



PCHR

المركز الفلسطيني
لحقوق الإنسان



Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

The Centre is an independent Palestinian human rights organization (registered as a non-profit Ltd. Company) based in Gaza City. The Centre enjoys Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nation. It is an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists-Geneva; the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) – Paris; member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network – Copenhagen; member of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) – Stockholm; member of the Arab Organization for Human Rights – Cairo; and member of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty – Rome. It is a recipient of the 1996 French Republic Award on Human Rights, the 2002 Bruno Kreisky Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights and the 2003 International Service Human Rights Award (UNAIS). The Centre was established in 1995 by a group of Palestinian lawyers and human rights activists in order to:

- Protect human rights and promote the rule of law in accordance with international standards.
- Create and develop democratic institutions and an active civil society, while promoting democratic culture within Palestinian society.
- Support all the efforts aimed at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights in regard to self-determination and independence in accordance with international law and UN resolutions.

The work of the Centre is conducted through documentation and investigation of human rights violations, provision of legal aid and counseling for both individuals and groups, and preparation of research articles relevant to such issues as the human rights situation and the rule of law. The Centre also provides comments on Palestinian Draft Laws and urges the adoption of legislation that incorporates international human rights standards and basic democratic principles. To achieve its goals, the Centre has recruited a committed staff of well-known human rights lawyers and activists.

The Philosophy of the Centre's Work

The Centre determined after a thorough legal assessment of the peace accords signed by the PLO and the Israeli government that the occupation would continue both physically and legally. According to these agreements, Israel has redeployed its forces inside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while Israeli settlements and military installations maintain their presence in Palestinian territory. The major legal aspects of the Israeli occupation remain in place. Israeli military orders that safeguard Israeli control over the Palestinian people and their land remain valid in accordance with the peace agreement. The Israeli military court is still functioning and to this day thousands of Palestinians languish in Israeli prisons. The essential elements of the Palestinian issue remain unresolved - the right to self-determination, the right to an independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, the right to return for Palestinian refugees, and the right to remove illegal Israeli settlements from the Occupied Territories. All of these constitute basic unfulfilled rights of the Palestinian people. In light of this wide-ranging disregard for Palestinian rights, the Centre concludes it must continue its work to protect Palestinian human rights from ongoing violations by the Israeli government and courts.

The peace accords and the major political changes resulting from the agreement, including the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in part of the Occupied Territories, has led to a vital and active role for the Centre in protecting civil and political rights and in promoting the development of democratic institutions, an active civil society, and a democratic legal system in Palestine.

The Centre is composed of specialized working units which carry out their activities in an autonomous but integrated manner.

1. Fieldwork Unit

The fieldwork is considered the basic activity of the Centre. Well-trained field workers located in different areas of the Gaza Strip obtain accurate and documented legal information on human rights violations in the Gaza Strip. They gather information in the field from victims and witnesses of human rights violations. The information is received by the coordinator of the unit and other researchers to verify accuracy. Through the field workers' presence in the field the Centre has been able to maintain close contacts with the community. In this way, the community is able to influence the work of the Centre and the Centre is able to meet the community's interests and demands.

2. Legal Unit

This unit is composed primarily of a team of lawyers who give free legal aid and counseling to individuals and groups. The unit also carries out legal intervention with concerned bodies and makes legal representations before courts in cases that involve broad principles of human rights that affect not just the individual before the court but the community as a whole. Furthermore, the unit attempts to support the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

3. Democratic Development Unit (DDU)

This unit specializes in the promotion of democracy and the promotion of civil society and the rule of law. The unit's team carries out research and organizes workshops and seminars to discuss issues on human rights and democracy. The unit's team also prepares comments on draft laws prepared by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to influence the decision-making process and the adoption of democratic laws. The unit has been also involved in providing training on human rights and democracy for youth groups.

4. Economic and Social Rights Unit

This unit seeks to ensure the importance of economic and social rights through research and study. Such work is particularly important because it tends to be neglected, to some extent, by other human rights organizations. To achieve its goals the unit conducts studies, workshops, and seminars that focus attention on economic and social rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The unit seeks to develop recommendations and standards for each of these rights to be fulfilled in the Palestinian situation. Moreover, the unit reviews and assesses the legislation and draft laws pertaining to these rights adopted by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to secure legislation that is in harmony with international standards. The unit further seeks to provide an informative training base for governmental and non-governmental personnel who are empowered to set plans and implement programs and policies relevant to these rights. The goal of such training is to help bring economic and social rights into alignment with the standards accepted internationally and to ensure the maximum degree of implementation of these rights.

5. Women Rights Unit

This Unit was established as a pilot project in May of 1997 for one year, renewable upon assessment of its accomplishments. The initial project was established after a thorough and comprehensive study of the conditions of Palestinian women and the work of women's institutions in the Gaza Strip. The Unit aims to provide legal aid for women and women's organizations. Intervention on behalf of women in Shari'a courts is included in its mandate. The Unit further aims to raise awareness of women's rights established by international human rights conventions and to raise the awareness of Palestinian women in regard to their rights under local law. Finally, the Unit is carrying out studies on Palestinian women and the law, while supporting the amendment of local laws inconsistent with women's rights.

6. The Training Unit

The Training Unit is a main instrument in PCHR's work in disseminating and developing a human rights culture, and promoting democratic concepts in the local community with all its various segments. The Unit organizes and holds training courses and workshops in order to develop theoretical knowledge and provide professional skills that can contribute to a real change in the behavior of the society, which in turn can promote respect for, and protection of human rights and participation in community building. The target groups of the training courses and workshops are particularly the youth, including university students, activists of political parties, lawyers, media, union members, and other civil society groups.

7. The Library

The Centre has established a specialized legal library in subjects related to local and international law, human rights, and democracy. The library includes books and periodicals in both Arabic and English and includes all Palestinian laws and Israeli military orders. Documents pertaining to laws of neighboring Arab countries are also available. Furthermore, the library includes a variety of books and periodicals detailing the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The library is open for the free use of researchers, academics, and students.

Funding of the Centre

The Centre is funded by the generous contributions of a number of international non-governmental organizations in the fields of human rights, democracy, and social justice and a number of Governments that has friendly relationships with the Palestinian people. PCHR highly appreciates the contributions of funding organizations, especially:

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The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an independent legal body dedicated to the protection of human rights, the promotion of the rule of law, and the upholding of democratic principles in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Most of the Centre's activities and interests concentrate on the Gaza Strip due to the restriction on movement between the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by the Israeli government and its military apparatus.

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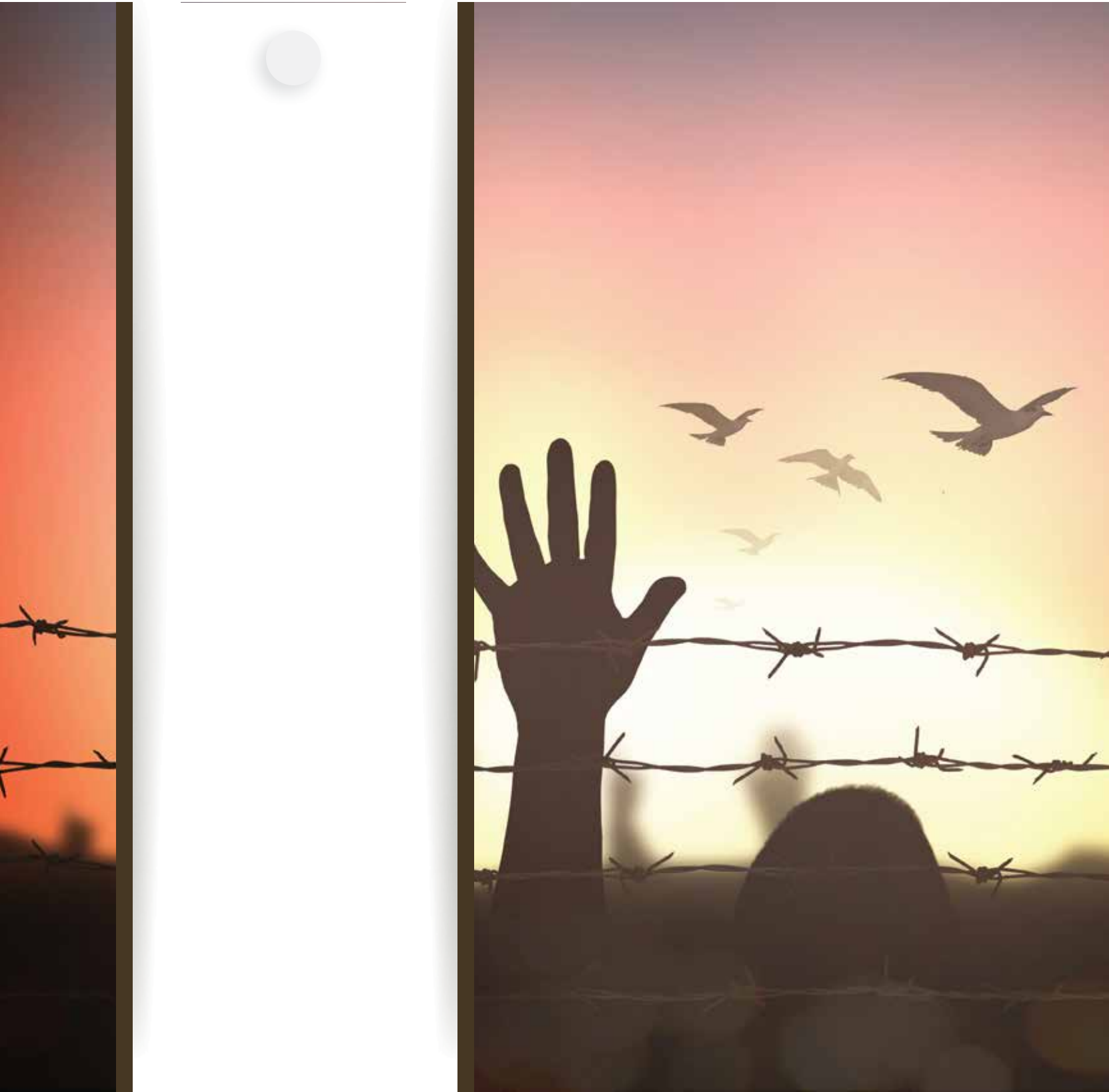
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Annual Report 2017

This report is PCHR's 2017 Report that is the outcome of PCHR's work over a whole year of continuous efforts. PCHR has published annual reports since 1997.

The annual Report is divided into two sections:

- **Part One** provides a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) from 01 January to 31 December 2017. It is divided into two sub-sections:
 - 1) Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law perpetrated by the Israeli forces in the oPt; and
 - 2) Human rights violations perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and obstacles to democratic reform in the PA.
- **Part Two** documents all PCHR activities from 01 January to 31 December 2017. It covers activities by PCHR and its units at both the local and international levels over the year.

Like previous reports, PCHR hopes that this report will contribute to the struggle for human rights by providing a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the oPt. PCHR also hopes that relevant parties will follow the recommendations mentioned in this report, particularly those directed to the international community and PA. This report serves as a guide for PCHR's future work and reflects PCHR's strong belief in the importance of transparency for a non-profit and non-governmental organization that provides services to the community. It should also serve as a call for all victims of human rights violations to approach PCHR for advice and assistance.

PART (1)

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OPT



Summary

The last weeks of 2017 witnessed accelerating developments that will have ramifications on the Palestinian cause, human rights situation and international humanitarian law in the oPt which witnessed further deterioration throughout the year. On the evening of 06 December, conscience of all humanity was shocked with the U. S. President Donald Trump's decree to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the U. S. Embassy to Jerusalem in flagrant violation and defiance of the international law rules and United Nation (UN) Resolutions, including dozens of international resolutions that emphasize East Jerusalem is an occupied territory and Israel is denied of exercising sovereignty over it according the international humanitarian law in addition to not changing the character of the city.

It should be noted that Trump's decision gives the green light to Israel to escalate its policies and measures to create new facts on the ground, including continuing the systematic and forced evictions and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in Jerusalem, carrying out more settlement projects in East Jerusalem, going ahead with the Greater Jerusalem Bill that will annex several settlements under Jerusalem's municipal jurisdiction, including "Ma'aleh Adumim", completely separating the northern West Bank from the southern side.

The American political, military and economic support for Israel over the past few decades has been the main reason behind Israel's continual denial and defiance of the international law rules and has also contributed to continuing and consolidating the Israeli occupation and its illegal practices in the oPt since 1967. However, the decision by Trump's administration to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel has constituted a precedent and dissent from all the former U. S. Administrations which had always refrained from taking this step since the Congress's decision in 1995 to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and move the embassy to it in coincidence with the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement under the auspices of U. S. that places Jerusalem within the issues of the definitive solution negotiations. This indicates that there was a previous U. S. adoption of a decision to place the holy city under the Israeli control and dismiss it from any future settlement negotiations in addition to undermining the two-state solution and blatantly denying the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in an independent state, where East Jerusalem is its capital.

In 2017, the Israeli forces continued to commit further war crimes and violations of

human rights and international humanitarian law in the oPt. They continued their ethnic cleansing policy against the Palestinian Jerusalemites and settlement projects in the holy city and all over the West Bank. They also strengthened their dominance and control over the Palestinian cities, villages and refugee camps and tirelessly exerted their efforts to dismantle them by turning them into separate cantons, where the Israeli forces control and restrict the residents' movement. The Israeli forces have tailored a unique pattern of apartheid for the interest of settlers who increased to more than 750,000 settlers.

The Israeli forces continued to impose an illegal and inhuman closure on the Gaza Strip for the 11th year consecutively and collective punishment against 2 million Palestinians, constituting a Crime of Persecution according to the Roma Statue of International Criminal Court (ICC). The closure has affected all life aspects and resulted in a humanitarian man-made disaster and continuous deterioration of the social and economic conditions.

The Israeli forces continued to use excessive force and commit further crimes against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They also escalated the crimes of killing civilians during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces following the U. S. President's decision on 06 December 2017 to move the U. S. Em-

bassy to the occupied Jerusalem.

The Israeli media recently talked and quoted from Israeli senior officials about threats to carry out an offensive on the Gaza Strip, which if occurred would not be a surprise, so much that there is a general impression emphasizing a war has become a matter of time. In all circumstances, accumulation of multiple factors, old and new, and escalation of incidents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip indicate that a military confrontation approaches similar to the last 3 offensives on the Gaza Strip in the last 10 years.

The International silence towards the Israeli crimes against civilians and their property create a state of impunity for the Israeli war criminals from the international prosecution. Thus, Israel practices these violations as a declared policy in disregard for the international law.

Despite this bleak picture of the international community's failure to oblige Israel to respect the international law, 2017 witnessed a good international position represented in the international community's rejection, overwhelmingly, of the U. S. President Donald Trump's decree to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. For example, on 18 December, the UN Security Council failed to adopt a draft resolution on Jerusalem tabled by Egypt as 14 Members voted in favor while the U. S. used its veto. However, the Palestin-

ian diplomacy continued its endeavors to thwart the U. S. decision and succeeded in obtaining 3 resolutions from the UN General Assembly emphasizing the Palestinian sovereignty over the natural resources in the oPt, including Jerusalem in addition to calling upon Israel to cease all policies and measures in Jerusalem.

What was remarkable and positive in this regard was the international reaction to the U. S. Decision and strict use of the language of International law and international humanitarian law in the UN Security Council and General Assembly, particularly by all Members other than the U. S. The strict and explicit Use of international law in major issues of the conflict, after 50 years of the Israeli occupation, was really special and peculiar and in the same time was shocking to the U. S. Administration.

The political arena witnessed concentrated Arab and Islamic efforts to isolate and undermine the U. S. President's decision as on 09 December 2017, an emergency meeting of the Arab Foreign Ministers was held, producing several decisions that define the actions to be taken in the face of the U. S. decision. After that on 13 December 2017, Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference was held in Istanbul and attended by representatives of 56 countries, including 16 presidents and kings. The final Communiqué produced several decisions to consolidate

the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and sovereignty over their occupied territory.

These steps in total mark a very strong start of an action that shall continue at the international level to stress the illegality of U. S. decision and its violation of international law, affecting the international system, security and peace in the region. PCHR emphasizes that mobilization of international positions against Trump's decision and in favor of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and sovereignty over their land is the most important trend in the next stage. Obtaining international resolutions from different international bodies, particularly the UN Bodies, makes an important contribution to isolation of the U. S. position and preventing that the decision would be a precedent for other countries.

On a different note, the most significant breakthrough for us as Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations in 2017 was resorting to the ICC and practicing pressure on the Public Prosecutor to refer to ICC the cases filed by the Palestinian human rights organizations relevant to war crimes committed by Israeli forces against civilians and their property after finishing the preliminary investigation into them.

In light of the Palestinian human rights organizations' achievements at the lev-

el of prosecuting the Israeli war criminals and bringing them to international courts, these organizations have faced campaigns of defamation, threats and extortion launched by the Israeli official authorities. It has become clear that the role and work of civil society organizations have decreased due to these campaigns and pressures and due to politically and financially targeting them. These campaigns primary aim at excluding the civil society from the influencing loop through drying up its funding sources, that often came to fruition, and many organizations faced severe financial crises after withdrawing or reducing the funding for them. Moreover, these campaigns aim at imposing restrictions on the movement of human rights activists in the oPt and preventing them from traveling in addition to the defamation campaigns against organizations in particular along with their partners, who had a prominent role in the work on the file of prosecuting Israeli war criminals, particularly after the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip in 2014.

On the Palestinian level, the last quarter of 2017 witnessed positive developments on the path to national reconciliation and end of division ongoing for 11 years under the auspices of Egypt. On 12 October, Cairo hosted concentrated negotiations between Fatah and Hamas resulting in signing the reconciliation agreement, which enables the National Unity Government

in the Gaza Strip no later than 01 December 2017 along with ending all manifestations of division. On 01 November, the Unit Government was handed over control of the Gaza Strip border crossings (Beit Hanoun “Erez” and Karm Abu Salem “Kerem Shalom” with Israel and Rafah border crossing with Egypt.) However, in the next weeks, the reconciliation slow down and people in Gaza did not find any real change neither in their living conditions nor the punitive measures taken by President Mahmoud ‘Abbas and the Government during the last months, including a 40 percent reduction of Israel’s electricity supply by 40%; 30 percent deduction of PA servants’ salaries; and forcing thousands of them into early retirement. On 07 December 2017, after marathon efforts by the Egyptian security delegation, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah visited the Gaza Strip for the second time within 8 weeks and declared that the government had initially assumed its responsibilities in Gaza. However, the weeks that followed until the end of the year did not witness any notable improvement regarding any outstanding files such as employees, electricity and etc...

Following the Palestinian reconciliation, feelings of satisfaction prevailed despite all rumors and obstacles between the parties to division. The atmosphere of reconciliation itself also reflected on the status of the right to peaceful assembly in the oPt and peaceful assemblies that

were previously banned. PCHR and other human rights organizations have repeatedly stressed that the status of division seriously affected public freedoms, including the right to peaceful assembly, and continuing to apply the reconciliation agreement will prepare the positive atmosphere for unleashing freedoms in the PA controlled areas.

However, over the year, the human rights situation in the PA controlled areas deteriorated. On one hand, the setback of public freedoms status continued, including the freedom of including the freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly, and led to arbitrary political arrests and torture crimes. Moreover, the split remarkably aggravated the living conditions of the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip. The crisis of Rafah Crossing Point unprecedentedly exacerbated as the crossing was only open for a few days throughout the whole year following the internal reconciliation, negatively affecting dozens of patients, students and holders of residency permits abroad. In addition, the electricity crisis, already deteriorating for 10 years, aggravated, as the outage hours significantly increased. The financial crisis of Gaza Government employees' salaries contin-

ued, failing to come to terms with it, despite a promise given by one of the donor countries to settle it and completely close the file. Moreover, the crisis aggravated after the National Unity Government took a decision in April 2017 to deduct 30%-50% of the civil and military servants' total salaries, including those still on duty. The health conditions seriously deteriorated, particularly for the patients, due to the continual and considerable shortage in medicines and medical supplies in the government health facilities in the Gaza Strip, due to forcing thousands of servants in the health sector to early retirement and minimizing the treatment abroad services for the Gaza patients.

The economic pressures imposed by the PA since last April resulted in the unprecedented deterioration of the economic conditions of the Gaza Strip residents, including drying up the key resources which the economy in Gaza mainly relies on and minimizing U.S funds to the UNRWA in addition to the political obstacles and funding constraints which the civil society suffers from. All of this would clearly explain how the economic conditions in the Gaza Strip deteriorated, teetering on the brink.

First:

Israeli Violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law

1. Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security

In 2017, PCHR documented that the Israeli forces and settlers killed 55 Palestinians¹; 42 of whom were civilians, including 10 children and a woman. Among the total number of civilian victims, PCHR documented the killing of 28² Palestinians in the West Bank, including 8 children and a woman, while in the Gaza Strip 14 Palestinians were killed, including 2 children. During this period, 1399 persons were wounded; most of whom were civilians, including 764 in the West Bank and 635 in the Gaza Strip.

The crimes of summary executions against Palestinians, including children and women, alleging that they carried out or suspected of attempting to carry out a stab or run over attack or even shooting at Israeli police officers in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, were the headline of the Israeli crimes against civilians throughout 2017. Palestinian civilians, including children, were killed during protests and demonstrations organized by Palestinians against the Israeli forces and their practices. The oPt witnessed a wave of popular protests following the U. S. President's decision to move the U. S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem on 06 December, inflicting civilian victims in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. PCHR also documented many Palestinians were killed in cold blood near settlements or at the military checkpoints. Moreover, Palestinians were killed by Israeli settlers in cold blood and others were killed during extra-judicial executions "assassinations." Two Palestinian civilians were killed during bombardments

1. In 2017 also, 3 Palestinians from Um al-Fahem in Israel were killed on 14 July when they carried out an armed attack in al-Aqsa Mosque and killed 2 Israeli police officers.

2. Moreover, on 10 February, Mohammed Jallad succumbed to wounds he sustained on 06 December 2016. Mohammed Abu Haddaf also succumbed to wounds he sustained when Israeli forces targeted his family house in the 2014 offensive.

against military sites belonging to Palestinian Armed Groups in the Gaza Strip while a fisherman was killed after Israeli naval soldiers opened fire at him in the Gaza Sea. A child who was grazing his sheep was killed in a landmine explosion in the West Bank.

2. Ongoing Policy of Total Closure and Violation of the Right to Freedom of Movement

In 2017, Israeli forces continued to impose the closure and restrictions on the freedom of movement in the oPt. In the Gaza Strip, the closure for the 11th consecutive year and restrictions on the crossings for the movement of persons and goods continued. Due to the ongoing closure, the social and economic conditions deteriorated, and the rates of poverty and unemployment increased. The Gaza Strip population is still deprived of their right to freely move and travel abroad, unprecedentedly deteriorating the humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, the Israeli forces continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the freedom of civilians in the West Bank in 2017. After the protests which the oPt witnessed against the Israeli arbitrary measures in al-Aqsa Mosque in July and against the U. S. President's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the U. S. Embassy to it in December increased, the Israeli forces imposed tightened restric-

tions on the movement of Palestinian civilians and goods between the West Bank cities.

On the level of persons' movement in 2017, the rate of rejected permits which the Israeli authorities give for specified categories to allow them to pass via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing increased, declining the number of patients and their companions, family visits to the prisoners in the Israeli jails, international workers, travelers via al-Karamah crossing, and visits to the Islamic and Christian holy sites.

The almost complete closure of the Rafah Border Crossing continued in 2017. The Rafah Crossing was closed for 343 days, making up 93.9% of the entire year, while it was open for only 22 days, which constitute 6.1% of the year. As a result, the Gaza population was deprived of their right to freedom of movement from and into the Gaza Strip.

On the level of commodities movement, PCHR documented that the Israeli authorities closed the sole commercial crossing for the Gaza Strip in 2017 for 112 days, i.e. 30.6% of the total days of the year. The Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the entry of 188 types of goods, which they describe as "dual-use" materials.

In the West Bank, including occupied Jeru-

salem, the Israeli forces continued to impose arbitrary and tightened restrictions on the movement of civilians between the cities in 2017, thereby continuing the collective punishment policy and cruel and degrading treatment. In 2017, the number of permanent checkpoints amounted to 98, 17 of which were in the H2 sector in Hebron. Among those checkpoints, 39 were established along the Green Line (the armistice line) and considered as border crossings between the West Bank and Israel. Israeli private security companies control some of the checkpoints under the supervision of the Crossings and Borders Department of the Israeli forces. In 2017, Israeli forces increased the arbitrary establishment of temporary checkpoints at main intersections between Palestinian cities. Moreover, the Israeli forces close the bypass roads specified for settlers, where Palestinians used to take, increasing their suffering.

Israel has continued its policy of closing off and isolating occupied Jerusalem from its surroundings; entry to East Jerusalem is prohibited for Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, except for limited categories at a close range. Moreover, Israeli forces continued to impose an unprecedented closure on the Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem. Following occurrence of an armed conflict in al-Aqsa Mosque yards on 14 July 2017 between 3 Palestinians from Um al-Fahem in Israel and the Israeli police officers per-

manently stationed at al-Aqsa Gates, the Israeli authorities closed the Mosque and imposed strict restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the city, its suburbs and villages for weeks. Those measures included the establishment of metal detector gates and police checkpoints in the old city's neighborhoods and entrances. Those measures also denied Palestinian civilians' access to the occupied city and prevented them from enjoying their normal life. Furthermore, the Israeli forces operate many internal military checkpoints as border crossings to isolate Areas "C" completely from the rest of areas in the West Bank as in occupied East Jerusalem, Jordan Valley area along the Palestinian borders with Jordan and the lands behind the annexation wall. These checkpoints are also used as an ambush to arrest Palestinians whom are claimed wanted.

3. Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

2017 witnessed a notable escalation in the number of Palestinians arrested by Israeli forces and continual enactment of Israeli laws and legislations that would deprive the Palestinian prisoners of their minimum human rights guaranteed by international laws.

PCHR documented the arrest of 4108 Palestinians, including 778 children, 88 women and 11 Palestinian Legislative Council

(PLC) Members, in 2017 in addition to issuing draconian sentences against dozens of children. PCHR also documented the arrest of dozens of Palestinians although they were wounded after being shot by Israeli soldiers or while attempting to arrest them. Among those, 3, including 2 children, succumbed to their wounds inside the hospitals while they were under arrest.

In total, over 6,500 Palestinians have been arbitrarily detained and subjected to cruel and inhuman conditions in the Israeli prisons and detention facilities. These inhuman conditions included torture and degrading treatment that includes deprivation of family visits and education, naked searches, night raids, solitary confinement and medical negligence, especially for patients, who suffer from chronic diseases and so on. The total number of those arrested included 370 prisoners from the Gaza Strip, 400 children, 64 women and 700 administrative detainees without trial. The majority of the 20 Israeli prisons are established outside the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967³ and inside Israel, in a clear violation of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which obliges the occupying power to detain prisoners in the occupied territory until the end of the sentence.

The Israeli authorities continued their denial of prisoners' rights, including continuing the administrative detention without trial, continuing to deprive prisoners of their fundamental rights, reduce family visits, and expose prisoners' to naked searches. All of this forced prisoners to go into an open hunger strike for 41 days, ending up achieving part of their legitimate demands.

On the level of legislations and laws in this year, the Israeli authorities intensified their efforts to enact laws and legislations that would deprive Palestinian prisoners of their fundamental rights, including their right to life. Among the most prominent legislations was the Israeli Knesset's approval on

3. Except for Ofer Prison, which is established, west of Ramallah in the West Bank

11 June on the first reading of a bill to deduct the Palestinian prisoners and victims' allowances from the tax revenues going to the PA. On 18 June, Arone Hazan, Member of the Israeli Knesset representing Likud Party tabled a bill to deny prisoners from Palestinian movements which detain Israelis, family visits and their lawyers and ICRC Representatives' visits. On 03 January 2018, the Knesset approved the first reading of an amendment to the Penal Law that allows the death penalty against those convicted of fatal "acts of terrorism."

4. Attacks on Journalists and Media Personnel

In 2017, Israeli forces continued their systematic violations against local and international journalists and media in the oPt; most prominent of which was the ongoing campaign against the media institutions and closure of 7 media offices, including Al-Jazeera Channel office in occupied Jerusalem. Moreover, the censorship and restrictions significantly increased on the media freedoms, including the censorship on the freedom of expression, particularly on social media, as the Israeli forces arrested dozens of Palestinian civilians, including activists, journalists and media officers, and brought them to trial on charges of incitement against the Israeli forces.

The shooting crimes by Israeli forces and settlers against journalists and media personnel in local and international media agencies resulted in the injury of 15 journalists⁴ with live bullets, rubber-coated metal bullets and direct gas canisters to inflict harm. Twenty journalists were beaten up and subject to different forms of violence, humiliation and degrading treatment. Thirteen journalists and media officers were arrested or detained often when Israeli forces raided and searched their houses. Seven of them were sentenced under different charges, including incitement against the Israeli forces. Some of them were released while the others are so far under arrest. Nine media institutions were raided as the Israeli forces thoroughly searched, damaged and confiscated contents of these

4. This figure does not include the number of journalists who fainted or suffered extreme fatigue due to gas inhalation after Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters at civilians in weekly protests, or other journalists who sustained bruises and fractures throughout their bodies after being beaten with sticks and rifles' butts by the Israeli soldiers when they escaped from the gas canisters and shooting in those protests.

institutions. The Israeli forces also closed 8 of these institutions under incitement charges. The Israeli forces continued to prevent al-Resalah and Palestine newspapers, which are published in Gaza City, from being printed in the West Bank's printing houses for two years upon a decision issued on 28 May 2014 by the Israeli authorities following the raid of al-Ayyam printing house in Betounia village, west of Ramallah, in the center of the West Bank. Moreover, the Israeli forces unprecedentedly escalated the raid and closure of Palestinian printing houses in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and confiscation of their contents on charges of using them to print materials inciting against the Israeli authorities.

5. Demolition and Destruction of Civilian Property

Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian property in Area C, defined by the Oslo Accords between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel in 1993. Although this policy affected the houses in many areas in the West Bank, it significantly concentrated in East Jerusalem as part of the policies ultimately aiming at creating a Jewish demographic majority in the city. The demolitions in the West Bank are carried out under the pretext of not obtaining building permits from the Construction and Organization Department at the Israeli Civil Administration in "Beit Eil"

settlement or from the Israeli municipality regarding houses located in occupied East Jerusalem.

This year witnessed significant escalation in the demolition of houses and other civilian objects used for agricultural, industrial and commercial purposes in the West Bank. During the reporting period, Israeli forces demolished 161 dwellings, including 41 houses and dwellings in the West Bank and 120 others in East Jerusalem and its suburbs; 14 of which were self-demolished by their owners, under the pretext of not obtaining a building license. Thus, the number of demolished dwellings on grounds of unlicensed building and collective punishment amounted to 172 houses and dwellings. The Israeli authorities in East Jerusalem use the policy of forcing Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses. Most of the Palestinian civilians usually do this to avoid paying high fines for unlicensed building and the expenses for Israeli demolition vehicles that carry out the demolition decisions.

The house demolitions were distributed as follows: 123 houses in Jerusalem, including 14 houses that were self-demolished by the owners; 2 houses in the northern Jordan Valley; 7 houses in Hebron; 6 houses in Bethlehem; 12 houses in Jericho; 15 houses in Nablus; 6 houses in Ramallah and al-Bireh; and 1 house in Jenin.

Additionally, Israeli forces demolished 125

facilities used for non-residential purposes, including barracks, commercial stores, fences, tents, storehouses and stone-cutting workshops, in addition to leveling roads and electricity networks. The demolished facilities were distributed as follows: 72 facilities in Jerusalem, including 7 facilities self-demolished by their owners; 5 in Hebron; 6 in Tubas and the northern Jordan Valley; 2 in Bethlehem; 12 in Jericho; 22 in Nablus; 4 in Jenin; 2 in Salfit.

6. Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

The Israeli government continued to intensify settlement activities in areas classified as C in general and in East Jerusalem in particular. Despite criticism by the international community for the Israeli settlement activity, describing it as illegal and in violation of the international law and Security Council's resolutions, the Israeli authorities continued to unprecedentedly increase these activities in 2017, which was the highest in this regard since the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories 50 years ago.

The Israeli forces continued its policy to confiscate more Palestinian civilian property for settlement purposes. Israeli confiscation of civilian property and bringing about change to the nature of the occupied territory violate the international humanitarian law provisions which pro-

hibit changing the nature of an occupied territory unless there is a military necessity in the narrow sense of the term – a condition that is not fulfilled in Israel's declared aims and schemes.

During the reporting period, the area categorised as Area C under the Oslo Accords, as agreed between the PLO and the Israeli government in 1993, was the main target of Israeli forces to evacuate Palestinian residents for the settlement expansion projects. Those areas, particularly the Jordan Valley, witnessed wide-scale demolition targeting residential dwellings and agricultural facilities, such as water wells, rainwater harvesting pools and cattle barns. The Israeli forces also issued hundreds of notices to demolish those facilities.

The Israeli settlers continued to carry out their attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Through its documentation of the settlers' crimes, PCHR emphasizes that those attacks occurred under the Israeli forces' noses as they provide protection for settlers and accompanied them while carrying out dozens of attacks against the Palestinian civilians and their property in case the latter attempted to confront the settlers in order to keep them away from those agricultural lands or houses subject to the attacks.

7. The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

Israel created unilateral facts on the ground and made the boundaries of the annexation wall negotiable with the Palestinians who seek to establish their state within the boundaries of 1967. According to the Palestinian estimations, the area of Palestinian lands isolated and besieged between the wall and Green Line is 680 square kilometers; i.e. 12.0% of the total area of the West Bank, and 454 square meters of them are pasture and agricultural lands.

Regarding the construction of the annexation wall, the construction of the annexation Wall around the village of Walaja, northwest of Bethlehem, renewed at the end of April this year after a three-year cession. The annexation wall will isolate the village from the rest of its lands, about 3,000 dunums, as well as from its geographical surroundings, maintaining only one road that connects it with Beit Jala. The construction of the annexation wall stopped three years ago after a legal pressure from the village residents and human rights organizations. The renewal of the construction works came after the Israeli Supreme Court allowed the construction of the wall in the vicinity of the village.

the Israeli Haaretz Newspaper published on 01 May 2017 that the Israeli authorities plan to isolate around 3000 dunums of the village's lands outside the wall to be later annexed to the so-called national

park of the Jerusalem Metropolis, in addition to closing the road before the residents' movement, denying them access to the eye water. It should be noted that al-Waljah village historically belongs to Jerusalem, whose residents hold the (Israeli) blue identity card, pay the "Arnona" tax, and mainly depend on agriculture. Al Walaja village is divided into areas classified according to the Oslo Accords as "A, B and C". The village is around 17,500 dunums; only 3,000 dunums were left and the Israeli authorities seek to seize 1000 dunums of which for settlement purposes, build Notional Parks, and demolish all houses built on it.

8. Long-Awaited Justice and Absent Justice

The Israeli authorities continued to deprive the Palestinian victims of their right to redress before the Israeli Judiciary through imposing obstacles before the complainants and ignore requests and civilian and criminal complaints filed to investigate crimes and violations committed by the Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On the other hand, the Palestinian people believe that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is their last and important resort after hindering and sometimes closure of the other resorts for justice. However, 2017 ended and the ICC did not open an investigation into the crimes committed by the Israeli forces and leaders against the Palestinians in the 2014 offensive on the Gaza

Strip, when 1742 civilians, including 530 children and 302 women were killed.

Despite the many obstacles before the international justice system and systematic denial of justice before the Israeli judiciary, PCHR continued its work relevant to prosecuting the Israeli war criminals before the different judiciary mechanisms, including the Israeli courts and national courts vesting universal jurisdiction over war crimes in addition to the ICC.

PCHR, al-Mizan, Addameer and al-Haq, submitted 2 new legal submissions to the ICC as they declared on 20 September and 21 December 2017. The first submission was titled as “Israeli Settlement Activity in the oPt” while the second was about “Israel’s inability and unwillingness to investigate effectively and hold those suspected of committing war crimes accountable.” PCHR and its partners previously filed 3 submissions to the ICC in 2015-2016. The first submission addressed the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, the second was about the 2014 Israeli offensive of 2014 on the Gaza Strip in 2014 and the third was about the Black Friday Massacre in Rafah (Hannibal Directive), where dozens of civilians were killed and wounded due to the random artillery shelling upon Israeli orders during the 2014 offensive. It should be noted that the ICC opened a

preliminary investigation on 16 January 2015 into the situation in the oPt since 13 July 2014, but no tangible progress was realized. Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities did not allow the ICC investigators to enter the Gaza Strip to reveal the facts in blatant violation of the international justice, revealing their aforethought intention to juggle with facts and deny any opportunity for justice.

In the same context, the Israeli judicial system continued to ignore summary executions carried out by the Israeli soldiers and police against Palestinian civilians, claiming the latter attempted to stab, run over, or open fire at the Israeli soldiers or security officers, for the second year consecutively. Moreover, The Israeli Judiciary continued their state of procrastination and disregard for the prosecution and trial of Israeli soldiers and settlers accused of attacking Palestinians. These facts and its continuity since the beginning of the occupation enhance a realistic result that the Israeli judicial system is unwilling to guarantee justice for Palestinians and insist on granting the Israeli soldiers and settlers who carry out the attacks impunity. Thus, resorting to international justice has become the only available choice for Palestinians in light of the Israeli explicit denial of any justice for the Palestinian victims.

Second:

Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Transition

The last quarter of 2017 witnessed positive developments towards achievement of national reconciliation and end of division ongoing for 11 years and signing the reconciliation agreement on 12 October. Palestinians were overjoyed and felt positive after applying the first steps on reconciliation on the ground. This relatively reflected on the state of public freedoms in the PA controlled areas despite the obstacles.

PCHR hopes that the reconciliation agreement signed between Fatah and Hamas Movements on 12 October would end the internal division ongoing since 2007 and end the years of deterioration in the human rights situation in the PA controlled areas. Throughout the year, the division had an explicit negative impact on the human rights in total as PCHR believes that the internal division was the main feeder of most violations and main reason behind denial of public freedoms in 2017.

1. Violation of the Right to Life and Attacks on Personal Security

In 2017, more violations of the right to life and personal security continued due to the misuse of weapons and attacks on the rule of law in the oPt. The oPt also witnessed ongoing killing incidents due to the use of weapons in personal and familial disputes; killings due to misusing or mishandling weapons; and murdering women on different grounds, including the so-called “family honor”.

In incidents related to the misuse of weapons and assault of the rule of law in 2017, PCHR documented the killing of 41 per-

sons, including 3 children and 10 women. Twenty nine persons, including 3 children and 9 women, were killed in the Gaza Strip while 12 others, including a woman, were killed in the West Bank. Moreover, 80 others were wounded; 56 in the Gaza Strip, including 7 children and 4 women, and 24 in the West Bank, including 9 children.

Violations of the right to life and personal security were committed within the following contexts: use of weapons in personal and familial disputes (12); illegal use and mishandling weapons (20); murders on grounds of so-called “family honor” (1); and excessive use of force by security services during law enforcement missions (3). Moreover, 10 persons were killed in an isolated incident related to acts of Palestinian Armed Groups in the Gaza Strip.

2. Escalation of Use of Death Penalty

2017 witnessed escalation and dangerous precedents in the application of death penalty. PCHR hopes that the reconciliation would put an end to the excessive use of this penalty in a preamble to cancel it. Forming the “Field Military Court” in the Gaza Strip, bringing those accused of drugs dealing before military courts, and issuing death sentences against them are all the most serious development regarding the use of the death penalty in 2017. Moreover, the rate of using and applying death penalty in 2017 had increased as

the number of death sentences reached 31, including 19 new sentences and 6 were executed without the ratification of the Palestinian President, constituting a violation of the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law. All the death sentences issued in the Gaza Strip this year were as the last year which means that no death sentences were issued or executed in the West Bank over the past two years.

Establishing the Military Field Court in May 2017 to prosecute those convicted of killing Fqaha’ constitutes a serious precedent in the history of the Palestinian justice system, denying the right of the accused persons to receive proper defense and violating the law. The Military Field Court was established and executed the sentences in violation of the law that allows its establishment. For example, those accused were not given the right to defense and the Palestinian President did not ratify the sentence before being executed as codified in the 1979 Revolutionary Procedural Law, under which the Field Court was established, and as codified in Article 109 of the Palestinian Basic Law.

In terms of numbers, the number of death sentences issued in 2017 amounted to 31 sentences; 12 of which upheld previous sentences while the 19 others were new sentences. The authorities in Gaza applied 6 death sentences, 3 of which were on 06 April 2017, on charges of murder while the 3 others were applied upon

a sentence issued by the “Field Military Court” against those convicted of murdering Mazen Foqaha’, one of Hamas leaders. The sentence was applied on 25 May 2017.

3. Illegal Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

Palestinian security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to arrest and summon civilians without following the legal procedures in violation of their rights, guaranteed under the PBL and relevant international standards. In most cases, the Palestinian Security Services arrest civilians without a legal arrest warrant and those arrested are subject to beating and inhuman and degrading treatment.

The prevalence of torture phenomenon in the oPt, and continuous practice of it widely by the security services in addition to lack of real evidence proving that the competent authorities investigate these crimes and bring perpetrators to justice confirm that this crime is systematically committed and not individual cases as claimed by the officials.

