

Annex to the Report on the Policy of closure, House Demolitions and Destruction of Agricultural Land

1. Restrictions of Movement and Access to Health

1.1. Deaths as a consequence of the closure

- On 8 October 2000, Fahid Baker, from Bidia, a 23-year-old student at Al Najah University in Nablus, died of his injuries before he could be evacuated by ambulance. After being shot in the head and the neck by a settler, Fahid Baker was taken to the PRCS clinic in Bidia. The village clinic was not equipped to provide adequate medical care and an ambulance was called. PRCS officials claim that 5 ambulances were sent to Bidia in order to make sure that at least one would be able to reach Fahid - 1 ambulance was sent from Nablus, 2 from Ramallah and 2 from Qalqilia. The Nablus ambulance was denied passage due to a curfew imposed on the village of Huwara and 3 came under fire from settlers. The Nablus ambulance then took another route. By the time it arrived the injured student had bled to death. (LAW. Palestinian Ambulances and Medical Personnel Operating under Siege and Gunfire. Submission to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. November 2000).
- On 11 October 2000, Natheer Hamdan, from the West Bank village of Jama'een, was badly injured when he fell from a tractor. His father tried to take him to Nablus hospital but was stopped by Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint. His father, Nayif Hamdan, reported to LAW that when he was on his way to Nablus hospital with his injured son in the car, they were stopped near Huwara by Israeli soldiers at a military roadblock. At the same roadblock an ambulance coming from Nablus was prevented from passing, so he had to take an alternative road to Nablus, which was much longer. Instead of the 20 minutes usually needed to get from Jama'een to Nablus it took him 3 hours and by the time they reached Nablus hospital it was too late. (LAW. Palestinian Ambulances and Medical Personnel Operating under Siege and Gunfire. Submission to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. November 2000).
- On 28 January 2001, Husun Suleiman Daraghme (66), from Al Laban village near Nablus, died after Israeli soldiers at the checkpoint opposite the military liaison outpost in Huwara, south Nablus, prevented her and her family from crossing to the town's hospital. Daraghme was suffering severe chest pains, so her sons attempted to drive her to the hospital in Nablus. On the way, Israeli soldiers stopped their car for more than 10 minutes before ordering them to turn back. They were forced to take a very long and rocky route through the villages of Burin and Tal. Daraghme died in the car. Medical sources at Rafidia Hospital confirmed that she had died just a few minutes before arriving. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 24-31 January 2001).
- On 30 January 2001, at 4.30 p.m., Falaah Ayyash (67), from the West Bank village of Rafat near Salfit, died of a heart attack fifteen minutes after arriving at Rafidia Hospital in Nablus. Mufleh Ayyash, Falaah's son, stated that his father had suffered the attack at 1.15 p.m., and that he attempted to take him to Rafidia hospital in a private car. They reached Azoun junction near Qalqilya at around 1.40 p.m., where they were kept waiting for 30 minutes before being turned back. The car was forced to take a long and unpaved alternative route around the checkpoint. At approximately 2.40 p.m., they reached the Deir Sharaf junction in Nablus, where they were kept waiting by Israeli soldiers at another checkpoint for 40 minutes before being forced to turn back once again. They took another long mountainous dirt track and eventually reached the hospital at around 4.15 p.m. Due to the long delay, doctors were unable to save Falaah's life. The journey from Rafat to Nablus usually takes only 20-25 minutes. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 24 – 31 January).

- On 5 February 2001, at 3.45 p.m., Khadra Ishtawi (65), from the West Bank village of Kufr Kadum near Qalqilya, died of a heart attack after being prevented from crossing an Israeli military checkpoint on her way to hospital. Her son Mahmoud Ishtawi (44) stated that his mother had become ill at 2 p.m. Mahmoud and his brother Nasir put her in a car and headed for Nablus. As the road to Nablus was blocked, they had to take a mountainous route, but were forced back by Israeli soldiers stationed in the area. Khadra died in the car on the way back to Qalqilya. Under normal circumstances the trip from Kufr Kadum to Nablus should take 12-15 minutes. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 1-8 February 2001).
- On 13 March 2001, at 6 a.m., Na'eem Bani Jame' (39), a farmer and father of five from the West Bank village of Aqraba near Nablus, died from a heart attack, after Israeli soldiers prevented him from crossing the military checkpoint at Huwara intersection (south Nablus) on his way to hospital. At 4.35 a.m. on 13 March, Na'eem's brothers Hassan and Ahmad attempted to take him to hospital in a private car driven by their cousin Muhammad. They reached the Israeli checkpoint at 4.50 a.m. and asked the soldiers to let them pass but the soldiers refused and detained the men at the checkpoint. After 20 minutes, they again asked to be allowed to go, but the soldiers made them open the car doors for inspection. Another 20 minutes later, they were allowed to leave but not to cross the checkpoint, so they tried an alternative road, an unpaved and long track. When they finally reached the hospital at around 6 a.m., Bani Jame' was dead. Under normal circumstances, the road from Aqraba village to Nablus takes only 15 minutes. (LAW. Press Release of 15 March 2001. Man and woman die at Israeli checkpoints).
- On 14 March 2001, Amira Abu Seif (48), from the West Bank Village of Faqu'a near Jenin died after being held at Al Jalma checkpoint (east Jenin) for around 3 and a half hours. After suffering an upsurge in her blood sugar level (Amira Abu Seif was a diabetic), her family tried to take her to Jenin government hospital. Her son Muhammad Saleh Abu Seif (27) stated that they reached the Israeli checkpoint at 4.30 a.m. but were not allowed to pass it until 8.00 a.m., after an Israeli military doctor, who examined her, confirmed that she was in critical condition. However, the soldiers still refused to allow their car through, so that family members had to carry her for 50 meters to the Palestinian ambulance waiting at the other side of the checkpoint. At 8.15 a.m., she was pronounced dead by doctors at Jenin government hospital. (LAW. Press Release of 15/3/2001, Man and woman die at Israeli checkpoints. LAW refutes Israeli claims of lightening the siege).
- On 14 March 2001, Ahmad Banar (18), from Al Shujaiya in the Gaza Strip, died after being shot twice in the chest and abdomen by Israeli soldiers. Information gathered by LAW indicates that Banar was shot from a distance of only 10 metres during clashes near Karni crossing. Ahmad Banar was left bleeding for half an hour before Israeli forces allowed an ambulance to evacuate him. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 8-14 March 2001).
- On 10 May 2001, Kifah Za'rab (17), from Al Mawasi in Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip, died on his way to hospital after Israeli soldiers prevented him and his relatives from crossing an army checkpoint. Two and a half hours later an ambulance arrived and took him to hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 10-16 May 2001).
- According to a Palestinian Red Crescent Society incident report on June 6, 2001, Israeli roadblocks within the district of Hebron led to the death of Bajis Salimiyi, 42, from Ithna. After suffering a heart attack the ambulance was prevented from crossing an Israeli checkpoint and the patient was delayed although he needed urgent medical attention. Salimiyi passed away before reaching hospital. (Weekly Roundup, 6 –13 June 2001).
- On 10 June 2001, Sabri Mahmoud (41), from the West Bank village of Al Ras near Tulkarem, died after being unable to reach the National Hospital in Nablus in time for emergency kidney

treatment. At around 4.30 a.m. that day, Sabri took a taxi to the National Hospital in Nablus, a trip, which used to take no longer than 20 or 25 minutes. However, due to Israeli closure of the main and agricultural roads linking Nablus and Tulkarem, the taxi driver had to take alternative routes and he did not reach hospital until two and a half hours later, at 7 o'clock in the morning. The delay led to complications in the patient's condition and he died on the way to hospital. Dr. Anan Al Masri, head of the National Hospital in Nablus, stated that the delay in the patient's arrival caused an increase in his blood potassium level and thus his death. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 6 –13 June 2001).

