

## مجموعة الرقابة الفلسطينية



### PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP

#### **Trend Analysis: Israeli Activity Since the Death of President Yasser Arafat: 11 November 2004 – 11 December 2004**

This trend analysis covers Israeli activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the one month period following the announcement of President Yasser Arafat's death on 11 November 2004. It focuses on 12 categories of events monitored daily, and is based on Daily Situation Reports and Monthly Summary Reports of the Palestinian Monitoring Group.<sup>1</sup> The information reported through the PMG process only represents data available at the time of distribution.

#### **Summary of Trends**

Israeli military activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been on the rise since the death of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on 11 November 2004. Israeli restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement remained intense and Wall and settlement activity continued.

During the first week following the announcement of President Arafat's death (11 November – 17 November), the Israeli military carried out 256 violations in 11 categories of events monitored daily by the PMG. During the weeks to follow, that figure rose to 416 in week 2 (18 November – 24 November); 479 in week 3 (25 November – 1 December); and 539 in week 4 (2 December – 8 December). (*See Annex I for weekly breakdown*).

Injuries, attacks, raids, arrests and detentions all progressively increased over the four week period following President Arafat's death. (*See Chart I below*). The number of

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<sup>1</sup> Daily Situation Reports are a survey of daily events collated from information provided by Palestinian Authority civilian ministries and security agencies. Monthly Summary Reports provide an overview of events for each month, drawn from the month's Daily Situation Reports.

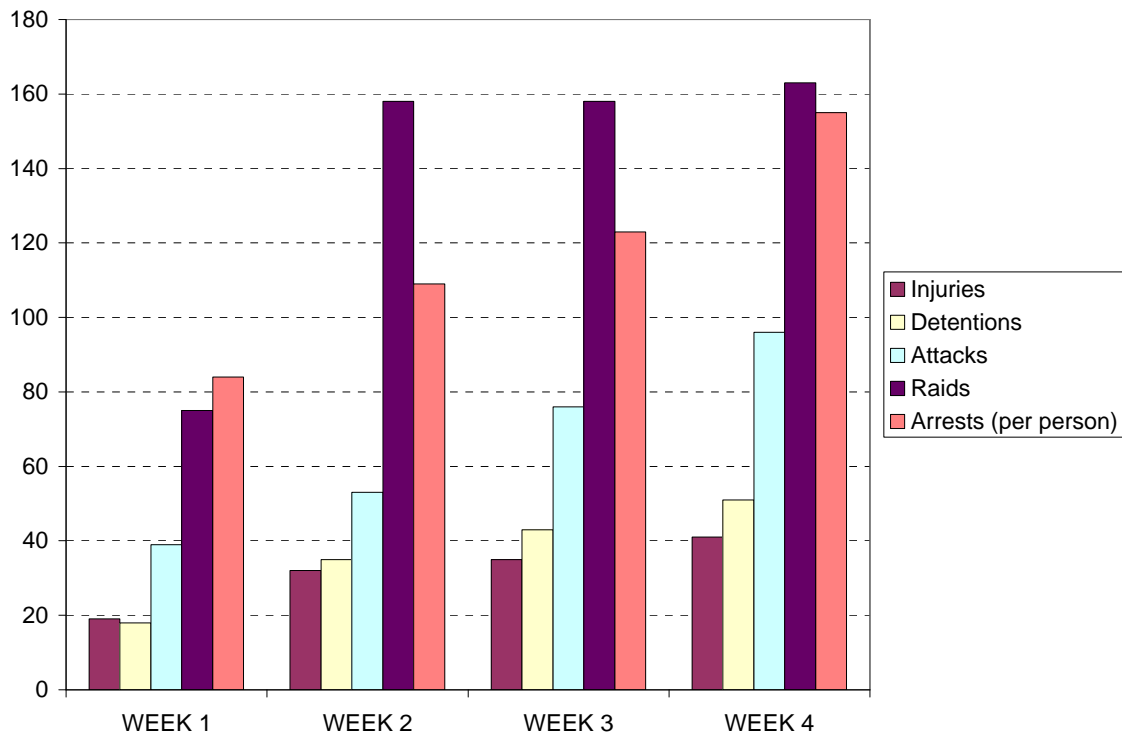
deaths and incidents of provocation of Palestinian forces occurred at relatively the same frequency over that period.