During the reporting period, 7 Palestinians died inside prisons and detention facilities of the Palestinian security services; 3 of them were in the West Bank and the 4 others in the Gaza Strip. Two died after their health condition deteriorated in 2

detention facilities in Bethlehem and Jerusalem Suburb Police Station while the third one died while transferring him from Jericho Prison in abnormal circumstances. Moreover, 4 detainees died in the Gaza Strip; one of them in Deir al-Balah police detention facility in abnormal circumstances as the police declared his death while he was under detention after finding rope traces around his neck. In September, 3 detainees died, including one in Gaza City declared dead due to a heart attack, while the 2 others committed suicide, including a 16-year-old child in Beit Lahia police Station according to the police while another jumped off the prosecution building in Gaza City according to the Public Prosecution.

4. Continued Disruption of PLC and Chaos of Legislation

In, 2017, the Disruption of the PLC continued and legislative division had become more rooted as the Palestinian President continued to issue legislations using his power according to Article (43) of the PBL. Moreover, the Change and Reform Bloc continued to issue legislations on behalf of the PLC and even created new powers not owned by the legislature itself. Furthermore, the Israeli forces continued its systematic and ongoing policy of arresting PLC members through which they aimed at obstructing any opportunity of establishing a democratic Palestinian State. In light of this, the Palestinian so-

ciety is still looking forward to fully applying the reconciliation agreement and reactivating the PLC to guarantee the stability and safety of the legal system as an important step forward along the road to establishing the democratic Palestinian State.

In the Gaza Strip, the Change and Reform Bloc continued to practice duties that fall under the genuine competence of the Palestinian President and executive authority and issued legislations on behalf of the PLC since the beginning of the Palestinian division in 2007. Moreover, 6 death sentences were applied in the Gaza Strip in 2017 after the Change and Reform Bloc ratified them; 3 of the sentences were ratified in 2016. This exceeds the authority of the Palestinian President and contradicts with the principle of separation of powers as stipulated in the 2003 PBL. Moreover, the Change and Reform Bloc continued to issue decisions on behalf of the PLC in Gaza. It issued 5 laws in 2017; 4 of them were amendments to previous laws and the fifth was a new one code-named Hamas Penal Code no. (1)/2017.

In the West Bank, The Palestinian President continued to issue legislations without complying with the principle of necessity codified in Article (43) of the PBL to issue decrees that have the power of law. The Palestinian President has issued dozens of legislations since the division;

in most of which he did not comply with the principle of necessity. It should be noted that the Palestinian President issued, in 2017, 24 decrees, so the total number reached 173. Through PCHR's follow-up of the number of decrees issued by the Palestinian President and its impact, we can find the Palestinian President exercises the power of legislation not as an exception in cases of necessity as provided in Article (43), but also as an absolute legislative power as if he is authorized to do so.

On the other hand, the Israeli forces continued to target PLC members during 2017. In addition to PLC members Marwan al-Barghuthi and Ahmed Sa'adat who both have spent years in the Israeli prison after sentences issued against them, 11 PLC members were arrested or their administrative detention was extended in 2017. Three PLC members were released before the end of this year while 9 PLC members are still under administrative detention. Two PLC members were detained in 2016 while the others were detained this year, but they underwent repeated administrative detention that is used as a policy by the Israeli authorities against Palestinian civilians. Moreover, more than 50 PLC members were repeatedly subjected to the administrative detention without any charge or trial in a flagrant violation of international human rights standards.

5. Deterioration of the Judicial Authority

The status of the judicial authority continued to deteriorate in 2017 which ended without ending the division in the judicial authority or even ending the executive authority's interference into the judicial authority though over 2 years have passed since the reconciliation agreement came into force. This interference is evident in various fields, such as continued disrespect for the PBL regarding the judiciary status in the Gaza Strip, and ignoring the implementation of judicial rulings relevant to releasing prisoners, financial dues or rulings relevant to abolishing or implementing administrative decisions.

During this year, the PA President appointed Chancellor Hisham Hatu as the Deputy Chief Justice upon the High Judicial Council's recommendation following the appointment of Chancellor 'Emad Sa'ed as the New Chief Justice on 15 December 2016 successor to Chancellor Sami Sarsour, who was taken down by forcing him to sign an undated letter of resignation before assuming the Chief Justice post. At the time, PCHR emphasized that was a scandal which revealed the executive authority's interference into the judicial authority and called for opening an investigation into the incident. However, no investigation has been so far opened though over a year passed.

PCHR monitored many complaints rel-

evant to not implementing judicial rulings as 38 complaints were documented, including delaying or not implementing judicial rulings relevant to releasing detainees held by the security services, particularly the Preventive Security Service, General Intelligence and Investigation Services in the West Bank and the military police and Internal Security in the Gaza Strip.

6. Obstruction of General and Local Elections

The reconciliation agreement signed in Cairo between Fatah and Hamas movements under the auspices of Egypt constituted a significant and serious step towards the end of internal division ongoing for 11 years. PCHR hopes that this new agreement would pave the way for creating a positive atmosphere to hold consistently the general and local elections in the new year, achieve the national unity, and rehabilitate the PA institutions.

2017 ended and the general (legislative and presidential) and local elections remained disrupted though they were scheduled to be held 7 years ago. Moreover, the local council elections have not been held in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since 2010, with the exception of holding them in the West Bank twice; the first was in 2012 and the second was this year. In addition, the PLC was entirely disrupted, and the municipalities in the

Gaza Strip were administrated by non-elected councils.

On 13 May, the elections were held in 145 local councils. In 181 local councils, a single list in each was nominated thus qualified the lists to win elections by acclamation while in 65 local councils, no lists were nominated. As a result, the Cabinet called for holding complementary elections on 29 July 2017 in 70 local councils; 65 of them with no lists for nomination. Moreover, there were 4 local councils where the elections were held on 13 May whose councils resigned later on. Moreover, in one local council, voters did not take part in the elections held on 13 May. By this, Local elections in the West Bank were completed; however, in 38 local councils, there were no lists nominated, and thus the formation of their local councils was left to the Cabinet.⁵

On the other hand, since the end of the 2004-2005 elections held in most of its municipalities, the local councils in the Gaza Strip continued to be administrated by those appointed as no elections have been held to renew the local councils' legitimacy during the years of division.

7. Violation of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

The first nine months of 2017 witnessed an escalation of violations of the freedom of opinion and expression in the West Bank and Gaza Strip due to the Gaza Strip escalating crises and resulting strikes, enactment of Cybercrimes Law in the West Bank, continuous political bickering between the two parties to the division until portents of the Palestinian reconciliation started to emerge and the violations decreased in the last quarter.

PCHR monitored several cases where journalists were subject to arbitrary arrests, maltreatment or arbitrary charges as those cases reflect a part of reality. In this context, PCHR also confirms that the documented cases reflect only part



Raji Souran Meets with Hani Areif in PCHR's Head Office on 24 September 2017

5. It should be noted that local elections did not include refugee camps due to an autonomous decision by the latter not to hold local elections for political reasons related to the right of return. Moreover, the local elections did not include Jerusalem but covered Palestinian villages and neighborhoods adjacent to Jerusalem.

of the reality as there are other parts, including journalists and activists' avoiding filing complaints; restricting and concealing the free access to information; and self-censorship that overpowers minds of journalists, editors, and website admins. These parts cannot be monitored through affidavits but through meetings and interviews organized by PCHR with journalists and social media activists and through PCHR's close follow-up of the reality of media.

The Cybercrimes Law that was issued by the PA as a presidential decree is considered a serious disaster against the freedom of expression and human rights in general. The Cybercrimes Law has several defaults starting from the law being enacted by the Palestinian President, who has exceeded his authority according to Article (43) of the PBL that allows the President to issue laws only in cases of extreme necessity that can't be postponed. Moreover, the Cybercrimes Law included broad terms and over criminalization, turning it from a law whose aim is to protect society from outlaws to a law that protects the authority from society. This is amply demonstrated when looking at the criminalization scope and the excessive penalties, which would make violations of freedom of expression a crime equivalent to willful killing as its punishment would sometimes reach to hard labor for life.

8. Violation of Right to Peaceful Assembly

Following the new reconciliation agreement signed by Palestinians under the auspices of Egypt on 12 October, the last quarter of 2017 witnessed a proportional decline in the number of violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the PA controlled areas. Thus, a positive atmosphere prevailed and significantly reflected on the state of the right to peaceful assembly as the PA controlled areas witnessed assemblies that were previously banned, including, a festival held on 13 November by Fatah movement to commemorate the death of late president Yasser Arafat and attended by large crowd, including representatives of Islamic and national factions.

Throughout the year, the violations of the right to peaceful assembly systematically continued in both the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including banning meetings and gatherings; dispersing them by force and beating the participants; shooting in the air; and chasing and arresting some of them in addition to interrogating them. During the reporting period, PCHR documented that the security services summoned dozens of those participating in or those calling for the peaceful assemblies either before or after being organized. Moreover, the security services investigated those, forced them to sign pledges that they will not participate in

peaceful demonstrations and gatherings otherwise they will be punished either by imprisonment or physical abuse. In addition, PCHR documented cases of persons arrested from the field or after being summoned due to participating in or calling for some peaceful assemblies in addition to being exposed to torture, including beating them with batons and sticks, either during the investigation or their detention.

9. Violation of Right to Form Associations

In 2017, the PA in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued its policy of tightening restrictions on civil society. The National Unity Government worked on applying the new restrictions, which were imposed last year, on the associations' funding. The legal restrictions and the de facto authority's restrictions imposed on the associations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the previous years continued aiming at hindering the associations' work and activities and putting civil society in a state where the latter cannot meet their community goals as expected by the society.

The absence of constitutional mechanisms, including a legislative council and unified and independent judicial authority, affects the associations' work and activities, as the means of lobbying, advocacy and prosecution for achieving

community change can only be effective in the presence of these associations. Moreover, closure and restrictions on the freedom of movement imposed by the Israeli authorities affect the associations' work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, especially activities that require movement between the West Bank's cities or those requiring traveling abroad, especially in the Gaza Strip, where tightened restrictions are imposed on the freedom of travel due to closure.

PCHR hopes that the implementation of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement would reflect on public freedoms, especially the right to form associations and the right to freedom of movement for persons, especially in the Gaza Strip, so that the associations can practice their control role that is complementary to the government's role. PCHR also considers the abolition of all decisions issued against the right to association in light of the Palestinian division, including regulations that allow the interference of the executive authority and decisions to close associations, as an urgent necessity that should be within the Unity Government's priorities. It should be noted that the reality of public freedoms, including the right to form associations, has not witnessed any positive development since the formation of the Palestinian Unity Government; on the contrary, the government issued many decisions to gain full control over the programs and funding of civil society orga-

nizations. However, PCHR hopes that the reconciliation efforts would mark a different beginning.

10. Impact of the Political Division on Economic and Social Rights in the Gaza Strip

For the 11th consecutive year, the Palestinian political division, which started when Hamas movement took over the Gaza Strip in June 2007, continued and the Gaza population's conditions, including economic and social situations, increasingly deteriorated. In 2017, accusations were exchanged between both parties to division through taking measures and precautions including continuing to enact laws, decisions, and policies such as Hamas Movement's deceleration to form the administrative committee in March in the Gaza Strip, inflicting bitter consequences on the Palestinian civilians' life in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Gaza population's conditions and their economic, social and cultural rights unprecedentedly deteriorated, and the deterioration was considered as the worst since the beginning of the Palestinian political division. The political conflict continued between both parties to the division as well as the conflict over powers to administrate the Gaza Strip through taking a serious of measures and decisions that hinder achieving the minimum limit of the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, which was a victim of an

Israeli widespread military operation in 2014 that killed and wounded thousands of civilians in addition to destroying on a large scale dozens of thousands of houses and civil property and objects. Despite the positive atmosphere that the Gaza Strip's residents were happy at in October 2017 regarding hopes revived to end the political division and return dialogue between both parties to the division under the auspices of Egypt, the economic and social conditions continued to severely deteriorate and prominently heightened after the PA took several decisions. The most significant decisions were putting public servants on early retirement, minimizing allocations for medical services, minimizing electricity supplies, higher prices, and imposing more fees and taxes on civilians and traders in the Gaza Strip.

The two parties to division failed to ease various crises in the Gaza Strip, particularly the electricity outage crisis, rendering the Gaza Strip residents in darkness and depriving them of electricity in light of the very hot weather in summer and cold weather in winter. 2017 ended and the Gaza Strip population only got a 4-hour on electricity versus an outage of 12 to 16 hours daily.

The financial crisis of the former Gaza government servants' salaries remained without any in any solution in 2017, despite pledges from a donor country to provide the funds needed to entirely settle and end this crisis. Meanwhile, Hamas

Movement kept paying monthly advance payments to its servants and allocated state lands for some of them in a framework codenamed “An adjustment for their financial dues” in compensation for their arrears, in a clear violation of the provisions the Palestinian law relevant to the allocation of state lands. This would also exacerbate the crisis of these servants with the accumulation of their financial dues periodically. Furthermore, civil and military servants in the Gaza Strip suffered from being deprived of their rights to allowances and promotions just like their counterparts in the West Bank. On the other hand, in April 2017, the National Unity Government took a decision to deduct the salaries of its civil and military servants, ranging between 30% and 50% of their total salaries.

The health conditions of the Gaza Strip in 2017 dangerously deteriorated, particularly patients, due to the considerable and ongoing reduction in medicine and medical supplies of the public health facilities in the Gaza Strip and due to referring thousands of health sector servants to retirement in addition to minimizing the treatment abroad services for the patients in Gaza. The crisis of medicine and medical supplies shortage aggravated as the Ministry warehouses in the Gaza Strip suffered a deficit in many types of medicine and medical disposables, increasing in the beginning of the year. As a result, catastrophic consequences affected the life of thousands of patients, particularly those suffering from serious diseases such as cancer, kidney failure and heart diseases.



PCHR Receives Consul General of Belgium



Recommendations

In light of the Israeli-American denial of Palestinians' right to self-determination through declaring Jerusalem as the capital of Israel that lead to legitimizing Israeli settlement activity and giving Israel the green light to escalate violations of human rights and settlement activity in the oPt; the ongoing Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the 11th year consecutively; Israel's persistence to grant impunity for the Israeli war criminals; denial of Palestinians' right to remedy; faltering Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism and the resulting suffering of those displaced following the offensive; in light of awaiting ICC's decision to open an investigation into Israeli crimes and Starting to implement the Palestinian national reconciliation that inspired hope among Palestinian civilians that their life conditions will improve in the Gaza Strip and sanctions imposed by the PA on the Gaza Strip will be lift as Hamas will hand over the real authority in Gaza, PCHR presents the following recommendations to the international community and Palestinian decision-makers:

Recommendations to the International Community

PCHR warns of the consequences of the U. S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the U. S. embassy to it which may threaten the lives of innocent civilians. PCHR emphasized that the escalating construction of settlements in the West Bank, attempts to legitimize settlement outposts established on Palestinian lands in the West Bank, continued summary executions of Palestinian civilians under the pretext of pose security threat, and the repercussions of this on civilians life in the oPt , all constitute war crimes amounting to a policy of crimes against humanity. PCHR reminds the international community that thousands of Palestinian civilians are so far

displaced and live in caravans under tragic circumstances due to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip that has been under a tight closure for almost 11 years consecutively. PCHR welcomes the UN Security Council's Resolution No. 2334, which states that settlements are a blatant violation of the Geneva Conventions and calls upon Israel to stop them and not to recognize any demographic change in the oPt since 1967. PCHR emphasizes that there is an international resolution of the legal status of occupied territory in 1967, and the Geneva Conventions should be applied in the occupied territories, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, in addition to human rights conventions interchangeably and other times in parallel, in a way that achieves the best protection for civilians and remedy for the victims. Thus, PCHR calls upon:

1. The international community, especially the European Union (EU), to condemn the U. S. President's decision relevant to recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.
2. UN to discharge its responsibility to enable the Palestinians to enjoy their right to self-determination as the UN is mainly responsible for the Palestinian cause since the adoption by the General Assembly of the Partition Resolution 181 and its recognition of the State of Israel.
3. The international community to condemn and boycott the Israeli settlements established on the Palestinian

territory occupied in 1967 and respect the Security Council's Resolutions, particularly Resolution 2334 relevant to condemning the settlements and ensure respond to ensure that Israel respects it.

4. ICC in 2018 to open an investigation into Israeli crimes committed in the oPt, particularly the settlement crimes and the 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip, and take into account the U.S President's declaration and his complicity in the crime of settlement.
5. The international community to support the efforts exerted for the Palestinian reconciliation to achieve the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state and non-recurrence of the division.
6. The international community to take all necessary measures to stop Israeli policies aimed at creating a Jewish demographic majority in Jerusalem and at voiding Palestine from its original inhabitants through deportations and house demolitions as a collective punishment, which violates international humanitarian law, amounting to a crime against humanity.
7. The international community to condemn summary executions carried out by Israeli forces against Palestinians and to pressurize Israel to stop them.
8. The State Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC to work hard to hold Israeli war criminals accountable.
9. The High Contracting Parties to the

Geneva Conventions to fulfill their obligations under article (1) of the Convention to ensure respect for the Conventions under all circumstances, and under articles (146) and (147) to search for and prosecute those responsible for committing grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions to ensure justice and remedy for Palestinian victims, especially in light of the almost complete denial of justice for them before the Israeli judiciary.

10. The international community to speed up the reconstruction process necessary because of the destruction inflicted by the Israeli offensive on Gaza.
11. Calls for a prompt intervention to compel the Israeli authorities to lift the closure that obstructs the freedom of movement of goods and 1.9 million civilians that experience unprecedented economic, social, political and cultural hardships due to collective punishment policies and retaliatory action against civilians.
12. The EU to apply human rights standards embedded in the EU-Israel Association Agreement and to respect its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights when dealing with Israel.
13. The international community, especially states that import Israeli weap-

ons and military services, to meet their moral and legal responsibility not to allow Israel to use the offensive in Gaza to test new weapons and not accept training services based on the field experience in Gaza in order to avoid turning Palestinian civilians in Gaza into testing objects for Israeli weapons and military tactics.

14. The Parties to international human rights instruments, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), to pressurize Israel to comply with its provisions in the oPt and to compel it to incorporate the human rights situation in the oPt in its reports submitted to the relevant committees.
15. The EU and international human rights bodies to pressurize the Israeli forces to stop their attacks against Palestinian fishermen and farmers, mainly in the border area.
16. The international community, especially Arab countries, to work for putting an end to the closure of Rafah International Crossing Point in a way that guarantees the free movement of Palestinian civilians and take into accounts the actual requirements of the Egyptian security in Sinai.

Recommendations to the Palestinian Decision-Makers

The efforts to end the Palestinian division and treat the repercussions raise the ambitions of the Palestinian people, especially in the Gaza Strip, to solve the problems of the Gaza Strip, lift sanctions, end the Israeli closure, and work hard to unleash the freedoms and revive constitutional institutions. 2017 ended and the Palestinian internal situation standing still, especially in the Gaza Strip. The year of 2017 also witnessed imposing sanctions by the PA on the Gaza Strip to force Hamas to hand over the authority of the Gaza Strip, aggravating the suffering of the Gaza Strip people.

In view of the executive authority's interference into the legislative and judicial authorities, the absence of the PLC's role, the division of the judiciary, the continuing security chaos incidents, and the shortage of basic needs in the Gaza Strip, PCHR calls upon:

1. The Palestinian factions to work to overcome the obstacles in order to achieve the Palestinian reconciliation on the basis of overcoming the division consequences and establishing a transition stage to end corruption and ensure the protection and respect for human rights.
2. The Palestinian President to end all the punitive measures imposed on the Gaza Strip, especially deducting salaries, minimizing electricity and other services such as health services and medical referrals abroad.
3. The two parties to reconciliation and the Palestinian President to hold the legislative and presidential elections during 2018 maximum and non-deferral.
4. The Prime Minister, who is also the Interior Minister, to stop the series of procedures aiming at fully controlling associations through regulating its funding sources and restricting their activities, in addition to cancelling all decisions related to associations and issued in light of the division between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. All these decisions violate the international standards binding the PA, which acceded to the ICCPR and ICESCR.
5. The High Judicial Council to reunite the judiciary as a first step towards ending the division in order to have a neutral authority that can resolve in any dispute that may arise during the process of re-unification.
6. The Palestinian President to comply with the conditions prescribed under Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law for Palestinian President to issue decrees that have the power of law, including the condition of necessity that cannot be delayed.
7. The Change and Reform Parliamentary Bloc to stop holding any sessions on behalf of the PLC and abstain from enacting any laws without the PLC's convening and quorum.

8. The Palestinian government and security services to stop all violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to peaceful assembly and to hold the perpetrators of such violations accountable through appropriate legal means.
9. The Public Prosecution to stop summoning people through security services without warrants and confirm that the Public Prosecution is the only body warranted to summon people.
10. The administration of prisons and detention facilities to release all persons who are illegally detained, as PCHR confirms that directors of prisons and detention facilities have the full power and even the legal duty to release such persons; otherwise, they will be legally liable and judicially prosecuted.
11. the executive and judicial authorities to immediately stop torture in prisons and detention facilities and the Attorney General should hold those suspecting of committing torture accountable. PCHR emphasizes that such crimes are not time - barred according to the Palestinian Basic Law.
12. The executive authorities to maintain public property, mainly state lands which can only be alienable according to the law, and take into consideration the interests of future generations. PCHR stresses its rejection of the allocation of lands as an alternative to dues.
13. Calls for jointly working on putting an end to the electricity and cooking gas crisis and exerting efforts to re-open border crossings for the movement of persons and goods, especially Rafah International Crossing Point.
14. The judicial and legislative authorities to stop applying the death penalty and abstain from implementing death sentences that have been issued until the death penalty is abolished from the Palestinian laws.
15. The three authorities to activate the principle of transparency in the PA's institutions and facilitate access to information and unprecedentedly provide all information relevant to the public affairs, especially through the official websites.
16. The government to work on respecting the rights of persons with disabilities and activate the Palestinian Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, especially providing adequate facilities to disabled persons and ensuring their right to work.
17. The executive authority to respect the right to freedom of movement. In this context, PCHR emphasizes that restricting this right is possible only upon a judicial order, according to the Palestinian Basic Law.

FIRST

Israeli Violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law



Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security

In 2017, Israeli forces and settlers killed 55⁶ Palestinians, including 42 civilians; 10 children and a woman. Among the total civilian casualties, PCHR documented the killing of 28 persons⁷, including 8 children and a woman, in the West Bank, and 14 persons in the Gaza Strip, including 2 children. Moreover, 1399 Palestinians, most of them are civilians, including 764 in the West Bank and 635 in the Gaza Strip.

The crimes of “Summary Executions” of Palestinians, including children and women, under the pretext or on suspicion of carrying out stabbing, run-over and shooting attacks against Israeli security officers in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, were the most prominent Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians in 2017. PCHR documented the killing of 18 persons⁸, including 3 children and a woman, claiming they attempted to carry out attacks against Israeli soldiers. PCHR also documented the killing of 15 civilians, including 7 children, during demonstrations organized by Palestinians in protest against Israeli forces’ practices during the year. Nine of them, including 5 children, were killed in the West Bank and 6 civilians, including 2 children, were in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, PCHR documented the killing of 6 Palestinians, including 3 children, in cold blood near the settlements or military checkpoints. Five Palestinians were killed in cold blood by Israeli settlers while the 4 others were killed through extra-judicial execution operations “assassinations”. Furthermore, 2 civilians were killed in Israeli airstrikes targeting Palestinian military sites in the Gaza Strip, while a fisherman was killed after Israeli navy forces opened fire at him off the Gaza sea shore. A child, who is a shepherd, also was killed due to the explosion of a suspicious object of the Israeli military remnants in the West Bank⁹.

6. On 14 July 2017, 3 Palestinians, from Um al-Fahem in Israel, were killed after carrying out an armed attack at al-Aqsa Mosque yard; in which 2 Israeli security officers were killed.

7. On 10 February 2017, Mohammed Jallad succumbed to wounds he sustained on 06 December 2016; and child Mohammed Abu Hadaf, from al-Qararah, succumbed to wounds he sustained in an Israeli airstrike that targeted his house in the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

8. On 14 July 2017, a Jordanian civilian was killed by the Israeli forces in occupied Jerusalem claiming that he attempted to carry out a stab attack against an Israeli soldier.

9. On 22 July 2017, ‘Odai ‘Aziz Nawaj’ah (17), from Yatta, south of Hebron, was killed due to the explosion of a suspicious object from the Israeli forces’ remnants while he was grazing sheep in Bzaiq area, northeast of Tubas. Nawaj’ah lived with his family in tents in those remote areas that are used by the Israeli forces for military trainings.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces escalated the use of excessive force when confronting protests that were organized in the eastern border areas between the Gaza Strip and Israel. During the reporting period, 5 Palestinians, including 2 children, and a disabled person, were killed in clashes with the Israeli forces when the protestors threw stones at fortified military sites along the border fence. Moreover, a Palestinian child was killed when he and 2 others attempted to sneak through the eastern borders in Rafah. Two civilians were also killed during Israeli airstrikes targeting military training sites belonging to Palestinian armed groups that are adjacent to civilian houses. Twelve armed persons were killed in Israeli airstrikes of sites belonging to Palestinian armed groups and tunnels in the Gaza Strip.

First: Summary Executions

In crimes of summary execution¹⁰, 18 Palestinians, including 3 children and a woman, were killed by the Israeli forces and security officers in the West bank, and the occupied Jerusalem under the pretext or on suspicion of carrying out stabbing or run-over attacks against Israeli soldiers and security officers in the oPt and Israel. The Following are most prominent examples for such crimes:

- » On 15 December 2017, Israeli soldiers stationed at DCO checkpoint in al-Birah, directly opened fire from short range at **Amir 'Aqel al-'Adam (19)**, from Beit Awla village, west of Hebron. Cameras of Journalists who were covering the incidents between the protestors and the Israeli soldiers at the checkpoint showed that the Israeli soldiers opened fire at a young man, holding a knife approached the soldiers. The soldiers shot him, so he fell on the ground. The soldiers then continued shooting Adam as he was bleeding. Palestinian paramedics approached duo rescue Adam. However, the Israeli soldiers prevented the crew and confiscated the ambulance keys. Therefore, the PRCS crew with the help of Palestinian young men pulled Adam and ran away a dis-

10. Investigation conducted by PCHR, human rights organizations and Israeli human rights organizations confirmed that the Israeli forces could have used less force to avoid lots of killings that took place, particularly that many cases, where the Israeli forces claimed they were attempts to carry out stabbing or run-over attacks, didn't pose any threat to the lives of the Israeli security officers. The investigations also showed that the Israeli forces used excessive force with disregard for the principle of proportionality in all cases such as leaving several victims bleeding to death on the ground without offering them the needed medical treatment or allowing ambulance crews to offer them first aid. Moreover, the investigations proved the fake Israeli allegations in a number of cases that their security officers were subjected to stabbing or run-over attacks in addition to fabrication of facts in an attempt to justify their crimes against civilians. Meanwhile, what really happened was direct killing of unarmed civilians in cold blood on mere suspicion or because the Israeli soldiers panicked at the military checkpoints established throughout the West Bank or in the vicinity of the settlements.

tance of around 50 meters before putting him in a private car and heading to a hospital in Ramallah. In the afternoon, his death was declared after undergoing many urgent surgeries.

- » On 28 July 2017, Israeli forces killed Abdullah Taqatqa (24), from Marah Ma'ala, south of Bethlehem. The aforementioned person was killed when Israeli forces opened fire at him while he was walking on the road connecting between Beit Fajjar village and Bethlehem and leading to "Gosh Etzion" settlement, south of the city. They claimed he attempted to stab Israeli soldiers.
- » On 20 July 2017, Israeli forces killed Mohammed Hussein al-Teneh (24) from Taqou'a village, east of Bethlehem, after he was shot near the northern entrance to the village. The Israeli forces claimed that al-Teneh attempted to carry out a stab attack, but eyewitnesses in the scene emphasized they did not see any sharp tool beside his body lying on the ground.
- » On 10 July 2017, Israeli forces opened fire at Mohammed Ibrahim Jabrin (23) from Taqou'a village, east of Bethlehem. They claimed that Mohammed attempted to carry out stab and run-over attack against Israeli soldiers, who were present in Street (60) near "Taqou'a" settlement, south of the city. As a result, Mohammed sus-

tained several live bullet wounds and died immediately. Following that, the spokesperson of the Israeli forces said in a statement: "A run-over attack happened near Taqou'a village, causing the injury of an Israeli soldier with minor wounds. The attacker stepped out of the car and attempted to stab soldiers, so he was shot dead." Jabrin's family refused the Israeli claims regarding their son's attempt to carry out a stab attack. They instead considered what happened as a car accident. They added that the Israeli soldiers immediately opened fire at Mohammed.

- » On 01 June 2017, Israeli forces opened fire at Nouf 'Eqab Enfe'at (16) causing her serious wounds near "Mevo Dotan" settlement near Ya'bud village, Jenin. The Israeli forces claimed that Nouf was wounded when she attempted to carry out a stab attack against the soldiers, who guard the entrance to the abovementioned settlement. The child was transferred to Hillel Yaffe Medical Center in Java. On the next day morning, medical sources announced the death of the child.
- » On 13 May 2017, Israeli forces killed a Jordanian civilian, Mohamed al-Kasaji (57), claiming that he carried out a stab attack against an Israeli officer near al-Silsilah Gate in occupied East Jerusalem's Old City. According to PCHR's investigations, the Israeli forces could

have arrested the abovementioned civilian; especially that he was wounded and could not move. However, one of the settlers' guards fired another bullet at him and finished him off.

» On 07 May 2017, Fatmah 'Afif 'Abdel Rahman Hjeiji (16), from Qarawet Bani Zaid village, northwest of Ramallah, was walking 10 meters away from a police checkpoint, which is permanently established at the southern entrance to the Damascus Gate. One of the soldiers suddenly screamed out, "knife". Immediately, the Israeli soldiers stationed there opened fire at the girl. As a result, 30 live bullets hit her body; some of them penetrated her chest and waist from the right side. Therefore, Fatmah was killed on the spot. Eyewitnesses emphasized that after the girl fell on the ground, the Israeli soldiers continued shooting at her and not only attempting to wound or arrest her.

» On 19 April 2017, in employment of deadly force, Israeli forces killed Sohaib Mashahra (21), from al-Shaikh Sa'd village, southeast of occupied Jerusalem. The aforementioned person was killed when Israeli forces stationed at "Kufor Etzion" settlement, south of Bethlehem, opened fire at a car he was driving after the car hit an Israeli bus. The Israeli forces claimed it was a deliberate attack targeting settlers, but pho-

tos of the scene shows it was likely a normal car accident.

» On 29 March 2017, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian civilian identified as Siham Rateb Nemer (49) after opening fire at her when she was entering the Damascus Gate (Bab al-'Amoud) in occupied Jerusalem. Israeli forces claimed as usual that the abovementioned woman attempted to stab an Israeli soldier. However, PCHR's investigations refuted those claims. It should be mentioned that Siham is the mother of Mustafa Nemer, who was shot dead by Israeli soldiers on 05 September 2016 when he was driving a car along with his relative on 'Anata Street in Sho'afat refugee camp, northeast of occupied Jerusalem. As a result, he was killed and his relative was wounded.

Second: Killings during Protests and Demonstrations

Killing civilian during clashes between the Israeli forces and Palestinian civilians escalated during the last 2 months in 2017. The oPt witnessed a wave of demonstrations against the Israeli forces in protest against the U.S President Donald Trump's decision on 06 December 2017, to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the U. S. Embassy to it.

In 2017, 9 Palestinians were killed during weekly protests and demonstrations organized by the Palestinians in protest against the Israeli suppressive measures

and policies in the oPt, including settlement activities and confiscation of lands. Moreover, more Palestinians were killed in protests and demonstrations that erupted when the Israeli forces moved into Palestinian cities, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank.

Six Palestinians were killed during protests and demonstrations organized by Palestinians near the Gaza Strip eastern borders along the border fence with Israel.

In total, 15 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Nine of them, including 5 children, were killed in the West Bank and 6 civilians, including 2 children, were in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, 1289 civilians, including 275 were wounded in the West Bank and 614 in the Gaza Strip.

» On 23 December 2017, medical sources at the Indonesian Hospital in Jabalia, north of the Gaza Strip, announced the death of Sharif al-'Abed Mohammed Shalash (28) from Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip. Sharif was staying in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) after being hit with a live bullet to the abdomen on Sunday, 17 December 2017, while he was participating in a protest organized in the east of the al-Shuhada'a Islamic Cemetery, east of Jabalia.

» On 22 December 2017, Mohamed Nabil

Mohamed Muhasin (30), from al-Shuja'iyah neighborhood, was killed after Israeli forces opened fire at him near former Nahal Oz Crossing, east of Gaza City near the border fence. dozens of young men and youngsters gathered few meters away from the border fence with Israel. They set fire to tires and threw stones at the Israeli forces stationed along the border fence in protest against the U.S. President's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel.

» In similar circumstances on the same day, Israeli forces fired live bullets and tear gas canisters at the protestors, who gathered few meters away from the border fence with Israel near Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing in the northern Gaza Strip. As a result, Zakaria Adham Hussein al-Kafarna (20), from al-Amal neighborhood in Beit Hanoun, was killed after being hit with a live bullet to the chest while he was near the crossing vehicles' gate on the asphalt road of the crossing.

» On 15 December 2017, Ibrahim Abu Thurayah (29), a disabled person with lower-limb amputee, was killed after being hit a live bullet to the forehead when he was 30 meters away from the border fence, east of Gaza city, and shot him dead. Moreover, Yasser Naji Sukar (23) was hit with a live bullet to the head. Both civilians were among a

- group of protestors, who threw stones at the Israeli soldiers stationed behind the border fence in military towers, and raised Palestinian flags.
- » On 08 December 2017, Mahmoud al-Masri (29) from Khan Yunis was killed after the Israeli forces opened fire at him. Al-Masri was among dozens of civilians, who protested few meter away from the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of Khan Yunis, and threw stones at the Israeli soldiers.
 - » On 28 July 2017, Abdul Rahman Abu Hamisah (16) was killed after the Israeli forces opened fire at dozens of Palestinian youngsters, who protested near the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel, east of al-Burajj in the central Gaza Strip, protesting against the Israeli violations in al-Aqsa Mosque.
 - » On 27 July 2017, medical sources at Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah pronounced Mohammed Kan'an (26), from Hezma village, northeast of occupied Jerusalem, dead succumbing to wounds he sustained during clashes with Israeli forces. According to PCHR's investigations, the aforementioned person was wounded on 24 July 2017, when Israeli forces moved into Hezma village and opened fire at dozens of Palestinians, who protested against them.
 - » On 21 July 2017, most of occupied East Jerusalem's neighborhoods and villages witnessed violent clashes between the worshippers and Israeli soldiers. Those clashes continued until the afternoon, resulting in the killing of 3 Palestinian civilians, including 2 children; one of whom was shot dead by an Israeli settler, and 84 civilians were wounded. In Ras al-'Amoud neighborhood, east of the City, Mohammed Sharaf (17) was shot dead when a settler opened fire at him. Sharaf was hit with 2 bullets to his neck. In al-Tur neighborhood, east of the City as well, Mohammed Abu Ghannam (20) was shot dead when Israeli soldiers opened fire at him from a close distance, wounding him to the chest and heart. In Abu Dis, east of the City, Mohammed Lafi (17) was hit with bullets to his chest, one of which directly hit his heart.
 - » On 09 June 2017, dozens of youngsters gathered near the border fence, east of the cemetery, east of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip. Some of them set fire to tires and threw stones at Israeli soldiers stationed behind the border fence. The Israeli soldiers sporadically fired tear gas canisters and live bullets at the protestors for 5 hours. The confrontations peaked at 18:00. As a result, 'Ayed Khamis Mahmoud Jom'ah (19) from Jabalia died after he sustained a live bullet wound to the head. In addition, 18 civilians, including 2 children,

were wounded, while they were at a distance ranging between 50 and 150 meters away from the border fence.

- » On 06 June 2017, Israeli forces stationed behind the border fence, east of Khan Yunis, opened fire at Palestinian protestors, who set fire to tires and threw stones at the Israeli forces. As a result, Fadi Ibrahim al-Najjar (32), from Bani Suhaila village, was killed and 2 other civilians were wounded.



Photo (1) Wounded Child Ahmed Barbakh who was Shot by Israeli Forces

Third: Killing Civilians during Israeli Airstrikes against Military Training Sites in Gaza¹¹

Two Palestinian civilians¹² were killed during Israeli airstrikes that targeted Palestinian military sites near the residential areas throughout the Gaza Strip. Moreover, 6 civilians, including one child, were wounded.

- » On 08 December 2017, Maher 'Atallah (54) was killed after Israeli warplanes launched 5 missiles at a training site belonging to al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas Movement, southeast of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip. 'Atallah (54) was killed after sustaining bruises throughout his body and due to sharp drop in heart rate

11. The Ministry of Health in Gaza declared that bodies of 2 armed group members were recovered from Abu Jarad Site, south of Gaza City, as the site was targeted by an Israeli airstrike at approximately 04:10 on 09 December. The 2 killed members were identified as Mahmoud Mohammed 'Abdel Qader al-'Otol (26) and Mohammed Mohammed Jaber al-Safadi (25).

12. On 06 December 2017, medical sources in the Gaza European Hospital in Khan Yunis announced the death of Mohammed Abu Haddaf (9) from al-Qararah, northeast of the city. Mohammed's Family said to PCHR's fieldworker that on 08 August 2014, Mohammed sustained severe wounds after an Israeli warplane fired a missile at a gathering of civilians in Abu Haddaf neighborhood in the village. As a result, 9 civilians, most of them were children, were killed and wounded. Mohammed was hit with shrapnel throughout his body and in his bone marrow, causing penalization to Mohammed. His medical health condition was very bad from 2014, when he was wounded, until he died.

as he is a heart patient. ‘Atallah was in front of his house around 100 meters away from the targeted site from the north-eastern side. Moreover, 21 Palestinians, including 7 children, 4 women were wounded.

Fourth: Killings at Checkpoints and Near Settlements

In 2017, Israeli forces killed 6 Palestinians, including 3 children, at the checkpoints erected all over the West Bank and in vicinity of settlements in the West bank. In most cases, Israeli forces claimed that those killed attempted or were suspected of carrying out attacks against Israeli soldiers at checkpoints. In all cases, Palestinians were killed in cold blood and in circumstances where Israeli forces could subdue them and cause less harm such as arresting them.

» On 09 November 2017, Israeli forces stationed at Za’tarah checkpoint, south of Nablus, killed Quteibah Yusuf Zahran (17) from ‘Alar village, north of Tulkarm. Eyewitnesses said to PCHR’s fieldworker that Zahran was walking near a bus station around 200 meters away from the southern side of the abovementioned checkpoint. A soldier shouted at him to stop, but another soldier stationed in the military watchtower directly shot him. An hour later, the child succumbed to serious wounds he sustained. Israeli forces claimed that Zahran attempted to carry out a stab

attack against Members of the Border Guard Forces, who were at Za’tarah checkpoint, so he was naturalized.

» On 12 July 2017, Israeli soldiers moved into Jenin refugee camp. They opened fire at a motorbike traveled by Sa’ed Naser Hassan ‘Abdel Fattah Salah (20) from the eastern neighborhood in Jenin, and Aws Mohammed Youssef Salamah (17), from Jenin refugee camp. The Israeli soldiers opened fire at them from a distance of 4 meters. As a result, Sa’ed was wounded and fell on the ground and Aws was also wounded and walked for 50 meters away from the motorbike before he fell on the ground. The wounded civilians were transferred to Dr. Khalil Soliman Governmental Hospital in Jenin. Medical sources later announced their death.

» On 22 May 2017, Israeli forces stationed at the Container checkpoint, at Wad al-Nar road, northeast of Bethlehem, killed Ra’ed Ahmed ‘Essa Jararhah (Radaiah) (15), from al-‘Obeidiyah village, north of Bethlehem, claiming he attempted to carry out a stab attack at the Container checkpoint. As a result, Ra’ed sustained several live bullet wounds and died immediately.

» On 23 March 2017, the Israeli soldiers stationed in the military watchtowers established at the western outskirts of “Beit Eil” settlement, north of Ramal-

lah, adjacent to al-Jalazoun refugee camp from the eastern side, opened fire at a civilian car traveled by 5 civilians, including 3 children from the abovementioned camp. As a result, Mohammed Mahmoud Ibrahim Hattab (17) was hit with 2 live bullets to the chest and shoulder and died after short time. Four other civilians, including 2 children, were wounded. One of the wounded children namely Jasem Nakhlah succumbed to wounds he sustained on 10 April 2017.

Fifth: Assassinations of Palestinian Activists

In the West Bank, Israeli forces committed an assassination crime in 2017. As a result, (3) Palestinians were killed.