- On 1 July 2001, Miriam Amara (61), from Al Nabi Salih, died after being refused to cross a roadblock. On 30 June, at midnight, Miriam had suffered a heart attack. Her son Basam took her to a doctor in the nearby town of Beit Reem, who determined that she should be hospitalised. On the way to hospital, Israeli troops stopped them and forced them to take a different road, adding two hours to the trip. Miriam died on arrival at the hospital. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 28 June – 4 July 2001).
- On 8 July 2001, Salih Mohammad (50) from the West Bank town of Beit Furik near Nablus, father of seven children, died after being delayed at an Israeli roadblock. Hamada Mohammad (23), also from Beit Furik, explained that Salih had complained of chest pain and was being driven to hospital in Nablus. However, his car was delayed for 15 minutes at the checkpoint, and Salih died a few minutes after arriving at the hospital. The road from Beit Furik to Nablus usually takes 10 minutes. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 5-11 July 2001).
- On 10 July 2001, Mohammad Khalifa (55) from the West Bank village of Faqu'a near Jenin died after Israeli soldiers refused permission to cross a checkpoint. That day, after complaining of pain in the chest, Mohammad was put in a car to be taken to hospital in Jenin. However, the car was stopped at an Israeli military checkpoint east of Jenin, about 500 meters from a bypass road connecting the Kadeem and Ganeem settlements. Instead an ambulance was called which would be allowed to drive until the other side of the checkpoint in order to take the man to hospital. However, Mohammad Khalifa died before the ambulance arrived. (LAW. Press Release of 12 July 2001. Israeli troops kill Palestinian woman; birth and death at Israeli military barricades.)

1.2. The impact of the closure on expectant mothers

- On 3 October 2000, Sahar Zbaidat (19), from Marj Na'ja near Jericho, gave birth in a car while she was on her way to Jericho hospital. Despite the emergency situation (she was bleeding and the umbilical cord had not yet been cut), Israeli soldiers would not let the frightened young woman pass through the checkpoint in order to get to hospital. (LAW. Palestinian Ambulances and Medical Personnel Operating under Siege and Gunfire. Submission to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, November 2000).
- On 15 October 2000, Horiya Bani Auda (37), an expectant mother from the village of Jiftlek in the Jordan Valley, was not allowed to pass an Israeli checkpoint while she was on her way to Jericho hospital. At the checkpoint she had a miscarriage. (LAW. Palestinian Ambulances and Medical Personnel Operating under Siege and Gunfire. Submission to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, November 2000).
- On 23 January 2001, Ayisha Nasar (28), a mother of five from Al Janyi village near Ramallah in the West Bank, died of complications after a caesarian section. Members of her family attempted to take her to hospital but they were stopped at a military checkpoint and delayed for 20 minutes. By the time the ambulance reached Ramallah hospital Ayisha was in critical condition and died afterwards. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 18-24 January 2001).

- On 24 January 2001, Amina Moussa Balout, from the West Bank village of Rantis, gave birth in a taxi after been delayed and harassed at military checkpoints while on her way to Ramallah hospital. Usually, the trip would have taken about 40 or 50 minutes but it took the family three and a half hours to reach the hospital due to the closure. (The case was publicized by Israeli journalist Amira Hass in Ha'aretz newspaper).¹
- According to the Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development, on 8 June 2001, Jamla Hassan Murshed Ehzeirat (40) gave birth at an Israeli checkpoint between the villages of Jiftlek and Al-Ouja near the Jordan Valley. Jamla begged the soldiers to let her through but they only allowed her to cross the checkpoint two hours later, after she was forced to give birth in the car. Dr. Mohammad Al-Arif, the director of Jericho Hospital reportedly confirmed that the mother and the baby reached the hospital in bad condition and that the mother was suffering from a severe hemorrhage which threatened her life. (Cited as forwarded by Bat Shalom on 12 June 2001, Another Palestinian Woman Gives Birth at an Israeli Checkpoint).
- On 30 June 2001, Karima Bardawi (33) from the West Bank village of Kayut lost her 3-day-old baby Khaled Musa after being stopped at an Israeli military checkpoint. Karima went into labour on 27 June at 1.30 a.m. and left with her husband for Nablus hospital. However, at 6 a.m. Israeli troops at Za'tara junction did not allow them to cross the roadblock. So they were forced to take a different road and it took them another 3 hours to get to Nablus. Karima gave birth a few minutes after arriving at the hospital. However, as she attempted to return home with her newborn baby boy, the family was once again held up at an Israeli military checkpoint. Karima noticed that her baby was becoming ill but was not able to take him back to hospital because of the Israeli roadblocks; the baby died. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 28 June – 4 July 2001).
- On 4 August 2001, Loria Qasem (23) from Aqaba village in Jenin, gave birth in the road after Israeli soldiers repeatedly hindered her passage to Nablus hospital. Her husband, Mahmoud Qasem (30) stated that at around 6 a.m. that day, when his wife went into labour, they took a taxi for Nablus hospital. At around 7.10 a.m. they reached the Israeli checkpoint on the Al Bathan route, northeast of Nablus but the soldiers argued that it was forbidden to travel into the city. Loria was screaming from pain and begged the soldiers to allow her to enter but they refused. The taxi then tried to reach Nablus hospital via Jenin, along the Tubas-Al Zababdeh route. However, soldiers at the checkpoint at the entrance to Jenin did not allow them to enter either. After arguing with the soldiers for about 20 minutes, the taxi driver decided to bypass the military checkpoint on a dirt road. On the way, Loria gave birth, near Jinat Park, 4 km from the city's southwestern entrance. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 2-8 August 2001).
- On 24 September 2001, Ummaya Hussein (27), from the West Bank village of Azoun near Qalqilia, suffered from severe bleeding after delivering her baby at home. At around 8 p.m., an ambulance arrived to take her to Rafidia hospital, a trip that usually would take 20 minutes. However, before reaching Nablus, the ambulance was delayed for about 10 minutes each time at two military checkpoints established on the Qalqilia-Nablus road, at the Kufur Laqif junction and the Jeet junction. When about to reach Nablus, cement blocks impeded the entrance to the city. The ambulance turned round and tried to enter by the Deir Sharaf junction on the Nablus-Tulkarm road. There soldiers stationed at another checkpoint further delayed the ambulance for another 10 minutes. Ummaya Hussein died at about 9 p.m., a few minutes before reaching Rafidia hospital. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 20-28 September 2001).

