mansour while she was at home with her children in Nablus city (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4328/2008](#)).

"About ten minutes later, a black skinned female soldier in regular military uniform, with a long weapon and of around 20 years of age, arrived. This soldier said, "Muna, you will come with us." My mother was carrying my younger brother Badr in her lap. She tried to give him to us, but he refused to go. "Mother, mother," he cried. After several attempts, she managed to leave him. She asked the soldier to allow her to change her clothes. Having allowed her to do so, the female soldier accompanied her. My mother also asked the soldier to allow her to take some clothes, but he rejected. We wanted to embrace our mother, but the soldier refused. Nevertheless, we bid her goodbye. Then they went out (...) My mother also told us to take care of Badr; he was sick and suffered from shortness of breath. He had undergone several surgical operations. I went to the north-western window to see where they would take my mother. After a soldier opened the side door, I saw my mother get into a large Israeli vehicle."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4328/2008](#)

Given by Ibtihal Jamal 'Abd-al-Rahman Mansour, resident of Nablus city, Nablus Governorate, West Bank

"As he was crossing the Huwwara checkpoint he saw Mr. Yousef Qawariq, a field researcher at Al-Haq, detained in a small room at the checkpoint. As a member of the Village Council, I am acquainted with Yousef. Also, we often request assistance from Al-Haq during the olive harvest season and ask them to bring foreign peace activists to support us. Most of the land is located east of our village near the settlement of Itamar. Settlers always impede access to our land. We also contact Yousef and Al-Haq to learn about citizens detained by the occupying authorities or to report violations. Therefore, I went to the checkpoint and arrived there within 20 minutes (...) I asked him, "Why are you detaining him? He has been working as a human rights activist for several years. Like foreign activists, he helps people at checkpoints. He does not have any security problems." The officer admitted that Yousef did not have any security problems, but that he was not like foreign activists at checkpoints. According to the officer, there were errors in his work ID. "There are also problems in the type of his work," the officer went on. "He always searches for our news and reports information against us in the news."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4365/2008](#)

Given by Hani 'Abd-al-Latif Darawsha, resident of 'Awarta village, Nablus Governorate, West Bank

Closely linked with the arbitrary arrest of Palestinians is the detention of **human rights defenders**. On 24 July 2008, at Huwwara checkpoint in the Nablus area, Al-Haq field researcher Yousef Qawariq was detained for several hours, because of the "nature of his work", encompassing the monitoring and documentation of the Israeli occupying forces's conduct (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4365/2008](#)).

The Israeli practice of imposing movement restrictions on human rights defenders, working in and on the OPT, often amounting to a full travel ban, remained common during the reporting period. General Director of Al-Haq, Mr. Shawan Jabarin, has been prevented from leaving the West Bank by means of a complete travel ban imposed on him by the Israeli military authorities since 2006. Mr. Jabarin has challenged this arbitrary, indefinite and unconditional travel ban in front of the Israeli High Court of Justice, which on 7 July 2008, issued a decision further upholding this illegal measure. This situation continues to hinder Mr.

Jabarin's right to freedom of movement, and disrupts his professional duties and activities for Al-Haq, including, but not limited to, preventing him from traveling to participate in human rights activities outside of the OPT.

In the same vein, Raji Sourani, General Director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights in Gaza, was denied exit from the Gaza Strip and thus prevented from attending a human rights conference in Brussels, Belgium on 13-14 September 2008.

Such widely-spread restrictions, as well as the harassment of human rights activists, that endangers their safety, severely impede the work of human rights defenders and jeopardise their ability to satisfactorily carry out their mission of defending human rights in the OPT.

The Palestinian National Authority and the Hamas De Facto Authority in Gaza²

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.

A majority of the human rights violations perpetrated during the reporting period were solely motivated by the ongoing frictions between opposing political movements based on the political affiliation with opposing political movements. Members of the Palestinian authority in the West Bank as well as officials of the Hamas *de facto* authority in the Gaza Strip have continued their policy of **arbitrary arrests** of members of opposing political factions, typically subjecting them to **torture** and other forms of **ill-treatment**. These appear as a wide spread trend in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4366/2008](#)).

In Gaza, several members of the Khan Younes Teacher's Union were detained by Hamas Security Forces between 24 and 25 August 2008. The detainees were physically and verbally abused and forced, under threats of being beaten, humiliated and officially arrested, to sign a pledge. This pledge comprised their acknowledgment of the legitimacy of the Hamas *de facto* authority in Gaza as well as the promise to no longer participate in the ongoing strike or other activities of the Teacher's Union (see Al-Haq [Affidavit 4360/2008](#) and [4361/2008](#)).

In the West Bank, PA Preventative Security Forces abducted and tortured 63-year-old Marwan al-Khalil (subjecting him *inter alia* to *Shabeh* and sleep deprivation) on 3 August 2008, based on his affiliations with the Hamas movement (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4364/ 2008](#)).

Between July and August 2008, there were many new acts of **vigilantism**, in which private actors used illegal coercive methods to achieve their own goals. In light of the insufficient enforcement by responsible PA/Hamas agents against vigilantes who broke the law, the overall situation continued to deteriorate. Much of the violence was linked to rivalries between persons affiliated with the governing Hamas party and persons linked to the opposition Fateh party. In one incident, Mazen Husein, an employee of the Preventative Security Agency, was abducted and blindfolded by several masked individuals in Gaza city, who continuously beat him. They then tied a rope around Mazen's neck, in an apparent attempt to kill him, "on an official mission" (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4357/2008](#)).