- » On 16 July 2017, Israeli forces killed 'Ammar Ahmed al-Terawi (34) who is wanted to the Israeli forces, when they moved into Kufor Ein village, north-west of Ramallah. They surrounded poultry farms on the eastern outskirts of the village. Gunfire was heard from a poultry farm in the eastern side of the village, after which the Israeli forces withdrew. The village residents hurried to the said area and saw blood in a greenhouse and in the main street, but found no corpse. Moreover, the Israeli forces arrested the victim's cousin and kept the corpse in custody.
- » On 10 January 2017, Israeli forces killed Mohammed Subhi al-Salhi (33) from

al-Far'ah refugee camp, south of Tubas, when they attempt to arrest him. According to the testimony of Mohammed's mother, the Israeli forces surrounded the family house and raided it in order to arrest Mohammed. Mohammed and his mother then heard noise in the corridor and went out of their bedroom. When his mother saw the soldiers, she stood between them and her son. An Israeli soldier then ordered her to sit on a plastic chair there, but when she refused, the soldier forcefully seated her. She then twice stood between the soldiers and her son. However in the third time she stood, the soldier forcefully pushed her and seated her on the chair. The soldier then pulled out a gun with a silencer and directly fired 5 bullets at Mohammed at point-blank range. As a result, the bullets penetrated his neck, chest, hand, armpit, pelvis and thigh from the left side of his body and killed him in front of his elderly mother.

- » On 09 August, Israeli forces assassinated Ra'ed Sa'ed al-Salhi (22) from his house in al-Dheishah refugee camp, south of Bethlehem, wounding him seriously. He was then arrested and later succumbed to his wounds.

Sixth: Killings by Israeli Settlers

In 2017, Israeli settlers in the West Bank killed 5 Palestinian, including a child, were killed in cold blood. These crimes were as

follows:

- » On 30 November 2017, a group of armed Israeli settlers moved into Ras al-Nakhil area, east of Qasrah village, southeast of Nablus. A settler opened fire at Mahmoud Ahmed Za'al 'Oudah (48), who was working in his land. As a result, Mohammed sustained a live bullet wound to the chest. The bullet penetrated his heart and exited the left armpit. A number of the village residents rushed to the crime scene and attempted to save Mohammed's life, but he died. Following that, clashes erupted between the settlers and the outraged residents. Thus, an Israeli force moved into the area to protect the settlers and opened fire at the residents. As a result, Fayez Fathi Darwish (47) was hit with shrapnel to the right knee. He was taken to Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus to receive medical treatment.
- » On 31 October 2017, Mohamed Abdullah Ali Mousa (26), from Deir Balout village, west of Salfit, was killed and his sister Latifa (33) was wounded after an Israeli settler opened fire at them. Mohammed was driving his car with an Israeli registration plate at "Halmish" settlement entrance established on lands of al-Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah. According to eyewitnesses, the brother arrived at the iron gate established at the entrance to al-Nabi Saleh village. The Israeli forces stationed there ordered Mohamed to stop as it seems they suspected the car. Mohamed sped up towards the intersection of "Halmish" settlement entrance, which is 200 meters away from the entrance. When Mohamed drove the car away from the intersection, an Israeli settler fired live bullets, which penetrated the car's windshield.
- » On 21 July 2017, an Israeli settler chased Palestinian young men, who threw stones at Israeli forces near the entrance to "Ma'aleh Zeitim" settlement, in the center of Ras al-'Amoud neighborhood, east of occupied Jerusalem. The Israeli settler topped one of the settlement walls and then opened fire at Mohamed Mahmoud Dawoud Sharaf (17). Mohamed was hit with 2 bullets to the neck. Palestinian young men attempted to help Mohamed, but he succumbed to his wounds before arriving at the medical center.
- » On 18 May 2017, Mo'ataz Hussein Helal Bani Shamsah (22), from Bita village, south of Nablus was killed after an Israeli settler opened fire at him in the center of Nablus. Palestinian buses stopped in front of the Education Directorate building, south of Nablus, on the main Ramallah-Nablus Street. After civilians stepped out of the buses, some of them started closing the street from both sides in light of steps in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners' legitimate demands in the Israeli jails. At approxi-

mately 12:10, a white car with an Israeli registration plate and travelled by a settler wearing a Kibbah on his head was heading from Za'atarah Intersection towards Nablus. After passing the cars with high speed, the driver attempted to run over a number of protesters. When a Palestinian ambulance driver saw the settler, he stopped the settlers' car. The settler then took his gun out and opened fire at the protestors. As a result, Bani Shamsah was hit with a live bullet to the head and immediately died. Moreover, Majdi Mohammed Soliman Ishtayah (35), a photojournalist at Associated Press Agency, was hit with a bullet to the right hand.

- » On 01 March 2017, Sa'di Mahmoud Ali Qaisyah (25) from al-Deir neighborhood in the center of al-Thaheriyah village, south of Hebron, was killed after an Israeli settler from "Havat Moore" settlement outpost near "Tina" settlement; both established on Palestinian confiscated lands, west of the abovementioned village, opened fire at him. The Israeli media claimed that Sa'di attempted to stab a settler. There were no local eyewitnesses to confirm or deny the Israeli claim because the crime happened in the abovementioned settlement outpost. Moreover, the Israeli forces took Sa'di's corpse to an unknown destination.

Seventh: Killing and wounding Fishermen

PCHR documented the killing of a Palestinian fisherman in Gaza City while he was fishing in the Gaza Sea after Israeli naval forces opened fire from a distance of 3 meters at the boat manned by him. Moreover, 11 fishermen, including a child, were wounded during the reporting period while they were fishing in the allowed fishing areas.

- » On 16 May 2017, Palestinian fisherman Mohammed Majed Fadel Baker (25) succumbed to his wounds after the Israeli naval soldiers opened fire from a distance of 3 meters at the boat manned by him, his brothers and cousin in the northern Gaza Sea. The Israeli gunboat surrounded a fishing boat sailing within 3 nautical miles off al-Wahah shore, northwest of Gaza City. The boat was manned by 4 fishermen namely 'Omran Majed Baker (33), his two brothers; Fadi (32) and Mohammed (25), and their cousin Mohammed Zeyad Hasan Baker (32), all of them are from Gaza. The fishermen fled by their boat to the south, but the Israeli gunboat manned by 8 soldiers armed with automatic rifles. They then chased the boat and were able to target directly its engine. As a result, the boat stopped off shore in front of the Intelligence Service office, west of Gaza, and 'Omran was hit with 2 rubber bullets to the leg and abdomen. After that, a soldier

opened fire from a 3-meter distance at the fishermen, wounding Mohammed Baker with a live bullet to the upper side of abdomen. Mohammed then fell down as part of his bowels got out. However, the soldiers forced the fishermen to move Mohammed to their boat and then sailed towards Ashqelon. At approximately 16:30 on the same day, Mohammed was announced dead succumbing to his wounds in Barzilai Hospital. His body was then transferred to al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza.

Eighth: Killings among Children

In 2017, Israeli forces killed 10 Palestinian children in different contexts. Seven children were killed during protests and confrontations with the Israeli forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip while 3 children, most of them under the age of 14, were killed in cases where Israeli forces claimed they attempted to stab Israeli soldiers or settlers. Moreover, a child was killed by Israeli settlers. The death circumstances of the children were mentioned above.

Ongoing Policy of Total Closure and Violation of the Right to Freedom of Movement in the oPt

In 2017, Israeli forces continued to impose restrictions on the freedom of movement in the oPt. In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli-imposed closure has been ongoing for the 11th consecutive year, and restrictions have been imposed on the movement of persons and commodities via border crossings. The ongoing closure has resulted in deterioration of social and economic conditions and high rates of poverty and unemployment. The Gaza Strip population has been denied the right to freedom of movement in and out of the Gaza Strip. As a consequence, the humanitarian conditions unprecedentedly deteriorated.

In the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, Israeli forces continued to restrict arbitrarily the movement of civilians in the West Bank during 2017. Following the increasing number of demonstrations in the oPt in protest against the Israeli arbitrary measures in al-Aqsa Mosque in July and against the U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the American embassy to it in December, the Israeli forces imposed further restrictions on the movement of persons and goods between the cities of the West Bank.

First: Israeli-imposed Closure on the Gaza Strip On-going for the Eleventh Consecutive Year

In 2017, Israeli forces continued to impose closure and strict restrictions on the movement of persons and goods at border crossings for the eleventh consecutive year.

Regarding the movement of persons, this year witnessed an increase in the rejected permits according to which the Israeli authorities allow limited categories to travel via Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing. As a result, there was a decline in the number of patients allowed to travel via the cross-

ing; their companions; businesspeople; families of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails; workers of international humanitarian organizations; persons travelling via al-Karama crossing; persons with special needs; elderly persons to perform prayers in al-Aqsa mosque; and Christians to attend the Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem in the West Bank.

In the same context, Israeli forces continued to use Erez crossing as an ambush for the Gaza Strip population to blackmail or arrest them, including arrests among traders, patients and their companions while crossing the checkpoint.



Civilians' Suffering while traveling through Beit Hanoun Erez Crossing to Receive Medical Treatment

The almost complete closure of Rafah International Crossing Point in 2017 continued as the number of closing days was 343 days i.e. 93.9% of the year and the opening days were only 22 days i.e. 6.1% of the year. This denied the Gaza residents of their

right to the freedom of movement and to travel from and to the Gaza Strip. According to the Ministry of interior, more than 30,000 Palestinians are in desperate need to travel and already registered; most of whom were patients whose treatment is not available in the Gaza Strip hospitals,

students studying in universities abroad; most of whom are holding residencies or visas in different countries. Besides, there are thousands of civilians who want to travel but not registered in the travel lists because the registration was closed. According to the same source, 6,988 persons were allowed to leave the Gaza Strip, 6,968 returned and the Egyptian authorities returned 550 persons.

Regarding the movement of commodities and goods, PCHR documented that the Israeli authorities closed the sole commercial crossing in the Gaza Strip in 2017 for 112 days, i.e. 30.6% of the year.

The Israeli authorities continued to impose tightened restrictions on the entry of goods into the Gaza Strip, claiming that they are “dual-use materials”. The Israeli forces put 118 types of goods on the list of the “dual-use materials” most of them include hundreds goods and basic goods. For example, the type of communication equipment alone includes dozens of goods. The items on the “dual-use goods” list are essential to the life of the population, so imposing restrictions on importing them contribute to the deterioration of infrastructure and the deterioration of economic, health and education conditions. These items include communications equipment, pumps, large generators, iron bars, iron pipes in all diameters, welding equipment and welding rods used in welding, various types of wood,

UPS devices that protect the electric devices from breaking down when the electricity suddenly cuts off, X-ray machines, cranes and heavy vehicles, types of batteries and several types of fertilizers.

The process of submitting applications by the Gaza Strip population to obtain goods classified by the Israeli authorities as dual-use goods is very complex and ambiguous. Those residing the Gaza Strip should send a request to the Palestinian Coordination Committee of for the Entry of Goods that refers the request to the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Office at “Erez” crossing. After that, the good will be classified and sent to the relevant Israeli officer to check it. Moreover, the Palestinian trader should close the transaction with the Israeli seller or broker and pay for it to submit the request. If the response was positive, the coordination of the entry of goods will be allowed through the Karm Abu Salem (Kerem Shaloum) crossing. A number of traders and contractors stressed to PCHR that the abovementioned measures are very complicated as the Israeli authorities deliberately delay responses to applications for months. Additionally, in many cases, the Israeli authorities stationed at (Kerem Shaloum) crossing return the goods that had been already approved on to enter. This inflicts heavy losses on traders who pay large amount of money for the storage and demurrage charges and to contractors who undertake to deliver their

projects on time.

The Israeli authorities continued to ban the Gaza Strip's exports to the West Bank, Israel and abroad for the 11th year. However, they allowed the exportation of limited quantities of the Gaza Strip products (the majority of which were agricultural) as the number of truckloads allowed for exportation was 554 truckloads. In 2017, the monthly exports amounted to 1% of the total Gaza exports before the imposition of the closure in June 2007 when around 4,500 truckloads used to be allowed. The ban on exports resulted in the deterioration of economic conditions and closure of hundreds of factories in Gaza, including dozens of clothing and furniture factories that manufacture high quality products. Therefore, thousands of workers were discharged and became unemployed; raising poverty rates to unprecedented levels.

Due to the policy of ongoing closure and social and economic strangulation, serious indicators emerged at the humanitarian level. Moreover, the social and economic rights of the Gaza Strip population deteriorated due to the serious and long-term impacts of the Israeli policies that succeeded in undermining any real opportunity to reconstruct the Gaza Strip and restore its economy.

The closure also resulted in violation of the economic rights of the Gaza population. The restrictions imposed on the entry of

raw materials needed for production and ban on the exportation of the Gaza Strip products in addition to the destruction of around 70% of the economic facilities during the Israeli military operations on the Gaza Strip paralyzed various economic sectors. As a result, around 207,000 persons in the Gaza Strip are unemployed, i.e. a rate of 41.7% according to The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 2017. Moreover, the poverty rate in the Gaza Strip reached 38.8% and more than 47% of the Gaza population suffer from food insecure according to the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute-MAS.

The ongoing closure also negatively affected the right of Gaza Strip population to education. Thousands of Gaza students are still deprived of studying in the West Bank universities in the fields they prefer, taking in consideration that such fields are vital and important for Gaza population. As a result, the rate of Gaza students joining the West Bank universities became zero after it used to be around 26% in 1994.

Concerning the health conditions, the closure deprived the Gaza population of their right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health, as the Israeli authorities continued to deprive patients of receiving medical treatment abroad. According to the Ministry of Health, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 11,993 of Gaza patients referred to receive

medical treatment in Israel or the West Bank hospitals. The Israeli authorities also imposed a group of obstacles through which they seek to deprive the Gaza Strip patients of receiving medical treatment abroad: banning patients from traveling with no reasons; depriving the patients of traveling for family reasons; arresting patients and their companions at Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing; blackmailing patients bargaining them to collaborate with the Israeli authorities; investigate with the patients; delaying the response to patients, disrespect for patients’ appointments; imposing tightened restrictions on patients’ companions; and supporting Israeli judiciary to the Israeli authorities’ practices to ban the civilians from receiving medical treatment.

During the reporting period, the Gaza Strip witnessed a serious shortage of medical devices, medicines, medical supplies and disposables needed for the Gaza Strip population. According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, the number of in-operative medical devices and equipment in the Ministry hospitals was around 300 devices out of 6100. In April 2017, the number of medicines which ran out was 145 out of 520 medicines recorded on the Ministry of Health’s main medicines list, i.e. the shortage rate of basic medicines reached 27.8%. Moreover, the types of medicines that are sufficient for 3 months were around 80 types i.e. 15.3%. According to the same sources, the rate of shortage

in medical disposables that ran out in April 2017 was 280 out of 904 disposables recorded on the Ministry’s main list, i.e. 30.9% of the main list of the Ministry of Health duties. Furthermore, the types of medicines that are sufficient for less than 3 months were around 80 types i.e. 8.8%. The list of medicines that ran out included important types of medicines designated for sections of neonatal intensive care units, surgeries, laparoscopic surgery, intensive care units, orthopaedic surgery, electrocardiography (ECG) and birth papers, urinary catheters, eye surgeries, CT films, other types used in anaesthesia, artificial breathing in addition to plasters and different types of injections.

Second: Restrictions on Movement in the West Bank

The Israeli forces continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of civilians in the West Bank in 2017 as part of the collective punishment policy and cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment. Following the increasing number of demonstrations in the oPt in protest against the Israeli arbitrary measures in al-Aqsa Mosque in July and against the U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision on 06 December 2017 to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the U.S. Embassy to it, the Israeli forces imposed tightened restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians and goods between the cities of the West Bank. PCHR emphasizes that the Israeli authorities

on a wide scale violate Palestinians' right to freedom of movement and use it as part of the collective punishment policy against Palestinians. Those restrictions increased and decreased depending on the field conditions on the ground.

The number of permanent checkpoints amounted to 98 in 2017; 59 of which were internal checkpoints in the West Bank, and 18 checkpoints in H2 Area in Hebron where Israeli settlement outposts exist. Thirty nine of them erected along the Green Line (Armistice Line) and they are considered border crossings between the West Bank and Israel. In addition, hundreds of sudden checkpoints were established and other material obstacles such as iron gates, sand barriers and rocks. Israeli Private Security Companies control part of the checkpoints under the supervision of the Crossings and Borders Department of the Israeli forces. In the last quarter of the year, Israeli forces increased the establishment of temporary checkpoints randomly at intersections between the Palestinian cities. The Israeli forces reclosed settler bypass roads, which they sometimes allow Palestinians to use, before the movement of Palestinian civilians to increase their suffering.

In occupied Jerusalem, in spite of the ongoing closure imposed on the city and completely isolating it as well as banning Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering the city, Israeli

forces tightened its closure on the Palestinian neighborhoods in the city. Following an armed clash occurred in al-Aqsa Mosque yards on 14 July 2017, between 3 Palestinians from Um al-Fahem City in Israel and Israeli police permanently stationed at the Mosque's gates, the Israeli authorities closed al-Aqsa Mosque and imposed strict restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians inside the city's neighborhoods, suburbs and villages for several weeks. These measures included fixing many iron detector gates and police checkpoints inside the Old City neighborhoods and at entrances leading to them. These measures deprived Palestinians of their right to enter the occupied city and the city residents to enjoy normal lives.

Israeli forces continued to use checkpoints as border crossings with the purpose of isolating Areas (C) classified according to Oslo Accords from large areas in the West Bank, as in East Jerusalem, Jordan Valley areas along the Palestinian borders with Jordan and lands located behind the annexation wall. The Israeli government that declared several decades ago the annexation of East Jerusalem under its sovereignty in violation of the International law and the UN resolutions, does not hide its intention to annex the Jordan Valley areas and lands located behind the annexation wall too.

Israeli forces use checkpoints and border

crossings in the West Bank as traps to arrest Palestinians who are allegedly wanted. Palestinian civilians are often subjected to maltreatment and attacks by Israeli soldiers stationed at these checkpoints. In 2017, according to PCHR's documentation, Israeli forces arrested at least 280 Palestinian civilians, including 58 children and 6 women, at these checkpoints.

In the same context, at al-Karama ('Allenby') International Crossing Point between Jordan and the West Bank, Israeli authorities subject Palestinian civilians traveling both sides via the crossing, which is under their control, to humiliation. They further deprive thousands of civilians of their right to travel, and those denied from traveling are usually subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment, including thorough search and investigation by Israeli Intelligence officers in addition to forcing them to wait for long hours. Moreover, the Israeli forces from time to time close the crossing point for long hours without any reason, forcing hundreds of travelers, including children, women, elderly and patients, to stay inside the buses, particularly in summer, which is sultry hot and witnesses active travel movement.

The construction of the annexation wall separating between the West Bank lands has doubled the suffering of Palestinian civilians whose residential areas and/or agricultural lands were isolated behind the wall, and persons working in those

areas, including teachers, doctors, cleaners and others. The wall also negatively affects the life of Palestinian farmers especially in the olive harvest season, which is considered as the sole source of income for hundreds of Palestinian families in light of the difficult economic conditions suffered by Palestinians. Israeli forces deny Palestinian farmers access to their isolated lands to harvest olive or limit their entry and exit hours through 104 gates established in the wall. These measures and restrictions aim to deprive farmers of the only source of income and force them to leave their lands and neglect them in order to confiscate them.

The impact of restrictions on the movement of Palestinians living near the wall has not been limited to the agricultural sector, but included numerous other aspects of life. The residents suffer from restrictions imposed on their movement and access to hospitals in the nearby cities. The education system was also affected because many schools, particularly in villages, rely on teachers who come from outside the village, in addition to affecting the social and family relations. Palestinians on both sides of the wall need permits to move through the gates which are built in the wall and operate under a strict security system and in specified hours. Israeli forces often and suddenly close these gates for no apparent reason. Israeli forces also imposed a policy of racial discrimination against Palestinian

civilians in using public roads. They deprive Palestinians of using many roads and only allow settlers to use them and so Palestinians are forced to take long and rough roads. The Israeli authorities also designated around 60 kilometers of the West Bank streets to be used by settlers and ban Palestinian vehicles to take part of these roads in a way that restrains their access to nearby streets which are not banned. In addition, Palestinians are banned from using around 7 kilometers of internal streets in the center of Hebron for traveling while in parts of these roads, Palestinians are not allowed to walk on them.

Military checkpoints are an obstacle to the freedom of goods movement, increasing the cost of transportation that consequently reflects on the prices of goods and increases financial burdens on consumers. The policy of closure and restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians has inflicted serious impact on their economic, social and cultural rights in addition to depriving them of their civil and political rights. The Palestinian people has experienced a strangulating economic crisis that affects various economic sectors, including

trade, manufacturing, agriculture, labor, tourism, transportation, investment, and development.

The policy of closure is a form of collective punishment prohibited by the international humanitarian law, particularly the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention relevant to Protection of Civilians in Times of War, and international human rights law. Article 33 of the Convention specifically prohibits the punishment of protected persons for offences they have not personally committed. It also prohibits collective penalties, measures of intimidation or terrorism, and reprisals against protected persons and their property. The Israeli forces have implemented the policy of closure as a means of punishment, intimidation, and retaliation against Palestinian civilians through imposing the policy of isolation and closing roads, stopping the movement of individuals and goods. This policy is manifest following occurrence of any stabbing, run-over or shooting attacks against Israeli soldiers or settlers as the Israeli forces deliberately reclose many entrances to the cities, villages and refugee camps with detector gates, cement cubes, rocks and sand barriers in front of civilians' movement.

Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

2017 witnessed a significant escalation in arresting Palestinians by the Israeli forces in the oPt. Over the year, the Israeli forces launched arrest campaigns against thousands of Palestinians, including children and women, at military checkpoints and detaining them in the Israeli jails. PCHR documented the detention of 4108 Palestinians in the oPt, including 778 children, 88 women, and 11 PLC Members. Among the arrested were 4056 from West Bank, 3599 of whom were arrested from the cities, 280 were arrested at military checkpoints and 177 were arrested during protests¹³. Fifty two Palestinians were arrested from the Gaza Strip, 5 of whom were attempting to sneak into Israel through the border fence looking for work; 10 were arrested at Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing while they were on their way to the West Bank for work, medical treatment or education. The Israeli forces also arrested 37 fishermen who were sailing within the allowed fishing area in the Gaza Strip Sea offshore.

More than 6500 Palestinians are arbitrarily arrested in the Israeli prisons and detention facilities and undergo cruel and inhuman conditions, including being subjected to torture and degrading treatment that includes: deprivation of family visits and education, naked searches, night raids, solitary confinement and medical negligence, especially for patients who suffer from chronic diseases and so on. Among the total number of detainees, 370 were from the Gaza Strip, including 400 children, 64 women and while 700 others are under administrative detention without trial staying in; around 20 prisons and detention facilities most of which are in the occupied Palestinian territory of 1967¹⁴, in a clear violation of article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which stipulates, “Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein”.

13. In 2017, the Commission of Detainees and ex-Detainees Affairs documented 30 cases of arresting wounded Palestinians after the Israeli forces opened fire at them.

14. Except “Ofer” prison established in the west of Ramallah in the West Bank.

Palestinian prisoners went on an open hunger strike for 41 days in protest against the deterioration of their living conditions, deprivation of their most fundamental human rights, and asking for improving their life conditions in the Israeli jails. Around 1500 Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails started an open hunger strike on 17 April, which coincides with the Palestinian Prisoner's Day, to improve their life conditions and return what was confiscated by the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) during the past years. Among these demands were: allowing first and second degree relatives to visit them; ending the policy of medical negligence and conducting periodic medical examinations; undergoing urgent medical operations; entering specialized doctors from outside the prison; ending solitary confinement and administrative detention policies; allowing them to take the Twjihi (Secondary School) exams and join universities; and stopping arbitrary measures against female prisoners. Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners joined the hunger strike on consecutive periods.

In contrast, the IPS imposed collective punishments on hunger strikers to discourage them from practicing their right to go on a hunger strike as a tool for exerting pressure on the Israeli authorities to improve prisoners' living conditions. The IPS launched a campaign to transfer prisoners on the second day of the strike in an attempt to disperse their ef-

forts and undermine their resolves. Thus, the IPS isolated those leading the strike, including PLC Member Marwan Barghouti, whose health status deteriorated, and Karim Younis. Furthermore, the IPS deprived the prisoners of family visits, break and canteen in addition to preventing them from performing Friday prayers and washing their clothes. It should be noted that water and salt were also confiscated from the cells and prisons, so the prisoners were forced to use the tap water. On 27 May 2017, the Commission of Detainees and ex-Detainees Affairs announced the end of the hunger strike and achievement of the hunger strikers' demands after negotiations between the IPS and those leading the strike.

Furthermore, around 30 prisoners went on individual hunger strikes during this year, the last was by Rizq al-Rajoub (62) on 27 May 2017 when he went on an open hunger strike in his solitary confinement in "Ofer" military prison in protest against his administrative detention. On 15 January 2018, Rizq announced the end of his hunger strike after the IPS gave promises to end his administrative detention.

Unfair Legislations

In 2017, the Israeli authorities excessively enacted laws and legislations that deny Palestinian detainees from their basic human rights, including their right to life. One of the most prominent legislations was on 11 June 2017 when the Israeli Knes-

set approved the First Reading on a bill to deduct the allowances for Palestinian prisoners and for the families of martyrs and wounded Palestinians from the tax revenues transferred by the Israeli authorities to the PA.

On 18 June 2017, Oren Hazan, Member of Israeli Knesset of the Right-Wing Likud Party submitted a bill to deny visits of prisoners from Palestinian organizations that detain Israelis and deny visits of lawyers and ICRC delegations. On 25 December 2017, a group of extremists led by Oren Hazan boarded a bus coming from the Gaza Strip and carrying Palestinian prisoners' families. The families were on their way to visit their sons in Ramon Prison. Videos published on Social Media showed the extremist Oren Hazan verbally assaulted a prisoner's mother saying: "Your son is an "insect" and a "dog" and you will not be able to visit him again, except under the ground."

With the beginning of 2018, a death penalty bill¹⁵ against Palestinian prisoners resurfaced after long debates in Israel. On 03 January 2018, the Israeli Knesset voted to amend the Penal Code in order to legalize the use of death penalty against those involved in murders while carrying out "terrorist operations". The bill was presented before the Knesset on 30 October 2017 by three Israeli extremist parliamentarians: Robert Eltov, Oded Forer and Yuli Leminovsky. The bill stipulates that "the Minister of Defense orders the commander of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) in the division to give orders to: 1- the Military Court in the division to have the power to sentence death penalty without requiring the consensus of the Military Court, but only the ordinary majority; 2- No other court in the division has the right to commute a final death sentence issued by the military court in the division."

This year witnessed the arbitrary arrest of minors, maltreating them, and subjecting them to investigation which included torture, in addition to being tried before military courts and issuing cruel sentences against them. PCHR documented doz-

15. A similar bill was rejected by the Israeli Knesset in 2015 and the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who recommended his party members not to vote for the bill that only received 6 votes, said that the bill needs amendments and long discussions but is acceptable, in principle, by him and his extremist party (the Likud Party) and the disagreement was only about the details.

ens of cases where children were arrested and inhumanely treated by the Israeli forces, including beating and degrading them. One of those cases was Fawzi Mohammed al-Juneidi (16) from Hebron, who was arrested by the Israeli forces on 07 December 2017, when Media published photos of him blindfolded and surrounded by 23 Israeli soldiers and signs of beating on his face, which was bleeding. Al-Juneidi was taken to prison though he was severely beaten up all over his body, causing him a shoulder dislocation and hand fractures. On 19 December 2017, Israeli forces arrested 'Ahed Basem al-Tamimi (16), from al-Nabi Saleh village, west of Ramallah, on charges of attacking an Israeli soldier when the Israeli forces raided and searched her house. The Israeli forces also arrested 'Ahed's mother Nariman al-Tamimi (47). Al-Tamimi and her mother were subjected to Martials in a military court and they were addressed with several charges. Their detention was extended more than once.

In many cases, the Israeli forces issue draconian sentences against detained minors and impose high fines in accordance with an arbitrary law ratified by the Israeli government in 2015 that is in violation of International Humanitarian Law and the International Human Rights Law, particularly conventions relevant to the child's rights. This is also according to the policy adopted by the Israeli authorities that previously issued hundreds of similar sentences against minors.

Moreover, the Israeli forces arrested civilians, particularly in occupied Jerusalem, on grounds of mere expression of their opinions on social media and bringing them to trial on grounds of incitement against Israel. The Israeli authorities sentence such cases 3 to 22 months in prison in addition to imposing varying fines according to the charge. Among those detained, there were children accused of incitement on Facebook, such as Noor Kayed 'Essa (16).

Israeli forces continued to arrest 11 PLC Members in the Israeli prisons including Marwan al-Barghuthi, PLC Member representing Fatah Parliamentary bloc, who has been arrested since 2002 and sentenced to life imprisonment; Ahmed Sa'adat, PLC Member representing the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), who has been arrested since 2006 and serves an imprisonment sentence of 30 years. The Israeli forces also administratively detained 9 PLC Members. In 2017, they arrested 11 PLC Members and released 3 of them before the end of this year. On 16 January 2017, the Israeli forces arrested PLC Member Ahmed Mubarak from Ramallah and he is so far under arrest. On 17 January 2017, they arbitrarily arrested PLC Member Hasan Yusuf and released him on 31 August 2017, and then arrested him again on 13 December 2017. PLC Member Samira Halayqah was arrested on 09 March 2017 and released on 09 May 2017. On 21 March 2107, PLC Member

Mohanned al-Tal was arrested and then released on 14 October 2017. On 19 April 2017, PLC Member Ahmed 'Atoun was arrested and still under arrest. On 30 May 2017, the Israeli forces released PLC Member Mohammed Abu Tair and arrested him again on 04 August 2017. PLC Member Omer Abdul Razeq was arrested on 23 June 2017 and released on 23 November 2017. On 28 June 2017, PLC Member Mohammed Bader was arrested and still under arrest. Moreover, Khalidah Jarrar, PLC Member, was arrested on 02 July 2017 and still under arrest as her administrative detention was extended for another 6 other months on 13 December 2017. Furthermore, two PLC Members are still under arrest since last year. They are identified as Mohammed al-Natshah, who was arrested on 29 September 2016 and 'Azzam Salhab who was arrested on 28 February 2016.

Administrative Detention

Hundreds of Palestinians in the Israeli prisons are under “administrative detention”, which is a measure that allows detaining Palestinians for an unlimited period without an indictment or trial but according to secret information or an order issued by the Israeli Military Commander, who has the power under Military Order no. 1651. Since the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, the Israeli government has applied this type of detention as a form of collective punishment which is internationally pro-

hibited under the 1949 Fourth Geneva Conventions in order to make detainees serve the longest possible detention periods without presenting any charges or evidence against them.

In light of the continued protests against Israeli forces, particularly in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, the Israeli forces remarkably issued dozens of administrative detention sentences against Palestinians on charges of incitement against the Israeli forces on social media. In total, the Israeli authorities detain 700 Palestinian administrative detainees, including 9 PLC Members, in the Israeli prisons and detention facilities in flagrant violation of the right to fair trial, including their right to receive proper defense and be informed of any charges against them. The administrative detention also violates the accused person's right to fair trial when being under administrative detention, which is applied according to an administrative order and not a judicial decision, in a way that affects the fair judicial proceedings, including fair trials.

Torture and Maltreatment

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are subjected to torture and degrading and inhuman treatment from the moment they are arrested. They are harshly beaten by hands and hoses, verbally insulted and humiliated the whole way long to the detention facilities. Prisoners are tortured by officers of the Intelligence Service “Sha-

bak” during interrogation and even when in prison. Prisoners’ suffering does not end by the end of interrogation, but continues during their imprisonment. They are subjected to cruel procedures, including torture and inhumane and degrading treatment, sleep deprivation, medical negligence and denial of family visits and their right to receive legal representation and consultation.

Medical Negligence in the Israeli Jails

According to Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations, the number of the patients suffering from medical conditions and chronic or serious diseases such as cancer, cardiac problems and paralysis in the Israeli jails and detention facilities are increasing due to the policy of the deliberate medical negligence and the unsuitable health and environmental conditions for them. According to statistics, there are about 1000 sick prisoners in Israeli jails and detention facilities that require medical treatment, while dozens who need an urgent intervention to save their lives. This is in violation of Israel’s obligations under Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention that provides, “Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein. They shall, if possible, be separated from other detainees and shall enjoy conditions of food and hygiene which will be adequate to keep them in good health, and which will be at least equal to those detained in prisons in

the occupied country.”

Deaths in Israeli Jails and Detention Facilities

In 2017, three Palestinian detainees, including a girl, succumbed to wounds they sustained after being arrested by the Israeli forces. One of them succumbed to wounds he sustained last year after the Israeli forces claimed that he attempted to stab Israeli soldiers and arrested him. As for the two others, including the child, one of them sustained serious wounds when the Israeli forces attempted to arrest him from his house, while the girl sustained serious wounds and stayed in hospital under the pretext of running over Israeli soldiers.

On 10 February 2017, the family of Mohammed ‘Amer Jallad (23) from Tulkarm received the news of his death in Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva in Israel after succumbing to wounds he sustained on 09 November 2016. Jallad was detained in the hospital though his serious injury after the Israeli forces opened fire at him, claiming he attempted to stab Israeli soldiers. Despite the bad health condition of Jallad, who is suffering from cancer in the lymph nodes, the Israeli forces did not release him and kept him under arrest until he died.

On 20 May 2017, Palestinian medical sources announced that Fatma Taqatqa (16) from Beit Fajjar village, south of Bethlehem, succumbed to her wounds. On 15 March 2017, Fatma was hit with a live bul-

let to the head shot by the Israeli soldiers. The Israeli forces claimed that she attempted to carry out a run-over attack in “Gush Etzion” settlement complex, south of Bethlehem. She was arrested and tak-

en to “Shaare Zedek” Medical Centre in Jerusalem. Fatma stayed at the ICU where she was attached to ventilators and anesthesia in the abovementioned hospital until her death was announced.

Israeli Attacks against Journalists and Media Workers

The Israeli forces escalated their systematic attacks against journalists and media workers in the oPt in 2017. Most prominent of those attacks were the ongoing campaign against the media institutions and closure of 7 media offices, including Al-Jazeera Channel office in occupied Jerusalem. Moreover, over the past year, censorship and restrictions increased on media freedoms, including censorship on the freedom of expression particularly on social network, as the Israeli forces arrested dozens of Palestinian civilians, including activists, journalists and media professionals, on charges of incitement against the Israeli forces and bringing the former to trial.

In 2017, Israeli forces carried out further attacks against journalists in local and international agencies in the oPt. These systematic attacks aim at discouraging media from covering and disseminating the Israeli crimes committed against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. Those attacks were carried out while journalists were on duty covering events on the ground and exposing them to the world, including covering peaceful protests organized by Palestinian civilians and international solidarity and human rights activists against the confiscation of Palestinian lands in the West Bank in favor of the annexation wall and settlement expansion. Those attacks also included shooting incidents, closure of roads, shelling incidents, house demolitions and other daily violations. Furthermore, those attacks included violations of the right to personal security; beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; detention of journalists; denying journal-

ists' access to certain areas to cover incidents; raids of media offices, satellite channels and the houses of journalists; and raids and closure of radio stations.

In general, the Israeli forces do not conduct any serious investigations into the crimes against journalists working in the oPt like rest of the crimes committed by the Israeli forces against civilians in the oPt.

During the reporting period the shooting crimes committed by the Israeli forces and settlers against journalists and workers in local and international news agencies resulting in the injury of 15¹⁶ after being hit with live and rubber-coated metal bullets or directly hit with tear gas canisters as the Israeli soldiers deliberately fired gas canisters at civilians to harm them. On 14 May, Majdi Mohammed Ishtayah (34), Associated Press (AP) photographer, was wounded with a live bullet fired by an Israeli settler to his hand when Majdi was covering a demonstration in solidarity with prisoners in Howarah village. Moreover, 13 journalists were subject to beating and other forms of violence and degrading and inhuman treatment. On 29 April, Israeli forces beat up with rifles' butt and pushed a group of journalists while the latter were covering the events in al-Aqsa Mosque yard in occupied Jerusalem. As a result, a number of them sustained bruises, including photographer 'Ammar 'Awad, photographer 'Ammar Gharablah; photographer Ahmed Gharablah; Nawal Hejazi, a reporter at Al-Kofiya TV Channel, journalist Diala Hweijan; journalist Maisaa Abu Ghazaleh; photojournalists Mahmoud 'Alian; Sinan Abu Meizer; Fayez Abu Irmeilah; 'Ali Yassin; Musatafa al-Kharouf; Rose al-Zarou; Rami al-Khatib; Raja'ie al-Khatib; and Eyad al-Tawil. Twenty journalists and media professionals were subject to arrest or detention accompanied sometimes with raiding and searching journalists' houses by the Israeli forces. Seven of them were actually sentenced on different charges, including incitement against Israeli forces; some were released while others are still under arrest. Among

16. This number does not include journalists who suffered tear gas inhalation as Israeli forces fire tear gas canisters at civilians during weekly peaceful protests, or other journalists who sustained bruises and fractures in different parts of their bodies due to being beaten with Israeli forces' sticks and rifles' butts or while escaping from gas canisters and gunfire.

those arrested was journalist Lama Hani Ghosheh from Eilia for Media in Jerusalem. She was arrested when she was attending her husband's trial in a military court in occupied Jerusalem though she was pregnant. She was questioned about her journalism work for hours before releasing her and placing her under house arrest for 5 days and a fine of NIS 5,000.

Israeli forces raided and thoroughly searched 9 media institutions in addition to confiscating some of their contents. They also closed 8 of these institutions on charges of incitement. Most prominent of those incidents was on 18 October when the Israeli forces closed 8 branch offices of 3 media companies in the West Bank providing media services in Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah and Bethlehem. Those companies were identified as PalMedia, RamSat, and Trans Media, noting that those offices were rented by al-Quds, al-Aqsa and Palestine Today channels. The Israeli forces also confiscated the broadcasting devices and equipment and closed the offices for 6 months without identifying the reasons in addition to arresting 2 journalists from Hebron. Moreover, the Israeli forces continued to prevent printing al-Resalah and Palestine newspapers, which are published in Gaza City, in the West Bank's printing houses. On 28 May 2014, the Israeli authorities issued a decision to ban printing the two newspapers in al-Ayyam Printing House in the West Bank after raiding its office in

Betounia village, west of Ramallah, in the center of the West Bank. Moreover, the Israeli forces unprecedentedly escalated the raids and closure of Palestinian printing houses in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, in addition to the confiscation of their contents on charges of using them to print materials inciting against the Israeli authorities. On 25 May 2017, Israeli forces raided al-Nour Printing House in Ramallah and confiscated most of its contents, noting that it was raided four months ago and its contents were damaged and confiscated. The Israeli forces issued an order to close it until 22 July 2017. On the same day, Israeli forces raided and searched the New Print (previously al-Nour) Printing house in Ramallah, and later withdrew confiscating all of its equipment.



Destruction of Printing House Contents in Ramallah

Destruction of Civilian Property



Destruction Remnants of a House belonging to al-Najjar Family after Israeli Airstrike on the area



Destruction Remnants

Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian property in Area C, defined by the Oslo Accords between the PLO and Israel in 1993. Although this policy continued also in the West Bank, it was particularly concentrated in East Jerusalem this year, as part of the policies ultimately aiming at creating a Jewish demographic majority in the city. The demolitions in the West Bank are carried out under the pretext of not obtaining construction licenses from the Organization and Construction Department of the Israeli Civil Administration at “Beit Eil” settlement that is one of the Israeli Forces’ arms or from the Israeli municipality concerning houses in occupied East Jerusalem.

In 2017, Israeli forces continued to apply the policy of house demolitions as a collective punishment policy. At the end of 2015, the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, decided to activate this policy by demolishing, blowing up or closing the houses of families of Palestinians who carry out run-over and/or stabbing attacks against Israeli soldiers and settlers in the oPt. In 2017, Israeli forces demolished and/or blew up or closed 11 houses; 3 of which were in occupied East Jerusalem and its suburbs; 6 in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 1 in Jenin; and 1 in Hebron. PCHR condemns this policy and emphasizes it falls within the policy of collective punishment adopted by Israeli forces against Palestinian innocents, in violation of Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War that prohibits collective penalties and reprisals against protected persons and their property.

While the Israeli authorities worked on facilitating the settlement construction in East Jerusalem and settlements under the pretext of the urgent need to meet the population

growth of settlers, the Israeli authorities tightened the noose around the Palestinian civilians and imposed obstacles before the measures required to obtain the construction licenses. As a result of this policy and under the pressure of population growth, thousands of Palestinian civilians were forced to build new houses or attach structures to the present buildings, although they are aware of the consequences in advance. Although PCHR decisively stresses the illegality of the settlement expansion in the oPt and considers settlement activities as a war crime, the Israeli authorities deepen the apartheid (s system of racial segregation and discrimination) when dealing with issues related to non-licensed construction in the Palestinian villages and the similar construction in settlement, including measures to build or the measures to deal with the unlicensed construction.

This year witnessed a remarkable escalation in the demolition of houses and other civilian objects that were used for agricultural, industrial or commercial purposes in the West Bank. In 2017, Israeli forces demolished 161 dwellings, including 120 houses in East Jerusalem and its suburbs; 14 of which were self-demolished by their owners under the pretext of not obtaining a building license, and 41 houses and dwellings were demolished throughout the West Bank. As a result, the number of

houses that were demolished on grounds of non-licensing and collective punishment increased to 172. The Israeli authorities apply the policy of forcing Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses, forcing some of them to do so in order to avoid paying high fines that include fines for unlicensed building and the fees paid for Israeli vehicles applying the demolition decision.