¹Ha'aretz, 29 January 2001. Born at the third roadblock, stopped at the fourth. By Amira Hass. (www.lawsociety.org/Intifada2000/articles/roadblock.htm).

- Case reported by Israeli journalist Gideon Levy² in an article on the siege of the West Bank town of Beit Furik near Nablus:

On December 31, around midnight, Iman went into labor. It was a cold, rainy night, and she and her husband were afraid to go out, for fear of soldiers. No one these days dares to go out at night, not even a woman in labor. She managed to hold out until 4 a.m., but then could wait no longer. They ordered a local car that would try to get from the town to the hospital in Nablus. In the vehicle together with Iman were her husband, her parents and her grandmother. The wheels of the vehicle could barely find traction in the mud, and finally got stuck. They tried stones, they tried planks, but nothing helped. Iman groaned in agony in the back seat. They tried to the Red Crescent Emergency Service to get an ambulance, but there was no answer. The driver even tried to contact the ambulance of the settlement of Itamar, but to no avail. Finally they called a relative from the neighboring village of Kafr Saleem and asked him to come in his car to the main road, to rescue them.

The rain got stronger. About a kilometer separated Iman and the rescue vehicle on the main road. Iman trudged through the mud toward the road. She had no other choice. It took about an hour. She fell, knelt a bit, then took a few more steps, and stopped to get her breath, and then the cycle repeated itself. The rain pounded down. She got to the car totally spent, wet through and shivering from the cold. At first light, they reached Rafidia Hospital in Nablus, where Iman gave birth to Mohammed, 3.5 kilograms

2. Ill-treatment and other violence at checkpoints, on dirt roads and on by-pass roads

2.1. Killings³

- On 16 November 2000, Yousef Suleiman Abu Awad (30) from the West Bank village of Beit Umar village, father of 2 children, was shot in the head at point blank range, apparently after an argument with a soldier. Dr. Achmad Tamimi from Al Ahlia Hospital in Hebron later confirmed that Abu Awad was fatally hit at a distance of about half a metre. The Israeli army initially claimed that the soldier had acted in self-defense but later carried out an inquiry, reaching the conclusion that the soldier had violated open-fire regulations. The army said that he would face disciplinary action but apparently no criminal charges were pressed against him⁴. An eyewitness reported to LAW⁵:

On Thursday, 16 November 2000, between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening, I was standing in the balcony, watching how the soldiers at the checkpoint stopped each car entering or leaving Bet Umar. They made drivers turn off the lights. Then the car with Abu Awad on board arrived. Upon instructions from the soldiers, he stopped the car, turned the lights off and got off the car. Then Abu Awad and the soldier had a talk in Hebrew, which I could not understand. After standing outside for 15 minutes, Abu Awad got again into the car. While he was in the car, one of the soldiers hit the back of the car, on the right side, with a rock. Abu Awad got off the car and yelled at the soldier in Hebrew. Then the soldier walked towards Abu Awad, pointed his gun at him and shot at him from a distance of only one meter. I rushed to the street while the soldier left with other soldiers.

² Ha'aretz, 12 January 2001. Women in Black. By Gideon Levy. (www.lawsociety.org/Intifada2000/articles/black.htm).

³ According to LAW's database since 29 September through 9 October 2001, 22 Palestinians have been killed at Israeli military checkpoints.

⁴ See The New York Times. 17 January 2001. Israeli Military Worries some Troops May Be Trigger-Happy. By Joel Greenberg.

⁵ Sworn Affidavit to LAW by Khaldun Abu Ayash from Beit Umar.

- On 7 January 2001, Fatma Abu Jish, from the West Bank town of Beit Dajan near Nablus, was killed by Israeli gunfire on a dirt road near Salem village. Fatma Abu Jish was on her way back from work a hospital secretary in Nablus. According to eyewitnesses the incident happened when Israeli soldiers opened fire on vehicles traveling near Salem.
- On 2 July 2001, Israeli soldiers at an outpost shot at Radwan Ishtayeh (38), a taxi driver from the West Bank village of Salem, north of Nablus. He was hit by six bullets, one in the neck, two in the kidneys, two in a foot and one in his left leg. He was taken to Rafidia hospital in Nablus but was pronounced dead at about 10.30 p.m. That day, at around 5.10 p.m., Ishtayeh was driving from Nablus on the bypass road linking the Alon Moreh settlement with settlements set in the north, in order to avoid the Israeli military checkpoint set at the western entrance of Beit Furik. When his passengers got off the car in order to walk across a barrier, Ishtayeh noticed that one of them had left a package in the taxi and hurried to return it. However, all of the sudden, Israeli soldiers stationed at the new outpost between Salem and Beit Dajan opened fire at him from a distance of about 150 meters. According to eyewitnesses, the soldiers prevented all aid to Ishtayeh for ten minutes before allowing for his evacuation. Ishtayeh was taken in his own car to hospital but died the same night. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 28 June – 4 July 2001).
- On 11 July 2001, Israeli Border Police opened fire at an Israeli-licensed Ford van driving ten Palestinian women workers from the West Bank village of Al Thahriyi (Hebron) to Bersheva in Israel and killed Rasmiya Jabareen (38), a mother of two. One of the women stated that they were on their way to work in a tinning factory in Bersheva, when the van was chased by a military jeep after circumventing the Israeli military checkpoint south of Al Thahriyi. One of the Border Policemen then opened fire on the van and hit Rasmiya in the head, killing her instantly. The Border Police left without providing assistance to the women. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 5-11 July 2001).
- On 19 August 2001, Israeli forces killed Mu'een Abu Lawi who was returning home to Kufur Al Deek from Nablus via the route that links Nablus with the Palestinian village of Boreen. According to eyewitnesses, that day at 11 a.m., Israeli troops stationed on the dirt road, on which Palestinians walk from Nablus to Boreen, south of the city, opened fire on a group of Palestinians, fatally wounding Abu Lawi (32), a father of three. He was hit by a bullet below the left ear, which penetrated his neck. Abu Lawi was taken to a Nablus hospital but died minutes after arrival. Another eyewitness told LAW:

At 11 a.m, on Sunday, 19 August 2001, I was on my way walking from Boreen to Nablus where I have a fashion store. I heard shooting from heavy machineguns and saw people running trying to avoid the bullets. I ran towards a mountain overlooking Irak Boreen. Then I heard a child yelling that a man was lying on the floor and blood covered his face. I saw a man in his thirties on the ground; he had been hit in the neck; it seemed that the bullet came from a heavy machinegun. He was still bleeding and schoolbags, pencils, and notebooks were on the floor around him. I called upon some guys to help; they immediately ran towards us and carried the wounded man and called for an ambulance. The ambulance arrived and took the man to hospital in Nablus, where he passed away. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 16-22 August 2001).