From 08:00 11 November to 08:00 11 December, the majority of violations (76 per cent) occurred in the West Bank. The majority of raids (92 per cent), arrests (83 per cent) and detentions (82 per cent) occurred in the West Bank. All physical assaults occurred in the West Bank and all recorded curfews were imposed in West Bank locales.

Deaths were highest in the Gaza Strip with 28 out of 35 recorded deaths occurring there. Injuries were equally divided between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with 67 and 66 injuries respectively. Of 6 assassination attempts, 3 occurred in the West Bank and 3 in the Gaza Strip.

Attacks were highest in the Gaza Strip, with 56 per cent, or 156 attacks, occurring there from 08:00 11 November to 08:00 11 December. Provocation of Palestinian forces also occurred most frequently in the Gaza Strip, with 63 per cent of such incidents occurring there, compared with 37 per cent in the West Bank.

**CHART I: Progressive Increase in 5 Categories of Events during 4 Week Period Following the Death of President Yasser Arafat**



From 08:00 11 November 2004 to 08:00 11 December 2004, the Israeli army carried out the following acts:

- Caused the deaths of 35 Palestinians and extra-judicially assassinated 4 Palestinians;
- Injured 133 Palestinians;
- Opened fire on Palestinians 279 times;
- Carried out 602 raids into Palestinian villages, towns, cities, and refugee camps;
- Arrested 507 Palestinians;
- Detained 154 Palestinians;
- Partially or completely demolished 25 Palestinian residential structures;
- Provoked Palestinian Forces on 30 separate occasions;
- Imposed 15 curfews on Palestinian towns and villages;
- Continued construction of the Wall.

## **Selected Events**

**A. Deaths:** Israeli army operations resulted in the **deaths of 35 Palestinians** (as well as 3 Egyptian soldiers in Egyptian territory by an Israeli army tank shell) from 08:00 11 November to 08:00 11 December 2004. Of these, 7 were killed in the West Bank and 28 in the Gaza Strip. Among those killed included 3 children; 2 female civilians; 2 mentally challenged civilians; 1 civilian as a result of delays at a checkpoint; 1 physician; 2 Palestinian security officers; and 2 Palestinians during an armed confrontation.

- At 19:45 on 20 November, the Israeli army raided the old city of Nablus. Confrontations took place between the Israeli army and civilians, during which the Israeli army killed 2 children and critically injured 1 civilian. The child fatalities were:
  - (i) 14-year-old **Muntasser Haddad**; and
  - (ii) 15-year-old **Amer Banat**.
- On 20 November, Israeli troops positioned at Huwwara checkpoint, set up at the southern entrance to the city of Nablus, detained dozens of civilians, including civilians returning from Mecca where they had performed *Al 'Umrah* (minor pilgrimage), and forced them to wait for an extended period of time at the checkpoint. As a result, the health of **Mahmoud Thoqan** deteriorated, resulting in his death after he was transported to hospital.
- At 13:45 on 01 December, Israeli troops positioned at the military post on 'Asur hill in the village of Kafr Malik, in the Ramallah Governorate, opened fire and killed **Nablil Suleiman Bu'eirat**, a mentally challenged civilian, near the military post.

**B. Assassinations:** The Israeli army **killed 4 Palestinians during extra-judicial assassinations**. Of a total of 6 assassination attempts from 08:00 11 November to 08:00 11 December, 3 occurred in the West Bank and 3 in the Gaza Strip. Three attempts were carried out by Israeli Special Forces supported by Israeli army ground troops, 1 by Israeli army snipers, and 2 by missiles fired from Israeli Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). In 4 of the assassination attempts, the Israeli military failed to assassinate the targeted

individual. These failed assassination attempts resulted in the injury of 4 Palestinians, including 1 critical injury.

- At 09:00 on 19 November, an Israeli army sniper opened fire towards **Ghanim Al Hashash**, in an attempt to extra-judicially kill him, in the area of 'Ureibeh in the Rafah Governorate. Hashash sustained several bullet wounds to the face and chest.
- At 18:10 on 21 November, Israeli Special Forces raided the town of Beituniya in the Ramallah Governorate and opened fire towards 1 civilian vehicle, extra-judicially killing 3 individuals, **Mohammed Ghassan Al Liftawi**, a Palestinian General Intelligence officer, **Salam Ya'qoub Nimr**, and **Nasser Sa'id Jawabreh**.
- At 3:00 on 03 December, Israeli Special Forces, supported by a number of Israeli army jeeps, raided the village of Raba in the Jenin Governorate, raided 1 house, and extra-judicially killed 1 civilian in cold blood, **Mahmoud Abdul Rahman Hammad**, after arresting him and leading him to the yard of a neighbouring house.
- At 11:00 on 9 December, an Israeli army UAV fired 1 missile towards 1 civilian vehicle in an attempt to extra-judicially kill **Jamal Abu Samhadaneh** and 2 civilians accompanying him along Eastern Rafah road, injuring the 3 civilians and destroying the vehicle.