The house demolitions on various grounds were distributed as follows according to each city: 123 houses in Jerusalem (including 14 houses whose owners were forced to self-demolish them; 15 houses in Nablus; 7 houses in Hebron; 6 houses in Bethlehem; 12 houses in Jericho; 6 houses in Ramallah and al-Bireh; 2 houses in the northern Jordan Valley; and 1 house in Jenin.

Additionally, Israeli forces demolished 125 facilities used for non-residential purposes, including barracks, commercial stores, fences, tents, storehouses and stone-cutting workshops, in addition to leveling roads and electricity networks. The demolished facilities were distributed as follows: 72 facilities in Jerusalem, including 14 facilities whose owners were obliged to self-demolish them; 5 in Hebron; 6 in Tubas and the northern Jordan Valley; 2 in Bethlehem; 12 in Jericho; 22 in Nablus; 4 in Jenin; and 2 in Salfit.

Settlement Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

The Israeli government, its forces and settlers living in the oPt in violation of international law continued the settlement expansion crime in the West Bank. Meanwhile, armed Israeli settlers, protected by Israeli forces, continued to commit crimes and carry out attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property. This year witnessed the killing of 3 Palestinian civilians with a firearm and injury of others, including a journalist.

Settlement Expansion

The Israeli government continued the expansion of its settlements activities in areas categorized as Area C, and especially in East Jerusalem. In spite of the ongoing condemnation of international community of Israeli settlement activity and describing it as illegal and in violation of the international law and Security Council's Resolutions, the Israeli authorities unprecedentedly continued to increase these activities during the year. In 2017, the Israeli settlement expansion significantly increased since the Israeli occupied the Palestinian and Arab territories 50 years ago.

In the beginning of 2017 and after days of the adoption of Security Council's Resolution (2334) on 23 December 2016 with a vote of 14 members in favor and US abstaining to emphasize the illegality of Israeli settlements established on Palestinian lands occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, according to international law, the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that he will not recognize this decision. The resolution also reiterates its call upon Israel, as the occupying power, to stop immediately and completely all settlement activities in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, and to fully respect all its relevant legal obligations. However, the Israeli government unprecedentedly increased its settlement activities. In spite of criticisms and resolution mentioned above,

the international community did not take dissuasive measures, which would oblige the Israeli forces to respect international humanitarian law. Therefore, Israel will continue to practice this policy.

In clear defiance of international law and few weeks after the issuance of the UN-SC's resolution, the Israeli Knesset approved in the first and second readings the "Regulation Bill". Putting forward the above-mentioned Bill, which was adopted by 60 Members and opposed by 52 in the Knesset, came after the Israeli Supreme Court's decision to evacuate "Amouna" settlement established on Palestinian privately owned lands in Silwad, northeast of Ramallah. This Bill aims at transferring 120 settlement outposts, where around 4,000 settlement units are established, into new settlements and paving the way for the annexation of Areas C, which is around 62% of the total West Bank area. This Bill also aims at legalizing theft of Palestinian private lands for the interest of settlement projects.

Approval of the "Regulation Bill" came also after months of the election of Israel's UN Ambassador, Danny Danon, as Chair of the UN General Assembly's Legal Affairs Committee, in June 2016, with the support of 109 State Members out of 193 States. PCHR believed at time that Chairing Israel on this Committee would encourage Israel to continue to commit blatant violations of the intentional law

rules and even the conventions by the Committee itself. The number of countries around the world that supported the election of Israel's UN Ambassador to this position, raised doubts against them in maintaining international law and implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy regarding to Israel.

In clear defiance of international community, on Tuesday, 31 January 2017, the Israeli government approved building 3,000 new settlement units on grounds of evacuating "Amouna" settlement outpost. This came upon a statement published by the office of the Israeli Defence Minister, Avigador Liberman, in coordination with the Israeli Prime Minister revealing the approval on new settlement units.

According to a report published by the European Union, there were three intervals of building permits in the first half of the year: "The first interval was paid by the Civil Administration at the end of January and the beginning of February, in which 2,800 housing units were built, including 1,000 units that were put up in tenders. The second interval was in March, when the government decided to build "Ami-hai" settlement and paid to build about 2,000 housing units in the settlements. The Israeli government also announced new "state lands" in the West Bank. The third interval took place in early June, in which the Israeli government paid to build 3000 housing units.

PCHR emphasizes that the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, is an occupied territory according to international humanitarian law and other international resolutions. Therefore, PCHR has persistently called upon the international community to immediately intervene to compel the Israeli government to stop all settlement activities in the oPt, especially in East Jerusalem, and dismantle Israeli settlements, which constitute a war crime under international humanitarian law. After welcoming the UNSC's Resolution No. 2234 on the Israeli Settlement in the oPt and considering it is a significant resolution that has been long waited for, PCHR reiterates its call for an immediate and effective international action to restore confidence in the rule of the law and put an end to the prolonged Israeli challenge and denial of the international law and to the inherent impunity enjoyed by Israel for decades.

Confiscation of Palestinian Civilian Property

Israeli forces continued to apply the policy of confiscating more Palestinian civilian property to facilitate in favor of their settlement interests. Confiscating civilian property and changing the nature of the occupied territory by the Israeli forces is in violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits making this change unless there is a military necessity in the narrow sense of the term – a condition that is not fulfilled in Israel's declared plans and aims.

During the reporting period, the area categorized as Area C under the Oslo signed between the PLO and the Israeli government in 1993, was the main target of Israeli operations in 2017 to expel the Palestinian population to pave the way for settlement expansion projects. Communities in the area were subjected to wide-scale demolition operations against houses and agricultural facilities, such as water wells, rainwater harvesting pools and cattle barns. Israeli forces also issued hundreds of demolition notices against these facilities.

In parallel with Israeli settlers' violations and Israeli authorities' procedures, the illegal settlements were completely supported by the Israeli government, which tabled many tenders and plans for the construction of settlements in the West Bank. According to a report published by Abdullah Al-Hourani Center for Studies and Documentation, plans for building new 16,800 settlement units; (1/3 of which in occupied Jerusalem) were approved while the Israeli forces' different authorities proceeded building around 400 new settlement units in Israeli settlements in Jerusalem and the West Bank. The Israeli forces confiscated around 2100 dunums in 2017 under several pretexts, including, security reasons, annexation wall, state property, and closed military zones. They also renewed previous seizure orders concerning 852 dunums of Palestinian lands. In the same context, the Israeli authorities and settlers levelled 640

dunums of Palestinian agricultural lands, for settlement expansion purposes, continuing the construction of the annexation wall, and building settlement roads. Furthermore, thousands of trees were attacked by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank. They cut, burnt, damaged, dumped trees with sewage water and poisoned them with chemicals for the interest of settlement expansion. In 2017, the number of attacked trees amounted to 10,000 trees, including olive trees, citrus, almonds, vines, other fruitful trees and woodlands.

In the same context, the Israeli authorities use the lands of the occupied West Bank to recycle the Israeli waste. A report published by the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (B'Tselem) on 05/12/2017 revealed that a large part of the facility of treatment waste produced inside Israel is outside its sovereign borders. Israel put instructions to maintain a less stringent environment in the industrial zones of the settlements, and has offered economic incentives, such as tax concessions and government subsidies. The establishment of waste treatment plants in the occupied territories has become more beneficial than its establishment in Israel. Moreover, environmental regulations based on mitigated and extensible standards increase the likelihood of environmental and health risks affecting the population of the West Bank.

A test carried out by (B'Tselem) showed that Israel has established at least 15 waste treatment facilities in the occupied West Bank. Most of the waste they process is produced in Israel, while six of the facilities handle hazardous waste which requires special processes and regulatory supervision due to the dangers it poses. The report reveals that polluted factories in Israel are subject to more stringent regulations in the field of preventing the atmospheric pollution, while factories in the industrial zones of the settlements operate almost without restrictions and are not asked to provide reports about the amount of treated waste or the arising risks, or even the ways to avoid these risks or at least reduce them.

Ethnic Cleansing

Following the Oslo Accords in 1993 and classification of occupied territories into areas A, B and C in addition to referring full control of the Area C under the Israeli forces, Israeli forces targeted area (C) for settlement expansion under different contexts to apply the ethnic cleansing policies in Areas C in the West Bank. The cruelest of these policies was to destroy the life of Palestinian civilians there through demolishing their houses and livestock barns under the pretext of not obtaining building licenses from the Israeli Civil Administration; and their mass deportation from an area to another under the pretext of conducting military trainings or declaring vacant areas of agricultural and pas-

toral lands as closed military zones, aiming at obstructing their daily basic needs and increasing their suffering.

In 2017, Israeli forces continued to target the Palestinian Bedouin communities to uproot them from their residence areas. On 16 November 2017, Israeli forces accompanied with staff of the Organization and Construction Department in the Israeli Civil Administration moved into the Pope Mountain Bedouin Community near al-Izzariyah village, east of occupied Jerusalem and adjacent to “Ma’ale Adumim” settlement, and fixed orders to evacuate the houses and leave the area as a preamble to displace them. ‘Attalla Mazar’ah, Head of Services Committee in Pope Mountain Community, said to PCHR’s fieldworker that the Community residents, comprised of 57 families, including 320 individuals, half of them are children, were surprised with the Civil Administration staffs under the Israeli forces’ protection moving into the area. The staffs installed iron rods in the ground and fixed military orders along with maps. ‘Attalla mentioned that the Pope Mountain has been targeted by the Israeli forces because its residents live within the E1 Settlement zone. The area is inhabited by Palestinians from Arab al-Jahalin, who arrived at the area following their displacement from Negev in 1948. It should be noted that this order was signed by the military commander of the area on 01 November 2017. The order says, “After 8 days of issuing this declaration,

each owner of property in the area included in this declaration shall evacuate their property according to this order.” This order also bans any construction works in the defined area, and no persons are allowed to enter or bring any property to the area for construction works.

The distribution of these military orders came few hours after the Israeli Prime Minister’s decision, Benjamin Netanyahu, ordering the Palestinian Bedouins living in communities to evacuate their houses in the vicinity of occupied Jerusalem, near Street No. (1), moving towards the Dead Sea. The Israeli media stated that the decision was issued on Thursday at the end of a meeting held between Benjamin Netanyahu and representatives of so-called “Jerusalem Perimeter Forum” and the Binyamin Regional Council. The Israeli media clarified that the meeting was about the tents and mobile dwellings inhabited by the Palestinian Bedouins in Palestinian areas overlooking Jerusalem between “Ma’ale Adumim” and “Mitzpeh Yericho”-settlements, which were classified as “illegal outposts” by the Israeli authorities.

As part of targeting the northern Jordan Valley along the eastern borders of the West Bank, on 20 December 2017, the Israeli government announced a plan to build 3 new settlements in the Jordan valley. These settlements were identified as “Givat Silit”, “Atarot” and “Giv’at Eden.” That decision came after the Is-

raeli government held a session for the representatives of the Housing and Agriculture Ministries and Israel Land Fund, in which the Israeli government officially declared a plan of building these settlements, pending approval and allocating budgets for it. It should be noted that the Israeli forces had previously notified the residents of the Ain al-Hilweh and Umm al-Jamal areas in the northern Jordan Valley that they will confiscate hundreds of dunums. The Israeli government aims at doubling the number of settlers living in 20 settlements in the Jordan Valley (4,500 settlers) to threefold in addition to building 14 new neighborhoods inside the already built settlements.

Efforts to Create a Jewish Demographic Majority in Jerusalem

Status of occupied Jerusalem was the highlight of 2017 at the local, regional and international level. In clear defiance of international law and the International legitimacy, on 06 December 2017, the United States President Donald Trump declared that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and signed a presidential decree to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. PCHR emphasizes that Trump's declaration explicitly violates the international law, Security Council Resolutions, and Geneva Conventions, and constitutes two crimes. The first crime is a crime of aggression against the Palestinian State as the declaration supports and upholds the annexation of lands using force. The

second crime is a war crime as the declaration is considered as a complicity in the Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. PCHR is concerned that this decision, which received absolute rejection by most countries of the world, would appetize Israel to threaten the future of Jerusalem more than it has been for five decades since Israel's occupation.

This declaration was rejected at the official and popular international levels. On 18 December 2017, the Security Council held a session to discuss and adopt a draft resolution submitted by the delegate of Egypt rejecting Trump's declaration. Fourteen States voted in favor of the resolution, while the U.S cast its veto. On 21 December 2017, The UN General Assembly held a session to discuss the draft resolution submitted by the delegates of Yemen and Turkey. Despite Washington threatening to punish countries voting in favor of the draft resolution that condemns Trump's decision, 128 countries voted in favor of the resolution, 9 voted against and 35 countries abstained.

Regarding the Israeli legislation, on 16 July 2017, Israeli Ministerial Committee for Legislation approved the "Unified Jerusalem Draft Law", which stipulates that any negotiations about dividing Jerusalem require the approval of 80 Knesset Members in any future settlement. Moreover, the bill requires the approval of a majority

of 80 Knesset Members for any decision to withdraw from the eastern part of occupied Jerusalem, but the year ended before discussing this bill in the Knesset.

In the same context, the Israeli government and its forces continued to create a Jewish demographic majority in occupied East Jerusalem. They reinforced the measures of isolating the city from its Palestinian surrounding in the West Bank, continued to build the annexation wall and continued activities of settlement expansion in and around the city in addition to restricting aspects of life of Palestinians living in the city. The Israeli Municipality continued to demolish Palestinian houses under the pretext of lack of building licenses and/or force Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses. In 2017, there was an increase in the number of house demolitions and demolition notices targeting Palestinian civilians' houses and other civilian property in the East Jerusalem and its suburbs. PCHR expresses its deep concern over the wide-scale targeting of civilians' houses next year, after orders were issued by the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to speed up the implementation of house demolitions in occupied East Jerusalem, under the pretext of non-licensing.

In 2017, Israeli forces, through the Municipality, continued the crimes of demolishing Palestinian houses throughout the city and its suburbs, claiming not

obtaining construction licenses. The municipality continued to impose lengthy and complicated procedures on Palestinian civilians in order to obtain building licenses. Thus, many Palestinians, under pressure to meet the natural population growth, were forced to build new houses or attach rooms to their already built houses without construction licenses. Meanwhile, Israel, through the Municipality of Jerusalem, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Interior and settlement associations, approved the construction of thousands of settlement housing units inside and around Jerusalem in 2017, which witnessed a significant increase in the number of settlement schemes in occupied Jerusalem.

On 21 February 2017, the Israeli channel 7 website published that the Israeli government decided to annex 250 dunums of the West Bank lands occupied in 1967 to be within the borders of Israeli Municipality in occupied Jerusalem. The website stated that the Israeli Municipality received an official letter from the Israeli Interior Minister that includes the approval on adding those lands to its control. The Israeli Municipality and in cooperation with the Housing Ministry are preparing to build a new settlement neighborhood namely "Mordot Arnona", which includes more than 2000 new settlement units. According to the website, this plan was first discussed in 2009 when the "Border Committee" of the Israeli Ministry of In-

terior met for the first time to discuss the possibility of transferring 250 dunums adjacent to “Arnona” settlement, which was until June 1967 within the so-called the no man’s land near Surbaher village, southeast of occupied Jerusalem. The committee also discussed transferring these lands from the control over of “Ramat Rachel” settlement, which was also previously a “no-man’s land”, and annexing them to the so-called Jerusalem Municipality “sovereignty” area. The plan has already been approved and was validated by the regional committee, and is currently being marketed, a process which is expected to last around a year—before building permits are issued.

The Jerusalem Municipality, which is the Israeli authorities’ arm in the occupied city, is working to submit and implement settlement projects aiming at creating a Jewish majority. On 14 December 2017, a session was held in the occupation’s Jerusalem municipality during which the project of “air and ground train” aimed at linking East Jerusalem with West Jerusalem was presented. Neer Barakat, Head of the Israeli Municipality, presented a detailed presentation on the project of the air and ground train for Israeli figures and representatives of several ministries, various authorities, settlement associations and rabbis and presented maps of the settlement plan. According to the project plan, it will be implemented in several stages; the first of which will be several

tracks for an air train, all of which will converge in the courtyard of al-Magharebah Gate in the village of Silwan, and this is the planned site for the settlement project “Kedem”. Wadi Hilweh Information Center stated the train will start from the Al-Baq’a neighborhood in West Jerusalem near the old train station, passing over Wadi Hilweh and Mount Zion in Silwan, to al-Magharebah Gate in the village. The second track will be from Ein Silwan in the neighborhood of Wadi Hilweh until al-Magharebah Gate while the third track will be from Ras al-Amoud neighborhood near “Al-Fateh” mosque, passing through the Jewish tombs to the courtyard of al-Magharebah Gate. The head of the Israeli municipality also spoke of a plan for a metro train from Al-Buraq Square, the western wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque reaching the neighborhoods of West Jerusalem. The Israeli municipality explained that the scheme of the air train will be presented to the government for approval, and is expected to be started mid-2019.

As part of seizing Palestinian buildings in favor settlement associations, the settlement associations, upon the Israeli courts’ decisions, seized several buildings in occupied Jerusalem. On 08 January 2017, settlers seized a residential building in al-Rababah Valley neighbourhood in Silwan village, south of the Old City in occupied Jerusalem. The 2-storey building, which belongs to ‘Ali Mohammed Ahmed Sarhan, was built on an area of 140 square

meters. The neighbours said that settlers belong to “al-‘Aad” settlement association that is active in Silwan to seize more buildings there.

On 24 January 2017, Israeli settlers took over a store belonging to the family of Noura Gheith in ‘Aqabet al-Khalidyah neighbourhood in the Old City of Jerusalem. Noura said to PCHR’s fieldworker that the Israeli High Court issued a decision against her a month ago in which she and her husband Mustafa Sub Laban are allowed to live in the disputed house for 10 years only, while the ownership of the store goes to settlers. Therefore, the settlers raided the store and changed its locks.

On 10 February 2017, an Israeli settler seized an uninhabited facility in Wady Helweh neighborhood in Silwan village, south of occupied Jerusalem’s Old City. The facility is comprised of a residential room, store and yard. Eyewitnesses said that a group of Israeli settlers accompanied with Israeli forces moved into Hosh Qara’een area in Wady Helweh using searchlights and completely surrounded the the area. They then seized a residential room, yard and stores used for grazing livestock. After that, the Israeli settlers changed the facility’s locks after seizing and surrounding it with metal fence. It should be noted that the residential room was built on an area of 30 square meters, and the yard was built on an area of 50 square meters, while the store, which

was used for grazing livestock, was built on an area of 200 square meters. The abovementioned facility belongs to ‘Ezat Salah (76).

On 05 September 2017, Israeli forces evacuated Shamasnah Family from their house in al-Sheikh Jarrah, north of occupied Jerusalem, to shelter settlers, rendering its eight members, who had lived here for 53 years, homeless. Shamasnah said that Israeli police expelled the house’s owner, Ayoub Shamasnah (85) on a wheel chair; his wife, Fahmiyah (76), and their son, Mohammed, and his 5-member family. The Israeli soldiers then vacated the house of its contents. The family said that they were expelled from their house, which they rented in 1964, and the Israeli forces claimed that the house belongs to a Jewish family before NAKBAH.

In the same context, on 24 August 2017, Minister of Agriculture, Uri Ariel, Knesset members and rabbis, and about 300 settlers opened a synagogue in Batn Al-Hawa neighborhood, and entered 2 Torah books in the building of Abu Nab which was seized in 2015. It should be mentioned that the settlers seized the building in 2015 that is comprised of 5 residential apartments and distinguished with its domes. The settlement societies claim that the property was in the late 19th century a synagogue for the Yemen Jews; thus, had demanded the evacuation of the property since 2004. The property is located within

the scheme of Ateret Kohanim Society to seize 5 dunums and 200 square meters from Batn al-Hawa under the pretext that the building belonged to Jews from Yemen in 1881.

Along with those policies and measures in violation of the international law, the Israeli Ministry of Interior continued to withdraw identity cards from Palestinians living in the city, denying them their right to housing and practices their normal life. The Israeli authorities use different methods to withdraw the identity cards through directly withdrawing them under the pretext that Jerusalemites work and live outside the municipal boundaries of the city according to the Israeli administrative division of it, or refusing family reunification, or even for political reasons and punitive measures.

A report published by the Human Rights Watch Organization stated that between the start of Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem in 1967 and the end of 2016, Israel revoked the status of at least 14,595 Palestinians from East Jerusalem, according to the Interior Ministry. Authorities have justified most revocations based on a failure to prove a "center of life" in Jerusalem but, in recent years, they have also revoked status to punish Palestinians accused of attacking Israelis and as collective punishment against relatives of suspected assailants. The discriminatory system pushes many Palestinians to leave their home city in what amounts to forcible transfers, a serious violation of international law.¹⁷.

In a dangerous precedent, on Tuesday, 10 January 2017, the family of Fadi al-Qunbar received orders to suspend their residencies (withdrawing the blue IDs), in addition to cancelling family reunification applications of other relatives following the run-over attack carried out by Fadi in "Armon Hanatziv" settlement. Fadi's family said to PCHR's fieldworker that Israeli forces raided Fadi's family house and handed them 12 orders issued by the Israeli Interior Minister to suspend the residency and reunion applications of several family mem-

17. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/08/08/israel-jerusalem-palestinians-stripped-status>.

bers, the persons affected by such orders were as follows:

- Menwa Qunbar- Fadi's mother: A decision to suspend her residency in Jerusalem.
- Suha Qunbar- Fadi's sister: A decision to suspend her residency in Jerusalem.
- Murad Aweisat- Suha's husband: A decision to cancel his "reunion" application as well as cancelling the reunion applications and residency of their two children (Naghham 11, and Wadi'a, 17).
- Dia' Aweisat (21)-Fadi's nephew (Hind's son): A decision to suspend his residency and cancel his "reunion" application.
- Manal Qunbar- Fadi's sister in law (Sami's wife): A decision to suspend her residency and cancel his "reunion" application.
- Ahmad Hussein Qunbar- Fadi's cousin
- Mohammad Hussein Qunbar- Fadi's cousin
- Salah Hussein Qunbar- Fadi's cousin
- Zakaria Hussein Qunbar- Fadi's cousin
- Younes Hussein Qunbar- Fadi's cousin

Additionally, the Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on the Palestinian non-governmental organizations in the city under the pretext that they would work under the supervision of the PLO and/or PA. The Israeli practices included raids on associations and banning meetings or events.

On 08 March 2017, Israeli authorities prevented women's organizations in Jeurs-

alem from organizing two events to celebrate the International Women's Day. "Women for Life and Democracy" Association's Director, Zuhour Abu Mayyaleh, said that at approximately 12:00, Israeli officers denied dozens of women access to Saint George Hotel, where the event was organized to celebrate the Women's Day coinciding on March 8 every year. She said that the Israeli authorities suddenly banned the event upon a decision issued by the Israeli Public Security Minister, Gilad Erdan.

On the same day, the Israeli forces prevented " al-Mortaqa" Association for Women from organizing an event to celebrate the International Women's Day in al-Hamraa' Castle Hall on Salah al-Deen Street. Shereen 'Owaidah, Member of al-Mortaqa Administrative Board, said that at approximately 18:00, the Israeli authorities banned the event especially organized for choosing "the outstanding woman of Jerusalem for 2017." She clarified that the event has been annually organized in Jerusalem since 2010 and is self-funded. Moreover, this event is not political, so why such culture events are being banned for unfounded reasons. On 14 March 2017, Israeli forces raided the Mapping and Survey Office of the Arab Studies Society- Orient House in Beit Hanina neighborhood, north of occupied Jerusalem. The police officers arrested the Office Director and maps and settlement expert, Khalil Tufakji, and took him

to an unknown destination after confiscating his cell phone and some contents of the office. The Israeli police closed the office for 6 months upon an order from the Israeli Interior Minister, Gelad Ardan. On 28 August 2017, Israeli forces raided Yabus Cultural Center on al-Zahraa' Street and banned a research seminar. The Israeli Intelligence Service surrounded the Center an hour before the scheduled time for the seminar. They took the ID cards of the participants, forced them to leave the hall, and prevented anyone from entering it. The Israeli forces then fixed a decision signed by the Israeli Police Commander in Jerusalem saying that the ban is based on the "2016 Anti-Terrorism Law" under the pretext that Hamas Movement organizes the seminar.

On 25 October 2017, Israeli forces and Intelligence officers raided "Saint George" Hotel on Salah al-Deen Street in the center of occupied Jerusalem. They prevented a seminar titled as: "Islamic and Christian Endowments in Jerusalem" from being held under the pretext of being sponsored by the PA.

On 16 December 2017, Israeli forces raided and searched Abu Jihad Museum for Prisoner Movement Affairs in Abu Dis village, east of occupied Jerusalem. They searched documents and photographic materials which document the Israeli forces' practices.

Israeli forces continued to violate the Palestinians' religious rights by imposing restrictions on the entry of Muslims and Christians to East Jerusalem and not facilitating their access into the city to perform their religious rituals in mosques and churches. This coincided with diggings in the vicinity of al-Aqsa Mosque; settlers and security services' raids of the Mosque; and demands to separate it between Muslims and Jews, similarly to the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Wadi al-Helwa Information Center documented that around 25630 Israeli settlers and 3,000 Jewish students raided the mosque during this year through al-Magharba Gate, whose keys have been under the Israeli custody since 1967. Wadi al-Helwa Information Center said that October witnessed the most raids by Israeli settlers and Jewish students, around (3983) settlers, to celebrate the Jewish Sukkot holiday; then August (3617) settlers; July (3213) settlers in commemoration of the destruction of the alleged temple; then May (3054) in commemoration of the occupation of Jerusalem; then April (2758) settlers on the occasion of the Passover holiday; and finally December (2294) settlers to coincide with the Jewish Hanukkah Holiday.

Following the armed clash between the Palestinian civilians from Um al-Fahm and the Israeli officers in al-Aqsa yards on Friday morning, 14 July 2017, that resulted in the killing of 2 Israeli officers and the 3

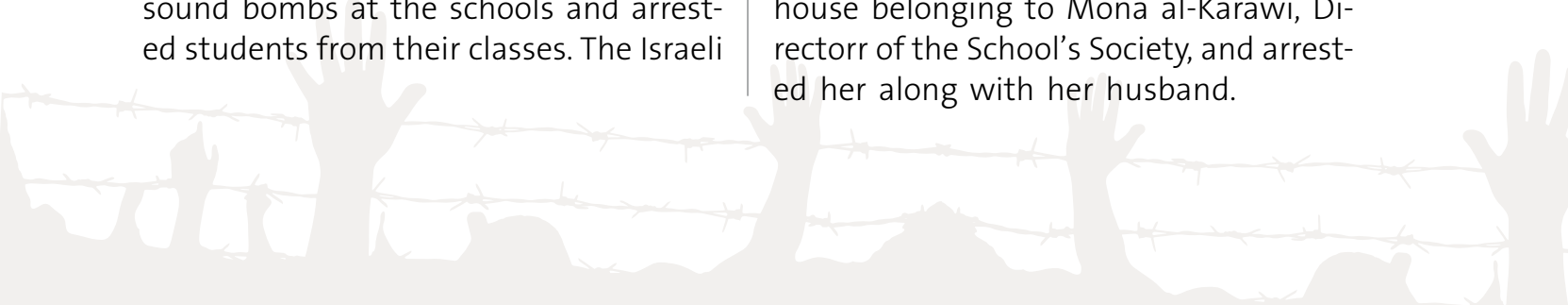
Palestinians, dozens of Israeli intelligence and police officers and soldiers stormed al-Aqsa mosque and cordoned it off and denied the Palestinians access to the mosque. Moreover, they locked up all the Islamic Endowments' (Awqaf) officers inside rooms, confiscated their cell phones and referred some of them to interrogation. Israeli forces closed all entrances to the Old City with metal barriers. As an unprecedented measure, the Israeli authorities banned the Islamic Call to Prayer (Adhan) in al-Aqsa mosque until Sunday noon, 16 July 2017, after which they declared they would gradually reopen the mosque after erecting 9 metal detector gates at al-Asbat, al-Majles and al-Selsela gates. However, they kept the remaining gates closed. The Muslim worshipers refused since then entering the mosque through those detector gates. Following this procedure, Palestinian worshipers refused to enter the mosque before removing the metal detector gates that were removed on 27/7/2017, after organized protests in the city and the rest of the oPt.

In 2017, schools in the city were remarkably attacked and some students were arrested while going to their schools. Moreover, Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the schools and arrested students from their classes. The Israeli

forces claimed that the students threw stones at the Israeli settlers and soldiers.

On 24 August 2017, the Israeli police denied students of al-Aqsa Sharia School access to their school in the Mosque, under the pretext of receiving book of the Palestinian curriculum with the Palestinian flag printed on which. They arrested Sheikh Najeh Bkeirat, Director of the Sharia Education in the Islamic Endowments "Aqwqa", and Robin Muhsen, Seceterait at al-Qsa School. They also took the ID card of teacher Nader al-Afghani and summoned him for investigation at al-Qeshlah police station in Old Jerusalem. Al-Afghani teaches 100 female students at al-Aqsa Sharia School for Girls and 150 male students in al-Aqsa Sharia School for Boys from the 7th to 11th grade.

On 06 November 2017, Israeli forces raided "Zahwet al-Quds" Kindergarten and School in Beit Hanina neighbourhood, north of the city. They raided and searched the classrooms and took the teachers' ID cards to take photos of them after questioning the teachers. The Israeli soldiers then arrested the School Principle and 3 teachers and later withdrew. Following this, the Israeli forces raided a house belonging to Mona al-Karawi, Director of the School's Society, and arrested her along with her husband.



Attacks by Israeli Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

In 2017, armed Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. PCHR emphasized that those attacks were carried out by Israeli settlers under the protection of the Israeli forces, who even joined them in carrying out dozens of attacks. Israeli forces do not intervene to stop such attacks, nor do they take legal action against settlers. In general, the Israeli forces ignore complaints submitted by Palestinian victims against Israeli settlers and do not investigate them. This policy adopted by Israeli forces encourages settlers to commit more crimes against Palestinian civilians, and frustrates Palestinian victims who abstain from submitting complaints to Israeli authorities because they are convinced that Israeli authorities would not seriously consider and investigate their complaints. In 2017, 3 Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank.

- On 18 May 2017, an Israeli settler killed Mo'taz Bani Shamsah (22) from Bitah village, south of Nablus, after opening fire at a group of teachers, who gathered in front of the Education Directorate building, south of Nablus in Hawarah village, to call upon the PA respond to their demands. As a result, Mo'ataz Bani Shamsah (22), from Bitah village, south of Nablus, was hit with a bullet to the head and immediately died. Moreover, Majdi Mohammed Soliman Ishtayah (35), a photojournalist at Associated Press Agency, was hit with a bullet to the right hand.
- On 31 October 2017, Mohamed Abdullah Ali Mousa (26), from Deir Balout village, west of Salfit, was killed and his brother sustained wounds after Israeli settlers, who were at the entrance of "Halmish" settlement, established in al-Nabi Saleh village lands, northwest of Ramallah, opened

fire at a car carrying them. The Israeli forces claimed that the car, which was driven by the 2 Palestinians, quickly moved towards the soldiers at the settlement entrance and they thought that the driver intends to carry out a run over attack, so they opened fire at them and wounded both of them. An eyewitness told PCHR's fieldworker that that settlers opened fire at the vehicle and then a military jeep arrived at the place after carrying out the crime.

- On 30 November 2017, Mahmoud Ahmed Za'al 'Oudah (48), from Qasrah village, southeast of Nablus, was killed after a group of Israeli settlers moved into Ras al-Nakhil area, east of Qasrah village. A settler opened fire at Mahmoud and wounded him with a live bullet, so he immediately die. In the same context, the Israeli settlers carried out dozens attacks against Palestinian civilians' property, especially agricultural property.

The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

Although 13 years passed since the Advisory Opinion has been issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 09 July 2004 on the legal consequences of the wall in response to a request by a UN General Assembly Resolution of 03 December 2003, Israel has not taken any measure to change the situation on the ground. The ICJ ruled that the wall's construction inside the oPt, including East Je-

rusalem, has no legal validity. In the consequences of the Advisory Opinion, Israel is bound to put an end to its violations of international law, stop the construction works of the wall, and dismantle the sections already constructed, abolish all relevant legislations and orders, and compensate Palestinians affected by the construction of the wall. The ICJ called upon the international community to abstain from helping the continued illegal status, which was established after the construction of the annexation wall, and to take legal action to stop the Israeli violations and ensure the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention. However, the Israeli authorities and its judicial system have continued to ignore the ICJ's opinion, and the Israeli government continued to act as a state above the law. Moreover, the international community has not taken any measures to deter the Israeli forces or hold them accountable for their crimes and serious violations of international humanitarian law in the oPt.

Facts on the ground show that Israel, which built the annexation wall on alleged security reasons, created unilateral facts on the ground, and made the boundaries of the annexation wall negotiable with the Palestinians who seek to establish their state within the boundaries of 1967. According to the Palestinian estimations, the area of Palestinian lands isolated and besieged between the wall and Green Line is 680 square kilometers;

i.e. 12.0% of the total area of the West Bank, and 454 square meters of them are pasture and agricultural lands.

Regarding the construction of the annexation wall, the construction of the annexation Wall around the village of Walaja, northwest of Bethlehem, renewed at the end of April this year after a three-year cession. The annexation wall will isolate the village from the rest of its lands, about 3,000 dunums, as well as from its geographical surroundings, maintaining only one road that connects it with Beit Jala. The construction of the annexation wall stopped three years ago after a legal pressure from the village residents and human rights organizations. The renewal of the construction works came after the Israeli Supreme Court allowed the construction of the wall in the vicinity of the village.

the Israeli Haaretz Newspaper published on 01 May 2017 that the Israeli authorities plan to isolate around 3000 dunums of the village's lands outside the wall to be later annexed to the so-called national park of the Jerusalem Metropolis, in addition to closing the road before the residents' movement, denying them access to the eye water. It should be noted that al-Waljah village historically belongs to Jerusalem, whose residents hold the (Israeli) blue identity card, pay the "Arnona" tax, and mainly depend on agriculture. Al Walaja village is divided into areas classified according to the Oslo Accords as "A, B and C". The village is around 17,500 dunums; only 3,000 dunums were left and the Israeli authorities seek to seize 1000 dunums of which for settlement purposes, build Notional Parks, and demolish all houses built on it.



The Absence of Justice in the Israeli Legal System

The Israeli authorities continued to deprive the Palestinian victims of their right to redress before the Israeli Judiciary through imposing obstacles before the complainants and ignore requests and civilian and criminal complaints filed to investigate crimes and violations committed by the Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On the other hand, the Palestinian people believe that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is their last and important resort after hindering and sometimes closure of the other resorts for justice. However, 2017 ended and the ICC did not open an investigation into the crimes committed by the Israeli forces and leaders against the Palestinians in the 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip, when 1742 civilians, including 530 children and 302 women were killed.

Despite the many obstacles before the international justice system and systematic denial of justice before the Israeli judiciary, PCHR continued its work relevant to prosecuting the Israeli war criminals before the different judiciary mechanisms, including the Israeli courts and national courts vesting universal jurisdiction over war crimes in addition to the ICC.

International Criminal Court Stands Still

PCHR, al-Mizan, Addameer and al-Haq, submitted 2 new legal submissions to the ICC as they declared on 20 September and 21 December 2017. The first submission was titled as “Israeli Settlement Activity in the oPt” while the second was about “Israel’s inability and unwillingness to investigate effectively and hold those suspected of committing war crimes accountable.” PCHR and its partners previously filed 3 submissions to the ICC in 2015-2016. The first submission addressed the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, the second was about the 2014 Israeli offensive of 2014 on the Gaza Strip in 2014 and the third was about the Black Friday Massacre in Ra-

fah (Hannibal Directive), where dozens of civilians were killed and wounded due to the random artillery shelling upon Israeli orders during the 2014 offensive. It should be noted that the ICC opened a preliminary investigation on 16 January 2015 into the situation in the oPt since 13 July 2014, but no tangible progress was realized. Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities did not allow the ICC investigators to enter the Gaza Strip to reveal the facts in blatant violation of the international justice, revealing their aforethought intention to juggle with facts and deny any opportunity for justice.

Israel's Insistence to Continue Denying Justice for Palestinians

The Israeli judicial system continued to ignore the summary executions carried out by Israeli soldiers and police against Palestinian civilians, claiming that the latter attempted to carry out stabbing, run over or shooting attacks against Israeli soldiers and security officers for the second consecutive year. In addition, there is a continual state of disregard for and procrastination in prosecuting Israeli soldiers and settlers, who were accused of attacking Palestinians. These facts reveal an actual result that the Israeli judicial system is not willing to bring justice for the Palestinians and insists on granting impunity for the Israeli perpetrators, both soldiers and settlers. Consequently, resorting to the international justice has become the only option available for Palestinians in light of Israel's clear denial of justice to the Palestinian victims.

A new proof of ostensible justice provided by the Israeli judiciary to Palestinians is the 18-month sentence issued against the killer of wounded Palestinian Abdul Fattah al-Sharif on 24 March 2016 as a video coincidentally showed an Israeli soldier directly opening fire at the head of Abdel Fattah al-Sharif who was wounded and lying on the ground motionless¹⁸. It should be noted that the Israeli law and judiciary system issue a sentence up to 6 years against those throwing stones at the Israeli soldiers, reflecting the discriminatory and racial mentality of the Israeli judiciary. Israeli Defense Minister Lieb-

18. On 24 March 2016, an Israeli soldier opened fire at a Palestinian civilian identified as 'Abd al-Fatah al-Sharif who was wounded and lying motionless on the ground. The Israeli soldiers shot al-Sharif to the head directly claiming that he attempted to carry out a stabbing attack. The Israeli Military Prosecution charged the soldier of unintentional killing, although the crime was willfully committed as shown in cameras that captured the scene where the soldier directly opened fire at the victim's head in the time the ambulances arrived to take al-Sharif after he was wounded.

erman sent an appeal to the Israeli president urging a pardon for the criminal soldier. Prime Minister Netanyahu also said that he supports the soldier and his family, commenting “The day of the trial is a painful day for everyone, especially Azaria (the killer), his family and I.” In another statement, Netanyahu said that he upholds the pardon for Azariah.

PCHR has filed 247 criminal complaints since 2014 and letters requesting the Israeli MAG to open a criminal investigation. These criminal complaints dealt with a large number of incidents during the operation “Protective Edge”. Each complaint was filed on behalf of one or more civilian victims, representing a total of 1080 victims. To date, PCHR has not received any substantive responses regarding 209 criminal complaints though the Military Prosecution for Operational Affairs confirmed the receipt of all the complaints. PCHR also received 20 negative responses indicating that the MAG decided not to open investigation into 16 cases and 3 responses dismissing the case for not finding the incident in addition to one response that the investigation had been closed in the case of killing four children from Baker family off the Gaza City shore. In the latter case, the MAG closed the investigation because there was no suspicion that the Israeli soldiers committed a criminal offense, especially since the soldiers, as he claimed, could not identify the victims as children. In response to

the negative responses of the MAG, PCHR submitted 19 challenges to the Israeli Attorney General and attached a clear list of arguments, materials and evidence that explicitly prove the Israeli forces are responsible for war crimes. Therefore, the Israeli Attorney General shall cancel the MAG’s decisions. These objections were referred to the Office of Deputy State Attorney General for Administration and Special Functions, which asked those filing the challenges to go back to the Israeli Military Prosecution. Although all the documents substantiating the claim were attached, the Attorney General returned the challenges to Military Prosecution and that was surprising and raises questions about the seriousness of dealing with these challenges which take a long time to be treated.

The victims of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in July-August 2014 (Operation Protective Edge) are still waiting for remedy and justice, after they joined the long list of victims of the repeated Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip in 2012 (Pillar of Defense) and in 2008-2009 (Cast Lead). This situation is a serious challenge to the international justice system, which shall confront the Israeli forces’ denial of all their binding international obligations.

It should be mentioned that Israeli authorities continued to deny the Palestinian victims’ right to redress through imposing a series of financial and legal obstacles. The

latest of these measures was taken on 16 December 2014, when the Israeli Supreme Court approved regulations that ban Palestinians from Gaza from entering Israel for their compensation cases against the Israeli military in addition to the prohibitively high costs of Israeli legal fees to file reparation complaints and making it impossible to file such complaints, which affects thousands of victims. Furthermore, Amendment No. 8 to the Israeli Tort Law (Liability of the State) of 1952 exempts the State of Israel of any liability arising from damages caused to a resident of an enemy territory during a 'combat action' or 'military operation'. This amendment applies retroactively from 2005 onwards and exempts the Israeli forces not only from providing reparations to the victims of the latest Israeli offensive, but also to the victims of "Operation Cast Lead" in 2008-2009 and "Operation Pillar of Defense" in 2012 in addition to all the attacks committed against Palestinian civilians since 2005. As a result, PCHR could not file any compensation complaint on behalf of the "Pillar of Defense" victims. Moreover, the

Israeli courts dismissed several compensation complaints that were already filed by PCHR on behalf of the victims.

The Israeli judicial system significantly contributes to the escalation of attacks carried out by Israeli forces and settlers against Palestinian civilians. The Israeli judicial system adopts procrastination and negligence when dealing with the crimes committed by Israeli settlers and soldiers against Palestinian civilians. According to Yesh Din Volunteers for Human Rights, of the 1,104 investigation files, 940 files (85%) were closed by the MAG since 2005 without investigating them. All of these complaints were against Israeli settlers, who were accused of assaulting Palestinian civilians. Statistics show that around 95.6% of the complaints related to property and Palestinian farmers' plants were closed due to the dereliction of the competent Israeli authorities. Yesh Din Volunteers for Human Rights also found that the possibility of access of Palestinian civilians to justice in the West Bank before the Israeli judicial system is only 1.9%.