- On 13 September 2001, in the morning, Israeli soldiers stationed at Kharbatha junction in the district of Ramallah opened fire and killed Rafat Al Malhi (25), a resident of Shu'fat refugee camp near Jerusalem. According to a relative, Ahmad Al Malhi (65), Rafat was driving to work when Israeli soldiers stationed at a roadblock opened fire at his car. The soldiers prevented people from rescuing the victim and left the man bleeding for an hour and a half before an Israeli ambulance arrived. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 13-19 September 2001).

2.2. Shooting at drivers

- On 13 May 2001, at 9 p.m., Israeli Border Police opened fire at a private car on the road between Silwan and Al Sawahreh near Jerusalem, hitting Al Quds reporter, Iman Masarweh (36), with a bullet that penetrated her right leg. Iman reported that she was in the car with relatives and that they were on their way to Bethany in Jerusalem to visit family. They drove on a bypass road (Al Sal'a road) that links Silwan to Al Sawahreh. When they came across an Israeli checkpoint they decided to avoid it in order to save time. However, when they turned round, the Border Police opened fire without prior warning from a distance of about 100 meters and hit the car with four bullets. Iman was hit in the left shin, had her bone fractured and sustained a deep flesh wound. There were no clashes in the area at the time of the incident. (LAW. Weekly Report, 10-16 May 2001).
- In the morning of 18 May 2001, Israeli soldiers stationed at a military checkpoint near the West Bank village of Surda on the Ramallah-Birzeit road, opened fire at a Palestinian vehicle, wounding four people including a four-year-old child and a woman, namely Subhi Subhi, Mustafa Abdul Gani, Miriam Abdul Ghani and Yasser Subhi (4). (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 17-23 May 2001).
- On 21 June 2001, at 6 a.m., Israeli soldiers stationed east of the Palestinian West Bank town of Silet al Dahir near Jenin, opened fire on Palestinian vehicles wounding Abdul Abu Diak (40) in the left leg. The troops claimed that the people of Silet al Dahir had violated the curfew imposed on the town the previous day, after a Jewish settler was killed in the area. The ambulance, which arrived to evacuate Abdul Abu Diak, was prevented from entering the town for several hours. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 21-27 June 2001).
- On 3 August 2001, in the evening, Israeli soldiers opened fire at Jameel Shahrur (48), from the West Bank village of Bal'a, who was traveling with his 5-year-old grandson on the Nablus-Tulkarm road. Both the driver and the boy were wounded. Jameel Shahrur stated that he stopped the car when he saw soldiers and a tank standing in the middle of the road but that the soldiers did nevertheless open fire:

I stopped my car but the Israeli soldiers fired four bullets from a distance of 20 meters. One bullet hit me in the left shoulder and then my grandson Majd in the stomach; he was sitting in the backseat. Majd was hit by a second bullet, also in the stomach. I reversed the car and drove to Anabta, where the child received first aid and was then taken to hospital in Tulkarm by an ambulance that was waiting at the other end of a nearby sand barrier.

The following day, the boy was taken in critical condition to Tal Hashomer hospital in Tel Aviv. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 2-8 August 2001).

- On 4 August 2001, Israeli soldiers stationed at a military checkpoint opened fire at a Palestinian vehicle traveling on the settler bypass road #70, near the Baka'ot settlement in the Jorday Valley in the West Bank. The passengers were Nashat Samoor and Samer Alosch, both 23 years old and both from Askar refugee camp. They were traveling from Nablus to Ramallah. When they approached the checkpoint, the soldiers opened fired, wounding Samoor in the right shoulder and the back, and Alosch in the right arm. The two men were taken to Rafidia hospital in Nablus. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 2-8 August 2001).
- On 9 August 2001, Israeli soldiers shot at Mahir Abu Dakar (40) when he was driving in his car with his two children. The incident took place at a military checkpoint in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 9-15 August 2001).
- On 25 September 2001, Israeli soldiers opened fire at taxis driving Palestinian workers to Israel and injured four men, namely Ahmad Da'ajna (22), Hamad Abu Malash (30),

Mohammad Abu Malash (31) and Riyad Zain (26). The incident occurred at a military checkpoint near Kharas in the Hebron district. Hamad Abu Malash stated to LAW:

On 25 September 2001, at 4.30 a.m., I was on my way to work in Ashdod in Israel; we were altogether ten workers. When we arrived at Kharas, we found an Israeli military checkpoint. From there three Israeli soldiers opened fire at our van from a distance of about four meters. Four of us were wounded but the Israeli soldiers did not provide us with any kind of medical assistance. When Imad Abu Malash asked a soldier to call an ambulance, the soldier pointed his gun at his chest and told him to shut up. We managed however to call another driver using a cell phone. The other driver came and took us to Al Ahli hospital in Hebron. We arrived there at 5.45 a.m. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 20-28 September 2001).

2.3. Attacks on pedestrians walking across or around checkpoints

- On 2 June 2001, at around 6.45 a.m., Israeli soldiers opened fire at a number of Palestinians trying to cross a barrier set up by Israeli forces at the southern entrance to the West Bank village of Surda near Ramallah. Eyewitnesses reported that a number of Palestinians from Al Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah, who were on their way to work, found the main street blocked with barricades when they reached the southern suburbs of Surda. Those driving parked their cars and attempted to cross the barricade by foot. However, Israeli soldiers ordered them to return and opened fire leaving two injured, namely Ala' Al Kahatib (26) and Ibrahim Al Asmar (60), both from Al Jalazoun refugee camp. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 31 May-6 June 2001).
- On 19 June 2001, at 6 p.m., Israeli soldiers in a military jeep fired live ammunition, rubber-coated metal bullets and teargas canisters at Palestinians who on their way home were trying to bypass a military checkpoint after they were refused permission to cross it. The incident happened at a checkpoint established at the West Bank village of Beit Furik near Nablus. A 5-year-old boy, Islam Hanani, from Beit Furik, was directly hit in the head by a tergas canister. He suffered a skull fracture and had to be taken to Ramallah hospital where he underwent a three-hour operation. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 14-20 June 2001).
- On 19 June 2001, Israeli soldiers prevented residents from the villages around Nablus from entering Nablus. A LAW researcher witnessed Palestinians trying to reach Nablus by foot being beaten by Israeli soldiers. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 14-20 June 2001).
- On 28 June 2001, Israeli soldiers opened fire suddenly and without prior warning at Palestinian workers waiting in line for inspection at the Erez checkpoint in the Gaza Strip. Two workers were injured, namely Fares Abdil Fattah Atiyah Lafi (22), from Al Durj quarter in Gaza, and Muhammad Saleh Huso (21), from Jabalia refugee camp. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 28 June-4 July 2001).
- On 9 August 2001, Israeli soldiers prevented Palestinians from driving on dirt roads leading to Nablus from the villages of Al Nakura and Dir Sharaf. While soldiers opened fire on cars, bulldozers blocked the roads by building sand barriers and digging trenches. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 9-15 August 2001).
- On 18 August 2001, in the evening, Israeli soldiers stationed at Sura crossroads on the Nablus-Qalqilia road shot at Palestinians crossing a nearby dirt road by foot and wounded 6-month-old Noor Auda from the West Bank village of Baqit al Hatab near Qalqilia. The baby's mother stated that Israeli soldiers fired at Palestinians crossing a sand barrier. She was with her baby in a taxi parked nearby but the bullets penetrated the car and hit the baby in the abdomen.