**C. Physical Assaults:** The Israeli army **physically assaulted 32 Palestinians**, all incidents of which occurred in the West Bank. Such assaults included beating 17 Palestinian civilians, including 2 candidates for Palestinian President.

- At 17:30 on 23 November, the Israeli army, including 5 jeeps, raided the town of Tuqu', searched 1 house, and severely beat its residents. The Israeli army ordered the house residents to turn in their relative, **Imad Al 'Urouj**, allegedly for being wanted by the Israeli army.
- On 29 November, the Israeli army set up a flying checkpoint at the entrance to the village of Al Lubban Al Gharbi in the Ramallah Governorate, searched civilians and vehicles, and forced civilians to strip in the severe cold, allegedly to conduct thorough searches.
- At 20:30 on 08 December, Israeli troops positioned at a checkpoint set up on the junction to the village of Jaba', in the Jenin Governorate, beat Palestinian presidential candidate **Dr. Mustafa Al Barghouthi** and his escort and detained them until 21:30.
- At 17:10 on 10 December, Israeli troops positioned at Qalandiya checkpoint, in the Jerusalem Governorate, beat and later detained Palestinian presidential candidate **Bassam As Salhi**.

**D. Injuries:** The Israeli army **injured 133 Palestinians**, including 67 in the West Bank and 66 in the Gaza Strip. Those injured included 34 children, 18 female civilians (including 3 elderly female civilians and 10 female political prisoners), 1 civilian as a result of an Israeli army UXO explosion, and 3 Palestinian security officers.

- At 18:00 on 20 November, the Israeli army opened intensive fire from the settlement of Morag towards the area of ‘Ureibeh north of the city of Rafah, injuring 1 child. The Israeli army also opened fire from Tall As Sultan military post towards civilian houses in Tall As Sultan neighbourhood, injuring 3 civilians, including 2 female civilians.
- At 14:00 on 21 November, Israeli army bulldozers levelled land in the village of Al Isawiya east of Jerusalem. Israeli troops severely beat a number of civilians as they confronted the Israeli army bulldozers, injuring several civilians.
- At 21:25 on 22 November, Israeli troops positioned along the Israeli settler bypass road along the town of Beituniya west of the city of Ramallah severely beat and injured **Raja’i Barhoum**, leaving him with bone fractures and bruises.
- At 11:05 on 01 December, Israeli troops positioned near the village of Kafr ‘Ein in the Ramallah Governorate, opened fire towards, and injured, 60-year-old **Ra’ifah Ar Rifa’i**, a female civilian, on her way to harvest olive crops.

**E. Raids:** The Israeli military **carried out 602 raids** on Palestinian cities, towns, villages, and refugee camps throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip from 08:00 11 November to 08:00 11 December. Of these, 556 occurred in the West Bank and 46 in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army opened fire during 74 of the 602 raids, approximately 12.3 per cent of the total number of raids.

- At 23:00 on 24 November, the Israeli army raided the city of Hebron, surrounded 1 house, and opened intensive fire towards the house, killing 2 civilians:
  - (i) **Omar Al Heimouni**; and
  - (ii) **Murad Al Qawasmeh**.

The Israeli army also injured 1 other civilian and arrested him. The Israeli army demolished a 3-storey house, belonging to a political prisoner, and 1 apartment in a 4-storey building, belonging to the family of a civilian killed by the Israeli army. The demolition of the apartment damaged several other apartments in the building.
- On 01 December, the Israeli army raided the village of Beit Liqya in the Ramallah Governorate and opened indiscriminate fire, injuring 5 civilians. The Israeli army also closed the entrances to the village and prevented ambulances from transporting the injured civilians.
- At 08:00 on 02 December, the Israeli army raided the village of Beit Iba east of the city of Nablus and ordered the headmaster of the village’s school to gather students from the 10<sup>th</sup> grade to examine their IDs. At 08:25, the Israeli army withdrew, following the intervention of the DCO.
- On 03 December, the Israeli army raided the village of Kafr ‘Abbush in the district of Tulkarem, raided the premises of a location designated for civilians to offer condolences for the death of President Yasser Arafat, took down Palestinian flags, and removed posters and all installations set up for the ceremony.

