



PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS WEEKLY REPORT

5-11 DECEMBER 2012

Key issues

- ❖ In the West Bank, search and arrest operations by Israeli forces result in injuries to 25 Palestinians and property damage; the search of the offices of three Palestinian NGOs, along with the confiscation of files and equipment, raises particular concerns.
- ❖ In Gaza, the ceasefire understanding between Israel and Hamas continues to hold, with no reports of rocket firing, air strikes or incursions.

WEST BANK

Injuries and damage to property in search-and-arrest operations

Most of the injuries to Palestinians reported this week occurred during clashes that erupted in the context of search and arrest operations. Overall, a total of 73 such operations were recorded, a slight decline compared to the weekly average since the beginning of 2012 (80).

Over two-thirds of the injuries recorded this week (23 out of 33) occurred on 6 December during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces in the course of a search-and-arrest operation in the Palestinian-controlled area of Hebron's Old city (H1). Another military operation in Ni'lin village (Ramallah), on 11 December, triggered clashes resulting in the injury of two Palestinians (one sustained a head injury from a rubber-coated metal bullet and the other was injured by live ammunition). Additionally, Israeli forces raided around 40 houses in Burqa village (Nablus), resulting in damage to property.

Of particular concern this week were a series of raids carried out on 11 December on the offices of three Palestinian NGOs (Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, the Palestinian NGO Network and the Union of Palestinian Women's Committee) during which computers, video and office equipment were

Palestinian casualties by Israeli forces

Killed this week: 0
Killed in 2012: 8
Killed in 2011: 11

Injured this week: 33
Injured in 2012: 2,904

Injured in 2011: 1,460
2012 vs. 2011 weekly averages: 60 vs. 30

Search and arrest operations by Israeli forces this week: 73

taken. Two of the organizations reported that office doors were broken and files were searched and scattered and another one reported that money was taken.

On 7 December Palestinians clashed with Israeli forces at the entrance of Beit Ummar village leading to Road 60; three Palestinians were injured by rubber-coated metal bullets. In the same incident, one female Israeli settler who was travelling on the road was injured when Palestinians hurled stones at her car (see also section below).

Additional clashes and injuries were recorded during demonstrations: in An Nabi Saleh (Ramallah) against the expansion of Hallamish settlement (four Palestinians injured); in



Kafr Qaddum (Qalqiliya) against the closure of the village's main entrance (three Israeli soldiers injured); and in Jerusalem's Old City in solidarity with two Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike for more than 100 days (a 16 years old boy was injured).

Decline in settler-related violence

This week OCHA recorded two settler attacks that resulted in injury to two Palestinians; this is lower than the previous weekly average of seven incidents which resulted in injuries or property damage. In one incident, on 6 December, Israeli settlers physically assaulted and injured a farmer who was picking his olives near Yitzhar settlement (Nablus). Additional incidents involving intimidation of farmers by settlers from Yitzhar were also reported during this period. In the second incident on 10 December, Israeli settlers stoned Palestinian-plated cars driving near Efrata settlement in Bethlehem, injuring one Palestinian woman. A female Israeli settler was injured in a stone throwing incident in Hebron. In addition this week, Israeli settlers from Mitzpe Yair settlement outpost plowed 300 dunums of land, reportedly in an attempt to take over the land. Palestinians from Um Al 'Arayes village in south Hebron claim that they own the land.

Two families displaced in East Jerusalem due to a demolition

This week the Israeli authorities demolished one residence comprising two apartments in the At Tur area in East Jerusalem due to lack of a building permit. Consequently, two families comprising 11 people, including seven children, were displaced. In addition, the Israeli authorities delivered demolition orders against four residences in East Jerusalem and another in Hebron.