They baby was immediately taken to hospital in Nablus. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 16-22 August 2001).

- Regarding an incident in the morning of 19 August 2001, where Mu'een Abu Law (32) was killed, Reuters photojournalist Abdul Raheem Al Kosini from Nablus told LAW:

I was on my way to the area between Tel and Boreen to take pictures in order to show how Israeli soldiers were dealing with Palestinians trying to walk across hideous mountainous tracks and sand barriers blocking the road to Nablus. There were soldiers watching from an outpost on a nearby hill who frequently opened fire at Palestinians. Four people were injured; one of them was Sami Awad from Awarta. Then the soldiers fired two or three bullets and I heard a child screaming. We saw a man on the ground with two plastic bags lying next to him. He was severely bleeding. I tried to revive him but couldn't. An ambulance then arrived and took him to hospital in Nablus where he died. The plastic bags contained schoolbags and stationary; it seemed that he had bought school materials for his children. There were no clashes at the time of the incident.

Sami Awad (41), from Awarta, who was wounded in the incident told LAW:

I was going to Nablus with my wife to buy school stationary for the kids. When Israeli soldiers prevented us from walking on the road, we walked on the mountain towards Irak Boreen. We heard shooting and ran for our lives. I felt I was shot but kept running till I fell on the ground and realized that I had been hit in the legs. I was mounted on a donkey and taken to the ambulance. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 16-22 August 2001).

- On 15 September 2001, Israeli soldiers threw a stun grenade at Amir Nayif (18), from Nablus, when walking through an Israeli military checkpoint near the West Bank village of Sura. The teen-ager suffered second-degree burns and had to be admitted to hospital. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 13-19 September 2001).
- On 17 September 2001, Israeli soldiers threw stun bombs and teargas at Birzeit University students, as they tried to walk across the Birzeit-Ramallah roadblock. Many students fainted. A stun bomb hit Mahir Salih (33) in his hand. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 13-19 September 2001).
- On 17 September 2001, Israeli soldiers at the Qalandiya checkpoint on the Ramallah-Jerusalem road injured passerby Ala Awisa (22). He was hit by a rubber-coated metal bullet in his hand. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 13-19 September 2001).

2.4. Torture and ill-treatment

- On 20 December 2000, at 5.30 a.m., the Israeli Border Police checked Palestinian workers at the Erez checkpoint in an abusive and humiliating way. Some Palestinians were forced to undress completely and to wait for further instructions. When unrest erupted, Israeli soldiers fired at the Palestinian workers and injured four of them. (LAW. Two Palestinians Killed, 35 Injured in the Gaza Strip. 20 December 2001).
- On 11 February 2001, at 8.30 p.m., truck driver Rabah Alkam (26), from the West Bank village of Rafat, was traveling home with his cousin when Israeli soldiers at the checkpoint between Um Al Sharayit and Rafat stopped them and denied them passage. Rabah Alkam reported to LAW:

I said that I was from Rafat. When they had checked this, one of them led me behind an army jeep and beat me up badly. The other soldiers joined him, kicking me until I almost passed out. The beating was painful, especially as I had had a road accident three months before, which had left me with a problem in a neck muscle and a slight fracture in my spine. When they stopped beating me my cousin took me to hospital in Ramallah, where I stayed for a little while since I was in bad condition. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 8-15 February 2001).

- On 8 March 2001, at 9.30 a.m., Palestinian attorney Midhat Deibeh (28), from Shu'fat near Jerusalem, was on his way to Jerusalem, when Israeli soldiers stopped him at a military checkpoint near the Pisgat Ze'ev settlement and told him to open the boot of his car. In the boot, they found a spade and some plants. Midhat Deibeh told LAW:

The soldier asked me what the spade was for and I said for gardening. When one of the soldiers started throwing my plants on the ground, I told him to stop and that he was acting against the law. His reaction was to make me turn round and to start hitting me. He and other soldiers hit me on the head with something that felt as if it was made of heavy rubber. As a result of the beating, I had a broken bone in my right hand and a blood clot in my right thigh; I have a medical report which confirms this. After abusing me that way, they arrested me, claiming that I had attempted to assault a soldier.

While I was in the military jeep, I saw with my own eyes how Israeli soldiers assaulted Atef Ali and Maher Haddad, both from Shu'fat, after getting them out of their cars. They were severely injured and needed 4-5 stitches in the head. Atef and I were taken to the Russian Compound Detention Center in Jerusalem and accused of assaulting a soldier; we were then released on bail of NIS 3000 (US \$ 750). (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 8-14 March 2001).

- On 11 March 2001, Israeli soldiers stationed at a military checkpoint at the entrance to Ein Areek village near Ramallah prevented Mu'zeiz Al Deek (33), from crossing it. She was trying to make her way home from Ramallah with her 2-month-old son, and was carrying bread and milk. They told her they would only let her pass if she dropped the bread and milk, so she did. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 8-14 March 2001).
- In March 2001, taxi drivers Mahmoud Yusif (31) and Isa Zayid (37), both from Ramallah, reported that Israeli soldiers at checkpoints in the Ramallah and Al Bireh area had been chasing Palestinian vehicles as they approached the military checkpoints in an attempt to terrorise the drivers. (LAW. Israeli authorities tighten siege on Palestinian territories. 12 March 2001).
- On 19 March 2001, Israeli soldiers at a military checkpoint at the entrance to Al Mawasi, Rafah, in the Gaza Strip, abused Samir Sabbah (18), from Rafah, when he refused to leave the area. He was helping an elderly lady from Al Mawasi to carry some food to her village through the checkpoint. As a result of the abuse, he suffered severe head injuries and bruises on various parts of his body and had to be taken to Al Jneineh hospital for treatment. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 14-21 March 2001).
- On 27 May 2001, at around 6.30 a.m., Basam Hatab (40), from the West Bank village of Kufur Sor near Tulkarm, was stopped by Israeli soldiers when driving on the by-pass road to the Anab settlement, southeast of Tulkarm. The soldiers confiscated his ID card, ordered him to hand all his papers and checked his pockets. One of the soldiers kicked Hatab on the legs. Afterwards, Basam Hatab realized that NIS 300 (US \$ 75) were missing. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 24-30 May 2001).