**F. Attacks:** The Israeli military **opened fire on Palestinians 279 times**, and Israeli settlers opened fire on Palestinian civilians 2 times. Israeli army attacks utilized various forms of weaponry (e.g. helicopter laser-guided missiles, tanks shells, navy boats and machineguns). Of these attacks, 125 occurred in the West Bank and 156 in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army conducted 74 attacks during raids on residential areas, 124 attacks from Israeli army military posts towards civilian houses and property, 10 air attacks, and 38 attacks on demonstrations in solidarity with political prisoners and against construction of the Wall or during confrontations between the Israeli army and civilians.

- At 10:30 on 21 November, the Israeli army opened fire from its location on the Egyptian border towards civilian houses in Al Barazil neighbourhood in Rafah refugee camp, injuring 3 civilians, including 1 child, and setting fire to 1 house.
- At 21:05 on 28 November, the Israeli army fired 5 tank shells towards West Rafah refugee camp in Tall As Sultan neighbourhood, killing *Dr. Sameer Hijazi* and injuring 1 other civilian.
- At 09:55 on 01 December, the Israeli army opened intensive fire towards civilian houses in the neighbourhood of Yabna in Rafah refugee camp, injuring 2 children:
  - (i) 9-year-old *Huda Anwar Abu Jundi*; and
  - (ii) 17-year-old *Abdul Hamid Al Farra*.
- At 19:30 on 03 December, the Israeli army opened intensive fire and fired flares from the area surrounding the settlement of Nitsareem towards Az Zahra' towers south of Gaza city, setting fire to 1 apartment in residential tower # 20.

**G. Arrests:** The Israeli army **arrested 507 Palestinians**, including 43 children; 7 female civilians; 4 injured civilians; 1 journalist; 25 civilians in the village of Al Isawiya after their participation in the funeral of President Yasser Arafat; and 24 Palestinian officers. The majority of arrests, 83.2 per cent (422 out of 507), occurred in the West Bank.

- On 24 November, the Israeli army raided the village of Beit 'Ur At Tahta and arrested 4 civilians, including 3 children:
  - (i) 12-year old *Omar Yousef Abdul Fattah*;
  - (ii) 14-year-old *Mohammed Sa'id 'Allan*; and
  - (iii) 13-year-old *Jihad Ramzi 'Aref*.
- At 01:15 on 6 December, the Israeli army raided the city of Nablus, searched a number of houses, and arrested 11 civilians.
- At 01:15 on 7 December, the Israeli army raided the town of Tuqu', imposed curfew, searched 2 houses, and arrested 3 children.
- On 7 December, a mass demonstration, including international peace activists, took place in the village of Budrus against Wall construction. Confrontations took place between the Israeli army and civilians, during which the Israeli army fired tear gas grenades, injuring a number of civilians as a result of tear gas inhalation. The Israeli army also detained 40 civilians and arrested 7 others.

- At 03:50 on 9 December, the Israeli army raided the village of Kafr Thulth, searched a number of houses, and arrested 19 individuals, including 2 children and 1 Palestinian Preventive Security officer.

**H. Detentions:** The Israeli military **detained 154 Palestinians**. Detentions included those occurring at Israeli army checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as those occurring in residential compounds, during Israeli army raids. The majority of detentions, 127 or 82.5 per cent, occurred in the West Bank.

**I. House Demolitions:** From 08:00 11 November to 08:00 11 December, the Israeli authorities **demolished 25 residential structures**, including 1 two-story house, two 3-storey buildings and 1 five-storey building. During the same period, the Israeli authorities issued demolition orders for 18 additional residential dwellings in the Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jerusalem governorates.

- At 10:50 on 25 November, the Israeli army, including 3 tanks and 2 bulldozers, raided the area of Um Al Qureis north of the city of Rafah and demolished 7 houses. On the same day, the Israeli army, positioned in As Salaam neighbourhood in Rafah refugee camp, opened intensive fire, searched a number of houses, arrested 4 civilians, demolished 3 houses, and levelled 4 *dunums* (1 acre) of agricultural land.
- On 28 November, Israeli authorities issued an order to demolish 1 house in the Jabal al Mukabbir neighbourhood of Jerusalem, claiming that it is in close proximity to the Wall. On the same day, the Israeli army distributed notices to demolish 12 houses in Jabal al Mukabbir, allegedly because they were constructed without the required licenses.

