



PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS WEEKLY REPORT

20-26 JUNE 2012

Key issues

- ❖ The escalation in Gaza and southern Israel continued until 23 June, when a fragile calm was agreed upon between the parties. Overall, it resulted in 14 Palestinian deaths, including five civilians (of whom three were children), and 73 injuries, including 52 civilians (of whom 13 were children); one Israeli civilian was also injured.
- ❖ Communities in the northern Jordan Valley remain highly vulnerable due to designation of large swaths of land as “firing zones” and the conduct of military training. 20 people were displaced during the week in this context (following the demolition of three residences).
- ❖ Despite an increase in the supply of fuel through the tunnels during the week, power cuts throughout the Gaza Strip remained as high as 12 hours per day, disrupting delivery of basic services and daily life in Gaza.

WEST BANK

Weekly protests against settlement-related activities continue; settler violence declines

This week, 30 Palestinians were injured during a weekly demonstration in Kafr Qaddum village (Qalqiliya) against the prohibition on the use of the main road connecting the village to Nablus City, and to agricultural land in the vicinity of the nearby Qedumim settlement. Since the beginning of 2012, a total of 512 Palestinians have been injured in this locality in the context of demonstrations.

Three other Palestinians sustained injuries in a weekly protest against the expansion of Hallamish settlement (2) and the construction of the Barrier on Bil'in village's land (1), both in the Ramallah governorate. In a separate protest held in the Susiya community against the imminent displacement of around 40 percent of the community's residents, an Israeli activist (aged 16) was injured when hit by a sound bomb fired by Israeli forces. On 12 June, the Israeli authorities issued final demolition orders against 51 structures in the Susiya community (Hebron), representing around half of the community's structures.

Palestinian casualties by Israeli forces Injured this week: 35; 33 in demonstrations

Injured in 2012: 1,561
2012 weekly average of injured: 62
2011 weekly average of injured: 28

Search and arrest operations by Israeli forces this week: 153

Additionally, a ten-year-old boy from the Fasayil community (Jordan Valley) was injured when a suspicious object exploded while he was grazing his sheep near Peza'el settlement, bringing the total number of children injured in similar incidents in 2012 to seven.

This week, OCHA recorded two settler attacks, including a stone throwing incident resulting in a Palestinian injury (Nabi Elias, Qalqiliya) and the destruction of an agricultural fence (Al Khader, Bethlehem). This represents a decline compared to a weekly average of six incidents resulting in casualties or property damages since the beginning of the year.

At the end of the reporting period, the Israeli authorities began the evacuation of a settlement outpost in the Ramallah area

Please note: There will be no Protection of Civilians report next week. The next report will cover a two-week period.



(Ulpana). This follows an Israeli Supreme Court ruling, which found that the land where the outpost was established is privately owned by Palestinians and has been illegally taken over. Despite some concerns, so far this event has triggered no settler attacks.

Communities in the northern Jordan Valley highly vulnerable due to “firing zones” and military training; 20 people displaced and significant damages reported

This week, the Israeli authorities demolished three residential structures, nine animal shacks and one kitchen at Hamamat Al Maleh Al Meiteh, a Bedouin community located in Area C in the northern Jordan Valley, in an area designated as a “firing zone”. Consequently, 20 people, including 11 children, were displaced and the livelihoods of another 15 were affected.

Another two Bedouin communities in the same area, ‘Ein Al Hilweh and Yarza, were ordered by the Israeli military to temporarily relocate within 48 hours in advance of a military training exercise. Only the residents of Yarza left the area and remained in nearby communities for one day, returning after the training ended. The residents of ‘Ein Al Hilweh community were also affected by the confiscation of three water tanks while en route to the community. The community, with a population of 132, heavily relies on tankered water for domestic use and the watering of its livestock.

Two other communities, Al ‘Aqrabaniya and ‘Ein Shibli (Nablus), were seriously affected by another military training exercise carried out by Israeli forces during the week. Unlike the above mentioned communities, most of Al ‘Aqrabaniya is located in Area B, west of the Jordan Valley, and is not designated as a “firing zone”. In the course of the exercise, which lasted for two days, a number of military armored vehicles moved through the built up area of the village

Settler-related incidents resulting in injuries or property damage:

This week: 2

2012 weekly average: 6

2011 weekly average: 8

Palestinians injuries by settler violence:

This week: 1

Injured in 2012: 65

2011 weekly average: 4

Israeli settlers injured by Palestinians:

This week: 0

Injured in 2012: 19

Injured in 2011: 37

and damaged the asphalt roads, as well as five electricity poles and two trees; the village council reported that the firing of sound and light bombs inside the village spread panic among residents, particularly children. In ‘Ein Shibli, an Area C Bedouin community not in a “firing zone”, Israeli tanks damaged infrastructure around a water spring, which serves several communities in the area as a water source for domestic and livelihood needs.