"Two masked individuals, wearing black uniforms, got out of the jeep and forced me to climb onboard. A third masked individual was there. They drove to another area. Then they put me onboard another jeep and blindfolded me. They drove through the streets of Gaza for about 20 minutes and then stopped. Two individuals beat me all over my body for about half an hour. An individual then put a rope around my neck and tied it to something, which I assume was a tree, in order to hang me. I was bleeding heavily and screamed loudly. I shouted for help. Due to being severely beaten, I could also feel bone fractures in my feet and hands. They threatened to shoot me in the head and kill me. I screamed again. A person came by and asked why they were beating me. "Go away. We are on an official mission," they replied."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4357/2008](#)

Given by Mazen Taher Husein, resident of al-Rimal neighbourhood, Gaza, Gaza Governorate, Gaza Strip

In another incident, on 24 August 2008, students affiliated with the Islamic bloc, in addition to armed members of the Hamas movement raided and besieged al-Azhar University in Gaza city, assailing students in order to expel youth groups affiliated with Fateh movement (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4358/2008](#)).

² 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.

Hamas officials committed several **extrajudicial killings**, including of children, during the reporting period. On 15 September 2008, Hamas police officers killed five adolescents. Two of the young men, 18-year-old Jamil Daghmash and his 17-year-old brother Ibrahim were accused of having killed a Hamas Police officer the same day. Hamas officials killed the two adolescents, in front of the eyes of their family members, in an **extra judicial execution**. After having executed Jamil, they again opened fire at his corpse. In the same instance, Hamas officials killed two 16 and 18-year old friends of Jamil's and Ibrahim's, stretching them out on the floor and shooting them in their heads and chests. They further shot dead another 19-year-old adolescent as he was about to leave the house in which the adolescents were present (see Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4400/2008](#) and [Affidavit No. 4399/2008](#)).

"They stretched him out on the floor in the sitting room, opposite the room where we sat, and executed him. They shot him in his head, chest and feet before my own eyes and the eyes of his sisters and children of my family. They did not show mercy for my weeping and my grief. Then, Police members entered the room once again. I saw them lead Ibrahim Muhammad Daghmash, Mumtaz's brother, whilst his mother was screaming. They also stretched him out over the floor and killed him in the same manner. "You are Mumtaz's brother. By God, we will break your hearts for them," they reiterated each time they opened fire. Then, they entered the room again and led Wasim Kheil, Ibrahim's friend. Wasim was carrying the Holy Qur'an in his hands and reciting verses. They also killed him in the same way after they laid him on the ground and they shot him in the head, chest and feet (...) I was also informed that the Police took the corpse of my son Jamil to the house of the police officer 'Abd-al-Karim Khuzeiq, which is approximately one kilometre away from my house. There, they opened fire towards the corpse several times. I tried to go to the mortuary for a farewell sight of my four sons. However, Police officers prevented me and my daughters from seeing and bidding farewell to my killed sons."

Extract from Al-Haq [Affidavit No. 4399/2008](#)

Given by Mukarram Yousef Daghmash, resident of al-Sabra neighbourhood, Gaza, Gaza Governorate

MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT
01JULY-30SEPTEMBER 2008
STATISTICS

THE WESTBANK

KILLINGS BY THE OCCUPYING POWER

Total number of killings	12
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Special Types of Killings

Death in custody	1
Targeted assassination	-
Assassination in custody	-
Death at checkpoints	-
Women	1
Children	6

Killings by District

Bethlehem	2
Hebron	1
Jenin	1
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	2
Nablus	3
Ramallah	2
Toulkarem	1
Total	12

Killings by Age Group

12 or younger	1
13-17	5
18-25	3
26-35	1
36-50	1
Over 50	1
Total	12

Killing by Perpetrator

Israeli Occupying Forces	-
- Soldiers	6
- Special undercover units	2
- Snipers	-
Israeli Border Guards	2
Israeli Policemen	-
General Security Services	-
Settlers	1
Armed Israeli civilians	-
Collaborators	-
Others	1
Total	12

Situation during Killing

Normal/calm	9
Incursion	-
Demonstration and stone-throwing	3
Armed clashes	-
Shelling	-
Closed military area	-
Bystanders killed during attempted assassination	-
Unclear	-
Curfew	-
Raid	-
Total	12

Methods of Killing

Live bullet	8
Fragmented bullet	-
Rubber-coated metal bullet	1
Explosives and small missiles	1
Shrapnel	-
Mine	-
Tear gas	-
Blunt instrument	-
Sharp instrument	-
Missile	-
Medical Obstruction	-
Others	1
Unknown	1
Total	12

HOUSE DEMOLITIONS BY DISTRICT

Punitive House Demolitions

Bethlehem	-
Hebron	4
Jenin	-
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	-
Nablus	-
Ramallah	-
Toulkarem	-
Qalqiliya	-
Total	4

House Demolitions for Lack of Licence

Bethlehem	-
Hebron	-
Jenin	-
Jericho	-
Jerusalem	10
Nablus	-
Ramallah	-
Toulkarem	-
Total	10

CURFEWS BY DISTRICT

District	Hours
Bethlehem	18
Jenin	
Nablus	11
Toulkarem	22
Jerusalem	
Ramallah	96
Hebron	
Jericho	
Total	147

JULY - SEPT 2008 STATISTICS

GAZA STRIP

KILLINGS

Total of Killings	1
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Special target groups	
Death in custody	
Targeted assassination	
Assassination in custody	
Death at checkpoints	
Women	
Children	
Other	1

Killings by District

Gaza	
North Gaza	
Rafah	

Khan Younes	
Deir al-Balah	1
Total	1

Killings by Age Groups

12 and less	
13-17	
18-25	1

26-35	
36-50	
Over 50	
Total	1