- On 27 May 2001 at around 7 a.m., three Palestinian teachers from Al Iman High School in Beit Hanina, were stopped and ill-treated for 90 minutes at a checkpoint located at the Al Ram-Bir Naballah junction on the Ramallah-Jerusalem road, namely Barakat Al Jradat (26), from Bir Naballah; Zaher Kameel (23), from Qabatia near Jenin; and Adnan Abu Asabeh (26), from Selit Al Thaher near Jenin. The soldiers checked the bags of the teachers and interrogated them; spat at them and insulted them and harassed them, e.g. by frightening them with a gas bomb or forcing Zaher Kameel and Adnan Abu Asabeh to drink water against their will. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 24-30 May 2001).
- In the morning of 5 June 2001, dozens of Birzeit University students were not allowed to cross the Israeli military checkpoint on the Ramallah-Birzeit road and had to return home. When the students tried to explain to the soldiers that they needed to cross the checkpoint in order to take their final exams at Birzeit University, Israeli soldiers responded with tear gas, rubber coated metal bullets and live ammunition. Raji Al Nijmeh (20) was injured in the incident and many other students passed out due to teargas inhalation. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 31 May-6 June 2001).
- On 16 June 2001, at 10 a.m., Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint at the West Bank village of Surda near Ramallah, beat Samir Salim (28) from Jalazone refugee camp in the Ramallah district leaving him badly bruised. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 14-20 June 2001).
- On 16 June 2001, at 1 p.m., Mohammad Imtair (20) from Qalandiya was beaten by Israeli soldiers stationed at Qalandiya checkpoint on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road, leaving him with a deep head wound. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 14-20 June 2001).
- On 16 June 2001, Faisal Abu Sabha (29), from the West Bank village of Yata near Hebron, was beaten by Israeli soldiers at the Beit Anun checkpoint. He sustained bruises from the beatings; the windshield of his car was shattered. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 14-20 June 2001).
- In the morning of 18 June 2001, Israeli forces patrolling Alon Moree bypass road attacked Ahmad Bani Shamsa (33) who was travelling on the mountainous dirt roads east of Nablus. Ahmad Bani Shamsa had to be taken to Rafidia hospital in Nablus. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 14-20 June 2001).
- On 21 June 2001, at around 6 a.m., Haroun Abu Diak (20), from the West Bank village of Selit Al Taher, was subject to severe ill-treatment by Israeli soldiers stationed at the village entrance, because he had allegedly violated the curfew imposed on the village. As a result, he suffered a fracture in his right hand as well as bruises and injuries in various parts of the body. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 21-27 June 2001).
- On 24 June 2001, Israeli soldiers stationed at the Al Taibeh military checkpoint hit, kicked and beat with rifle butts Fares Jar'aneh (22), a worker from the West Bank village of Aktaba near Tulkarm, who was on his way home from work inside Israel. As a result, he sustained bruises on various parts of his body. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 21-27 June 2001).
- On 28 June 2001, at 6.30 a.m., Dr. Khaled Al Tamimi (45), from the West Bank village of Deir Nitham northwest of Ramallah, was subject to ill-treatment while he was on his way to work. That day Dr. Al Tamimi went to the entrance of Deir Nitham village, which is blocked by barricades, and waited for a car from Ramallah hospital, that usually takes him to work. At about 7 a.m., when he saw that the car had not yet arrived, he returned home. At home he received a phone call from the driver of the Ramallah hospital car, who informed him that soldiers stationed at the Kufur Ein junction, northwest of Ramallah, had not allowed him to cross the checkpoint. So the doctor decided to go back to the main road and to take a taxi instead. However, while waiting for a taxi, an Israeli military jeep stopped and two soldiers got off. When one of the soldiers asked him what he was doing in the area, the doctor

identified himself. However, the other soldier approached the doctor, pushed him and kicked him to the ground. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 28 June-4 July 2001).

- On 30 June 2001, at around 7 a.m., Israeli soldiers stationed at the southern entrance to Jaba', southeast of Jenin, apparently accompanied by a number of mercenaries from the South Lebanese Army (SLA), stopped a taxi driving a group of young women from Jenin to their workplace in Nablus. They insulted and humiliated them, and forced then three Palestinian youths, who had been detained by soldiers at the checkpoint, to kiss the girls. One of the young men, who refused to do so, was severely beaten. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 28 June-4 July 2001).
- On 1 July 2001, Israeli soldiers stationed at the checkpoint near Dir Ibzi and Ein Areek in the Ramallah area, prevented three Palestinian journalists from taking photographs and talking to people waiting at the roadblock, namely Mahmoud Khaluf (24) working for WAFA, Amar Awad (21) working for Reuters and Mohammad Sadik. Mahmoud Khaluf reported that when they started taking photographs, the soldiers threatened them with arms and forced them to leave the area. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 28 June-4 July 2001).
- On 7 July 2001, at around 7 p.m., Dr. Nasri Abu Jeish (34), from the West Bank village of Beit Dajan near Nablus, was driving home from a family visit; his car was clearly marked with "doctor". At the checkpoint located at the Beit Furik junction, Israeli soldiers asked him to get off the car and confiscated his ID card. Then one of the soldiers cursed him and hit him on the head. When a soldier told him that the girls from Nablus were beautiful and that he should bring the soldiers two girls, Dr. Abu Jeish became angry and cursed the soldier. The soldier then took a knife and held it against the doctor's neck. After an hour of ill-treatment, Dr. Abu Jeish was finally allowed to go. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 5-11 July 2001).
- On 8 July 2001, at around 10 a.m., Israeli soldiers stationed at Jaba' junction, southeast of Jenin, stopped 26-year-old Ziyad Alawneh from Jaba' and forced him at gunpoint to set fire to a rubber tire after having soaked it in petrol. As a consequence, Ziyad Alawneh sustained medium burns in the right hand and the face. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 5-11 July 2001).
- On 29 July, at around 11 a.m., Israeli soldiers stationed at the military checkpoint inside Hebron's Old City, near the Beit Romano settlement cluster, maltreated three Hebron municipality guards without any reason, namely Nidal Al I'weiwi, Mu'taz Al Qawasmi and Shahda Al Jreiwi. After inspecting their ID cards, the Israeli soldiers forced them to stand against a wall and maltreated them for a couple of hours. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 26 July 2001-1 August 2001).
- On 29 July 2001, at 4 p.m., Israeli soldiers stationed at Qalandiya checkpoint on the Ramallah- Jerusalem road arrested 18-year-old Usam Al Shawamreh from the West Bank village of Dura near Hebron. He was severely beaten and sustained bruising in various parts of his body. (LAW. Weekly Roundup, 26 July 2001-1 August 2001).

3. Deaths from closures: Four Case Studies

- *Ala Hamdan 'Abd al-'Aziz Ahmed, 10 years old. Died 14 October 2000⁶.*

There are three access routes from the town of el Sawyieh, in the Nablus district, to Nablus. Two of those access routes were closed off by Israeli forces from 6 October 2000, with checkpoints installed

⁶ This report is based on affidavits provided to LAW and to B'Tselem on this same case. See also Gideon Levy, A siege at your gates, Ha'aretz, 7 January 2001.

at Zatarah and Huwara. On 12 October 2000, the third access route was closed off with a checkpoint installed at Yitma; so the whole town of el Sawyieh was placed under siege by the Israeli forces. The Israeli forces were preventing and prohibiting all movement by residents between el Sawyieh and other cities and towns. The only villages still accessible from el Sawyieh were Qabalan and Yitma itself. However, once the access road between Yitma and Nablus was closed, no routes were open between el Sawyieh and Nablus.