On 6 December, the Jerusalem District Court rejected an appeal submitted on behalf of a family (10 people, including four children) against their eviction in the Sheikh Jarrah area of East Jerusalem, on grounds that they have lost their

Settler-related incidents resulting in injuries or property damage:

This week: 2

2012 weekly average: 7

2011 weekly average: 8

Palestinian injuries by settler violence:

This week: 2

Injured in 2012: 155

Injured in 2011: 206

2012 vs. 2011 weekly averages: 3 vs. 4

Israeli settlers injured by Palestinians:

This week: 1

Injured in 2012: 45

Injured in 2011: 37

2012 vs. 2011 weekly averages: 1 vs. 1

status as protected tenants. It is estimated that there are over 170 people in Um Haroun area of Sheikh Jarrah in similar circumstances.

While no demolitions were recorded during the week in Area C, six Palestinian families (34 people) in the community of Humsa in the Jordan Valley were forced to leave their homes for approximately six hours a day for two days, to make way for an Israeli military training exercise. In early November, dozens of families in this and other herding communities in the northern Jordan Valley were issued with eviction orders by the Israeli army, in advance of a military training exercise. Approximately 18% of the West Bank has been designated as a "firing zone" or closed military zone for training. Some 5,000 Palestinians reside in the 38 communities located in the "firing zones", many of whom were living there prior to the area's designation for military use. These residents are particularly vulnerable and are at constant risk of displacement.

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

This week:

Demolished: 1

Demolished in 2012: 581

Of which residences: 182

People displaced in 2012: 1,049

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

2012 vs. 2011 people displaced (weekly av.): 22 vs. 21

GAZA STRIP

Relative calm in Gaza; one injury near the fence

The ceasefire understanding reached between Israel and Hamas continued to hold during this period, with no reports of rockets firing, air strikes or incursions. In one incident on 9 December, however, one Palestinian was shot and injured by Israeli forces while collecting scrap metal in the vicinity of the perimeter fence.

The Israeli military has indicated that while Palestinian access to areas beyond 300 meters from the fence is restricted, farmers are allowed access to land up to 100 meters from the fence if they coordinate with the military in advance. So far, no concrete coordination procedures have been put in place. Gazan fishermen's access to the sea up to six nautical miles from shore (an increase from the three nautical miles permitted prior to the ceasefire) continued this week without incident.

Gazans allowed to visit their relatives in Israeli detention facilities

On 10 December, in a programme organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), some 44 Palestinians from Gaza were allowed to enter Israel to visit their relatives in Israeli prisons. This is the second such visit carried out since the blockade was imposed in June 2007. The previous visit was carried out in July of this year, as part of an agreement that ended a prolonged hunger strike conducted by some Palestinian prisoners. The ICRC reports that it will continue its programme of family visits for Palestinian detainees.

Long power cuts continue in the Gaza Strip

During the reporting period, the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) has continued operating at around

Palestinian casualties by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip:

Killed this week: 0

Killed in 2012: 241

Killed in 2011: 108

Injured this week: 1

Injured in 2012: 1,796

Injured in 2011: 479

2012 weekly average of injured: 8

2011 weekly average of injured: 9

Israeli casualties by Palestinian fire from Gaza

Injured this week: 0

Killed in 2012: 7

Injured in 2012: 251

half of its full capacity (producing 60 out of 120 megawatts (MW) of electricity) due to the ongoing fuel shortage. Only slightly over 50 percent of the GPP fuel needs (3.5 million liters) enter through the tunnels and a limited amount of Qatari-donated fuel entered this week through the crossings with Israel. Tunnel activities resumed and gradually increased, reportedly reaching 80 percent of the level observed prior to the recent escalation in hostilities. As a result of power shortages, the majority of the population throughout the Gaza Strip continues experiencing power cuts of up to eight hours per day, disrupting daily life and delivery of basic services.

Movement of goods (Kerem Shalom Crossing)

Imports:

Number of truckloads (TL) entered this week (2-8 December): 1,681

TL carrying food: 28%

Weekly average of TL since the beginning of 2012: 1,066

Weekly average of TL before the blockade: 2,807

Exports:

Truckloads this week: 5

Weekly average since the beginning of 2012: 4

Weekly average before the blockade: 240

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

For more information, please contact Mai Yassin at yassinm@un.org or +972 (0)2 5829962.