**J. Provocation of Palestinian Forces:** The Israeli army continued to attack Palestinian security locations and Police stations. From 08:00 11 November to 08:00 11 December, **30 attacks occurred**. Eleven of these events occurred in the West Bank and 19 in the Gaza Strip. (These figures **do not include** the killing of 1 Palestinian security officer, the injuring of 2 officers, and the arrest of 21 officers).

Israeli army provocations against Palestinian forces included raiding 2 Palestinian security locations and 2 Palestinian Police stations, detaining Police officers within the station during searches, and surrounding 1 Palestinian security location. The Israeli army also opened fire on 17 separate occasions towards Palestinian security offices and locations. In 1 incident, the Israeli army forced Palestinian security officers to evacuate their location. The Israeli army also set up 4 checkpoints near Palestinian security locations, including 1 time opposite Al Muqata'a in the city of Ramallah, and detained 2 Palestinian security vehicles and over 16 Palestinian Police officers.

- At 08:00 on 16 November, Israeli troops positioned at the checkpoint near the entrance to the town Idhna in the Hebron Governorate detained 10 Palestinian Police officers for 1 hour.
- At 03:00 on 18 November, the Israeli army, including 4 jeeps, raided the city of

- Bethlehem and Ad Duheisha refugee camp and arrested 1 Palestinian National Security officer and 1 Civil Defence officer in Ad Duheisha refugee camp.
- At 17:40 on 19 November, the Israeli army fired 1 tank shell towards 1 Palestinian National Security location in the area surrounding Ash Shuhada' cemetery east of the town of Jabalya in the Gaza Strip, killing *Jihad Ibrahim Abu Leileh*, an officer, and injuring 1 civilian.
  - On 20 November, Israeli troops positioned at a checkpoint set up at the eastern entrance to the city of Nablus near the village of Beit Iba detained 1 Palestinian National Security vehicle and confiscated its papers and its driver's ID.

**K. Restrictions on Palestinian Freedom of Movement:** Following the official announcement of the death of President Yasser Arafat on 11 November 2004, the Israeli army imposed a total closure on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which continued as of 08:00 11 December 2004.

Throughout this period, the Israeli army maintained permanent checkpoints and erected dozens of flying checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on a daily basis. Repeated closures of crossing points along the perimeter of the Gaza Strip prevented workers from entering industrial zones and crossing the Green Line for work. Wall gates remained closed to Palestinian civilians without permits. **Ongoing restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement** contribute to increased Palestinian poverty and unemployment rates, negatively impact economic, education and livelihood activities, and impede access to health facilities.

**L. Settlement Activity:** From 08:00 11 November to 08:00 11 December, the Israeli authorities and Israeli settlers **continued to carry out settlement activity** in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

- At 12:00 on 25 November, the Israeli army completed construction of a settler bypass road southwest of the settlement of Morag north of the city of Rafah, which it began constructing on 14 September 2004.
- On 29 November, a group of Israeli settlers from the settlement of Adam erected tents and placed caravans and electricity generators near the village of Jaba' in the Jerusalem Governorate.
- On 07 December, Israeli settlers, under the protection of the Israeli army, began construction of a new settlement outpost called "Nov Hasharon" on land belonging to the villages of Izbat Salman and Izbat Jal'ud and established approximately 40 housing units. The settlers have confiscated 350 *dunums* (87.5 acres) of land.



**ANNEX I:**

**Weekly Summary of Israeli Activity since the Death of President Yasser Arafat,  
08:00 11 November 2004 – 08:00 9 December 2004**

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>Week 1: TOTAL</b>	<b>Week 2: TOTAL</b>	<b>Week 3: TOTAL</b>	<b>Week 4: TOTAL</b>
Deaths	9	7	8	7
Assassinations	0	3	0	1
Injuries	19	32	35	41
Physical Assaults	4	8	10	7
Attacks	39	53	76	96
Raids	75	158	158	163
Arrests	84	109	123	155
Detentions	18	35	43	51
House Demolitions	0	0	18	3
Provocation of Pal. Forces	7	7	6	8
Curfews	1	4	2	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>539</b>