Ala Hamdan lived in the village of el Sawyieh. She had had health problems from birth: in particular with difficulties with obstruction of her colon and duodenum. She had had three operations at Hadassah Hospital, in Jerusalem. She had also had to have her left foot amputated, apparently in connection with complications arising from her stomach problems. On 13 October 2000, Ala Hamdan began to experience severe stomach pains. At about 9 p.m. that night the pains worsened considerably, so the family decided to seek immediate medical attention for her at the Rafidiyeh hospital in Nablus, which was the closest hospital to el Sawyieh.

At first, her father, Hamdan Ahmed, tried to call a taxi because he did not have a car of his own but no driver was prepared to take them because of their fear of the Israeli soldiers and settlers at the blockades/closure points. Her father sought help from a neighbour, attorney Jamal Yusuf Khader, who owns a car and together they tried to break through the siege to get Ala to a hospital in Nablus. Ordinarily the journey from el Sawyieh to the hospital in Nablus would take only about 25 minutes.

Mr. Ahmed's evidence continues as follows:

"After leaving our home just after about 9 p.m., we drove to the main road (the Ramallah-Nablus Road) where we were stopped by an Israeli military vehicle. One of the soldiers asked us where we were going. I told them that my child needed hospital treatment. The soldier told us to go back to our house because it was forbidden to travel at all on the roads. I tried to convince him to let us through, but without success. The soldier saw the sick child in the car, and it was obvious that Ala was in great pain. However, we were still forced to return home.

Ala's situation had deteriorated significantly by this stage, and she was vomiting. I was very unhappy at seeing my daughter suffering, so upon our return I called for medical assistance, dialling the emergency number 101, and spoke to the Israeli Magen David Adom ambulance service. However, they said that they could not help and that I had to find a Palestinian ambulance, because of the closures. I tried to contact a Palestinian ambulance/emergency service, but was unable to get hold of one.

As the ambulances were unable to get through to my daughter, I decided to try to break through the siege again in my neighbour's car. When we left the house the Israeli army vehicle had gone. However, on the way to the hospital, near Yitma, we were stopped by several Israeli army vehicles and there was a large crowd of Israeli settlers of the Rahel settlement. I told the Israeli soldiers and the settlers who stopped us, that my daughter was sick and needed to be hospitalised so we needed access to the hospital in Nablus. They saw how sick the child was, and that she was in pain. However, they showed no concern as to my daughter's welfare and did not allow us through. The soldiers told me that it was forbidden to enter Nablus or to travel at all.

At that stage, as there was no open access route to the hospital in Nablus, I felt that I had no choice but to return home again and to call for a doctor from the nearby village of Qabalan. His name was Dr. Riad al Hilo. He arrived at 10 p.m. at the house and after assessing Ala Hamdan's condition, confirmed that she needed immediate hospitalisation, for he could not provide her with the medical assistance she needed."

In his report dated 14 October 2000, Dr. al Hilo confirms that he checked Ala Hamdan's condition on 13 October 2000, and stated she was suffering from a lung infection and severe stomach pains. Ala's father had also explained to the doctor that her stools had not been normal for a number of days. The doctor concluded her stomach pains must arise from the obstruction of her colon and duodenum, as it

had in the past. He asked Ala's father to take her to hospital immediately because she was in a critical condition.

Mr. Ahmed continues in his affidavit: *"Immediately after the doctor's visit, I tried again on a number of occasions until the early hours of 14 October 2000 to break through the siege, and explained to the soldiers and settlers near Rahel settlement of the Doctor's advice, but in spite of seeing the child's condition the soldiers and settlers turned us back and told us to return home. My daughter Ala, spent the whole night and early morning suffering from severe pain."*

Mr. Ahmed took Ala to Dr. Riad al Hilo's clinic in Qabalan by 8.30 a.m., but he examined her and confirmed that she had died before reaching the clinic at about 8.05 a.m. The doctor confirmed in his written report that because the father could not take the child to hospital, she died at home. He confirmed that the death was caused by her stomach complaints and lung infection.

On 15 October 2000, Mr. Hamdan Ahmad went to the Ministry of Health in Nablus and reported what happened, where Dr. Riad el Hilo also filled out a report. The report was sent to the Ministry on 17 October 2000. Mr. Hamdan Ahmad also informed the district authorities. No action has been taken by the Israeli authorities to investigate this incident or to bring those responsible to account for preventing Ala Hamdan from receiving crucial medical treatment that led to her death. Her death caused her father and her family considerable pain and sorrow.

- ***Na'im Atallah, 27 years old. Died on 16 October 2000⁷.***

Na'im Atallah, lived in Zawiyeh Village, in the Salfit District. The village was closed off by an Israeli imposed blockade about two to three days after the Intifada began on 29 September 2000. The Israeli forces placed checkpoints at the only two access roads to the village: at the northern entrance linking Zawiyeh to Mashah village, and at the eastern entrance, between the villages of Rafat and Dir Balut.

Mr. Atallah suffered a total kidney failure since February 2000, and required dialysis treatment three times a week, at the main hospital in Nablus. However, from the time that the checkpoints were established he was unable to reach Nablus because he was turned away by Israeli soldiers at the checkpoint each time he tried. He also tried to summon aid from an ambulance from the Red Crescent station in Badi, a nearby village, but the ambulance never succeeded in getting to Zawiyeh because the road leading to the village was blocked by Israeli soldiers who would not allow them access through.

On 16 October 2000, he tried again to gain access to the hospital by going through a checkpoint. He was accompanied by his neighbour, Musbah al-'Afu Musbah, who gave this testimony to B'Tselem on 24 December 2000⁸:

"We travelled by taxi from our village eastwards toward Rafat to the Israeli checkpoint located before Dir Balut. He was in a very poor condition, and when we arrived at the checkpoint, we got out of the taxi and explained to the Israeli soldiers that we have a very sick man with us who needed dialysis and for nine days had been unable to exit because of the closure and the army checkpoints.

The Israeli soldiers did not let us pass, and told us that it was prohibited for us to cross and that we had to go back. We left there and went to the northern checkpoint between Zawiyeh and Mashah, and realised that it was absolutely impossible to cross. The road had a number of piles of dirt on the Badi side, even before reaching the Israeli army checkpoint, and it was impossible to get to the checkpoint. We returned home in the car. He seemed to be losing consciousness, and his face began to swell. After we took him out of the car and to his house, we called Dr. 'Abd A-rahim Rabi, of Zawiyeh, to check him. When he arrived, he had nothing to do but pronounce his death."

⁷ Based on the affidavits provided to B'Tselem, set out in B'Tselem's report: "Civilians under siege: Restrictions on freedom of movement as collective punishment", January 2001.

⁸ Ibid.