SECOND

Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Reform



Violation of Right to Life and Personal Security

In 2017, violations of the right to life and personal security due to the misuse of weapons and assault on the rule of the law continued in the oPt. During this year, the oPt witnessed continuation of killing incidents in family disputes or due to the misuse of weapons and murdering women on various grounds, including one on grounds of the so-called “family honor.”

PCHR documented the killing of 41 persons, including 3 children and 10 women while in incidents related to the misuse of weapons and constitute violations of the rule of the law in the oPt. Twenty-nine of them were in the Gaza Strip, including 3 children and 9 women, while the 12 others were in the West Bank, including 1 woman. Moreover, 80 other persons were wounded in the same year; 56 of them in the Gaza Strip, including 7 children and 4 women, and the 24 others in the West Bank, including 9 children.

Violations of the right to life and personal security were committed in the following contexts: use of weapons in personal and familial disputes (12); misuse and illegal use of weapons (20), Persons killed by security services that used excessive force during a law enforcement operation (3) and killings on grounds of family honor (1). Moreover, 5 persons were killed in an individual incident related to Palestinian armed groups’ activities in the Gaza Strip.

Use of Weapons in Personal and Familial Disputes

In 2017, 12 persons, including (2) children and 3 women, were killed due to the use of weapons in personal and family disputes. While 7 were killed in the Gaza Strip, 5 were killed in the West Bank. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 05 December, Yasser Suhail Hamdan Badawi (23) succumbed to his wounds after being shot by a person in Rafah the previous day on grounds of a personal dispute.
2. On 11 November, 'Ammar Hussein Abu Khater (34) was killed after being hit with several bullets throughout his body while his brother, Mohammed (36) was hit with a bullet to the shoulder during a family dispute in al-Nussairat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.
3. On 03 November, (M. M. K) (28) was killed after being hit with a bullet to his back while his brother was hit with a bullet to the foot during a family dispute where firearms were used in al-Ram village, north of occupied Jerusalem.
4. On 30 October, Isma'il Mohammed al-Ghusein (28) from al-Nussairat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip succumbed to his wounds after being shot with a bullet to his head during a family dispute in the refugee camp on 28 October. During the dispute, 'A. M. Gh. (25) was wounded with a bullet to the abdomen; (Sh. Kh. Q.) (22) with a bullet to the right leg; and (H. Kh.Q.) (26) with a bullet to the right foot.
5. On 21 August, Rateb Hussein Abu 'Asab (26) from Hebron was killed after being hit with a bullet to the back and another to the shoulder after gunmen opened fire at him in a toyshop in al-Haras area in Hebron.
6. On 27 July, Duha Hussam Salem al-Sahabani (11) from al-Sabrah neighborhood was killed after being hit with a bullet, which entered her back and exited her neck during a family dispute occurred between 'A. and Q. and where firearms were used.
7. On 11 May, Kefah 'Abdel Mutaleb Salem Musalam (Mesleh) (23) from al-Shabourah refugee camp in Rafah City was killed after her father opened fire at her. She was hit with a bullet to the right side of the chest. Kefah was a mother of two children and 4-month pregnant.
8. On 13 February, Olfat Mohammed Shahin (45) was killed after being hit with a bullet to the chest. Moreover, 'Abdel Karim Fathi Shahin (23) was wounded with a bullet to the shoulder and Mohammed Mahmoud Shahin (55) was wounded with a bullet to the abdomen during a dispute between Shahin Family members in Gaza Valley village, southeast of Gaza City.



Illegal Use and Misuse of Weapons

During this year, 20 civilians were killed; 16 in the Gaza Strip and 4 person in the West Bank due to the illegal use and misuse of weapons in the oPt. Among the victims, there were 3 children and a woman killed. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 13 October, Sabrine Ramzi Sa'di Abu Sha'ban (27) from al-Sheikh Redwan was killed after she was hit with a falling bullet shot by unknown when she was with her husband on al-Nafaq Street in the center of Gaza City.
2. On 27 September, Tariq Fawaz Khadourah (19) from al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip was killed with a bullet to his abdomen when he was cleaning a Kalashnikov inside his house.
3. On 24 September, Bashar Hafez Hamami (44) was killed after unknown persons opened fire at him. He was hit with a bullet to the chest while guarding an under-construction building on Street 16 near the old campus of Annajah National University in the center of Nablus.¹⁹
4. On 18 September, Renad 'Ammar Qudeih (21) was killed with a bullet to the neck. The bullet mistakenly unleashed from a gun inside her house in 'Abasan al-Kabirah village, east of Khan Younis.
5. On 14 September, Mohammed Salah Hamed Naser (16) from Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip was killed after being hit with a bullet that penetrated his mouth and exited his head from the back after he inspected a gun belonging to his relative in his house on Hamad Street in Beit Hanoun.
6. On 12 June, R. S. 'A. (27) who lived in al-Sha'af neighborhood, east of Gaza City, was killed with a bullet that penetrated her neck. Her husband surrendered to the police after she was killed, claiming a bullet mistakenly unleashed from his own gun inside his house. As a result, she was immediately killed.
7. On 11 July, Mohammed Hasan Mohammed Abu Zaher (27)

19. Later, civilians were arrested after admitting they mistakenly shot Hamami when they were shooting randomly.

living on al-'Ajarmah Street in Jabalia was killed after being hit with a stray bullet that penetrated his back and settled in the chest.

8. On 05 May, Joud Khalil Hussam Abu Rjeilah (3) from Khuza'ah, east of Khan Younis, succumbed to his serious wounds after he was wounded with bullet shrapnel to his head a week ago. The bullet unleashed from a relative's weapon when Joud was in his grandfather's house in 'Abasan al-Kabirah.

Crimes of Killing during Law Enforcement Campaigns

In 2017, 2 persons were killed by security service officers in incidents where excessive force was used. A person was killed during law enforcement campaigns while another was killed during clashes between Palestinian security services and Palestinian gunmen. Moreover, a security officer was killed during a clash with a group of gunmen.

1. On 19 November, 'Awad Salim al-Sha'er (32), who was detained by Border Security Service, from Rafah City in the southern Gaza Strip, was killed when its officers opened fire at him. The security officers claimed he attempted to escape when they were searching his farm.
2. On 19 March, a Palestinian National Security officer namely Hasan Abu al-Haj (21) from Cooper village in Ramallah

was killed after being shot with a bullet to the head and his colleague was wounded. Moreover, a wanted gunman namely Ahmed Naji Abu Hamadah known as "al-Za'abour" (27), from Balatah refugee camp, was wounded with two bullets to the back and neck during a clash occurred between the two parties when the security officers attempted to arrest the wanted.

Civilian Killed by Armed Groups near Training Site

PCHR documented in 2017 the killing of a civilian by a member of the Palestinian Armed Groups in al-Mughraqa area in the central Gaza Strip claiming they suspected his movements near a military training site.

1. On 07 May, Ashraf Samir Ahmed 'Aweida (39), from Beit Lahia Housing Project in the northern Gaza Strip, was killed by an armed group member in al-Mughraqah area in the central Gaza Strip. Ayman al-Batniji, spokesperson of the police, stated that in the early morning, members of Palestinian armed groups opened fire at 'Aweida When they suspected persons' movement in al-Mughraqah area and ordered them to stop. However, the suspects refused and fled away. Al-Batniji added that the armed groups opened fire at the suspects, wounding one of them and arresting another. The

wounded was taken to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital and died there. Al-Batniji said that the investigation conducted by the General Intelligence Service into the incident revealed that the suspects stole electricity cables from the area, and the case is so far under investigation.

Attacks on Public Property

In 2017, PCHR documented that civilians attacked public property in incidents of assaults on the rule of law; in most of which the attackers used firearms as a threat, most notably the attack on hospitals and damaging some of its property. Most prominent incidents were as follows:

1. Following the killing of 'Awad al-Sha'er (32) by security officers in Rafah City on 19 November, outrageous members of the victim's family burned a vehicle belonging to the Border Security Service in front of Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital. They also damaged the emergency department contents. As a result, the medical services in the department were suspended.
2. On 29 August, companions of a female patient beat up three nurses and destroyed the Intensive Care room door in the Gaza European Hospital, east of Khan Younis. The police then intervened and arrested 3 of them. The companions who were around 50 at-

tempted to enter the IC room with her, but the medical staff tried to prevent them. Altercations occurred between the medical staff and companions and then developed into attacking the nurses and wounding 3 of them. The wounded nurses were identified as Mahmoud al-Khatib (25) sustained fracture to his nose; Sabri Sheikh 'Eid (32) sustained bruises in the limbs; and Ikrami Mohammed Abu Joudah (34) sustained bruises in the face and hands.

3. On 31 July, gunmen attacked a PRCS ambulance carrying a policeman wounded in an accident while on duty in al-Razi Hospital in Jenin. The ambulance in question transferred a wounded police officer after having a car accident when he was on duty, chasing an illegal car in Burqin village, west of Jenin. The gunmen attacked the ambulance crew, headed to the office of Hospital's Director, Fawaz 'Abdul Rahman Hammad, and threatened to kill him if he did not refer the wounded police officer to an Israeli hospital for medical treatment. The gunmen raided the Emergency Department (ED) at the Hospital, opened fire around a receptionist and damaged the office contents. The gunmen beat up the medical personnel comprised of Dr. Mohammed 'As'ous; Dr. Saleh Mahmoud; Nurse Jalal Turkman; ray technician Amjad Saba'nah; and Nurse Sahar al-Tubasi and then damaged the ED contents, including furniture and a

computer. One of the gunmen put his gun to the Dr. Saleh's head and said, "If you do not leave the hospital, you will die." The wounded police officer was then transferred to the Istishari Arab Hospital in Ramallah, while the attackers left the Hospital, causing destruction in the ED. As a result, the ED stopped receiving patients for four hours. A video published throughout websites showed a gunman raiding the ED and opening fire around a receptionist in addition to other gunmen damaging the office contents.

Murder of Women

In 2017, PCHR documented the murder of 10 women during incidents of mishandling weapons, including 9 in the Gaza Strip and 1 in the West Bank.²⁰ One of them was on grounds of so-called "family honour". On 08 July 2017, the corpse of (S. Sh.) (36) arrived at Naser Hospital in Khan Yunis with strangulation signs around her neck, and the police was informed with the incident. According to police, an investigation was initiated and the body of the dead woman was transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department. The initial information indicated that the crime was committed on grounds of so-called "family honor". The victim's two brothers have been detained to be questioned on the circumstances and motives for the crime.

PCHR is gravely concerned over the commission of such crimes and calls upon the competent authorities to take serious measures to put an end to these crimes, including applying the decision that has the power of the law issued by the Palestinian President on 15 May 2011 to abolish the lenient sentences issued against the perpetrators of these crimes and apply death punishments against them.

20. See Details of these crimes above.

Escalation and Dangerous Precedents in the Application of Death Penalty

This year witnessed escalation and dangerous precedents in the application of death penalty. PCHR hopes that the reconciliation would put an end to the excessive use of this penalty in a preamble to cancel it. Forming the “Field Military Court” in the Gaza Strip, bringing those accused of drugs dealing before military courts, and issuing death sentences against them are all the most serious development regarding the use of the death penalty in 2017. Moreover, the rate of using and applying death penalty in 2017 has increased as the number of death sentences reached 31, including 19 new sentences and 6 were executed without the ratification of the Palestinian President, constituting a violation of the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law. All the death sentences issued in the Gaza Strip this year were as the last year which means that no death sentences were issued or executed in the West Bank over the past two years.

Establishing the Military Field Court in May 2017 to prosecute those convicted of killing Fiqaha’ constitutes a serious precedent in the history of the Palestinian justice system, denying the right of the accused persons to receive proper defense and violating the law. The Military Field Court was established and executed the sentences in violation of the law that allows its establishment. For example, those accused were not given the right to defense and the Palestinian President did not ratify the sentence before being executed as codified in the 1979 Revolutionary Procedural Law, under which the Field Court was established, and as codified in Article 109 of the Palestinian Basic Law.

It should be noted that the court was established without a decision by the Palestinian President and without having a state of armed conflict as provided in Articles (129 and 130) of the Revolutionary Procedural Law under which this unconsti-

tutional court was formed. Furthermore, bringing civilians before a military court is a flagrant violation of the PBL, whose Article (30) ensures accused person's right to litigation before their natural judge. It should be mentioned that the Field Court issues sentences that are non-appealable and immediately enforceable; however, this is totally unacceptable because the Military Field Court impairs the right to defense, which is a fundamental human right that binds the PA and so no exceptions are accepted. PCHR emphasizes that the Revolutionary Penal Code and Revolutionary Procedural Law are not constitutional laws as they were neither presented to nor considered by the PLC. However, establishing the Field Court in May 2017 and the sentences executed by it even violated this unconstitutional and unjust laws for not being compatible with the common minimum standards of justice binding the PA according to the human rights conventions, particularly the ICCPR acceded by the State of Palestine in 2014.

2017 witnessed another dangerous precedent which bringing persons accused of drugs supply to military courts and issuing death sentences against them, violating the PBL and being explicitly extrajudicial. PCHR monitored 5 death sentences issued by military courts against persons accused of drugs supply, including one that was appealed. However, none of those sentences has so far been executed. Bringing the persons accused

of drugs supply before military courts constitute a new level of the executive authority's interference into the judicial authority. The military courts in the Gaza Strip have always tried civilians accused of collaboration, but for the first time this year civilians accused of drugs supply are presented before military courts. PCHR warns of militarizing the Gaza Strip as this would dangerously affect all aspects of life, particularly safety.

The number of death sentences issued in 2017 amounted to 31 sentences; 12 of which upheld previous sentences while the 19 others were new sentences. Thus, the total number of death sentences issued in the PA controlled areas has risen to 203 sentences since 1994. Thirty of which have been issued in the West Bank and 173 in the Gaza Strip. Among those issued in the Gaza Strip, 115 sentences have been issued since 2007.

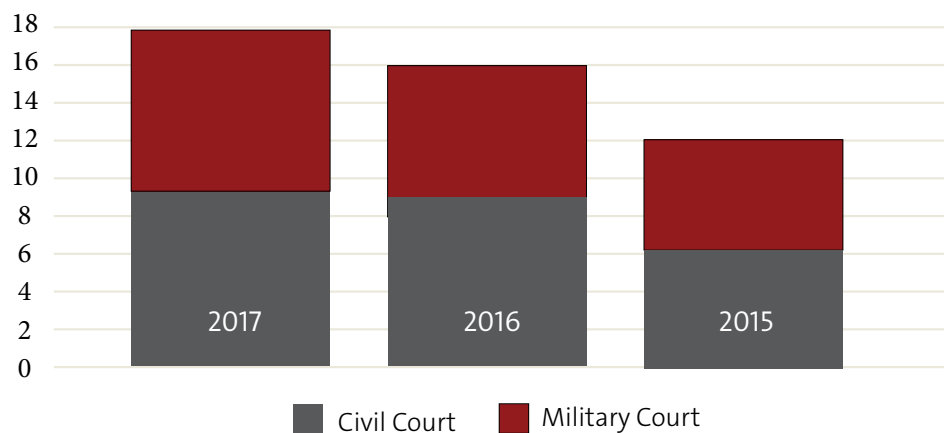
The authorities in Gaza applied 6 death sentences, 3 of which were on 06 April 2017, on charges of murder while the 3 others were applied upon a sentence issued by the "Field Military Court" against those convicted of murdering Mazen Foga'a, one of Hamas leaders. The sentence was applied on 25 May 2017. This number of applied death sentences is the highest in one year since Hamas Movement took over the Gaza Strip in 2007. It should be noted that 9 death sentences were executed since the formation of the

National Unity Government in June 2014. Those death sentences were also applied without the ratification of the Palestinian President in a flagrant violation of the PBL, particularly Article (109), which stipulates:

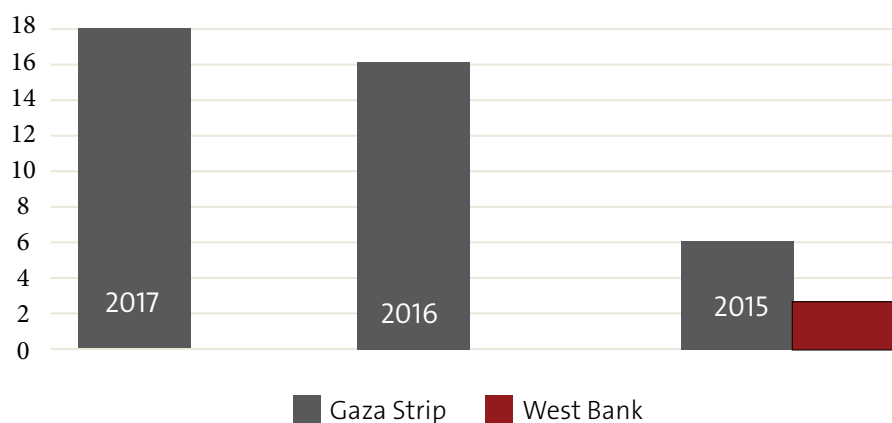
“A death sentence pronounced by any court may not be implemented unless endorsed by the President of the Palestinian National Authority.”

Since the establishment of the PA, 41 death sentences were applied; 39 of which were in the Gaza Strip and two in the West Bank. Among those sentences applied in the Gaza Strip, 28 were applied since 2007 without the ratification of the Palestinian President in violation of the law.

New Death Sentences Issued During the Last 3 Years and Number of Those Issued by Military Courts



Death Sentences issued in West Bank and Gaza Strip during the Last 3 Years



Death Sentences Issued in the PA in 2017

#	Date of Ruling	Name	Place of Residence	Type of Court and Ruling	Accusation
1.	11 January 2017	N. W. G.	Gaza	Court of First Instance	Murder
2.	11 January 2017	M. 'A. G.	Gaza	Court of First Instance	Murder
3.	24 January 2016	KH. G. A.	Gaza	Court of First Instance	Murder
4.	24 January 2017	GH. SH. A.	The Central Gaza Strip	Court of First Instance	Murder
5.	20 February 2017	A. A. A.	Khan Yunis	Court of First Instance	Collaboration
6.	20 February 2017	KH. M. S.	Khan Yunis	Court of First Instance	Collaboration
7.	20 February 2017	GH. SH. A.	The North	Court of First Instance	Collaboration
8.	20 February 2017	A. A. A.	Gaza	Appeal Court	Collaboration
9.	20 February 2017	KH. M. S.	Gaza	Appeal Court	Collaboration
10.	20 February 2017	'A. 'A. H.	Khan Yunis	Supreme Court	Collaboration
11.	20 February 2017	R. H. 'A.	Khan Yunis	Supreme Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
12.	02 March 2017	A. 'A. A.	The Central Gaza Strip	Court of First Instance	Murder
13.	19 March 2017	R. H. M.	Rafah	Court of First Instance	Drugs
14.	19 March 2017	Z. A. T.	Rafah	Court of First Instance	Drugs
15.	29 March 2017	H. M. SH.	The North	Court of Appeal	Murder
16.	04 May 2017	M. M. KH.	The North	Court of Appeal	Murder
17.	04 May 2017	'A. N. N.	Rafah	Court of Appeal	Murder
18.	04 May 2017	M. M. A.	Rafah	Court of Appeal	Murder
19.	11 May 2017	'A. W. Q.	Rafah	Military Court of First Instance	Drugs supply
20.	11 May 2017	M. A. G.	Gaza	Military Court of First Instance	Drugs supply
21.	21 May 2017	R. H. M.	Rafah	Military Court of Second Instance	Drugs supply
22.	21 May 2017	A. M. L.	The Central Gaza Strip	Field Military Court	Collaboration and Murder

Death Sentences Issued in the PA in 2017					
#	Date of Ruling	Name	Place of Residence	Type of Court and Ruling	Accusation
23.	21 May 2017	H. M. 'A.	Gaza	Field Military Court	Collaboration and Murder
24.	21 May 2017	'A. A. N.	Gaza	Field Military Court	Murder and Collaboration
25.	01 June 2017	M. A. M.	Northern Gaza Strip	Court of Cassation	Murder
26.	12 July 2017	N. GH. 'A	Khan Yunis	Court of Cassation	Murder
27.	12 July 2017	A. 'A. Z.	The Central Gaza Strip	Court of Appeal	Murder
28.	26 September 2017	S. A. G.	Khan Yunis	Court of First Instance	Murder
29.	26 September 2017	Y. H. A.	Khan Yunis	Court of First Instance	Murder
30.	26 September 2017	A. 'A. B.	Khan Yunis	Court of First Instance	Murder
31.	28 December 2017	M. M. KH.	Khan Yunis	Court of First Instance	Murder

Illegal Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

Palestinian security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to arrest and summon civilians without following the legal procedures in violation of their rights, guaranteed under the PBL and relevant international standards. In most cases, the Palestinian Security Services arrest civilians without a legal arrest warrant and those arrested are subject to beating and inhuman and degrading treatment.

PCHR received many complaints confirming that the arrestees were subject to torture either in the Palestinian prisons or detention facilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, during their arrest or detention or while being taken to prisons and detention facilities. Dozens of statements and affidavits submitted by the claimants or their families confirming that the Palestinian security services used various investigations methods that are considered a form of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment against those arrested and/or detained persons.

Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

Palestinian Security Services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to widely use torture and cruel treatment against arrested and detained persons in prisons and detention facilities.

The prevalence of torture phenomenon in the oPt, and continuous practice of it widely by the security services in addition to lack of real evidence proving that the competent authorities investigate these crimes and bring perpetrators to justice confirm that this crime is systematically committed and not individual cases as claimed by the officials.

During this year, PCHR monitored several forms of torture crimes committed against persons suspected of committing criminal offenses, against those raising security suspicions, political rivals and etc. These torture methods, including forcing persons to stay in painful circumstances and sleeping deprivation for hours, shackling (Shabeh) for hours, beating on bare feet “**Falaka**”, death threats, and placing the detainees under degrading conditions or in narrow and poorly ventilated cells that lack ventilation and adequate health conditions. The most frequently occurring form of torture was to force detainees to stand in difficult and exhausting positions for hours, in a method known as shackling “Shabeh”, causing terrible pains throughout the body, especially the legs and hands. It should be noted that the shackling is done in different forms.

In the Gaza Strip, PCHR documented many cases, where complainants claimed that they were tortured during investigation and interrogation in the security services’ headquarters, especially the Criminal Police.²¹ PCHR monitored a number of cases that constituted blatant forms of torture when arrested persons were severely harmed. In his testimony to PCHR’s fieldworker, (M. GH) (19), from Gaza City, said that he was tortured by police officers and severely beaten with sticks throughout his body. He added that “a police officer held my head while another held my right hand. They then handcuffed my left hand and tied it to the bed. One of the police officers then hit me with his firearm on my tied hand and fractured it.” (M. Q) (45), from ‘Abasan al-Kabirah village, east of Khan Yunis, also said that he was exposed to shackling, beating at the bottom of his feet “Falaka” and sleeping deprivation he added that he was forced to stand for hours, and his nails were removed in addition to injecting him with an unknown substance in the Internal and Intelligence Security offices. A third person, (M. Sh. F.) (30), from Khan Yunis, said that he was subject to various forms of physical torture, including shackling, standing for hours in the so-called (bus room), beating

21. For more details, see PCHR’s torture report.

on bare feet “Falaka”, sleep deprivation, and cruel and degrading treatment that included deprivation of family visits, staying in dirty cells, deprivation of the necessary healthcare, and deprivation of good and enough food. He added that: “A doctor was giving the green light to the police officers to continue to torture, including shackling.”

In the West Bank, PCHR received many complaints and testimonies from civilians who claimed that they were subjected to torture in detention facilities administered by security services, especially in the GIS and PSS offices. In the West Bank, the cases of torture were not only limited to political activists, but were also against those arrested on criminal grounds. In his testimony to PCHR’s fieldworker, (B. N. A.), a university student, from Kafur Qalil village in Nablus, said that he was tortured by the GIS due to his student activism. He added that: “My hands were tied with a rope behind my back to the ceiling the corridor and the officers then started to pull me upward until my feet barely touched the floor. They then punched and slapped me on my face and throughout my body for five minutes.” Furthermore, (Q. Z. F.) (22), from Hebron, said that he was tortured by the GIS in Hebron, including beating, kicking, and shackling. He added that: “... The guard hung me from the ceiling for 3 hours until my feet barely reached the floor” Shabeh”.” Moreover, (M. A. A) (27), from Beit Kahel village in

Hebron, said that he was tortured in the GIS office. He added that: “They tied my hands and feet together with a rope behind my back, and an officer then brought a stick and started hitting me on the bottom of my feet and on my hands”.

Deaths in Prisons and Detention Centers

During the reporting period, 7 Palestinians died inside prisons and detention facilities of the Palestinian security services; 3 of them were in the West Bank and the 4 others in the Gaza Strip.

1. On 05 March 2017, the Medical Complex in Ramallah declared the death of (Gh. D.), from Jenin, in Jericho Prison in undisclosed circumstances. On 26 February 2017, (Gh. D.) was referred from Jericho Prison to a hospital in Ramallah, where he died. It should be noted that on 01 March 2017, upon a court’s decision, (Gh. D.) was detained after being accused of intentionally killing 3 civilians.
2. On 24 April 2017, (M. B.) (43), from Khan Yunis, died in Deir al-Balah detention facility. The Gaza Ministry of Interior stated that (M. B.) was found dead in the cell when the inmates in the same cell attempted to wake him up. The Gaza Ministry of Interior added that he had been detained on grounds of a criminal case from 15 February 2016.
3. On 08 August 2017, (A. D.) (23), from Beit Fujjar village in Bethlehem, died when he was in a Rehabilitation Center

in Bethlehem. (A. D) had been detained for 18 days upon an arrest warrant due to not paying a debt. His body was then taken to the Forensic Department, which showed that he died due to a heart attack.

4. On 06 September 2017, (R. J) (22), from Raffat village in Ramallah and al-Bireh, died while he was in Jerusalem police station. R. J. was summoned on the same day by the police for investigation upon complaints filed against him. During the interrogation, R. J. complained of severe chest pains. As a result, he was taken to the Palestine Medical Complex by an ambulance, but when he arrived at the hospital, he immediately died. The Public Prosecution opened an investigation into the death circumstances.
 5. On 19 September 2017, the Public Prosecution announced the death of a detainee after he jumped out the investigation room's window in the 4th floor in the Gaza Prosecution building. The Public Prosecution added that KH. H. sustained serious wounds and was then transferred to the hospital to be announced dead. On 08 October 2017, the Gaza Public Prosecution issued a statement announcing the results of the investigation into the death of Kh.H., confirming that his death was due to jumping off the Gaza Prosecution building and it was not proven that he was tortured during his detention. However, he had already sustained
- minor bruises after he was beaten up by the crowd (as he was immediately arrested on grounds of stealing). The prosecution added that was proven by the initials medical reports and the forensic report.
 6. On 22 September 2017, medical sources at al-Quds Hospital in Gaza City declared the death of Mustafa Fayeq 'Abed Rabboh Salman (16), from Beit Lahia, after staying in several hospitals after he had been in a clinical death since 02 September 2017. Salman was detained in Beit Lahia Police Station for adults on 02 July 2017 on grounds of a personal dispute. On 02 September, the police declared that Mustafa attempted to commit suicide using his undershirt in the cell bathroom. He was then taken to the Indonesian Hospital in Jabalia, where he arrived in a state of clinical death. He was then transferred to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at al-Shifa Hospital before referring him to al-Quds Hospital, where he died. The victim's family said that Mustafa told them that he had been ill-treated inside the cell when they visited him on the same day morning he committed suicide.
 7. On 24 September 2017, medical sources at al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, declared the death of prisoner (A. S. F) (29), after he was referred to al-Shifa Hospital from al-Shuja'iyia police station. The prisoner was serving a 1-year sentence in jail on grounds of theft. According to

the victim's brother, who was also arrested with him in the Shuja'iyia police station on grounds of a different theft incident, at approximately 07:30 on Sunday, while his brother (A. S. F) was heading to the bathroom and before he entered, he fell on the ground and fainted. His body was trembling and his color changed into red. He added: "we called the police, who responded after 10 minutes and took my brother to al-Sourani Clinic which refused to admit him, so he was taken back to the police station. The police then brought a doctor, who was detained on financial grounds, to check him up. The doctor confirmed that his health condition is serious, so he was transferred to al-Shifa Hospital, where he succumbed to his wounds. The forensic medicine department declared that (A. S. F) died due to hypertrophy of the heart muscle.

Arrests and Summonses on Political Grounds

In 2017, the security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to arrest and summons dozens of civilians and activists on political grounds and coupled with violations of civilians' fundamental rights, guaranteed by the PBL and relevant international standards. Arrests often occur without a legal arrest warrant during which the arrestees are subject

to beating and inhuman and degrading treatment.

In the Gaza Strip, dozens of Fatah activists and former members of the PA security services were arrested for different periods after being accused of collaboration with Ramallah and on security-related charges. Most of them were subject to inhuman and cruel treatment. Moreover, PCHR documented dozens of Salafi persons who were illegally arrested. A number of them complained that they were ill-treated in detention facilities.

In the West Bank, security services in the West Bank, mainly General Intelligence Service (GIS), Preventive Security Service (PSS) and Military Interrogation Service, continued to illegally arrest and summon activists from Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and Hizbu Tahrir. In addition, many persons were often arbitrarily arrested on political grounds and their rights were violated. Some of them are detained on behalf of the governor while others were brought before military courts although they were civilians. In addition, PCHR documented that dozens of civilians were illegally arrested due to their student and trade union activism. PCHR also documented a number of cases where the security services refused to apply the courts' decisions and release prisoners or delayed releasing them.

Continued Disruption of PLC

In 2017, the disruption of the PLC continued and legislative division had become more rooted as the Palestinian President continued to issue legislations using his power according to Article (43) of the PBL. Moreover, the Change and Reform Bloc continued to issue legislations on behalf of the PLC and even created new powers not owned by the Legislature itself. Furthermore, the Israeli forces continued its systematic and ongoing policy of arresting PLC members through which they aimed at obstructing any opportunity of establishing a democratic Palestinian State. In light of this, the Palestinian society is still looking forward to fully applying the reconciliation agreement and reactivating the PLC to guarantee the stability and safety of the legal system as an important step forward along the road to establishing the democratic Palestinian State.

By the end of 2017, 7 years had lapsed on the expiry date of presidential and legislative elections that should have been held in 2010. Though there are legal merits and justifications for the Palestinian President and the PLC to continue practicing their duties despite end of their term, this situation has reflected a serious violation of civilians' right to have authorities representing their real views and affiliation, especially after the decisive change in the electoral bloc during the 10 years that followed the last elections. This situation violates the PA's obligations according to Article (25) of the ICCPR to which Palestine acceded in 2014 that guarantees civilian's right to choose those, who represent them, in free, fair and periodic elections.

The Israeli authorities, as always did since the election of the current PLC in 2006, continued to impose arbitrary measures against the PLC Members. The Israeli authorities arbitrarily

detained PLC Members for varying periods that could last for years mainly without any charges or trial under the guise of administrative detention. Those figures and arbitrary measures, such as banning the Change and Reform Bloc in Jerusalem and arresting more than 50 PLC members in the last ten years for different periods, reflect the reality of the Israeli policy aiming at disrupting the legislative authority in the PA to justify the Israeli claims that Palestinians are not yet ready to govern themselves.

It should be noted that the current PLC elected in 2006 was disrupted only few months after being elected due to the political bickering between the two major blocs in the PLC, Fatah Parliamentary Bloc and the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform Bloc. That bloody conflict resulted in establishing two authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Despite the disruption of the PLC, the Change and Reform Bloc has convened in Gaza and issued laws and decisions on behalf of the PLC. Moreover, the Palestinian President issued presidential decrees according to Article (43) of the PBL under the pretext of the absence of the role of the PLC. PCHR declared a clear position at that time and expressed its reservation regarding all legislations issued in light of the division. PCHR also called upon the Change and Reform Bloc to stop issuing laws on behalf of the PLC and the Palestinian President to strictly comply with the principle

of necessity. This chaos contributed to increasing the fragmentation of the Palestinian law and complicating the rule of law reality in the PA. It should be mentioned that the reconciliation agreement did not include or mention how to deal with these laws and its consequences during the division.

Israeli Arbitrary Practices against PLC Members

Israeli forces continued to target PLC members during 2017. In addition to PLC members Marwan al-Barghuthi and Ahmed Sa'adat who both have spent years in the Israeli prison after sentences issued against them, 11 PLC members were arrested or their administrative detention was extended in 2017. Three PLC members were released before the end of this year while 9 PLC members are still under administrative detention. Two PLC members were detained in 2016 while the others were detained this year, but they underwent repeated administrative detention policy, which is used by the Israeli authorities against Palestinian civilians. Moreover, more than 50 PLC members were subjected for repeated administrative detention, without any charge or trial in flagrant violation of international human rights standards.

It should be noted the Israeli forces have put the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform Bloc to the list of terrorist organizations since 02 December 2012. The Israeli

military commander issued a decision that the Islamist parliamentary bloc would be considered as “a banned union”. The decision made reference to Article 84 (1) (b) of the Defence Regulations (State of Emergency) which were issued in 1945. The intention of the July decision was to legalize Israel’s systematic oppression of PLC Members since the Israeli authorities refused dealing with the results of the PLC elections in 2006 when the Change and Reform Bloc won the overwhelming majority in the PLC.

Table of Arrested and Released PLC Members in 2017			
	Name	Detention Date	Release Date
1.	Marwan al-Barghuthi	15 April 2002	Still arrested (sentenced with 26 life imprisonment)
2.	Ahmed Sa’dat	14 April 2006	Still arrested (sentenced with 30 life imprisonment)
3.	Hassan Yusef	17 January 2017	Released on 31 August 2017
4.	Mohammed al-Natcha	29 September 2016	Still arrested (administrative detention was extended)
5.	Mohammed Abu Tair	04 August 2017	Arrested again and still after he was released on 30 May 2017
6.	‘Azzam Salhab	28 February 2016	Still arrested (his arrest was extended in 2017)
7.	Ahmed al-Mubarak	16 January 2017	Still arrested
8.	Mohammed Bader	28 June 2017	Still arrested
9.	Khaledah Jarrar	02 June 2017	Still arrested (her detention was extended at the end of 2017)
10.	Ahmed ‘Atwan	19 April 2017	Still arrested
11.	Samira Haliqa	09 March 2017	09 May 2017
12.	‘Omer ‘Abdel Razeq	23 July 2017	23 November 2017
13.	Mohammed al-Tol	21 March 2017	14 October 2017

Latest Developments in the Gaza Strip in 2017

The Change and Reform Bloc continued to practice duties that fall under the genuine competence of the Palestinian President and executive authority and issued legislations on behalf of the PLC since the beginning of the Palestinian division in 2007. Moreover, 6 death sentences were applied in the Gaza Strip in 2017 after the Change and Reform Bloc ratified them; 3 of the sentences were ratified in 2016. This exceeds the authority of the Palestinian President and contradicts with the principle of separation of powers as stipulated in the 2003 PBL. Moreover, the Change and Reform Bloc continued to issue decisions on behalf of the PLC in Gaza. It issued 5 laws in 2017; 4 of them were amendments to previous laws and the fifth one was a new one codenamed “ Hamas Penal Code no. (1)/2017.”

Latest Developments in the West Bank in 2017

The Palestinian President continued to issue legislations without complying with the principle of necessity codified in Article (43) of the PBL to issue decrees that

have the power of law. The Palestinian President has issued dozens of legislations since the division; in most of which he did not comply with the principle of necessity. It should be noted that the Palestinian President issued, in 2017, 24 decrees, and this was the highest number of decrees ever issued by the President in one year, so the total number reached 173. Through PCHR’s follow-up of the number of decrees issued by the Palestinian President and its impact, we can find the Palestinian President exercises the power of legislation not as an exception in cases of necessity as provided in Article (43), but also as an absolute legislative power as he is authorized of it.

One of the most prominent legislations issued in 2017 was the Cybercrimes Law, a decision that was issued by the President as a decision that has the power of law. This law was full of fragile formulations and broad terms that allow over-criminalization and impose excessive penalties, completely undermining the freedom of expression. This legal status stems from the absence of the PLC and the executive authority’s monopoly to issue legislations regarding rights and freedoms.



Independence of Judicial Authority

2017 is over and the Palestinian society still looks forward to the unification of the judicial authority as part of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement's obligations in a way that guarantees the independence of this authority and keeps it apart from the political bickering to be the safe shelter for all parties to resolve the legal conflicts, particularly those of a political nature. PCHR hopes that 2018 would be the year to unify the judiciary in order to ensure the continuous democratic transformation in the PA.

The status of the judicial authority continued to deteriorate in 2017, which ended without putting an end to the split in the judicial authority or to the executive authority's interference into the judicial authority though over 2 years have passed since the reconciliation agreement came into force. This interference has reflected in several aspects, including disregard for the PBL by the judiciary in the Gaza Strip; ignoring the implementation of judicial rulings relevant to releasing detainees or financial rights or rulings relevant to abolishing or implementing administrative decisions.

One of the most prominent negative developments within the judicial System in 2017 was when the Palestinian President issued a decision that has the power of law to establish a Grand Criminal Court on 30 December 2017. This decision recalls when the PA established the disreputable State Security Court in 1995 to use it systemically for suppressing the oppositionists before abolishing it in 2003. This decision extends the powers of the Public Prosecution and interferes into the competence of other courts. PCHR affirms its full rejection of such legislations in light of the division especially that they are not issued by the PLC and in no circumstances shall a court be established upon an exceptional decision.

During this year, the PA President appointed Chancellor Hisham Hatu as the Deputy Chief Justice upon the High Judicial Council's recommendation following the appointment of Chancellor 'Emad Sa'ed as the New Chief Justice on 15 December 2016 successor to Chancellor Sami Sarsour, who was taken down by forcing him to sign an undated letter of resignation before assuming the Chief Justice post. At the time, PCHR emphasized that was a scandal which revealed the executive authority's interference into the judicial authority and called for opening an investigation into the incident. However, no investigation has been so far opened though over a year passed.

PCHR monitored many complaints relevant to not implementing judicial rulings as 38 complaints were documented, including delaying or not implementing judicial rulings relevant to releasing detainees held by the security services, particularly the Preventive Security Service, General Intelligence and Investigation Services in the West Bank and the military police and Internal Security in the Gaza Strip. Not limiting to the security services, in a flagrant defiance of the Judiciary's decisions, on 09 January 2017, the Presidential Office issued orders to the Land Authority to register a plot of land in favour of the Russian Mission although the Monastery of the Trinity and Church of the Holy Forefathers in Hebron won a judicial ruling to suspend the Presidential orders as the former claimed its ownership of the plot of land. The PA also delays the execution of a court's ruling for a public servant to pay him back the salary for the months he was arbitrarily dismissed. Moreover, there are 13 judicial rulings suspended relevant to financial issues or arbitrary dismissal from the public service, and the executive authority so far insists on not implementing them²².

The security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued doing this constantly for years with no deterrence although there is a clear article in the Basic Law that provides

22. ICHR, Monthly Reports issued in 2017.

a deterrent penalty for those refraining or obstructing the implementation of judicial rulings. Article 106 of the 2003 Basic Law provides that:

“Judicial rulings shall be implemented. Refraining from or obstructing the implementation of a judicial ruling in any manner whatsoever shall be considered a crime carrying a penalty of imprisonment or dismissal from position if the accused individual is a public official or assigned to public service. The aggrieved party may file a case directly to the competent court and the National Authority shall guarantee a fair remedy for him.”

In addition to Non-observance of the judicial rulings, the security services interfere in the judiciary work by interfering in resolving some financial disputes. The military police in Gaza is among the most intrusive security services as it interferes in the financial disputes between people. The military police uses arbitrary detention and false arrest and imposes solutions on the parties sometimes out of court or its control, amounting sometimes to use of torture and inhumane and degrading treatment to force the parties to implement the police decisions. This is a flagrant interference in the judiciary

work and blatant violation of the law.

It should be mentioned that the Palestinian Judiciary has been suffering a split since the division started in 2007 when the judiciary suspended its work in the Gaza Strip following the interference into its work by the government in Gaza, which was a de facto government that ruled the Gaza Strip after Hamas took over. Following that, the former Gaza government unconstitutionally appointed new judges, and the courts immediately returned to practice their duties but with a new cadre that was illegally appointed. Hence, there are now two separate judicial systems in the PA controlled areas; one in the West Bank and the other one in the Gaza Strip. Although the human rights organizations boycotted the judicial system formed in Gaza, as they considered it unconstitutional, they returned to deal with the judiciary in 2011 under the pressure of the need to protect the rights and liberties from the executive authority's abuse, thereby accepting it as a de facto authority. PCHR hopes that the reconciliation agreement would pave the way towards establishing an impartial and independent judiciary which shall enjoy the confidence of the society and be unaffected by the political bickering.

Obstruction of General and Local Elections

The reconciliation agreement signed in Cairo between Fatah and Hamas movements under the auspices of Egypt constituted a significant and serious step towards the end of internal division ongoing for 11 years. PCHR hopes that this new agreement would pave the way for creating a positive atmosphere to hold consistently the general and local elections in the new year, achieve the national unity, and rehabilitate the PA institutions.