More than half of the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea area is designated as a “firing zone” or closed military area. This has rendered approximately 5,000 Palestinians who reside in 41 communities located in these areas, as well as thousands of others who rely on access to them for herding, extremely vulnerable. Many of these communities existed prior to the closing of the area.

Also this week, in the Hebron governorate, an animal shack was demolished and a mobile latrine

Palestinian-owned structures demolished in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

This week:

Demolished: 15

Displaced: 20

Demolished in 2012: 371

Of which residences: 124

People displaced in 2012: 600

2012 vs. 2011 demolitions (weekly av.): 15 vs. 12

2012 vs. 2011 people displaced (weekly av.): 24 vs. 21

was confiscated in the Bedouin community of Ar Rahwa. Also in Dhinnaba village (Tulkarm), Israeli forces demolished an animal shack and

a retaining wall and destroyed 20 trees in the course of a search-and-arrest operation.

GAZA STRIP

Violence leaves seven Palestinians dead and 57 injured

The latest escalation of violence, which started on 17 June, ended on 23 June after an understanding on restoring calm, brokered by Egypt, was reached between the Israeli authorities and Palestinian armed factions. During this escalation, 14 Palestinians were killed and 73 Palestinians and five Israelis were injured.

Between 20 and 23 June, the Israeli air force launched a series of air strikes, targeting metal workshops, civilian structures, motorcycles carrying armed Palestinians, military bases and open fields. As a result, six Palestinians (including two civilians, of whom one was a child) were killed and 46 others (including 33 civilians, of whom seven were children) were injured.

In one of the incidents, which occurred on 20 June, an air strike struck an orchard field in the Tel al Hawa area, killing a 13-year old child and injuring his father, while they were on a picnic trip along with three other children (aged 4, 8 and 16). The same day, another air strike hit a military base inside the Jabaliya refugee camp, injuring five members of the same family and damaging four houses in the vicinity. On 23 June, the Israeli air force launched an air strike against a motorcycle carrying an armed Palestinian, killing one civilian bystander and injuring nine others, including a woman. The four other fatalities were armed men killed during Israeli air strikes in four separate locations inside the Gaza Strip.

Armed factions also intensified the firing of projectiles, including Grad rockets, at southern Israel. This resulted in the injury of one Israeli man in Shaar Hanegev Regional Council in southern Israel. In addition, some of the

Palestinian casualties by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip:

Killed this week: 6
Killed in 2012: 45

Injured this week: 46
Injured in 2012: 237

2012 weekly average of injured: 9
2011 weekly average of injured: 9

Israeli casualties by Palestinian fire from Gaza
Injured this week: 1

Killed in 2012: 1
Injured in 2012: 18

projectiles dropped short of the Gaza/Israeli border or exploded prematurely, killing a five-year-old Palestinian child, and injuring a total of 15 Palestinians. Two armed men were killed when a tunnel constructed under a military base in northern Gaza collapsed while they were inspecting it, after it was reportedly hit by an Israeli air strike. Twenty-six other people were injured while trying to evacuate the two dead men.

Israeli restrictions on access to areas near the fence and to fishing zones beyond three nautical miles from the shore continued, affecting mainly farmers and fishermen. In one incident this week, six fishermen were detained by the Israeli navy and taken into Israel for interrogations; they were later released without their boats.

Update on shortages of fuel and electricity

The lack of electricity and fuel inside the Gaza Strip further exacerbates the difficult conditions inside the Gaza Strip, principally caused by the Israeli blockade, which has been in place for over

five years. For the past six months, the majority of the population has been experiencing power cuts of up to 12 hours per day, disrupting the daily life of 1.6 million Gazans as well as the delivery of public services, including hospitals and water and wastewater treatment plants.

According to the Palestinian General Petroleum Corporation, increased amounts of fuel are being transferred from Egypt to Gaza through the tunnels, with over 500,000 liters of fuel entering per day, or 60 percent of the amount (800,000 – one million liters of diesel and benzene) that entered regularly each day prior to the onset of the fuel crisis in December 2011. According to the Gas Stations Owners Association, almost all 180 fuel stations throughout the Gaza Strip are functioning only partially, with reports of long queues at the stations.

Movement of goods (Kerem Shalom Crossing)

Imports:

Weekly average of truckloads (TL) entered this week: 1,232

TL carrying food: 44%

Weekly average of TL since the beginning of 2012: 1,021

Weekly average of TL before the blockade: 2,807

Exports:

Truckloads this week: 0

Weekly average since the beginning of 2012: 7

Weekly average before the blockade: 240

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Please note that the figures in this report are subject to changes upon the receipt of additional information.