- ***Death of newborn baby on 7 January 2001⁹: Child of Insaf Sadeq Suliman al-‘Abeisi (31), and Mahmud Asad Daud al-Abeisi (39, teacher)***

Mahmud Asad Daud al-Abeisi and Insaf Sadeq Suliman al –Abeisi, are married, residents of Beit Dajan, Nablus district, and have four children. The eldest is 8 and the youngest is 3. The newborn child who died was a girl. All of their children were born in hospital, in the Obstetrics Department of Rafidiyeh Hospital, in Nablus.

On 7 January 2001, Mahmud Asad Daud al-Abeisi drove his wife, Insaf, who was in her final month of pregnancy, to the Mother and Child Clinic in Nablus. All the tests conducted were normal and showed a healthy fetus. Everything had been fine throughout the pregnancy, and all the test results had been good.

In the evening of 7 January 2001, at about 8 pm, Insaf went into labour. At that time, the whole village was apparently preoccupied with the death of Fatma Abu Jish, who died earlier in the day after being shot near the checkpoint. The testimony of the child’s father continues, as follows:

“...there was an increased presence of soldiers at the checkpoint at the entrance to the village and at the bypass road leading to Elon Moreh. Because of the situation, my wife tried to wait and suffer the pain, but the pain increased all the time. I went to look for someone to take my wife to the hospital in Nablus. Everyone was afraid because of the army in the area and because it was very dangerous to travel along the dirt roads, since a girl from the village had been killed a few hours earlier.

I went back home and saw that my wife was in worse pain. I called the hotline of the Red Crescent in Nablus and pressured them to come and treat my wife. They told me that they could not travel along the dirt road because of the situation in the area, and that soldiers at the entrance to Beit Furiq and Beit Dajan did not allow Red Crescent ambulances to enter. After pressuring them, they said that they would come to the checkpoint and try to convince the soldiers there to let the ambulance enter the village. They suggested that, if the soldiers did not consent, we would meet at the checkpoint and they would take my wife to the hospital. We agreed that we would be in touch. I took my wife, stopped a taxi, and requested the driver to take us to the checkpoint. My wife began to bleed and the pain was increasing. The residents warned me not to approach the checkpoint because it was dangerous there. They said there was a reinforced complement of soldiers and that the soldiers would shoot anything that moves. When my wife heard that, her emotional state deteriorated: her screams and cries could be heard from far away.

I stood firm and got into the taxi despite the warnings. We started to drive and all along the way people warned me to go back because the soldiers were liable to shoot at us. My wife was crying and shouting in pain and from fear that the soldiers would shoot at us. After we drove about two-thirds of the way to the checkpoint, the ambulance driver called and said that the soldiers at the checkpoint did not let him enter Beit Dajan, and he told me to stay away from the checkpoint. I decided to go back home and look for a midwife or a nurse to care for my wife. All this time, my wife was crying out and the bleeding increased.

Around 9.30 pm, we got home. When we arrived, my wife gave birth (a girl) and bled profusely. I saw the newborn was stillborn, and drove immediately (at 10 o’clock) to Beit Furiq to look for a midwife or nurse so that at least my wife could be saved. It was 11 o’clock before I got to Beit Furiq because I drove along dirt roads to bypass the checkpoint. I took a nurse from there, her name is Umm Ramiyeh, and she works in a hospital in Nablus. We arrived at my house at midnight, and the nurse took care of my wife and the bleeding stopped.

My four children saw the birth and the death of the newborn. They were crying all the time because they feared that something bad had happened to their mother. The great amount of bleeding frightened

⁹ Based on B’Tselem report and affidavit of Mahmud Asad Daud al-Abeisi (Father) provided to B’Tselem on 8 January 2001.

them a lot and they are in great emotional distress now. My wife's physical health is ok now, but she is in terrible condition emotionally. I hope that she quickly gets over what she went through, and that the children will overcome what happened, because they saw something very disturbing and suffered through a very difficult night."

• ***Jamal Ibrahim Iluan, 32 years old, father of four daughters, died 14 November 2000¹⁰.***

Jamal Ibrahim Iluan lived in the town of Sinjel, near Ramallah. There had been a number of methods of collective punishment used against the residents of Sinjel.

As at 18 November 2000, Ayoub Ahmad Sweid, 45, a merchant from Sinjel, gave evidence that Sinjel was being subjected daily to gas and noise bombs at night in the residential areas, whilst the residents were sleeping.

In his affidavit, he continued as follows: *"As a result, people get anxious and terrified, especially the children, women and older people. Israeli soldiers have also broken into the village and destroyed cars; such as those of Sa'ed Tawafneh, Muhammad Salhiyeh and Mani Deeb. The six entrances to the village have been blocked since the middle of November 2000. This has led to a paralysis in daily life, for employees working in institutions as well as in education have been unable to reach work.*

Furthermore, fuel and food supply lorries have been prevented from entering the village. The nearby settlers from Shilo and Baten have been threatening to cut off our water and electricity supplies; and have been preventing cars, even ambulances, from reaching us. They have also been threatening to burn and throw stones at our cars and to kill local residents. They used to say to us, that as Arabs we had to leave the land. On Friday, 17 November 2000, the Israeli soldiers removed a plaque, which had written on it: 'The settlers are prevented from entering this area as this is Area A'. The plaque was within the village.

Before the closure, Israeli settlers had bulldozed and uprooted approximately 100 olive trees, which were being used by Abdil Kareem Ata, Husein el Sahem and Muhammad Kayed. Furthermore, they had destroyed the village's water pipes; demolished the walls of two houses close to the street (homes of Abu Jrad and Muhammad Kayed, the latter who has been a detainee since 15 November 2000)."

In addition to these forms of collective punishment against the residents of Sinjel, Israeli soldiers had blocked off the six unpaved and main routes from Sinjel to other cities. The villagers were placed under siege.

Jamal Ibrahim Iluan suffered from heart disease. He had undergone surgery in Jordan 4 months before his death, in which a battery was placed in his heart. He would go to see doctors in Ramallah regularly for check ups. At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 14 November 2000, he had an appointment in Ramallah. He took a taxi to see the doctor in Ramallah. The soldiers stationed in Sinjel prevented the taxi from passing. As all other routes were closed off, he returned home.

After about half an hour his condition worsened, so a Red Crescent ambulance was called. An emergency medical technician working for the Red Crescent, Na'eem Masalmeh, lives in Sinjel, and he was asked to take Jamal. The Red Crescent ambulance took Jamal, but once it reached the checkpoint, the Israeli soldiers stopped them and prevented them from crossing it, in spite of the fact that they explained that Jamal needed treatment at the hospital and how serious his condition was.

The ambulance driver returned to the village's clinic where they were forced to ask a doctor from the village to examine him. However, the doctor, Dr. Mahdi Rashed, confirms that he was unable to provide any medical treatment because of the shortage of medical supplies, and that the medical supplies Jamal needed were not available at the village clinic. At about 10.30 that morning, Jamal died in the presence of Dr. Mahdi Rashed.

¹⁰ Based on affidavit evidence given to LAW, on 18 November 2000.