2017 ended and the general (legislative and presidential) and local elections remained disrupted though they were scheduled to be held 7 years ago. Moreover, the local council elections have not been held in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since 2010, with the exception of holding them in the West Bank twice; the first was in 2012 and the second was this year. In addition, the PLC was entirely disrupted, and the municipalities in the Gaza Strip were administrated by non-elected councils.

Local Elections in West Bank (Excluding Gaza)

On 13 May 2017, the municipality elections were held in 358 local councils in the West Bank for the second time during the years of division as similar elections were previously held in 340 local councils in the West Bank between October 2012 and June 2013.²³ In both electoral events, the elections were held without the participation of Hamas. PCHR believes that step would deepen and reinforce the division, and it was better to postpone it until there is a national consensus to hold elections simultaneously in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On 31 January 2017, the Palestinian Cabinet issued a decision to hold the local elections in one day in all the local councils in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thus, the elections were scheduled to be held on 13 May 2017. On 09 January 2017, the Palestinian President issued a presidential decree to amend the local council elections law and so establishing a local council

23. On 20 October 2017, the Palestinian Cabinet provided in its decision that the elections will be held in all the West Bank local councils; however, no electoral lists qualified for nomination in 82 local councils out of 354 councils. Thus, on 22 December 2012, the Cabinet issued another decision to hold complementary elections on 22 December 2012 where the 82 local councils took part. However, there were local councils where no electoral lists qualified for nomination. Therefore, the Cabinet decided second complementary elections to take place on 01 June 2013 in 36 local councils in the West Bank, but there were no electoral lists in 14 local councils.

election court comprised of judges from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This court has become specialized to consider the electoral appeals instead of the First Instance Court.²⁴ Hamas refused the elections to be held in the Gaza Strip²⁵ due to the amendment to the Elections Law and not consulting Hamas in this regard. According to this, the Palestinian Cabinet issued a decision in February 2017 to postpone the elections in the Gaza Strip and hold them in 391 local councils in the West Bank.

On 13 May, the elections were held in 145 local councils. In 181 local councils, a single list in each was nominated thus qualified the lists to win elections by acclamation while in 65 local councils, no lists were nominated. As a result, the Cabinet called for holding complementary elections on 29 July 2017 in 70 local councils; 65 of them with no lists for nomination. Moreover, there were 4 local councils where the elections were held on 13 May whose councils resigned later on. Moreover, in one local council, voters did not take part in the elections held on 13 May. By this, Local elections in the West Bank were completed; however, in 38 local councils, there were no lists nominated, and thus the formation of their local councils was left to the Cabinet.²⁶

On the other hand, since the end of the 2004-2005 elections held in most of its municipalities, the local councils in the Gaza Strip continued to be administrated by those appointed as no elections have been held to renew the local councils' legitimacy during the years of division.

24. This issue was one of the main obstacles to holding simultaneously the local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that were scheduled to be held on 08 October 2016. Thus, on 04 October 2016, the Palestinian Cabinet issued a decision to postpone holding the elections for 4 months. On 03 October, the Supreme Court in Ramallah issued a sentence to hold elections in the West Bank but not in the Gaza Strip "because of the current judicial situation", pointing to the unlawfulness of the Gaza Strip courts formed in violation of the law. This decision was followed by a recommendation from the Central Election Committee (CEC) to postpone the elections for 6 months "to set the Palestinian house in order and rehabilitate the relevant regulations and laws in the interest of the Palestinian people." On 04 October, the Palestinian Cabinet decided to postpone the elections 4 months, seemingly upon the CEC's recommendation.

25. On 19 February, PCHR held a panel discussion following Hamas Movement's decision not to participate in the elections. The Panel was attended by representatives of national and Islamic factions, representatives of civil society organizations and the Central Election Commission (CEC) to practice pressure towards holding local elections, where the participation of all is ensured. The participants called upon Hamas to reconsider its position, which shall not be a position of principle to refuse the elections, and to seek holding and ensuring Gaza Strip's participation in them with the help of civil society. They also called upon Fatah Movement, Government, Palestinian President and authorities Gaza to work on providing a proper environment in order to hold free and fair elections.

26. It should be noted that local elections did not include refugee camps due to an autonomous decision by the latter not to hold local elections for political reasons related to the right of return. Moreover, the local elections did not include Jerusalem but covered Palestinian villages and neighborhoods adjacent to Jerusalem.

Violation of Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression:

The first nine months of 2017 witnessed an escalation of violations of the freedom of opinion and expression in the West Bank and Gaza Strip due to the Gaza Strip escalating crises and resulting strikes, enactment of Cybercrimes Law in the West Bank, continuous political bickering between the two parties to the division until portents of the Palestinian reconciliation started to emerge and the violations decreased in the last quarter. PCHR hopes that the Palestinian reconciliation would positively reflect on the status of rights and freedoms in general and the freedom of expression in particular as media workers and social media activists were among the most prominent victims of the division. The media workers stressed in several meetings organized by PCHR that unleashing and ensuring media freedoms shall be part of the National Unity Government's priorities for action.

PCHR monitored several cases where journalists were subject to arbitrary arrests, maltreatment or arbitrary charges as those cases reflect a part of reality. In this context, PCHR also confirms that the documented cases reflect only part of the reality as there are other parts, including journalists and activists' avoiding filing complaints; restricting and concealing the free access to information; and self-censorship that overpowers minds of journalists, editors, and website admins. These parts cannot be monitored through affidavits but through meetings and interviews organized by PCHR with journalists and social media activists and through PCHR's close follow-up of the reality of media.

The Cybercrimes Law that was issued by the PA as a presidential decree is considered a serious disaster against the freedom of expression and human rights in general. The Cybercrimes Law has several defaults starting from the law being enacted by the Palestinian President, who has exceeded

his authority according to Article (43) of the PBL that allows the President to issue laws only in cases of extreme necessity that can't be postponed. Moreover, the Cybercrimes Law included broad terms and over criminalization, turning it from a law whose aim is to protect society from out-laws to a law that protects the authority from society. This is amply demonstrated when looking at the criminalization scope and the excessive penalties, which would make violations of freedom of expression a crime equivalent to willful killing as its punishment would sometimes reach to hard labor for life.

It should be noted that the PA so far has not enacted any law that would guarantee the freedom of access to information though there was a draft bill already prepared. During 2017, both governments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip practiced the same policy in offering incomplete information or blocking information from the audience and journalists. Several journalists confirmed during meetings and interviews conducted by PCHR that what they most seriously face is information blocking, selectivity of providing information and journalists' undergoing investigation in each time they request information relevant to the ministries' work, political issues or crimes.

PCHR monitored incidents where journalists and opinion makers were subject to attacks. The social media activists were

the most prominent victims in 2017 as they were subjected to summonses and inhuman and degrading treatment. The following is the most prominent cases monitored by PCHR:

- » On 10 August 2017, Tha'er **Zeyad Fakhuri**, montage officer at al-Quds TV Channel, said to PCHR's fieldworker that he was arrested by the General Intelligence Service (GIS) when he was at the Magistrate's Court in Hebron. Fakhuri was detained and interrogated on grounds of recording the hearing proceedings to be later released without taking any other measures against him.
- » On 08 August 2017, **Qutaiba Saleh Qasem**, a freelance journalist said that the GIS in Bethlehem summoned and brought charges against him based on the Cybercrimes Law and working with al-Aqsa TV Channel (being considered as a banned channel by the PA). Qasem was detained for 5 days during which he was interrogated but later was released on bail.
- » On 08 August 2017, **Mamdouh Mahmoud Hamamrah**, journalist at al-Quds Satellite Channel, from Bethlehem, said that GIS arrested him and brought charges against him according to Cybercrimes Law. He was detained and interrogated for 5 days until he was released on bail.
- » On 15 July 2017, **Nasser Fou'ad Abu Foul**, Head of the Palestinian Network for Media, was summoned by the General Investigation in Gaza. Hamamrah was interrogated and then forced to sign a pledge due to practicing freedom of

expression on Facebook.

- » On 15 July 2017, Abdul **Mohsen Taiseer Shalylah**, a photojournalist at Wattan News Agency, said that he was arrested by the GIS in Bethlehem while on duty. He was interrogated and detained for 12 hours and later released.
- » On 14 July 2017, **Ismail Fayez al-Buzom**, a cartoonist, said that he was arrested by the Internal Security Service (ISS) in Gaza City and interrogated on grounds of practicing freedom of expression on social media websites during which he was subjected to degrading treatment.
- » On 18 June 2017, **Hassan Jaber**, a journalist at al-Ayam Newspaper, said that he was arrested by the ISS in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip on grounds of publishing a report on a Member of the Salafi groups in Al-Ayman newspaper.
- » On 11 June 2017, **Mohammed al-Talouli**, a youth activist and university graduate, said that he was summoned by the General Investigation in Jabalia on grounds of publishing an opinion video. He was referred to the Public Prosecution, which accused him of misusing technology. Al-Talouli was detained for 5 days and then released on bail.
- » On 22 May 2017, **Emad 'Awni Abu Shamsiyah**, an activist in the Human Rights Defenders Movement, was summoned by the Preventive Security Service in Hebron on grounds of his suggestion to make a statue for the U.S President Donald Trump in order to burn it during his visit to the region.
- » On 04 May 2017, **Elham Suleiman Abu Thaher**, a poet and political writer, said

that a motorcycle deliberately hit her after she received several threats to stop raising certain issues on her Facebook page.

- » On 28 April 2017, **Mohammed Bassam Fayeq Daher**, a journalist at the Indonesian News Agency, was summoned by the police in Gaza City on grounds of publishing information about death circumstances of a civilian on his Facebook page.
- » On 28 April 2017, **Mohammed Bassam Daher**, a freelance journalist said that he was summoned by the General Investigation in the Gaza Strip. He was interrogated and detained for more than 24 hours to be released after singing a pledge not to spread rumors.
- » On 27 April 2017, **Nasser Fou'ad Abu al-Foul**, a journalist and Head of the Palestinian Network for Media, said that he was summoned by the General Investigation and detained for one day. He was accused of publishing false news but then released after signing a pledge.
- » On 26 April 2017, **Abdullah Abu Sharekh**, a teacher and writer, said that he was summoned by the ISS in Jabalia. He was detained for 30 hours during which he was interrogated about his political views on his Facebook page.
- » On 25 April 2017, **Hazem 'Ali Madi**, a freelance journalist, said that he was summoned by the General Investigation and accused of spreading rumors. Madi was detained for 2 days and then released after he signed a pledge not to spread rumors.

- » On 25 April 2017, **Mohammed Abdul Rahman al-Bora'ie**, a photographer at Palestine TV Channel, was summoned by the General Investigation in the central Gaza Strip. He was interrogated and accused of spreading rumors. Mohammed was released after he signed a pledge not to spread any news until he is sure of it.
- » On 19 April 2017, **Mahmoud Sulaiman al-Zeq**, Secretary of the National Work Committee in Gaza, said that he was kidnapped by anonymous persons, tortured and threatened on grounds of his political views.
- » On 11 April 2017, **Eyad Abdul Rahman al-Refa'ie**, the editorial director editor of al-Quds News Network, said that he was summoned by the PSS in Ramallah. He was interrogated for 3 hours and then released.
- » On 21 March 2017, **'Aref Abdul Halim Abu 'Arafah**, reporter at Shehab News Agency, said that he was arrested by the PSS while he was home in Hebron. He was interrogated about his work without bringing charges against him and then released.
- » On 25 April 2017, **Yasser 'Othman Sha'ath**, a law student and activist on social media, said that he was arrested and interrogated by the GIS in Khan Yunis on grounds of his posts on the Facebook.
- » On 25 April 2017, **Ahmed Fathi Qdaih**, an editor at al-Aqsa TV Channel, was summoned by the police and detained for one day during which he was interrogated and accused of publishing false news on his Facebook page.
- » On 14 January 2017, (S. M.), a journalist and employer at the Information Office of the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah, said that he was summoned by the ISS in Gaza. He was detained and intimidated on grounds of expressing his opinion about the electricity crisis in Gaza.
- » On 12 January 2017, **Mahmoud Abdul Razeq al-Baba**, a photojournalist at the Agence France-Presse (AFP), said that the police officers in Gaza beat him and confiscated his cell phone and press card while he was covering a demonstration that was organized in protest against the electricity crisis in Gaza.
- » On 14 January 2017, **Mohammed Sawali**, Deputy Chief of National Initiative in Khan Yunis, said that he received a threatening call by the ISS blaming him of incitement by demonstrating in protest against the electricity crisis. After that, Sawali was then summoned and interrogated by the General Investigation. He was forced to sign a pledge not to incite.
- » On 11 January 2017, **Emad Mahmoud Abu 'Awad**, a program producer at al-Quds TV Channel, said that he was summoned and detained by the GIS in al-Birah. Abu 'Awad was addressed with accusations that as he said are baseless and came in revenge of his political views.
- » On 06 January 2017, **Ahmed Khalid Abu Jalalah**, a volunteer journalist at the Palestinian Network for Media, said that the General Investigation arrested him and confiscated them his equipment on grounds of covering a demonstration organized in protest against the electricity crisis in Rafah.

Violation of Right to Peaceful Assembly

Palestine acceded to many conventions in 2014, including the 1966 ICCPR which gives civilians the right to peaceful assembly. However, the measures and restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly in the PA controlled areas continued in 2017 in violation of the international and local conventions and standards, which all guarantee civilians this right as long as it does not deviate from its peaceful nature.

Following the new reconciliation agreement signed by Palestinians under the auspices of Egypt on 12 October, the last quarter of 2017 witnessed a proportional decline in the number of violations of the right to peaceful assembly in the PA controlled areas. Thus, a positive atmosphere prevailed and significantly reflected on the state of the right to peaceful assembly as the PA controlled areas witnessed assemblies that were previously banned, including, a festival held on 13 November by Fatah movement to commemorate the death of late president Yasser Arafat and attended by large crowd, including representatives of Islamic and national factions.

Throughout the year, the violations of the right to peaceful assembly systematically continued in both the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including banning meetings and gatherings; dispersing them by force and beating the participants; shooting in the air; and chasing and arresting some of them in addition to interrogating them. During the reporting period, PCHR documented that the security services summoned dozens of those participating in or those calling for the peaceful assemblies either before or after being organized. Moreover, the security services investigated those, forced them to sign pledges that they will not participate in peaceful demonstrations and gatherings otherwise they will be punished either by imprisonment or physical abuse. In addition, PCHR documented cases of persons arrested from the field or after be-

ing summoned due to participating in or calling for some in peaceful assemblies in addition to being exposed to torture, including beating them with batons and sticks either during the investigation or their detention.

In the Gaza Strip, PCHR documented many violations in this regard; the most notable of which was the measures taken by security services in Gaza following the peaceful protests in different parts of the Gaza Strip on grounds of the aggravating electricity crisis in January 2017. The security services forcibly dispersed the peaceful protests in different spots, beat up a number of participants and arrested others. They also raided many houses, prevented journalists from covering the protests and summoned others on grounds of expressing their opinions on the electricity crisis.

In the West Bank, PCHR also documented similar violations; the most significant of which was when the security services dispersed a peaceful protest against the court hearing of martyr Basel Al-Aaraj on 12 March 2017²⁷ in front of the Palestinian Court Complex in Ramallah. The security services dispersed the protest by force, beat up the protestors, including journalists, with batons, heavily firing tear gas canisters, shooting in the air and arresting many protestors. Of those journalists was the cameraman of Roya TV in Jordan, Mohammed Abu Shoushah. Moreover, Cameras of some channels were also damaged, including the camera of Jihad Barakat, Reporter of Palestine Today Channel. Further, 6 persons were arrested in al-Balou'ah Intelligence Office for an hour and later released after writing down their personal data. Overall, the number of those wounded by security officers was 16; 5 of whom arrived at the Palestine Medical Complex.

It was remarkable the double standards employed by the public authorities to deal with the peaceful assemblies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. While there was a ban on the peaceful assemblies, which contradict the authorities' orien-

27. Al-A'araj was killed by Special Forces when his house was surrounded on

tations and interests, regardless they are political groups or stakeholders of a non-political nature, there was a great deal of tolerance when dealing with the peaceful assemblies organized by the pro-authority groups or others as long as they serve its goals and interests. Moreover, the security services even provided protection and support for all forms of peaceful assemblies that serve their goals and interests, while they were heavy-handed with the other peaceful assemblies, including at least the ban, prevention and questioning of intentions and aims.

Overall, these restrictions and obstacles imposed on the right to peaceful assembly resulted in a setback in using this right in the PA controlled areas as a tool of expression, peaceful protest or seeking to influence public policies. This also affected the Protests, sit-ins and etc... held by groups of non-political nature that express the interests of economic, educational, sporting groups etc...



Violation of the Right to Form Associations

In 2017, the PA in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued its policy of tightening restrictions on civil society. The National Unity Government worked on applying the new restrictions, which were imposed last year, on the associations' funding. The legal restrictions and the de facto authority's restrictions imposed on the associations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the previous years continued aiming at hindering the associations' work and activities and putting civil society in a state where the latter cannot meet their community goals as expected by the society.

The absence of constitutional mechanisms, including a legislative council and unified and independent judicial authority, affects the associations' work and activities, as the means of lobbying, advocacy and prosecution for achieving community change can only be effective in the presence of these associations. Moreover, closure and restrictions on the freedom of movement imposed by the Israeli authorities affect the associations' work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, especially activities that require movement between the West Bank's cities or those requiring traveling abroad, especially in the Gaza Strip, where tightened restrictions are imposed on the freedom of travel due to closure.

PCHR hopes that the implementation of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement would reflect on public freedoms, especially the right to form associations and the right to freedom of movement for persons, especially in the Gaza Strip, so that the associations can practice their control role that is complementary to the government's role. PCHR also considers the abolition of all decisions issued against the right to association in light of the Palestinian division, including regulations that allow the interference of the executive authority and decisions to close associations, as an urgent necessity that should be noted within the Unity Government's priorities. It should be noted

that the reality of public freedoms, including the right to form associations, has not witnessed any positive development since the formation of the Palestinian Unity Government; on the contrary, the government issued many decisions to gain full control over the programs and funding of civil society organizations. However, PCHR hopes that the reconciliation efforts would mark a different beginning.

In 2017, the government worked on applying a mechanism approved by the Palestinian National Unity Cabinet aiming at gaining full control of the funding of non-profit companies (as a form of association) and providing that all donor grants shall be considered by the government and under strict control of the security services. Under the new mechanism, each non-profit company shall file a request to the Cabinet to allow external funds to be transferred into its bank account. After that, the request is referred to the Intelligence and Preventive Security Services to after undergoing the security check and then instructions will be given to the Monetary Authority to allow the transfer of remittances to the associations, which then inform the banks. This mechanism allows the PA to cut off the funding for any non-profit companies the former wants in addition to blackmailing these companies and affecting their positions.

This is inconsistent with the right of associations, including non-profit companies, to independence. The interference into

the associations' work violates the relevant international standards, which stipulate the associations' right to privacy shall be respected in addition to their right to practice activities and receive funding. These arbitrary monitoring measures also violate the relevant domestic laws, especially the Executive Bill of the Associations Law, which stipulates in Article 46, paragraph (3): "There is no right for any official body to interfere into the associations' meetings, elections and activities or affect them." There is no doubt that subjecting the funding and expenditure to scrutiny is one of the most significant means of seizing control over associations and undermining their independence.

In the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, An authoritarian atmosphere dominated the work of associations, creating a state of self-commitment over the years. One of the most prominent forms of interference in the work of associations is the interfering in their activities. The last was when the security services in the Gaza Strip banned holding a meeting for the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) to discuss the role of the military police in the Gaza Strip, based on a report issued by ICHR to monitor violations and attacks on the rule of law and interference in the jurisdiction of the judiciary. The ban decision was issued on 12 December 2017 by the General Controller in the Ministry of Interior in the Gaza Strip. As a result, ICHR contacted with the competent authorities and the meeting was postponed.

Impact of the Political Division on Economic and Social Rights in Gaza Strip

For the 11th consecutive year, the Palestinian political division, which started when Hamas movement took over the Gaza Strip in June 2007, continued and the Gaza population's conditions, including economic and social situations, increasingly deteriorated.

In 2017, accusations were exchanged between both parties to division through taking measures and precautions including continuing to enact laws, decisions, and policies such as Hamas Movement's deceleration to form the administrative committee in March in the Gaza Strip, inflicting bitter consequences on the Palestinian civilians' life in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Gaza population's conditions and their economic, social and cultural rights unprecedentedly deteriorated, and the deterioration was considered as the worst since the beginning of the Palestinian political division. Despite the positive atmosphere that the Gaza Strip's residents were happy at in October 2017 regarding hopes revived to end the political division and return dialogue between both parties to the division under the auspices of Egypt, the economic and social conditions continued to severely deteriorate and prominently heightened after the PA took several decisions. The most significant decisions were putting public servants on early retirement, minimizing allocations for medical services, minimizing electricity supplies, higher prices, and imposing more fees and taxes on civilians and traders in the Gaza Strip. The various measures taken by both parties to the political division seriously affected the economic and social conditions of the population of Gaza, which already suffers from a near-total collapse. Those measures and administrative and financial policies led to deterioration of civilians' living conditions and aggravation of some negative phenomena on the Gaza Strip, significantly phenomenon of child and women beggary and

child labor especially on the streets and along the Gaza Strip beaches in summer. The Gaza Strip population suffered an unprecedented state of impoverishment due to the huge increase in the costs of living conditions, including costs of basic services such as health, education, and access to water resources, including potable water, food and medicine. This collapse and deterioration in the economic and living conditions of the Gaza Strip population coincided with the ongoing comprehensive and illegal closure imposed by the Israeli authorities on the Gaza Strip for over 11 years, resulting in a state of total economic and social strangulation that hindered all attempts to improve the living conditions of the population and to respect their human dignity. The absence of National Unity Government remained the dominant feature during this year. The year of 2017 ended with an increasing state of frustration and despair among the Gaza Strip population, especially with the ongoing bickering on media between the two parties to the division. The scene of tens of thousands of young men and women, especially university and college graduates who are looking for jobs, constituted the real challenge for the Gaza Strip society. The society had become extremely disappointed due to the procrastination of implementing the national reconciliation in addition to marginalizing and deliberately absencing the youth in managing public affairs and depriving them of job opportunities. This has exac-

erbated the loss of hope and prompted many of the Gaza Strip population to seriously think of immigration and search for their future outside the Gaza Strip.

The National Unity Government continued to accuse Hamas of not enabling the government to perform its duties and taking over the Gaza Strip's revenues from fees and taxes. Meanwhile, Hamas continued to accuse the National Unity Government of marginalizing the Gaza Strip and depriving it of all basic expenses in the fields of health, education, social security and other services.

The two parties to division failed to ease various crises in the Gaza Strip, particularly the electricity outage crisis. The Gaza Strip population suffered from more darkness and deprivation of electricity in light of the very hot weather in summer and cold weather in winter. 2017 ended and the Gaza Strip population only got a 4-hour on electricity versus an outage of 12 to 16 hours daily.

Salaries Crisis:

The financial crisis of the former Gaza government servants' salaries remained without any in any solution in 2017, despite pledges from a donor country to provide the funds needed to entirely settle and end this crisis. Meanwhile, Hamas Movement kept paying monthly advance payments to its servants and allocated state lands for some of them in a framework codenamed "An adjustment for

their financial dues” in compensation for their arrears, in a clear violation of the provisions the Palestinian law relevant to the allocation of state lands. This would also exacerbate the crisis of these servants with the accumulation of their financial dues periodically. Furthermore, civil and military servants in the Gaza Strip suffered from being deprived of their rights to allowances and promotions just like their counterparts in the West Bank. On the other hand, in April 2017, the National Unity Government took a decision to deduct the salaries of its civil and military servants, ranging between 30% and 50% of their total salaries. Those deductions also included servants, who are still on duty. That decision resulted in a state of anger and outrage among the servants and their families as hundreds of them are afraid of a catastrophic deterioration in their living conditions because most of them are paying half of their salaries for bank loans, which they had to take. Spokesperson of the National Unity Government, Yousef Al-Mahmoud, justified his government’s policy that the deductions were only from servants’ allowances without prejudice to the basic salary. He attributed this policy to the financial squeeze on occupied Palestine, decrease in the foreign aid, Israeli occupation and closure and the ongoing internal division, including the latest measures in the Gaza Strip such as establishing an administrative committee, which began to act as a parallel government, according

to his words. In a serious step, the Palestinian President and National Unity Government took several decisions to refer thousands of public servants in the Gaza Strip to retirement, including presidential office employees, without any legal justification. This affected all those living in the Gaza Strip and seriously violated their basic rights as Those decisions included thousands of public servants in the Ministries of Health and Education, resulting in a catastrophic deterioration.

This decision came as part of a series of measures taken by the Palestinian Authority against the Gaza Strip residents. Those measures began by deducting one third of the public servants’ salaries under the pretext of the austerity policy adopted by the PA. As a result, the medical referrals of the Gaza patients were minimized, medical disposables and consignments were decreased, and allocations of 277 former prisoners were deducted. According to PA officials’ statements, those measures will continue unless Hamas abandons the division, stops all its steps in this framework that would lead to separate the Gaza Strip, dissolves the administrative committee established by Hamas, and enables the National Unity Government to assume its full responsibilities in the Gaza Strip. In his speech on 05 August 2017, the Palestinian President announced that he would continue to reduce the funds spent on Gaza as long as the administrative committee formed

by Hamas continues to control the Gaza Strip.

Deterioration of the Economic and Social Situation

In 2017, the Palestinian political split contributed to deepening the serious deterioration of the economic and social levels. As a result, the marginalization of civilians in the Gaza Strip continued due to a semi-paralyzed economic sector. The political division deprived the Gaza Strip of their right to manage the public affairs and to obtain government jobs that are annually announced to fill places of retired servants or in response to the developing demands in the fields of public and military service. The 2015-2017 National Development Plan lacked any real prospects for alleviating the rates of poverty and unemployment in the Gaza Strip. The rule of the National Unity Government was limited to offering 6-month employment programs for those unemployed with a monthly salary less than the minimum wage or the poverty line, in disregard for the right to a decent life. Moreover, the Unity Government continued to collect fees and taxes, including taxes on the purchase of all goods such as construction materials, fuel, cars, food supplies, tobacco and other goods. In the same time, the ministries and governmental institutions, under the control of Hamas Movement continued to collect fees and taxes via the authorities in charge in the Gaza Strip. However, the

Palestinian civilians did not realize any tangible or slight improvement regarding the level of services offered in the fields of health, education and social security. By contrast, these services witnessed significant deterioration and serious setback, due to which the civilians had to bear an extra financial burden to obtain those services. In the meantime, the markets of the Gaza Strip witnessed soaring prices of goods, especially for meat and chicken, so people were no longer capable of buying in such unaffordable prices.

Various economic indicators badly aggravated in the Gaza Strip as the economic collapse continued to affect all major economic sectors, including industry, agriculture, tourism and services. Deterioration of employment sector also aggravated and reached a level rated as the highest in the world, according to World Bank estimates. Moreover, estimates of international organizations showed a serious increase in the unemployment rates in the Gaza Strip up to 47% at the level of manpower, recorded %65 among young men and 70% among young women. The poverty indicator has showed serious rates as estimates of international organizations working in Gaza show pointed out that more than 75% of the Gaza population depends on humanitarian aid. Moreover, the level of food insecurity increased among the Gaza Population as 50% of them suffer from moderate or severe food insecurity.

The various measures taken by both parties to the political division seriously affected the economic and social conditions of the population of Gaza, which already suffers from a near-total collapse. Those measures and administrative and financial policies led to deterioration of civilians' living conditions and aggravation of some negative phenomena on the Gaza Strip streets, significantly prevalence of beggary phenomenon among children and women and prevalence of child labor especially on the streets and along the Gaza Strip beaches in summer. The Gaza Strip population suffered an unprecedented state of impoverishment due to the huge increase in the costs of living conditions, including costs of basic services such as health, education, and access to water resources, including potable water, food and medicine. This collapse and deterioration in the economic and living conditions of the Gaza Strip population coincided with the ongoing comprehensive and illegal closure imposed by the Israeli authorities on the Gaza Strip for over 11 years, resulting in a state of total economic and social strangulation that hindered all attempts to improve the living conditions of the population and to respect their human dignity. The absence of National Unity Government remained the dominant feature of this year. The year of 2017 ended with an increasing state of frustration and despair among the Gaza Strip population, especially with the ongoing bickering on media between

the two parties to the division. The scene of tens of thousands of young men and women, especially university and college graduates who are looking for jobs, constituted the real challenge for the Gaza Strip society which became extremely disappointed due to the procrastination of implementing the national reconciliation in addition to marginalizing and deliberately absenting the youth in managing public affairs and depriving them of job opportunities. This has exacerbated the loss of hope and prompted many of the Gaza Strip population to seriously think of immigration and search for their future outside the Gaza Strip.

Electricity Crisis and Deterioration of Humanitarian Conditions in Gaza Strip

2017 ended with the exchange of accusations between the two parties to the division about who is responsible for the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip on the one hand, and their inability to reduce the severity of the crisis on the other hand. As the year before, this coincided with the very cold weather that had hit the Gaza Strip for two months. In addition, life conditions of the population and all vital daily services, including health facilities and environmental health (hygiene) services, including water supply facilities and sanitation services, deteriorated. Moreover, the main concern for the Gaza Strip population had become to search for other sources of alternative energy as by the end of year, the electricity crisis aggravated

ed in disregard for civilians' suffering resulting from the serious power shortage and without any hope for improvement. By contrast, the two parties to the political split continued to exchange accusations on media and each of them held the other responsible for the deterioration of Gaza's electricity crisis.

According to PCHR's follow-up, the Gaza Strip population only received power for 3- 4 hours daily while residents of many neighborhoods and areas in the Gaza Strip complained of receiving only 4 hours of electricity within 48 hours. The Gaza population's main concern has become to search for alternative energy sources, inflicting victims due to use of generators or candles to make up for the permanent shortage of electricity supply. Due to the aggravating electricity crisis, more than half a million students in all educational stages in Gaza were affected, and their suffering increased by the beginning of the final exams at the end of the semester 2017-2018. Moreover, movement of those living in multistory buildings was restricted, and water supply to their houses was diminished. In addition Access of Patients, elderlies, and persons with disabilities to their health services decreased and they do not reach on the specific time.

PCHR held the two parties to the division responsible for the failure of finding a solution for the electricity crisis or at least mitigating it. PCHR stressed that the

electricity crisis is political par excellence and called upon the parties administrating the electricity sector to find strategic solutions on the basis of each civilian has the right to enjoy basic services, including electricity. PCHR has repeatedly called upon the parties administrating the electricity sector not to involve civilians in the political spilt, and held the Palestinian Unity Government and the Energy Authority in Gaza responsible for the aggravating electricity crisis. PCHR believes that civilians, who pay their monthly bills, should not bear the failure of parties responsible for the current crisis. Moreover, PCHR called upon the Energy Authority in Gaza to hand over its powers in the electricity sector administration to the Unity Government in order to facilitate the administration of the sector for achieving the best interests of civilians. Furthermore, PCHR called upon the Unity Government to bear the main responsibility of administrating the electricity sector in Gaza, including taking all the administrative and financial steps that would guarantee a fair and transparent administration of the sector and improve the electricity supplies for the residents under these harsh conditions. And With the promising signs of a national reconciliation at the end of the year, the Energy Authority in the PA began to administrate the electricity sector in Gaza and portents loomed out that the electricity supply to the Gaza Strip residents would improve by supplying the Gaza Power Plant with

fuel from Egypt. However, the supply of fuel to the Gaza Power Plant was associated with the amount of financial levy, which was low, collected by the Gaza Electricity Distribution Corporation (GED-Co) to be referred to the Energy Authority. The excessive shortage of electricity supplies continued until the end of the year within a program of 4 hours of power and power outage of 12 hours, aggravating the suffering of the residents of the Gaza Strip, who had expressed their optimism that the crisis will mitigate.

Health Conditions in the Gaza Strip

The health conditions of the Gaza population seriously deteriorated in 2017, particularly the patients, due to the severe and continued lack of medicine and medical supplies for governmental health facilities in the Gaza Strip, putting thousands of the governmental Health sector servants on retirement, and reducing the services of treatment abroad for the Gaza Strip patients. This resulted in profound and lasting crisis due to the considerable lack of medicines, medications, and medical supplies throughout the year. This coincided with the financial crisis in the PA's budget, causing deterioration of the patients' health conditions, especially those with chronic diseases who psychologically and materially suffered, as most of them are not able to bear the cost of such medications and medicines. According to PCHR's monitoring, hundreds of patients had to wait for months to get appoint-

ments for surgeries already decided by doctors in those hospitals. Moreover, the Ministry of Health in Gaza reduced many public health services, including surgeries in main hospitals in addition to decreasing the basic health services such as dental clinics, public and outpatient clinics.

In April 2017, the crisis of medicine and medical supplies shortage aggravated as the warehouses of the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip have suffered from a lack of many types of medicine and medical disposables. This lack has increased with the begging of this year, inflicting catastrophic effects on thousands of patients' lives, particularly those suffering from serious diseases, such as cancer, kidney failure and cardiology. The Director General of Pharmacy in the Health Ministry in Gaza said that the severe and unjustified reduction of the consignments of medicine and medical disposables to the Gaza Strip since the beginning of this year resulted in the shortage of about 170 types of medicine and 267 types of medical disposables, causing serious danger to the patients' health in the Gaza Strip.

Ramallah's Ministry of Health minimized medical referrals abroad, without explaining reasons, for patients suffering from serious health problems that cannot be treated in the Gaza Strip hospitals. PCHR is concerned over the disastrous impacts inflicted on hundreds of patients who urgently need medical treatment or

medical follow-up in hospitals in Israel and the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem. Ramallah's Ministry of Health had minimized since last April referrals abroad or the renewal of other referrals of

hundreds of patients suffering from serious and chronic diseases without stating the reasons behind this decision.

PCHR sent a letter to Dr. Jawad Awwad,



Civilians Crowding to Submit Applications for Treatment Abroad in Light of Minimization of the Ministry of Health Services

the Health Minister in the National Unity Government, on 21 June 2017, expressing its concern over the delay of medical referrals for the Gaza Strip patients and demanding the Minister to send the financial coverage for those patients, especially for cancer and cardiac patients and children. However, PCHR received a response from Dr. Amira al-Hendi, Director General of the External Medical Treatment Department, through the Minister's office on 03

July 2017 negating the Ministry's suspension of medical referrals in the southern governorates (Gaza Strip), considering that as fake allegations. Data collected by PCHR indicates there is a gradual decline in the number of medical referrals issued for the Gaza Strip patients, as the number reached 2,190 referrals in March, but declined to 1,756 in April at a rate of 19.8%. Moreover, the medical referrals decreased in May to 1,484 at a rate of 32.2%.

The number of referrals in June did not exceed 500, which points out that they declined at a rate of over 75%. On the other hand, the External Medical Treatment Department adopted a new mechanism when dealing with serious cases, under which patients are referred upon the approval of the Department's Director, as the "financial coverage is offered later and following the coordination needed". On Thursday, 15 June 2017, this mechanism stopped upon the instructions given by Ramallah's Ministry of Health to the External Medical Treatment Department in Gaza. The number of medical referrals approved by the Higher Medical Committee in the Gaza Strip since early June is over 2,500 referrals so far for patients suffering from serious diseases that have no treatment in Gaza. These patients are waiting for the approval on the financial coverage for their treatment abroad. However, Ramallah's External Medical Treatment Department issued only 400 referrals. This raises concerns on the delay of about a month and a half, in addition to the decline in the number of medical referrals despite the approval of the Higher Medical Committee in the Gaza Strip.

These measures deny dozens of patients who need urgent treatment the opportunity to receive medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip. They also result in a grave deterioration in the health sector and jeopardize the patients' lives. A number of these patients were admitted to the

intensive care unit in Gaza following their health status deterioration. Hundreds of patients have been expecting death in the Gaza Strip hospitals in light of the absence of any opportunity to receive treatment abroad.

Furthermore, the West Bank hospitals has started rejecting hospital appointments for the Gaza Strip patients with medical referrals from the External Medical Treatment Department although these hospitals used to reserve a bed for the referred patient under the term "financial coverage offered later". The new measure taken hinders the Gaza Strip patients' access to those hospitals and aggravates the health situation.

On 04 July 2017, the National Unity Government issued a decision to put 6,145 civil servants in the Gaza Strip on early retirement, thousands of whom work in the health and education sectors. According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, this decision included about 3,679 staff members of the Gaza Health Ministry receive their salaries from the Unity Government in Ramallah. Among those staff members are 942 doctors, including consultants and specialists (26%); 876 nurses (24%); 221 pharmacy employees; 96 X-ray technicians; 55 physiotherapy employees, 99 engineering and maintenance employees; 67 supervisory employees; and 22 engineers in different fields. Putting them on retirement, mainly the consultants and specialists, would stop services, es-

pecially at hospitals offering treatment for serious diseases like tumors, cardiac problems, kidney, obstetrics and gynecology and at nurseries. This foreshadows a serious collapse of health services in the Gaza Strip. This decision would aggravate the already deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, let alone the inhuman and illegal nature of the decision that violates the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and suspends basic health services offered to 2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Gaza Strip's patients referred for treatment in al-Mutala' Hospital were surprised with phone calls from the hospital administration asking them not to come on their treatment appointments, which had been previously booked. The hospital administration attributed this to accumulating debts owed by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, and so not being able to provide health services for patients.

Moreover, the Treatment Abroad Department in Gaza confirmed that cancer patients, who obtained medical referrals and appointments in al-Mutala' Hospital, received phone calls from the hospital administration asking them not to come to the hospital according to their scheduled appointments until the hospital finds a solution with the Palestinian Ministry of Health regarding the financial burden. The Treatment Abroad added that these

patients need radiotherapy and chemotherapy and their medical files are ready at the hospital, explaining that referring and treating these patients in other hospitals is very difficult due to the deterioration of their health condition.

As part of PCHR's Follow-up of the patients crisis, PCHR's lawyer met with the General Manager of the Hospital, who warned of a total deterioration of the services provided by the hospital to kidney and cancer patients from the Gaza Strip and West Bank due to the aggravation of the financial crisis's consequences arising from the accumulating debts owed by the PA. He added that he PA owes the Hospital around 122 million shekels, exceeding the hospital's capacity to bear other financial needs such as changing and maintaining machines. He confirmed that patients from the Gaza Strip get special treatment at Al-Mutala' Hospital due to the obstacles and long procedures facing them on their way to obtain permits in order to reach the hospital in Jerusalem.

According to Dr. Nammour, al-Mutala' Hospital is the only Palestinian hospital that provides radiotherapy for cancer patients and other advanced services such as pediatric dialysis. These services provided by al-Mutala' Hospital for the West Bank and Gaza Strip patients amount to 15 million shekels a month; 7 million of which goes for medicines and medications for cancer patients. According to the Pales-

tinian Ministry of Health's data, al-Mutala' Hospital ranks first in the number of patients referred for treatment outside the Ministry's healthcare centers. The number of patients monthly referred to the hospital is about 1000 patients; 300 patients from the Gaza Strip and 700 patients from the West Bank.

Thus, PCHR calls upon the Ministry of Health to pay off these dues immediately and protect each person's right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental healthcare. PCHR also urges al-Mutala' hospital's administration to reverse its decision to stop receiving patients referred by the Ministry of Health, particularly those from the Gaza Strip who are forced to undergo complex and long procedures to obtain a new medical referral and wait until they obtain entry permits from the Israeli authorities in order to access treatment in the West Bank hospitals, including occupied Jerusalem, and /or hospitals in Israel.

By the end of 2017, doctors and workers at the Gaza Strip hospitals suspended their work on grounds of cleaning workers' strike at hospital and governmental facilities due to not receiving their financial dues. This strike would result in a health disaster, which may affect the lives and safety of patients and medical staff working in those facilities in addition to the safety of the visitors and patients' companions. On 26 December 2017 about

832 cleaning companies staff in the Gaza Strip hospitals declared their strike due to not receiving their financial dues. As a result, all the Gaza Strip hospitals suspended their work, including al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City that stopped surgical operations, except urgent ones. spokesperson of the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza, said to PCHR's fieldworker that the suspension of cleaning companies' work in the governmental health facilities will have serious repercussions on the lives of over 1300 patients, including patients in intensive care units (ICU), surgical operation rooms, obstetrics ward and special care baby unit (SCBU), nephrology patients, and surgical, internal medicine, cardiology, and oncology departments. Additionally, health services in 11 blood banks and 50 medical laboratories, where thousands of medical tests and blood transfusions are being conducted, will be affected as well.

Jawad Awad, the Palestinian Minister of Health, issued a decision to disburse NIS 1.8 million for each of the cleaning and food companies working in the Gaza Strip hospitals as a prelude to solve the problem of the accumulating financial dues for these companies.

Since the beginning of 2017, Healthcare facilities suffered a considerable shortage of fuel needed to replace the continued power outage. PCHR followed up with deep concern the suffering of hospitals, clinics, and primary healthcare centers

from a real crisis resulted from running out of fuel needed to operate the hospital generators, especially the Gaza Strip main hospitals, and the continued electricity outage for long hours. The healthcare facilities in the Gaza Strip have suffered a real crisis due to the continued power outage and for long hours. Sources in the Ministry of Health in Gaza said that the electricity crisis was threatening all the provided health services, in coincidence with the lack of funds provided for the ministry to purchase the needed fuel for hospitals and healthcare facilities in the Gaza Strip.

By the beginning of December, about 750 workers of private cleaning companies that have been contracted with the Ministry of Health for years and worked in hospitals and healthcare facilities in the Gaza Strip carried out a strike in which they suspended their work and services due to not receiving their financial dues for 6 months. The Ministry took a decision to close the outpatient clinics and postpone about 180 non-emergency surgeries due

to the accumulation of medical garbage. Moreover, large amounts of garbage accumulated inside the buildings and departments of all the governmental hospitals, inflicting dangerous and disastrous status such as bad odors and biomedical waste spreading all over the hospital departments and so endangering the health conditions of both the patients and medical staff. Therefore, the Ministry of Health further reduced its services in many clinics and other departments in the Gaza Strip hospitals, including surgeries in the Surgery Departments; suspension of already scheduled surgeries including pediatric and ophthalmological surgeries and cardiac catheterization; and suspension of other services such as laboratory tests, Medical Imaging, endoscopic surgeries, urology, orthopedic surgery and neurosurgery. The Ministry also declared reduction of health services in some primary healthcare centers and hospitals, including food and water control services, the children's health, women's health and occupational health.



Cleaners Go on Strike at al-Shifa Hospital in Protest Against Delaying the Payment of their Salaries



Section (2)

PCHR Activities
2017



Introduction

PCHR continued its work to defend human rights in the oPt in light of the continued deterioration of human rights situation and international humanitarian law. The first section of the report briefly addressed the human rights situation in the oPt while this section will highlight PCHR's efforts and interventions to face this situation. PCHR's work focused on two main agendas: the Israeli violations and prosecution of Israeli war criminals in addition to the democratic transformation within the PA and promotion of respect for human rights.

PCHR developed a 5-year strategic action plan for the period 2015-2019 after profound negotiations with its local and international partners, stakeholders from civil society organizations, political factions and target categories. The strategic plan is based on two main factors which are the legal protection and advocacy. Moreover, the plan developed 3 priorities for PCHR's work; two of which are related to the action programs while the third one is related to the organizational capacity building.

Strategic Priorities:

1. To challenge the climate of impunity for Israeli perpetrators of HR/IHL violations and to improve access to legal remedies for Palestinian victims.
2. To Support the democratic transformation, rule of law and human rights protection in the PA.
3. To strengthen PCHR capabilities to be a robust and sustainable platform that can effectively and efficiently support the work we have set ourselves in a way that is integral to our values.

PCHR faces in its work many challenges directly related to the long-term Israeli occupation that is totally supported by the successive American Administrations, rendering the occupation immune before the international mechanisms, in addition to the Palestinian internal situation which is under the Palestinian authority that does not have real control on the ground and has suffered from an internal division for 11 years; and the consequent crises that contributed to undermining the efforts exerted to liberation and establishment of the democratic state. Despite all challenges, PCHR is headstrong about promoting human rights and prosecuting war criminals, out of its belief in the just cause of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination in a democratic state which respects human rights. PCHR has invested its widespread experience and relations and employed all available law tools in this at the international and regional levels.

Outcomes:

PCHR defined three outcomes aspiring to be achieved by the end of its new strategic plan 2015-2019. Every outcome is related to one of the strategic priorities. These outcomes are as follows:

1. PCHR challenged the climate of impunity for Israeli perpetrators of HR/IHL violations and to improve access to legal remedies for Palestinian victims.
2. PCHR supported the democratic transformation, rule of law and human rights protection in the PA.
3. PCHR improved its organizational and staff capacities.

The following section of the report presents in detail PCHR's efforts exerted throughout 2017 at the international and national levels and how PCHR effectively and efficiently employed law and advocacy in serving its strategic priorities and relevant outcomes. Moreover, the indicators will be shown in detail as well within a logical framework designed in light of the new strategy.



Meeting of PCHR's General Assembly on 06 June 2017



Meeting of PCHR's Board of Directors on 03 July 2017

Outcome (1)

PCHR Challenged the Climate of Impunity for Israeli Perpetrators of HR/IHL Violations to Improve Access to Legal Remedies for Palestinian Victims

In 2017, PCHR's efforts and interventions in cooperation with its national and international partners contributed to challenging the climate of impunity for Israeli perpetrators of human rights and international humanitarian law violations in the oPt and to improving access to legal remedies for Palestinian victims. PCHR's interventions included this year: legal aid provided to Palestinian victims of Israeli HR/IHL violations through engagement in the Israeli justice mechanisms; access for Palestinian victims to international litigation mechanisms; and international and local advocacy efforts to influence the policies of national and international stakeholders urging them to take actions in solidarity with the Palestinian victims and to prosecute the war criminals.

Indicators

PCHR and its partners achieved the following outcomes:

- » The ICC Public Prosecutor's preliminary investigations opened on 16 January 2015 and is ongoing into the commission of Israeli crimes in the oPt since June 2014. In light of this, PCHR and its partners presented 2 new submissions to the ICC Prosecutor. The first was about the settlement activity crime while the second shed light on the organizations' work before the Israeli judiciary which failed to ensure redress for victims and achieve justice. The submissions filed by PCHR and its partners to the ICC Prosecutor rises to 5 as previously those organizations submitted 3

submissions in 2016. Those 3 submissions addressed the crimes committed by Israeli forces during the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip; a special file on the Black Friday Massacre in Rafah; and the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip that is considered as a crime of persecution and classified as well as a crime against humanity according to the Roma Statute.

- » The UN General Assembly issued 8 resolutions that emphasize the Palestinian people's rights and condemn the Israeli violations.
- » UNESCO issued a resolution to condemn the Israeli attempts to make a Jewish majority in Jerusalem and the violations against the Gaza Strip, including attacking the educational institutions.
- » Report of the Economic and Social Commission for South-West Asia (ESCWA)
- » Human Rights Council issued 3 new resolutions condemning the Israeli violations in the oPt, particularly the closure, collective punishments and settlement activity crime.
- » PCHR's work curbed the Israeli violations through exposing them and provided an adequate and objective picture of these violations to international organizations and media around the world.
- » There was a high degree of networking and coordination between PCHR and other civil society organizations at the international and regional levels, including different international media that mainly depends on PCHR as a source of its information relevant to the Palestinian territory. PCHR monitored that dozens of news websites based on PCHR's reports and publications.

Outputs

1.1 Legal Aid Provided to Palestinian Victims of Israeli Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Violations through Engagement in the Israeli Justice Mechanisms

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit provided legal aid to victims of Israeli violations through legal interventions with the Israeli judiciary and competent authorities. The Legal aid included victims of murder, destruction, and property confiscation; Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli prisons; victims of Israeli violations in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA) in the Gaza Strip (farmers and fishermen); Palestinians deprived of their right to freedom of movement; Palestinians deprived of their right to health and denied access to medical facilities outside the Gaza Strip and Palestinians whose relatives' bodies are held by Israeli forces.

Indicators

- Legal aid was provided to 3,352 persons in the Gaza Strip.
- PCHR received 464 positive responses to its legal interventions.

1.1.1 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Murder, Injury and Property Destruction and Confiscation

The Legal Aid Unit's activities included building legal files and filing complaints, appeals and cases before the Israeli courts. Building legal files requires special efforts from the Unit's lawyers: 1. Obtaining powers of attorney from victims to file a complaint on their behalf and a request to open a criminal investigation into the crime; 2. Visiting the crime scene to identify the circumstances and collect as much evidence as possible; 3. Obtaining affidavits from eyewitnesses; 4. Taking photos of the scene and drawing sketches in addition to identifying the location via Google Earth; 5. Collecting shrapnel from the crime scene to identify the weapon and keep it in physical evidence bags with a serial number until the bags are delivered to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) in the Palestinian Ministry of Interior, as PCHR lawyer should be informed about the whole process; 6. Obtaining technical reports from the EOD explaining the weapon used in the crime;



Raji Sourani Receives Representatives from the EU



PCHR's Legal Unit while Receiving Beneficiaries

7. Obtaining documents and identification papers related to the nature of the crime (including medical reports and death certificates to identify the number of killed and wounded persons); and 8. Obtaining documents or statements issued by the Israeli authorities or others related to the crime.

After building the legal files, the Unit worked in two directions: first, filing complaints to request the Israeli MAG to conduct a criminal investigation; second, sending written notifications to the compensation officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense. Those complaints and notifications were followed up by sending reminders to the competent authorities. Appeals were also filed before the Israeli Public Prosecution and the Legal Advisor to the Israeli government on the negative responses received from the Military Prosecution concerning many complaints. Criminal investigations were demanded to be opened and the reasons behind closing investigation files should be clarified by the Military Prosecution. The Unit's lawyers filed some appeals before the Israeli High Court due to the negative responses from the Public Prosecution. The Unit also followed up a number of cases, where investigation was opened by the Israeli Military Police. All of the aforementioned cases were related to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer 2014. Moreover, the Unit provided more information upon interventions with the military police and coordinated for a number of eyewitnesses accompanying a PCHR lawyer to be interviewed by the Military Police interrogators.

Furthermore, the Unit followed up a number of cases related to the offensive on the Gaza Strip before the Israeli inquiry commission, including a meeting with the Deputy MAG and experts committee, to discuss cases addressed by the commission upon PCHR's complaints.

The Unit also provided legal consultations to the victims and their families.

Indicators

- 540 persons were provided with legal aid.

1.1.1.1. Building Legal Files

Indicators

- The number of legal files prepared during the reporting period was 44 on behalf of 48 victims (43 injuries and 5 deaths).
- The number of legal files related to the latest “Pillar of Defense” offensive and followed up by the Unit amounted to 247 on behalf of 1080 victims.



Tamim Younis and Mohammed Bseiso, Lawyers of PCHR's Legal Unit, while accompanying Eyewitnesses to Beer Sheva Court in Israel

1.1.1.2. Filing Complaints Demanding Criminal Investigations

Indicators

- 44 complaints were filed before the MAG.
- The unit received 15 responses from the Israeli MAG, including 7 negative responses, and 6 others under follow-up.
- The total number of complaints filed before the MAG related to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip was 247.
- The Unit received 40 responses related

to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip; including 16 responses confirming not opening an investigation into the incident; 1 response notifying the closure of investigation; 3 responses to dismiss the file for not finding the incident; 8 responses to initiate investigations; 10 responses requesting further evidence supporting PCHR's complaints to be referred to the military police; and 2 general responses confirming receipt of the complaints and they were referred to the concerned authorities.

- The Unit still follows up 61 cases before the Israeli Military Police.
- The number of cases discussed with the Inquiry Commission of the Israeli General Staff “Experts Committee” was 112; all of which were related to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- The Unit followed up 2 cases before the military police not related to the Protective Edge Operation.

1.1.1.3. Sending Notifications to the Compensation Officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense

Indicators

- Forty-eight notifications were filed on behalf of each victim before the compensation officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense. (43 injuries and 5 deaths)
- The total number of notifications filed by the Unit relevant to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip was 1,080 on behalf of the victims (497 notifica-

- tions related to killings; 442 notifications related to injuries and 141 notifications related to property damage)
- The Unit received 2 responses from the Legal Advisor to the Security Service - Compensation Office at the Ministry of Defense confirming receipt of notifications.

1.1.1.4 Filing Compensation Cases before Israeli Courts

Indicators

- The number of compensation cases followed up by the Unit before the Israeli courts on behalf of the victims and pending investigation was 19 cases, including 3 cases relevant to victims of Protective Edge.
- One case was dismissed.
- The Unit did not receive any pleas from the Israeli Prosecution in 3 compensation cases relevant to victims of Protective Edge, awaiting the implementation of Beersheba District Court's Decision issued on 15 June 2017 in a case filed against Israel asking for compensation for one of the Protective Edge victims. This decision provides that the Legal Advisor to the Knesset shall attend to the court and give his opinion on depriving the litigants of proceeding with the litigation procedures according to Amendment No. (8)/2012 to the Civil Wrongs Law (Liability of the State). Until the reporting period, the court has

not issued its final decision.

- The number of cases where eyewitnesses headed to the Beersheba Court is 2 as 5 eyewitnesses gave their testimonies.

1.1.1.5 Appealing Decisions to Close Criminal Investigations

Indicators

- The number of appeals filed before the Attorney General concerning closing files related to Operation Pillar of Defense was 12.
- The number of appeals filed before the Attorney General concerning closing files related to Operation Protective Edge was 19.

1.1.1.6 Providing Legal Consultations to Victims and their Families

Indicators

- The number of consultations provided by the legal aid unit to victims and their families was 231.

Success Stories

The Unit's lawyers managed to return what the Israeli forces confiscated from 2 women at the Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing.

In March 2017 when the 2 women were on their way back to the Gaza Strip via Beit Hanoun Crossing, the Israeli Cus-

toms Service at the crossing confiscated around \$11,000 and 3 cell phones from the women and said their case was referred to the Lod Court. As a result, the two women headed to PCHR to ask for help in order to return the confiscated items. After legal interventions with the

competent authorities at Erez Crossing, the lawyers' efforts succeeded and in May 2017, A.G. got back her \$7400 while F. T. received \$2700 and NIS180 in addition to an iPhone 7, Huawei and Samsung cell phones.

1.1.2 Providing Legal Aid to Prisoners in the Israeli Jails

The Legal Aid unit provided various services to the Palestinians prisoners from the Gaza Strip in the Israeli jails. The services included receiving complaints from the prisoners' families and providing legal representation to defend them; determining the legal status and places of detention of detainees and informing their families; conducting visits to the prisoners and identifying their detention conditions to make sure they were not subject to torture or maltreatment; following up the sick prisoners' health conditions and coordinating with the Israeli associations to allow doctors to visit them; legal intervention with the competent authorities (the prison service, legal advisor to the government and Public Prosecution) to release them or transfer them to places adequate enough to receive medical treatment; legal intervention to release prisoners and providing legal consultations to the prisoners' families.

Indicators

- Legal aid was provided to 221 prisoners from the Gaza Strip in the Israeli jails.



1.1.2.1 Representing and Following up Prisoners Newly Arrested and legally Intervening to Release them

Indicators

- The unit provided 31 Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails with legal aid by assigning PCHR's lawyer to identify their detention places and legal status through representing them before the Israeli courts.
- Seven prisoners were released after the Unit's intervention.

1.1.2.2 Visits to Prisons and Checking Detention Conditions

Indicators

- The number of visits conducted by PCHR's assigned lawyer to prisoners was 3 to identify the prisoners' deten-

tion conditions and their health and legal status to verify if they were tortured or maltreated.

1.1.2.3 Filing Complaints to the Competent Authorities relevant to Detention Conditions and Sick Prisoners

Indicators

- The Unit followed up 28 complaints to the competent authorities relevant to the detention conditions of sick prisoners in the Israeli jails from the previous years.

1.1.2.4 Providing Legal Consultations to Families of Prisoners

Indicators

- The Unit offered 162 legal consultations to the prisoners' families.

1.1.3 Legal Aid Provided to Palestinians in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA)

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to Palestinian victims of Israeli violations in the ARA, including the lands adjacent to the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel and fishing areas along the Gaza Strip coast. The legal aid provided during this year included filing and following up complaints to the Legal Advisor to the Israeli Navy regarding the attacks by Israeli navy forces against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Strip Sea, including shooting incidents, confiscation of boats and equipment and arrest of a number of fishermen.

Indicators

- The number of persons who received legal aid was 59.

1.1.3.1 Filing Complaints

Indicators

- The number of complaints under follow-up on the attacks against fishermen was 11; (5 confiscation and 1 destruction), in addition to following up 19 previous complaints (2 relevant to the injury of 2 fishermen, 16 relevant to confiscation of fishing boats, and 1 relevant to destruction of a fishing boat.)
- The number of previous complaints followed up on behalf of farmers is 4.

- Thirty-four complaints are still in the follow-up stage.
- The Unit received 3 responses from the Compensation Office emphasizing the receipt of a complaint about a fishing boat confiscated.

1.1.3.2 Providing Legal Consultations to ARA Victims

Indicators

- The unit provided 25 legal consultations to the victims.

1.1.4 Legal Aid Provided to Allow Palestinians to Practice their Right to Movement

The Legal Unit legally intervened to help Palestinians to travel via Israel after exhausting all mechanisms to coordinate between Israel and the PA. The unit's lawyers filed complaints and other interventions to the Israeli Humanitarian Center at Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing only for humanitarian cases, including patients traveling for advanced treatment abroad, in the West Bank or Israel, university students studying abroad, family reunification, and other similar purposes.



Delegation from PCHR in Visit to Director of the Gaza Passports Department in Ramallah Ministry of Interior to Discuss joint Cooperation with PCHR

Indicators

- The number of civilians who received legal aid was 1119; 346 of whom managed to travel.

1.1.4.1 Filing Complaints

Indicators

- The Legal Unit filed 1119 complaints to the Israeli Humanitarian Center at Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in addition to sending dozens of reminding letters

- and following up previous complaints.
- The Unit received positive responses to 346 complaints, so the complainants managed to travel, while 109 complaints were rejected and 664 are so far under follow-up.
- The number of challenges filed to the Israeli Prosecution is 22; 14 positive, 5 negative and 3 under follow-up.
- Number of Appeals filed to the Supreme Court is 1 appeal, 1 negative.

Complaints Relevant to the Freedom of Movement

Complaint	Number of Complaints	Follow-up results		
		Positive	Negative	Pending follow-up
Denying patients access to Israel for treatment	383	143	41	199
Denying patients access to the West Bank for treatment	290	68	45	177
Denying patients access to Jerusalem for treatment	258	57	9	192
Preventing patients from traveling abroad for treatment	34	17	2	15
Preventing patients' companions from traveling to the West Bank or Israel for treatment	16	8	1	7
Preventing businessmen from traveling to Israel and the West Bank for business purposes	15	3	1	11
Denying civilians access to the West Bank and Israel to visit or reunite with their families	18	2	2	14
Preventing Jerusalemite ID card holders from entering Gaza, extending their residency or obtaining a permit to Gaza	15	9	1	5
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank to attend meetings or having interviews in embassies	30	6	4	20
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank and Jerusalem for religious purposes	3	2	-	1
Preventing civilians from traveling abroad for other purposes	57	31	3	23
Total	1119	346	109	664

1.1.4.2 Providing Legal Consultations

Indicators

- The number of legal consultations provided by the legal aid unit regarding the freedom of movement was 1038.

1.1.4.3 Success Stories

1. Thanks from the Bottom of My Heart

“The most beloved people to Allah are those most beneficial to people.” This is how the father started talking to PCHR’s lawyer after the latter told him that the permit of his baby child and the grandmother was approved to go for treatment in Beilinson Hospital. The 10-year-old child has heart problem and underwent 2 surgeries and was supposed to undergo the third and last one. Since 2015 and until February 2017, the family of the sick child had filed 9 applications for the child to travel according to the procedures in the Liaison office, and they had always received negative responses that the child and companion are banned. What was surprising about that case was how a child can be denied by the Israeli authorities for security reasons. The father said after all doors closed before him, one of my neighbors told me that I should head to PCHR, where I might find a resolution for my problem. I immediately headed to PCHR where I met the lawyer and told him about my problem. The lawyer looked through the medical re-

ports and papers and took copies of it. He immediately started following the case. After the follow-up, it was found that the reason behind banning the child from traveling was because the child was registered in the Israeli authorities’ computer system that he crossed Erez Crossing to Israel and never came back. Thus, he is currently outside the Gaza Strip and accordingly his name was listed among those patients who did not return to the Gaza Strip. Through PCHR’s follow-up, Erez Crossing administration understood the situation and the data were modified. PCHR then checked with the Palestinian Liaison and Coordination to follow up the application seriously after modifying the data entry so the child could obtain the permit according to the patients’ criteria set by the Israeli authorities. On the same day on 21 February 2017, the patient obtained a response from the Civil Affairs that his application was still under security check, necessitating the intervention of PCHR’s lawyer next day morning to contact with the Coordination and Liaison Office and explain the case. On 22 February 2017, PCHR’s efforts were successful that the child could obtain the permit and was allowed to travel with his companion for treatment at the hospital.

2. Helping Cancer Patient to Travel for Treatment in Jerusalem

On 18 October 2017, brother of patient (M. Gh) from al-Bureij came to our office sad and hopeless of saving his sick brother who has a tumor in the spinal cord. He said that someone told him that there is a human rights center helping patients, but he was afraid of feeling optimistic about his brother's travel for treatment. PCHR's lawyer received him and took all the medical reports of his brother. The lawyer immediately contacted the competent authorities in Erez to allow the patient to travel. PCHR seriously followed up the case, and in each time the lawyer was informed that the patient's application is so far under the security check. Due to the seriousness of the case, the lawyer filed an appeal to the Israeli protection to allow the patient to travel. However, the lawyer was surprised that the Israeli Intelligence wanted to interview the patient and his companion. The lawyer then told the patient's brother about all the details, and his family approved that their son, who cannot move, to go to Erez for the interview. Following the interview, the lawyers stayed in contact with the Israeli Prosecution especially that the patient's condition is very critical. On 26 November 2017, the lawyers' efforts were successful and they received a positive response that the patient and his companion can travel on 30 November for treatment at al-Motale'a Hospital.

3. **Helping Mother to Accompany Her Sick Child**

Mother of child ('A.G.) said in sad words to PCHR's lawyer that her 3-month baby suffers from kidney failure and he was referred for treatment at Rambam Hospital in Israel on 22 October 2017 with his old grandmother. Due to his serious health condition, the hospital sent me to come to the hospital to accompany my child for breastfeeding and learning about the Dialysis device. I applied to the Civil Affairs in Gaza according to the proceedings, but received that I am under security check. She begged the lawyer to help her to accompany her son whose condition is very critical. The lawyer immediately checked her papers and then contacted the competent authorities in Erez to allow the mother to travel for her baby. Following the interventions and attempts, PCHR succeeded to obtain a permit for the mother to travel to her baby in Rambam Hospital in Israel.

4. **Helping Cancer Patient to Travel for Treatment despite Security Ban**

"His condition is very critical. He has a tumor in the pancreas and supposed to travel on 25 October 2017. However, the Civil Affairs in Gaza informed us his application is still under security check." with those words wife of patient (A. Z.) started talking to PCHR's lawyer. She added the doctors in Gaza said that any delay of referring him

would increase the tumor's size. Thus, PCHR's lawyer started immediately working for the case. He checked all medical reports and papers of the patient's health condition and sent an urgent letter to the competent authorities at Erez to allow him and his companion to travel. After the follow-up,

we were informed the patient is so far under the security check. Due to the serious health condition, we filed an appeal to the Israeli prosecution. On 06 November 2017, the lawyers succeeded to obtain a permit for the patient and his companion to travel for treatment in al-Motale'a Hospital.

1.1.5 Legal Aid Provided to Protect the Right to Health

The Legal Unit offered legal aid to civilians to protect their right to health in order to have access to medical facilities outside the Gaza Strip (the West Bank and Israel). In light of this, the Unit invested their professional relationships with Medical Referrals Abroad Department in the Ministry of Health; Israeli human rights organizations (Physicians for Human Rights-Israel); humanitarian organizations (the ICRC-Health and Protection Department) and Israeli hospitals. The unit's intervention contributed to ensuring financial coverage from the PA for medical treatment in the West Bank or Israel and get appointments in Israeli hospitals in addition to the unit's work as mentioned above related to the freedom of movement and ensuring Patients' travel through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing. It should be mentioned that each case was faced with a lot of complicated measures and mechanisms until they reach a positive end to guarantee the right to health. The unit also provided legal consultations related to the right to health.

Indicators

- The number of patients who received legal aid from the unit was 375 in order to travel for treatment.

1.1.5.1 Filing Complaints to Medical Referrals Department at the Ministry of Health and Coordinating with Organizations Working on the Right to Health

Indicators

- The number of complaints filed to Medical Referrals Department at the Ministry of Health and Physicians for Human Rights and hospitals in Israel was 150; 110 of which received positive responses and the complainants received the needed medical services.



Meeting Between Head and Lawyers of PCHR's Legal Unit and General-Director of the Treatment Abroad Department in Ramallah to Discuss Cooperation

1.1.5.2 Providing Legal Consultations on the Right to Health

Indicators:

- The number of legal consultations provided by the unit is 225.

1.1.6 Legal Aid Provided to Restore Dead Bodies under the Israeli Custody

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to families of persons killed and kept in custody by Israeli forces. The Unit followed up a number of complaints against Israeli forces refusing to return the bodies to their families in a blatant violation of the customary law. In light of Israeli authorities' insistence and delay in responding to complaints already filed by the unit, an appeal was filed to the Israeli Petitions Department at the Israeli Military Prosecution.

Indicators

- The number of persons provided aid was 16.

1.1.6.1 Filing Complaints

Indicators

- One appeal was filed to the Israeli Petitions Department regarding 16 detained bodies.
- One meeting was held for follow-up.

1.2 PCHR Assisted Palestinian Victims to Have Access to International Litigation Mechanisms through the ICC and Universal Jurisdiction

During the reporting period, PCHR continued its pioneering role in utilizing various legal platforms in order to combat impunity and prosecute perpetrators of international crimes, bring them to justice and help the Palestinian victims to have access to the international litigation mechanisms. PCHR works on two levels together: a. ICC and b. universal jurisdiction. PCHR had already exhausted all local legal means represented by the Israeli judiciary, as Israel is the occupying power that is bound by the international law to investigate suspected violations of human rights and intentional humanitarian law, to bring the perpetrators to justice and offer victims the proper judicial remedy. For 15 years, PCHR's Director along with Head and staff of the Legal Unit has built legal files and exhausted the domestic litigation means via using all legal tools available in the Israeli judicial system and then selecting and building the most important files to be used at the international justice level in cooperation with strategic partners. The December 2014 accession of Palestine to the ICC marked a turning point in the legal work to prosecute war criminals before international bodies and end the impunity environment enjoyed by Israel as a legal cover granted by its ally the U.S.A., which failed many attempts to have access to the ICC via the Security Council as in the cases of other intentional crimes considered by the ICC. This was preceded with PCHR and its partners' efforts over the last years to urge the ICC General Prosecutor to initiate an investigation into the situation in the oPt.²⁸ Regarding this important opportunity, PCHR devoted all its legal resources and international relations and played a pioneering role with the ICC, in partnership with Palestinian human rights organizations.

In 2017, PCHR interventions included: building legal files for international courts, arranging meetings with legal experts and coordinating with partners to identify the cases to be

28. See Joint press release by PCHR and al-Haq published on 05 October 2013 (<http://pchrgaza.org/en/?p=1737>), 03 October 2013, Al-Haq and PCHR held a meeting with the ICC Prosecutor, Fatou B. Bensouda, to personally present a legal opinion, prepared in cooperation with Dr. Michael Kearney of the University of Sussex. The opinion provides legal justification for the Prosecutor to move forward on a declaration submitted by the Palestinian leadership in 2009, accepting the jurisdiction of the Court under Article 12 (3) of the Rome Statute. Unfortunately, due to restrictions on movement in and out of the Gaza Strip, Raji Sourani, the Director of PCHR, was prevented from personally attending the meeting. Therefore, Shawan Jabarin, Director of al-Haq, represented both organizations.

taken before international courts, communicating with the office of the ICC General Prosecutor, submit submissions and information to the international litigation mechanisms, assist victims and eyewitnesses to appear before international litigation bodies, and follow up cases before national courts with an universal jurisdiction.

Indicators

- The Unit followed up 5 legal submissions submitted to the ICC General Prosecutor by the 4 human rights partner organizations: PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mezan and Addameer;
- Following up the prosecution of the former Israeli Minister of Defense, Sha'oul Mofaz, before the British Judiciary on 22 June 2015.
- PCHR and its partner human rights organizations received reassurances from the ICC Prosecutor on the professionalism and independence of the ICC concerning investigating the Israeli war crimes against the Palestinian civilians.

1.2.1. Building Legal Cases for International Litigation

The Legal Unit chose legal cases for the international litigation. After exhausting all local means through the Israeli judiciary, investigations were closed, not bringing perpetrators to justice and not providing the proper judicial remedy for victims, the Unit chose a number of cases related to the Israeli war crimes committed against Palestinian victims. Those cases were built according to the intentional litigation standards.

Indicators:

- The number of legal cases built was 40; all of which were relevant to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip.

1.2.2 Organizing Expert Meetings and Coordinating with Partners to Identify Cases and Actions for International Litigation

In 2015, PCHR contacted a lot of international experts in complete coordination with the local and international partners in order to choose and agree on the cases to be submitted to the ICC. PCHR also held meetings with a number of partners

to choose the cases to be filed before the national courts or to follow up cases already filed according to the universal jurisdiction. PCHR's Director and staff could not leave the Gaza Strip due to the closure and so not being able to hold the Experts Conference continuing a series of conferences previously held by PCHR in Malaga, Spain.

1.2.3 Contacting the Office of the General Prosecutor of the ICC and other International Litigation Mechanisms

In partnership with al-Haq, Al-Mizan Center for Human Rights, and Addameer, on 20 September 2017, a forth submission was filed to the ICC addressing the crime of settlement activity in the oPt while on 12 December a submission was filed to the ICC addressing analysis of the Israeli Judiciary System and its inability and unwillingness to conduct genuine investigations and prosecutions.

Indicators

- PCHR and its partners held 2 meetings with the ICC Public Prosecutor Office.
- The number of submissions prepared and filed to the ICC Public Prosecutor Office was 2.

1.2.4 Submitting Information and Legal Submissions to International Litigation Mechanisms (ICC, UN Inquiry Commissions, Treaty Bodies)

During this year, PCHR's efforts focused on the work with the ICC and UN Inquiry Commission to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, since 13 June 2014.

Legal Submission Filed to the ICC Public Prosecutor

- 1- On 21 December, the four partner organizations filed a sub-



Press Conference for Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Regarding Presenting 4th Legal Submission to ICC

- mission to the ICC Public Prosecutor, claiming that Israel is unable and unwilling to conduct a genuine investigation and prosecution of those suspected of committing war crimes.
- 2- On 20 September, the four partner organizations filed a submission claiming that civil and military Israeli senior officials committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
 - 3- Following up the submission filed on 22 November 2016 to examine the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip that deprives 2 million Palestinians of their fundamental rights.
 - 4- Following up the legal submission filed on 23 November 2015 to the ICC Public Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, on behalf of the organizations and victims of the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer 2014.
 - 5- Following up the legal submission filed to the ICC Public Prosecutor relevant to the Hannibal Directive applied in Rafah City in the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer 2014.
 - 6- PCHR effectively contributed to the preparation of the submission and led discussions with the partners in this regard.

1.2.5 Filing Cases before National Courts with Universal Jurisdiction

PCHR continued to follow up its appeal on 22 June 2015 filed to Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, and the Attorney General, Jeremy Wright QC, to urgently liaise to ensure that immediate decisions are made regarding the arrest and prosecution before the a Court in England and Wales of Shaul Mofaz on grounds of committing war crimes in violation of the 1957 Geneva Conventions Act. It is essential the decisions are made today, 22 June 2015, before Mofaz is able to leave the UK.

Mofaz, who left Israeli political life earlier, was in London on

Monday, 22 June 2015, on a private visit and that the Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond, has not accorded Mofaz any form of immunity from the fair application of English criminal law. After knowing about his visit to London, on 21 June, and acting on behalf of Gazan victims of alleged war crimes, PCHR sent the police and Crown Prosecution Service evidence relating to Mofaz to enable the police to arrest him on suspicion of committing a crime in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. PCHR called upon the British authorities to strike a blow against impunity relevant to suspected Israeli war crimes and restore the public confidence in the effectiveness of international criminal law regardless of the nationality of the suspect. Thus PCHR called for arresting Mofaz so he would not evade the fair application of the law for his alleged conduct against civilians in Gaza.

Moreover, PCHR continued to follow up the cases filed against the Israeli war criminals before the international courts in Netherlands, Spain and Belgium. The Arrest Warrant issued on 10 September 2005 by the London Magistrate's Court against the former Major General Doron Almog is so far valid.

Indicators

- Efforts failed to arrest those suspected of committing war crimes for political reasons.
- The Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on the movement abroad of the Israeli officials suspected of committing war crimes for fear of prosecution.
- On 23 January 2017, Tzipi Livni, who was the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs at the time of the Israeli 2008-2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip, cancelled her scheduled visit to Brussels in Belgium when the Attorney General there announced she will be arrested to question her about war crimes committed in the Gaza Strip during the abovementioned offensive. The Belgium-Palestinian Friendship Association filed a lawsuit before the Belgian courts against the former Minister Tzipi Livni, for her role in the war crimes committed during the Israeli so-called "Operation Cast Lead".

1.3 PCHR Influenced International and National Stakeholders to Take Action against Israeli Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

In 2017, PCHR exerted great efforts in the field of advocacy to influence the international and national stakeholders to take effective and serious action to face the Israeli blatant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the oPt. PCHR's efforts included monitoring, documenting, disseminating and identifying Israeli violations on wide-scale; networking nationally and internationally to develop strategies and set joint advocacy plans, raising awareness and national capacity-building in the field of international humanitarian law and intentional criminal law and pressurizing national and international stakeholders to challenge the Israeli impunity. PCHR and national and international partners' efforts contributed to making breakthroughs in the Israeli impunity.

Indicators

- The Un General Assembly issued 8 resolutions condemning the Israeli violations and emphasizing Palestinians' right and sovereignty over the territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem.
- The Human Rights Council (HRC) issued 3 resolutions condemning the Israeli violations, collective punishment and closure in addition to the settlement activity crime. The resolutions also stressed that the states and companies shall not be involved in violations and war crimes committed by the Israeli forces in the oPt.
- Fourteen States voted in favor of the Security Council Resolution to emphasize Palestine's right and sovereignty over the territory occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, while the U.S. used the veto to hinder the adoption of the resolution.

1.3.1 PCHR Monitored and Documented Israeli Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in the oPt

PCHR's Fieldwork Unit monitored and documented the Israeli violations in the oPt through its experienced team of fieldworkers spread throughout the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem. The fieldwork includes: conducting and recording field visits, making interviews with victims

and/or their family and eyewitnesses; collecting affidavits, filing up special forms related to violations; Taking photos; collecting documents about violations and writing field reports. The Fieldwork Unit fed PCHR's database with all needed information, which was documented. That included referring all documented materials through scanner to the PCHR's database to be archived so that other PCHR's units benefit from them in addition to entering the data in the filled forms related to killings, injuries, arrests and demolition of property.

Indicators

- The number of violations documented: 7215.
- The fieldworkers conducted 1453 field visits in the West Bank and Gaza Strip: 496.
- The fieldworkers made 1366 interviews.
- The number of affidavits collected by fieldworkers: 341.
- The number of forms filled by the fieldworkers: 1132.
- 346 photos were taken.
- The number of collected documents: 95.
- The number of field reports: 1702.
- The number of data entries in the database is 1132.
- The number of documents electronically archived is 2138.

1.3.2 PCHR Exposed Israeli Violations

PCHR used different forms of publication to make the international stakeholders aware of the Israeli violations in the oPt. PCHR published press releases, weekly reports, annual report, thematic reports and factsheets. PCHR widely distributed these publications either in hard or electronic copies in addition to publishing them on its official website. PCHR further used Social Media to launch campaigns or disseminate information and strengthened communications with media by holding press conferences and making interviews with different media agencies.

1.3.2.1 Issuing press releases

PCHR issued press releases to address and expose the Israeli serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law before the international and local community, hoping to deter Israel by identifying those responsible and the stakeholders' responsibilities. In 2017, PCHR issued many press releases, which addressed the Israeli violations, especially the willful killings, Israeli violations against Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails, assaults against residents of Jerusalem and al-Aqsa Mosque, Israeli attacks against Palestinian organizations, arrest of PLC Members, Targeting fishermen and civilians in the border areas, arbitrary arrests and administrative detention, closure and collective punishments, settlement activities in the oPt, and attacks against peaceful assemblies.

Indicators

- PCHR published 40 press releases on Israeli violations.

1.3.2.2 Issuing weekly reports

The Fieldwork Unit published weekly reports on the Israeli violations in the oPt. This report is considered the main and most comprehensive document that is continuously and systematically issued on the Israeli violations, and is an essential source of information on these violations.

Indicators

- 51 weekly reports were issued.

1.3.2.3 Issuing Annual Report on Human Rights Situation - Israeli violations

PCHR's annual report is the most important document published on the human rights situation and international humanitarian law in the oPt. PCHR has been publishing this report since 1997 as it includes a comprehensive documentation of the human rights and international humanitarian law violations throughout the year. There is a full section addressing the Israeli violations, including recommendations to the international stakeholders. PCHR's Democratic Development Unit (DDU) prepares this report in cooperation with the other units. During the reporting period, PCHR issued its 21st report covering the period of 01 January to 31 December 2016.

Indicators

- On 10 April 2017, the report was widely issued both locally and internationally.
- The report was issued in a special event with the participation of activists on social media.

1.3.2.4 Issuing reports on the impact of Israeli violations on economic, social and cultural rights

The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit issued reports shedding light on the impact of Israeli violations on Palestinian economic, social and cultural rights in the oPt.

- On 31 May 2017, PCHR issued a report prepared by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit and titled as, “Economic Installations in the Gaza Strip: Systematic Destruction and Ongoing Closure.” The report sheds light on the impact of delaying the reconstruction of economic installations that were destroyed by the Israeli forces and impact of the closure as well on the performance of economic sectors in the Gaza Strip.

<http://pchrgaza.org/ar/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/PCHR-BOOK-31-5.pdf>

- On 11 December 2017, PCHR issued a report prepared by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit and titled as, “Compromising Pain: A Report on the Israeli Restrictions Imposed on Travel of Gaza Strip Patients and Depriving Them of Treatment.”

<http://pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=14664>



Ceremony to Launch Annual Report 2016

- On 13 December 2017, PCHR issued a report prepared by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit and titled as, “Israeli Attacks in Buffer Zone “Land and Sea” in Gaza Strip” covering the period from 01 November 2016 to 01 November 2017.

<http://pchrgaza.org/ar/?p=14684>

Indicators

- Three reports were issued.

1.3.2.5 Issuing Monthly Updates on the State of the Border Crossings

The Economic Rights Unit continued to issue a monthly update on the state of border crossings of the Gaza Strip. The update documents the freedom of movement at the border crossings and the latest development on the movement of persons and commodities from and to the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- 12 updates were issued.

1.3.2.6 Issuing Reports on Israeli Violations against Media

On 02 May, DDU issued a new report on the Israeli attacks against media in the oPt. The report titled, “Silencing the Press”, which is the nineteenth in the series, covered the period between 01 April 2016 and 31 March 2017.

<http://pchrgaza.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Report-Silencing-the-Press-No.-19en.pdf>

Indicators

- One report was issued.

1.3.2.7 Issuing Factsheets on the Israeli Violations in the ARA

PCHR periodically issues these factsheets, which include focused information and updates on the Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians and their property in the ARA either along the border fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip (the land Buffer Zone and its surroundings) or along the Gaza Strip Coast. PCHR issued two types of these factsheets:

- The Economic, Social and Cultural Unit issued factsheets shedding light on the Israeli attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip, including persons killed or wounded by Israeli forces when opening fire at the fishermen sailing in the Gaza Sea, arrested fishermen, confiscation of fishing boats and damage of fishing equipment.
- The Fieldwork Unit issued factsheets on the Israeli attacks in the ARA in general, including statistics of these attacks and their results.

Indicators

- One factsheet on Israeli attacks against

fishermen was issued.

- 12 factsheets on Israeli attacks in ARA were issued.

1.3.2.8 Providing Easy Access to Information for Stakeholders through PCHR's Website

PCHR depends on Information Technology as an important means to disseminate its publications and most prominent activities, providing easier and quicker access to information for different categories in the local and international communities. Since establishing its website (www.pchrgaza.org), PCHR feeds it with daily-updated information on the human rights situation in both Arab and English Languages. PCHR also depends on an international mailing list to which its publications are sent as the number of those receiving PCHR's publications via email reached 8,600. Moreover, PCHR publishes its publications on its Facebook page and Twitter account.

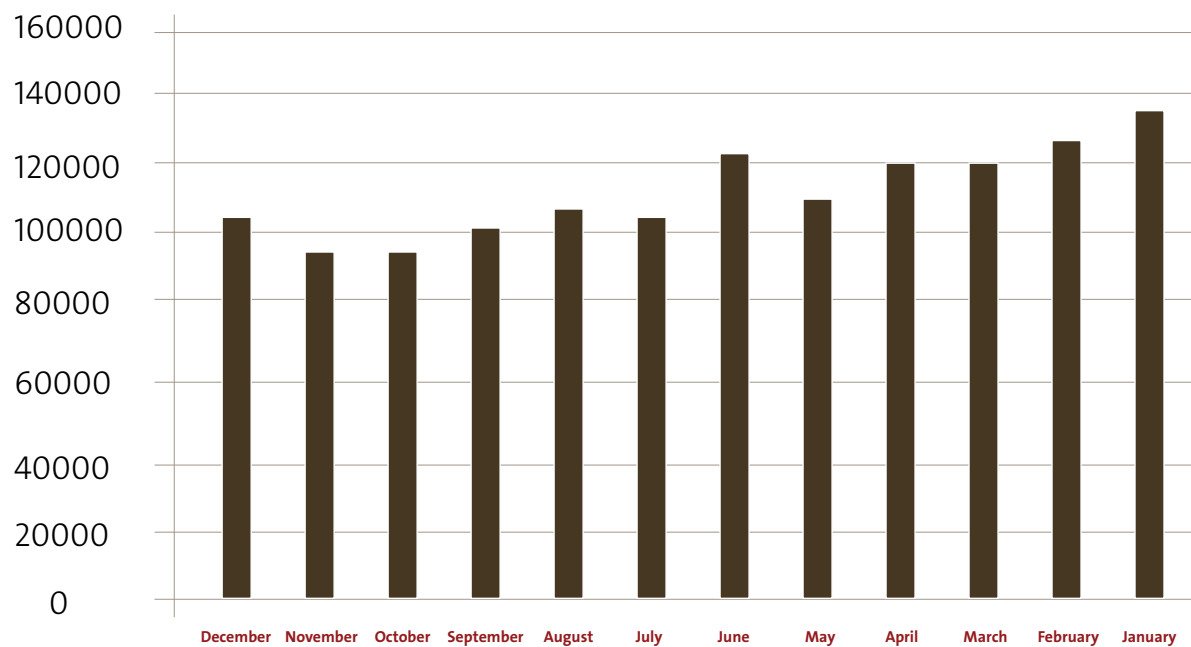
Indicators

- PCHR currently has 37,857 Facebook followers.
- PCHR has 11,320 twitter followers.
- PCHR's emailing list includes 8600.

PCHR's Website Visits in 2017

Month	Visits
January	132545
February	130254
March	129582
April	125212
May	118582
June	122588
July	102544
August	108521
September	102548
October	95448
November	98523
December	102458
Total	1368805

Diagram of PCHR's Website Visits in 2017



1.3.2.9 Disseminating Publications

All PCHR's publications were published in English and Arabic either via hard or electronic copies.

Indicators

- PCHR printed and distributed 3,540 copies of its publications (annual reports, weekly reports, thematic reports, awareness leaflets, and posters.)
- Electronic copies of PCHR's publications were sent to 9,000 emails on PCHR's mailing list, representing local and international organizations and persons. Moreover, the publications are available on PCHR's website.

1.3.2.10 Producing Audio-Visual Materials to Expose Violations

The audio-visual materials receive increased attention from the audience, so PCHR enhanced the use of such means to contribute in exposing the human rights violations and their impact on Palestinian civilians' life. In 2017, PCHR made videos (ranging between 7-5 minutes) on these violations and published them on its YouTube channel. Those materials received broad attention that was noticed from the number of shares and views made by the local and international audience. Those clips were as follows:

- On 01 June 2017: Inhumane Blackmailing of Child from the Gaza Strip
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4TJM0Jb5Y8>

- On 14 August 2017: Electricity Crisis Impacts the daily lives in Gaza

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_4DXbUInTk

- On 06 December: Economic Repercussions of Electricity Crisis in Gaza Strip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2u3i8gvOrA>

Indicators

- Three short videos were published.

1.3.2.11 Organizing social media campaigns (Facebook and Twitter)

In 2017, PCHR worked on promoting the use of social media to reach the largest possible audience at both international and local levels.

Use of Social Media to Publish on Annual report Launch Event

On 10 April 2017, PCHR launched its 2016 annual report in a special event covered live in photos and videos on social media. A large number of the social media bloggers and tweeters attended the event, in addition to a group of young tweeters and bloggers, who are called "Social Media Army." Those tweeters worked on covering the ceremony to audience around the world using the two hash tags: #freedom_justice and #PCHRAR21.

"No to Silencing the Press" Campaign

On Tuesday, 02 May 2017, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) orga-

nized a campaign titled as “No to Silencing the Press in Palestine” on the World Press Freedom Day coinciding the third of May. The event, which was held in the Light House Restaurant’s hall in Gaza City, was attended by a large number of journalists, representatives of human rights and community-based organizations, politicians and the Government Information Office. Representatives of media institutions opened the event; and they were Belal Jadallah, Director of the Press House; Andalib ‘Odwan, Director of Community Media Center; and ‘Adel al-Za’noun, Director of al-Doha Media Center. Raji Sourani, PCHR’s Director, had a speech in the opening session while Mohammed Abu Hashem, Legal Researcher in PCHR, presented a concentrated review on the two periodic reports on the freedom of expression. The first one is Silencing the Press, which addresses the Israeli violations against journalists working in the oPt. The second one is the State of Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression in the PA, which tackles the violations against the freedom of opinion and expression in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Both reports cover the period between 01 April 2016 and 31 March 2017.

The main activity in the campaign was to post using the hash tags launched by PCHR in both Arabic and English languages #إخراس الصحافة and #SilencePress. Around 80 volunteers from both genders participated in posting on those hastags. Those activists belong to two groups of

activists on social media; “Social Media Army” and “South Women Media Forum”. The two groups worked for the last 2 weeks on preparing journalistic materials in both Arabic and English from PCHR’s both reports’ content as they designed cards and videos with journalists in addition to Info graphic cards that display statistics on violations. Furthermore, the bloggers continued posting using the abovementioned hash tags from at 11:00 to at 14:00.

Indicators

- The number of follows on the hashtag #freedom_justice was very high as 2 million around the world followed and tweeted about it within less than 1 hour.
- #SilencePress was trending on Twitter as the reviewers reached 15 million who followed more than 4000 tweets. Moreover, more than 350 bloggers participated in the tweeting. The blogging campaign on that hashtag continued until the Wednesday afternoon, 03 May 2017.



Conclusion of Silencing the Press Campaign Launched by PCHR

1.3.2.12 Conducting Press Conferences

- On 22 May 2017, PCHR held a press conference jointly with the Committee of Palestinian Prisoners' Families and Prisoners' Committee of Islamic and National Factions. The conference was held in the sit-in tent in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike. Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, had a speech during the conference and then declared the issuance of joint legal submission prepared by PCHR on the prisoners' demands.
- On 20 September 2017, the Palestinian human rights partner organizations (PCHR, Al-Haq, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, and Al Dameer Association for Human Rights) held a press conference to declare the submission of a fourth communication to the International Criminal Court (ICC) titled as "Israeli Settlement Activity in the oPt". The conference was held in PCHR's Head office in Gaza City and covered by large number of journalists. Each of Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, 'Issam Younis, Director of al-Mezan, and Hala al-Qishawi, Director of Addameer, presented interventions during the conference. The conferenced coincided with Shawan Jabareen, Director of al-Haq, Submitting on behalf of the four partner organizations a communication to the ICC in the Hague, noting that this is the fourth of its kind being submitted by the four Palestinian human rights organizations to the ICC.
- On 01 October 2017, with PCHR's participation the civil society organizations held a press conference in the NGO Network's Head office in Gaza City to welcome the Palestinian reconciliation and call for unifying efforts to confront the Israeli policies in the oPt.

Indicators

- PCHR and its partners held 3 press conferences.



Press Conference of Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Regarding Presenting 4th Legal Submission to ICC

1.3.2.13 Media Interviews

Media is considered as an essential tool to reach out to the local and international audience, raise awareness on human rights, and conduct advocacy campaigns for change. In 2017, PCHR's Director and staff members were active with media and had many interviews with visual, audible and printed media. Those interviews included interventions in news programs to comment on certain incidents and developments or thematic interviews with PCHR's Director or staff members.²⁹

Indicators

- 140 media interviews with local and international media were made.
- The interviews included (10 newspaper and magazines, 36 radio stations, 94 TV stations and 3 websites), noting that more than one interview was made with the same media outlet.

1.3.3 PCHR Networked with National and International Partners to Develop Joint Advocacy

This was carried out by organizing and participating in coordination meetings with national and international partners; issuing joint publications and petitions; preparing joint submissions to UN bodies; organizing and participating in joint activities and participating in national and international human rights coalitions.

1.3.3.1 Organizing/participating in coordination meetings with national and international partners

In 2017, PCHR organized and participated in many coordination meetings with national and intentional partners. The meetings with international partners were held via Video Conference due to the strangulating closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and Israeli tightened restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement that directly affected PCHR's Director and main staff members. Moreover, other calls and meetings

29. Appendix (1): media interviews with PCHR's staff in 2017.

were held in Palestine, including the Gaza Strip and West Bank, in the framework of the partner organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mezan and Al-Dameer); the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC); PNGO and dozens of national organizations and initiatives at different levels.

Indicators

- PCHR participated in 110 meetings.

1.3.3.2 Issuing joint publications/petitions

PCHR issued and participated in issuing many joint publications and petitions which focused on the Israeli violations either upon initiative from PCHR or their international and national partners. Many of those activities occurred within the PHROC or within joint work with a number of these organizations. PCHR also issued joint statements along with international organizations such as International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH.)

- » On 22 March 2017: PCHR prepared a position paper and was issued on behalf of PHROC: *Withdrawing ESCAW Report is Complicity: Rima Khalaf, Richard Falk and Virginia Tilley and the New Approach to End Occupation.*»
- » On 23 May 2017: PCHR issued a joint legal submission titled as “Obligations Owed and Not Demands to Negotiate: Legal Characterization of Palestinian Hunger Striking Prisoners’ Demands in the Israeli Jails.” PCHR prepared the submission and issued it jointly with

the Committee of Palestinian Prisoners’ Families and Prisoners’ Committee of Islamic and National Factions.

- » 14 December 2017: Joint press release titled as “No to Repeating Balfour Declaration ... Arab Civil Society Organizations and Coalitions Stress Palestinian Right to Jerusalem is An International Law that Cannot be Given away by Political Measures and Statements.” PCHR initiated to prepare this press release and was jointly published by the PHROC and dozens Arab coalitions and organizations.

Indicators

- 12 joint petitions and publications on Israeli violations were issued.

1.3.3.3 Presenting Joint Submissions to UN bodies

No joint submissions were filed in 2017.

1.3.3.4 Organizing/participating in joint activities

PCHR’s Director and staff members attended many events, including conferences, seminars, lectures and other meetings, at the Palestinian and international levels to discuss the Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. PCHR also organized meetings and workshops to shed light on those violations. Those events were an integral part of PCHR’s efforts through the year to network with human rights, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to

develop unified advocacy strategies on the Israeli violations.

Indicators

- PCHR held 16 meetings.
- PCHR participated in 20 events organized by partners.

1.3.3.5 Participating in national and international human rights coalitions

The national and international coalitions play important role in the advocacy campaigns organized by PCHR locally and internationally to challenge the Israeli impunity. PCHR is an active member in the international human rights coalitions such as the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ); FIDH; Euro-Mid Rights (EMHRN); ILAC; the World Coalition against the Death Penalty; Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR); PHROC and Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Woman.

In 2017, PCHR's Director and staff could not participate in most meeting and activities with these coalitions while only limited participations were made via video conference or Skype in Gaza.

- » On 01 October 2017, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in the ILAC Executive Committee's meeting via Skype from Gaza, noting that he is a member in the Executive Committee and PCHR is an elected member in ILAC's Board of Directors.

- » Hamdi Shaqura, Deputy Director for Program Affairs, reviewed via Skype the human rights situation and impact of the closure policy on the Gaza Strip during the meetings of the Working Group on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians (PIP) in the EMHRN. Those activities were held in Brussels, Belgium.

PHROC is a coordinating body that includes 12 Palestinian human rights organizations in the oPt. In 2017, PCHR participated in the coordination meetings held by the council, contributed to unifying the visions in addition to conducting many joint initiatives, including holding joint meetings with national and international stakeholders, conveying messages, issuing position papers and joint press releases about human rights violations, including Israeli violations.

Amal Coalition: the coalition includes 12 Palestinian NGOs interested in women rights, including women's and human rights organizations. Amal Coalition was established in 2009 by 6 organizations, including PCHR.

Indicators

- The number of meetings in which PCHR participated in the framework of the abovementioned coalitions was 15.



Practical Training for Bertha Justice Fellowship Lawyers about documenting Murder of a Resident in the Border Area

1.3.4 PCHR Raised Awareness and Built Capacities of the Palestinian Community on IHL and International Litigation Mechanisms

The Legal Aid Unit carried out a training program for law graduates in the Gaza Strip to build fresh lawyers' capacities and arm them with IHL and international criminal law. The Legal Unit cooperated with the Training Unit and held awareness sessions on IHL and international criminal law.

Indicators

- 6 lawyers were trained; 50% of whom were females.

1.3.4.1 The International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition

The Moot Court competition aims at developing lawyers' legal skills to plead before the ICC and raising their awareness of international law, especially international criminal law. However, PCHR did not receive the funding needed for carrying out this competition in 2017.

1.3.4.2 Training and coaching fresh law graduates in the Gaza Strip

As part of PCHR's efforts to build capacities of the new lawyers to challenge human rights violations and armed them with international humanitarian law and international criminal law, the Legal Aid Unit continued implementing a one-year special training program for the law graduates in the Gaza Strip within Bertha Foundation Project. In 2017, the Unit com-

pleted the training of 6 graduates and selected another group of 6 new graduates for the next program, which started in October 2017.

Indicators

- 6 lawyers (3 males and 3 females) finished the training and capacity building program in 2017.
- 6 new lawyers started the training program (5 female lawyers and one male lawyer.)
- The trainee lawyers received 27 lectures on how to build legal files, on legal terms in English and other fields of the international law and international criminal law and UN Mechanisms.
- They received a professional diploma in Hebrew language.
- They received a training course in the field of freedom and expression organized by PCHR.

1.3.4.3 Conducting awareness sessions on IHL and ICC

The Training Unit in cooperation with the Legal Aid Unit held 33 awareness sessions on IHL, and ICC protection of civilians in times of armed conflict, targeting activists in NGOs and civil society organizations; university students; lawyers; journalists and farmers. The sessions were held in coordination with NGOs.

Indicators³⁰

- 514 persons attended the sessions; 55% of whom were females.
- The number of sessions was 23 throughout the Gaza Strip.
- The unit coordinated with 20 NGOs, Community-Based organizations, and youth groups.

1.3.5 PCHR Lobbied International and National Stakeholders to Take Action against Israeli Impunity

PCHR conducted various initiatives and activities at the national and international levels, including implementing/participating in advocacy missions and international meetings; organizing/participating in national conferences, workshops and meetings; holding meetings with diplomats and international delegations; taking diplomats and international delegations into field visits; and submitting letters and petitions to the national and international stakeholders.

1.3.5.1 Implementing/participating in advocacy missions and international meetings

The closure and collective punishment policy imposed by the Israeli forces on the Gaza Strip in addition to the Israeli restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement and travel ban continue to dramatically affect PCHR Director and staff members' ability to travel to participate in advocacy missions and international events. In some cases, PCHR staff members managed to participate in international events via Skype



Training Course for Trainee Lawyers within the Bertha Justice Fellowship Program



Training Course About Raising Legal Awareness

30. Appendix (2): table of the awareness sessions on IHL and ICC Page: ().

while meetings scheduled to be implemented in 2017 was cancelled after they apologized for not being able to participate in many events organized by partners or stakeholders. The following are the most significant activities and events which PCHR could participate in via Skype.

Participating Via Skype in Advocacy Mission to Norway

Upon an invitation from the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and DanChurchAid (DCA), Hamdi Shaqqourah, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, was supposed to participate in an advocacy mission to Norway between 28 July and 01 August 2017. The mission includes a panel discussion organized by the Norwegian Church in Trondheim, meetings with political officials and journalists, and meetings in Oslo with Representatives of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and civil society organizations. Despite all efforts exerted by the partners, the Israeli authorities did not allow PCHR's representative to travel. Instead, He participated via Skype in the panel discussion which the Church organized on 30 August 2017 in addition to having a long interview with one of the major newspapers in Trondheim.

1.3.5.2 Organizing/participating in international conferences and workshops

Due to the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and banning PCHR's Director

and some members from travel, PCHR did not hold any international conferences or seminars in addition to apologizing for the participation in many events abroad. In very limited cases, PCHR electronically participated from the Gaza Strip.

- » On 28 July 2017, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, talked in a joint meeting with a religious delegation organized by 3 American organizations namely Inter-faith Peace-Builders; Jewish Voice for Peace and American Muslims for Palestine. Via Skype, Sourani presented a detained review of the human rights situation in the oPt.
- » On 17 August 2017, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, also spoke via Skype from Gaza in a second meeting with a religious delegation organized by the 3 abovementioned organizations.
- » Indicators
- » The number of participations was 2.

1.3.5.3 Organizing/participating in national conferences and workshops

These activities constitute a fundamental part of the networking efforts that PCHR had worked for during the year with human rights organizations, Civil Society organizations and other stakeholders to develop unified advocacy strategies in order to pressurize international duty bearers and demand them to put an end to Israel's impunity. The following are the main prominent activities organized or attended by PCHR:

2016 Annual Report Event

On 10 April 2016, PCHR organized a special event to launch its 2016 annual report in Roots Hotel Hall in Gaza City. The event was attended by a large number of public figures, including decision makers, politicians and representatives of human rights, community-based and youth organizations amidst wide media coverage. During his speech, Dr Riyadh al-Za'noun, Chairman of PCHR's Board of Directors, declared the issuance of the report, and Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, reviewed a concentrated presentation of the report. The Event was extensively covered by media, including local and regional news agencies, and was streaming live on social media. In the media coverage, large number of bloggers and tweeters participated on social media, particularly on Twitter.

Panel Discussion on Human Rights Organizations' Efforts before ICC

On 15 March 2017, PCHR organized a meeting with several national figures and journalists in PCHR's branch office in Khan Yunis. During the meeting, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, reviewed the legal submissions delivered by the human rights organizations to the ICC. Sourani emphasized that it is forbidden to lose the legal battle of prosecuting the Israeli war criminals. He pointed out that there is an expanded work crew of Palestinians along with 14 international figures of the best legal minds, who work on this file, believing in the justice of the Palestinian



Ceremony to Launch Annual Report 2016



Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, During Panel Discussion in Khan Yunis

cause. Sourani emphasized that this battle is one of the serious battles which Israel will face in the next stage.

Panel Discussion on Efforts to Prosecute Israeli War Criminals

On 23 March 2017, PCHR in cooperation with the National Society for Democracy and Law (NSDL) in Rafah organized a panel discussion attended by civil society representatives, journalists and academics. During the discussion, lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, emphasized that the legal submissions filed to the ICJ by the Palestinian human rights organizations are going as expected. He hoped that the preliminary examinations end so the submissions would be referred to the ICC by the end of this year. Sourani added that the right to self-determination advocated by all international treaties is not only a right but a duty of people under occupation to practice this right and work to achieve it with all legitimate means. He stressed that the Palestinian human rights organizations employ law in the service of this right through their legal work to prosecute the Israeli war criminals in order to achieve victims' right to redress.

Seminar on “Human Rights Situation in the oPt and Efforts to Prosecute Israeli War Criminals”

On 20 April 2017, PCHR organized a seminar in cooperation with al-Maghazi Cultural Center in al-Maghazi Refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip and with the participation of national figures and community activists in the central Gaza Strip. During the Seminar, lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, reviewed the ongoing deterioration of the human rights situation and Israeli violations in the oPt. Sourani called for intensifying efforts to support and advocate the Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike in the Israeli jails.



Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, During Panel Discussion in al-Maghazi



National Events Where PCHR's Director and Staff Members Participated as Speakers

PCHR's Director and staff members participated in many events and activities, including conferences, seminars, lectures and etc., at the national level. Those activities addressed discussions on the Israeli violations of human rights and IHL, noting that some participations were made from the Gaza Strip via Skype due to the closure or Israeli travel ban.

- » On 01 March 2017, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in the Fifth Annual Legal Conference of Palestinian Bar Association. The conference was held in Arch-Med Hotel in Gaza, and Sourani presented a worksheet on the role of Legal and human rights organizations in confronting the Israeli violations.
- » On 09 March 2017, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated as a speaker in a seminar organized by Qudsona Center for Studies and Development in the Civil Service Commission's head office in Gaza. He tackled the Israeli violations against journalists.
- » On 26 April 2017, Khalil Shaheen, Director of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' Unit, participated with a worksheet titled as, "Right to Health for Displace Persons 3 Years after the Latest Israeli Offensive on Gaza Strip," in a conference organized by the Palestinian Institute for the Study of Civil

Society (CIVITAS) in Commodore Hotel in Gaza City.

- » On 05 June 2017, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated as a speaker in the seminar organized by the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) in Jerusalem, on the 50th anniversary of the Israeli occupation.
- » On 23 July 2017, Hamdi Shaqqourah, PCHR's Deputy Director for Programs' Affairs, part pated in a meeting organized by the Near East Council of Churches for the visit of Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, the new General Secretary of ACT Alliance that is a coalition of more than 140 churches and church-related organizations in all over the world. During the meeting held in Roots Hotel in Gaza, Shaqqourah presented a review of the human rights situation.
- » On 06 September 2017, Khalil Shaheen, Director of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' Unit, participated with a worksheet titled as, "Right to Health: Normative Framework of Human Rights," in the strategic workshop organized by WHO in Lighthouse Restaurant in Gaza City.

Indicators

- PCHR organized 4 national events on the Israeli violations.
- The number of PCHR staff members' participations with working papers in local events was 6.

1.3.5.4 Holding Meetings with International Diplomats, Organizations and Delegations

Director and members of PCHR held meetings with international diplomats and delegations visiting and international organizations working in the oPt. PCHR reviewed during the meetings the human rights situation in the oPt and briefed the visitors on PCHR's work and plans for the protection of human rights.³¹

Indicators

- The number of meetings held by PCHR with visiting international diplomats and delegations and international organizations working in the oPt was 91.

1.3.5.5 Organizing field tours for visiting international diplomats and delegations

PCHR organized field tours for visiting international diplomats and delegations to brief them on the humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip. PCHR's fieldworkers and other staff members escorted the visiting delegations to places that witnessed systematic destruction during the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and other areas that were repeatedly attacked by Israeli forces. Moreover, meetings were held with Palestinian civilian victims of the Israeli violations.



Khalil Shaheen, Head of PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit, during a field visit for a delegation in Gaza Seaport

31. Appendix (3): table of the above-mentioned meetings, Page: ().

Table: Field Visits Organized by PCHR for the International Diplomats and Delegations

Date	Visiting Delegation	Remarks
11 January 2017	Delegation from Grassroots Organization	Field visit and interviews with fishermen
September 2017 16	Delegation from MISEREOR Organization	
03 August 2016	Irish Aid	One of PCHR's partner organizations. The delegation included Bernhard Schafer, Joint Initiative on International Humanitarian Law; Dr. Volker Riehl, Desk Officer, Berlin Office; and Ralph Allgaier, Press Officer.
10-20 July 2017	Field Visits for Japanese Journalist Doi Toshikuni	PCHR organized for him many field visits to be briefed on the Israeli violations in the Gaza Strip for documentaries that he prepare to be published in major media outlets in Japan
25 November 2017	Suzan Power from al-Haq Organization in Ramallah	A field visit to the Fishermen Seaport; Interview with Members of the Fishermen Syndicate and with a number of fishermen who were victims of the Israeli violations; and a cruise in the Gaza Sea.

Indicators

- The number of field visits organized by PCHR for visiting international delegations was 6.

1.3.5.6 Sending Letters and Petitions to International Duty Bearers

PCHR jointly sent letters and petitions to international duty bearers through PHROC.

Indicators

- Number of press releases issued on behalf of the PHROC was 19 relevant to Israeli violations.



Jaber Weshah, Deputy Chief of PCHR's Board of Directors, Briefs Fishermen's Suffering in Gaza Sea for MISEREOR Delegation

1.3.6 PCHR Used UN Human Rights Mechanisms to Spur Action against Israeli Impunity

PCHR used a number of UN mechanisms in the context of challenging the Israeli impunity. Those mechanisms included testifying before the UN Commission of Inquiry, use of UN Special Procedures, submitting interventions to the UN bodies, holding meetings with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Special Rapporteurs, and participating in Protection Cluster Working Groups.

1.3.6.1 Testifying before the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs in the oPt

On 13 July 2017, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, testified before this UN Committee that investigates the Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs in the oPt. The Committee held its sessions in Amman, Jordan as the Israeli authorities banned it from entering the oPt. Via Skype from Gaza, PCHR's Director reviewed in his testimony the violations committed by Israeli forces during the reporting period covered by the Committee's investigations.

Indicators

- Representatives of PCHR annually testify before the Committee, and the Committee's report submitted to the UN General Assembly include information based on these testimonies and others.

1.3.6.2 Submitting Complaints and Communications to UN Special Procedures³²

PCHR submitted a number of submissions prepared by the Legal Aid Unit to the Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Indicators

- PCHR's Legal Unit follows up 7 submissions; 2 of which

32. The Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advice on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. The Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and members of the Working Groups are appointed by the Human Rights Council and serve in their personal capacities. They undertake to uphold independence, efficiency, competence and integrity through probity, impartiality, honesty and good faith.

were sent to the Special Rapporteur on Torture regarding the detainee Mohammed al-Qeeq, who declared his hunger strike against the inhumane conditions of his detention by the Israeli forces. Two other submissions were sent to UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. One submission was sent to the office of the OHCHR in Geneva. The last one was sent to other human rights organizations in order to release the detainee al-Qeeq due to the deterioration of his health condition.

1.3.6.3 Submitting Oral and Written Interventions to the Human Rights Council and Treaty Bodies

No interventions were submitted in 2017.

1.3.6.4 Holding Meetings with the OHCHR and Special Rapporteurs

PCHR held meetings with the OHCHR and its own officers, in addition to a meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the oPt.

- » On 07 January 2017, PCHR's Director Raji Sourani held a meeting with James Heenan, Head of OHCHR Office in the oPt
- » On 15 January 2017, PCHR's Director Raji Sourani held a meeting with Paula Simas Magalhães, Human Rights Officer-OiC Gaza Sub Office at Office of the OHCHR.
- » On 15 March 2017, PCHR's Director Raji Sourani held a meeting with James Heenan, Head of the OHCHR Office in the oPt and his Deputy Jane Anttila.
- » On 16 May 2017, PCHR's Director Raji Sourani had a meeting with Michael Lynk, the UN Special Rapporteur in the oPt via Skype
- » On 06 July 2017, PCHR's Director met with Paula Simas Magalhães, Human Rights Officer-OiC Gaza Sub Office at Office of the OHCHR; Davide Tundo; and Said al-Madhoun, Human Rights officers in the Office.
- » On 17 July 2017, PCHR's Director Raji Sourani had a meeting with James Heenan, Head of the OHCHR Office in the oPt.
- » On 23 August 2017, PCHR's Director Raji Sourani had a meeting with Paula Neil Tobin, Head of Gaza sub-office, Office of OHCHR; and Saber al-Nairab, Human Rights Officer in the office.
- » On 24 August 2017, PCHR's Director Raji Sourani had a meeting with Neil Tobin, Head of Gaza sub-office, Office of OHCHR; Paula Simas Magalhães; and Saber al-Nairab, Human Rights Officers in the office.
- » On 24 August 2017, A collective meeting was held between the Staff of the



OHCHR Delegation's Visit to PCHR's Head Office in Gaza

- OHCHR Office in the oPt and representatives of human rights organizations.
- » On 29 August 2017, A meeting between the Staff of the OHCHR Office in the oPt and human rights organizations, Women's and media organizations to discuss the strategic directions of the Office.
 - » On 17 October 2017, attending meetings with Georgette Gagnon, Director of UN OHCHR Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division- Geneva, and Director and Members of the office in the oPt.
 - » On 18 October 2017, attending a meeting with Legal Advisor to the OHCHR officer in the OHCHR Gaza-Office.
 - » On 19 October 2017, a meeting between PCHR's Director and Neil Tobin, Head of Gaza sub-office, Office of OHCHR.
 - » On 25 October 2017, a meeting between PCHR's Director and Davide Tundo, Human Rights Officer in the OHCHR Office in Gaza.
 - » On 09 November 2017, PCHR's Director Raji Sourani attended the preparatory workshop "National Consultations of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" that was organized by the OHCHR Office in Gaza and reviewed the role of civil society in preparing reports on the conventions and their application.
 - » On 05 December 2017, Hamdi Shaqqourah reviewed the role of civil society organizations in the national consultations relevant to national reports of the Treaty Bodies relevant to

Human Rights Conventions during a workshop organized by the OHCHR Office in al-Sammak Hall in Gaza.

Indicators

- Number of meetings: 15.

1.3.6.5 Participating and Contributing to UN Working Groups and Agencies

PCHR participated in and contributed to a number of UN working groups and agencies in the oPt. This included participation of lawyers from PCHR's Legal Aid Unit in periodic meetings of the Protection Cluster Working Group (PCWG) held by the OHCHR to discuss the Israeli violations of human rights and means to promote protection and other sub groups.

1. Protection Cluster (8 meetings)
2. Arrest and Detention Working Group (1 meeting);
3. Legal Task Force Working Group (7 meetings); and
4. Legal Advisors Group (LAG) (1 meeting.)

Indicators

- Number of meetings in which PCHR's lawyers participated: 17 meetings.



PCHR's Meeting with Partner Organizations and OHCHR

Outcome (2) PCHR supported democratic transformation, rule of law and human rights protection in the PA

In 2017, PCHR continued to support the democratic transition and respect the rule of law and human rights in the PA Controlled Areas. And for that purpose, PCHR offered legal assistance to the victims of human rights violations; particularly marginalized women in Family Law and Gender-based cases; and used advocacy campaigns to respect human rights and end violations against Palestinian civilians; documenting and disseminating the violations of human rights, raising awareness on human rights, promoting dialogue and leading discussions on human rights; and networking with national and international partners. This was in light of the challenges that hinder PCHR's work and the civil society in general, and these challenges include division of the PA and the disruption of the PLC in addition to the judicial division and the undergoing political influences.

Indicators:

- **Advocacy made by PCHR against certain policies:**

PCHR intervened in 18 Palestinian policies aiming to advocate them in order to be in conformity with international standards of human rights. Those policies were as follows: political division, use and application of death penalty, extra-judicial executions, attacks on the freedom of opinion and expression and restricting the freedom of press, violations of the right to form associations, violations of the right to peaceful assembly, unconstitutional issuance of legislations, infringement of the judicial independence, arbitrary arrests, travel ban, security chaos, denial of the rights of disabled persons, violations of the right to housing, violations of the right to health, gender-based violence, torture and maltreatment, poor conditions in prisons and detention facilities and hindering the general elections.

- **Policies which PCHR contributed to changing in order to meet the international standards:**

- » Contributing to paving the way for the new Palestinian reconciliation initiatives which yielded significant steps towards ending the division and for the National Unity

Government to bear its responsibilities in the Gaza Strip. However, it requires further steps to totally end the division.

- » PCHR's work contributed to decreasing the violations of the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in the last quarter of 2017 as those violations escalated since the beginning of the year and until the last quarter due to the division bickering.
- » The PA has officially suspended the application of death penalty since 2005, when the last death sentences were applied with the ratification of the President. PCHR also contributed to stopping the application of further executions without the president's ratifications in the Gaza Strip as in 2017, 6 sentences were applied. Other sentences were supposed to be applied, but PCHR and other organizations contributed to stopping their application. Moreover, the second half of the year did not witness any application of death sentences in the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR offered legal aid and protection for 112 women and children, through filing cases before the competent courts, and achieved positive results in hundreds of cases filed by PCHR.
- » Cancelling the system of permits selectively imposed by the Ministry of Interior in Gaza since November 2009 on persons and organizations to be allowed to travel via Erez Crossing. This development came after the Security Services of the Unity Government took

over the crossings on 01 November 2017.

- » Preparing national reports according to Palestinian obligations under the human rights conventions, including Convention against Torture (CAT); International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Those preparations resulted in deep discussions between the various stakeholders and made the authority more sensitive to criticism and more receptive to cooperation with civil society organizations. Hopefully, this would positively affect and restrict the conduct of public authorities and human rights violations.
- » PCHR and partner organizations' work contributed to not aggravating the human rights situation as PCHR's efforts in cooperation and networking with other organizations contribute to rein the authority through advocacy campaigns and negotiations which the balanced relation between PCHR and official authorities allow.
- » Marked decline in the government's position towards the Cybercrimes Law after civil society organizations presented its review and suggesting amendments to the law. In light of the suggestions, the government promised to reconsider the law as emphasized by the Palestinian Cabinet its meeting convened on 19 December 2017.

2.1 Legal Assistance Offered to Palestinian Victims of Human Rights in the PA

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit continued to offer legal assistance in different means to the victims of human rights violations in the PA. In 2017, legal assistance was given to prisoners in the Palestinian prisons and detention facilities, to victims of the abuse of power, including attacks on the public freedoms, and victims of suspicious medical negligence.

Indicators:

The number of civilians provided legal assistance on grounds of Palestinian violations: 338

2.1.1 Legal Aid Offered to Prisoners in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Facilities

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit received and followed up complaints on arrest of Palestinian civilians by Palestinian security services and obtained powers of attorney to represent the arrested persons before the PA and identify their places of detention. The Unit's lawyers visited a number of prisoners and checked their detention conditions, including their health conditions and not being subject to torture. The Unit also referred a number of complaints to the competent authorities, including the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General and the Comptroller General of Security Services.

Indicators

- The Unit offered legal assistance to 222 prisoners detained in prisons and detention facilities in the Gaza Strip.

2.1.1.1 Visiting prisoners to check detention conditions

The lawyers periodically visited the prisons and checked the detention conditions.

Indicators

- The Unit received 67 notifications

about detention of civilians in the prisons and detention facilities in Gaza.

- The number of visits paid by PCHR's lawyers to prisons and detention facilities is 47. During these visits, 45 prisoners were visited.
- After the Unit's intervention, 15 prisoners were released.

2.1.1.2 Filing complaints to the competent authorities against maltreatment in prisons

The Legal Unit filed a number of complaints to the competent authorities, including the Attorney General in Gaza, Ministry of Justice and Comptroller General of Security Services at the Ministry of Interior; and Director General of Reform and Rehabilitation Centers. The complaints were about arresting civilians in violation of law; and subjecting them to torture, maltreatment and bad health conditions; in addition to deaths in the detention facility.

Indicators

- The number of complaints and letters sent by PCHR: 13. The majority of them were relevant to detention of Palestin-

ians in violation of law or to torture and maltreatment.

- The number of meetings with competent authorities to check the legal status of the detainees: 4.
- The number of letters relevant to requests for visits to detainees was 13.

2.1.1.3 Filing cases before courts against illegal detention and torture

No cases were filed in 2017.

2.1.1.4 Providing legal consultations to Prisoners' Families

Indicators

- The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit to the prisoners' Families: 162.



Farewel Ceremoney

2.1.2 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Abuse of Power

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to Palestinians that were exposed to violations resulting from the abuse of power and attacks on the public freedoms or the public authorities' non-fulfillment of their obligations under the law.

Indicators

- The number of civilians who received legal aid on grounds of the abuse of power or alleged abuse of power: 98.

2.1.2.1 Filing complaints to the Attorney General, ministries and other competent authorities

Complaints were filed on behalf of the victims to the PA's competent authorities and other human rights organizations.

Indicators

- The number of complaints filed by the Legal Unit to the competent authorities: 12.
- The Legal Unit received replies to 4 complaints; 2 replies were positive while the 2 others were negative.

Number of Complaints and to which Authority they were referred

Complaint filed to	Number of complaints	Complaint filed to	Number of complaints
Ministry of Interior- Crossings Authority	3	Social Development	1
Ministry of Labour	1	Ministry of Health	1
Contractors Union	1	Ministry of Finance	1
Land Authority	2	Comptroller General	1
Palestinian Embassy in Cairo	1		
Total	19		



During Visit to the Ministry of Health in Ramallah to Promote Relations and Improve Level of Cooperation

2.1.2.2 Filing cases before courts

A case was filed before the Administrative Court in Gaza to challenge an administrative decision issued by the Land Authority.

2.1.2.3 Providing legal consultations

The Legal Unit offered legal consultations to victims of abuse of power.

Indicators

- The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit: 76

2.1.3 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Medical Negligence

The Legal Unit continued to offer its services in cases of suspicious medical negligence by medical service providers.

Indicators

- The legal aid was offered to 18 Palestinians on grounds of medical negligence suspicions.

2.1.3.1 Filing complaints to the Ministry of Health and Attorney General

The Legal Unit received 4 cases of medical negligence suspicion in 2017.

Indicators

- Four complaints were filed to the Ministry of Health.
- The unit received one response and it was negative.

2.1.3.2 Providing legal consultations

The number of legal consultations provided: 14.

2.2 PCHR Provided Legal Aid for Marginalized Women on Family Law and Gender Issues

PCHR's Women's Rights Unit continued its work in helping women in having access to justice, especially the marginalized ones, by providing legal aid to them. The Women's Unit represented hundreds of women before the Shari'a Courts and obtained court rulings in favor of those women. Moreover, the unit offered hundreds of legal consultations to women. The Women's Unit enhanced its cooperation with the Shari'a courts and NGOs to help women in having access to courts. In 2017, the unit focused on promoting cooperation with al-Aman Shelter and Ansar Central Prison for Women through organizing periodic visits (4 to 5 monthly visits) to Beit al-Aman and one visit monthly to Ansar Central prison in order to provide legal services to women there.

Indicators

- The number of women that received legal aid from the Women's Unit in cases relevant to the Family Law and gender issues: 638.
- The number of children that benefited from the legal aid offered to women: 391.



Lawyer Ayah al-Wakeel During Awareness Session about Gender-Based Justice and Equality in Work Environment

2.2.1 Filing Cases before Sharia Courts

The Unit continued receiving women complaints relevant to the Family Law and representing them before Gaza Shari'a courts. The Unit offers legal services through a team of Shari'a lawyers. The civil law seriously deteriorated throughout the split period that pushed PCHR to abstain from addressing the courts for years but kept working before the Shari'a courts. The cases varied in 2014, the most prominent cases included alimony, house furniture, deferred dowry, child custody and seeing children.

To promote the women legal protection and access to justice, the Unit continued to cooperate with the Shari'a court. In the context of this cooperation, the Shari'a courts refer women, who need legal assistance, to the unit's lawyers to represent them before courts for free.

Moreover, cooperation enhanced with NGOs and women and human rights organizations, as these organizations refer certain cases to PCHR to be followed up. Many cases were referred this year from the Women Health Center in Jabalia and al-Bureij, the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution, the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), the Union of Health Work Committees and Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection.

However, in 2014, one of the biggest obstacles that faced the unit was the number of cases is increasing in the Shari'a courts since most courts are considered by a single judge, who consider various cases such as the implementation cases and inheritance transactions in addition to other cases which will extend the litigation before courts and affect the Unit's work and the number of cases that might be filed during the month. Due to which, the Unit is forced to transfer a number of cases for another month. Moreover, the high fees of cases filed before the Shari'a courts in this year resulted in an in-

crease of the number of cases the unit received and the number of cases transferred to the unit by other organizations.

Indicators

- The number of cases followed up before the Shari'a courts in this year reached 1,189; 1,142 cases was reported in 2017.
- The number of sentences the unit obtained for the interest of women was 606.

The following tables show the cases followed up by the Shari'a courts and outcome:

Diversity of Shari'a Cases Followed up by the Women's Unit in 2017

Type of Case	Number	Type of Case	Number
Alimony	715	House furniture	117
Hosting children	36	Child custody	58
Seeing children	26	Delivery fees	42
Deferred dowry	52	Divorce	92
Child custody fees	29	House rental fees	2
Marriage proof		Wife obedience	3
Paternity proof	-	Divorce proof	5
Others	9		3
Total	1,189		

Cases Followed up by the Women's Unit before Shari'a Courts in 2017

Cases with rulings	Cases being considered	Cases dismissed for reconciliation	Cases stopped for non-follow-up by the claimant	Total
606	256	273	54	1,189

Table of Number of Cases PCHR Branches received

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Yunis	Total
509	327	306	1142

- The number of women who benefited from the legal aid offered by the unit reached

670, taking in consideration that more than a case was filed on behalf of one woman. This explains the big number of cases compared to the number of women represented by the unit.

- The number of cases the unit received during this year is 1142.
- The number of children who benefited from the legal aid is 391.
- The number of cases referred by Shari'a courts to the Women's Unit for follow-up: 454.
- The number of cases referred from those benefiting from the unit services: 418.
- The number of cases referred from women and community-based organizations: 90.

- The number of cases referred from lawyers: 46.

2.2.1.1 Intervening in order to implement Sharia courts' rulings

- The unit legally intervened to implement Shari'a courts' rulings for the interest of poor women. After Shari'a rulings were issued, the unit filed executive cases before the executive bodies of the Shari'a courts to help women obtain their financial rights.

Indicators

- The number of rulings issued by Shari'a courts and implemented upon the intervention of the unit: 100.

Table of the Number of Cases PCHR Branches in Gaza received in 2017

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Yunis	Total
44	28	28	100

2.2.1.2 Providing Legal Consultations for Wome

Legal consultations provided to women are a fundamental pillar of the Women's Unit to enhance women's chances to have access to justice. The unit provided this service in different forms, including receiving women in PCHR's head office in Gaza City and branches in Khan Yunis and Jabalia, phone calls, or awareness-raising meetings organized by the unit. The unit provided 798 legal consultation during the reported period for women, who asked for consultation or women who phone called the unit

Table of the Number of Consultations provided by the Women’s Unit at PCHR’s Branches in 2017

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Yunis	Total
336	236	226	798

Indicators:

- The number of legal consultations provided by the Women’s Unit: 798

2.2.2 Legal Aid Provided for Female Prisoners

The Women’s Unit provided legal aid and consultations to female prisoners. The unit female lawyers paid visits to the women’s prison in the central prison in Gaza City. The number of female prisoners was from 45 to 50 and this number is changeable from time to time.

Indicators

- The number of female prisoners who received legal aid: 5.

2.2.2.1 Visiting the female prison by lawyers to check detention conditions

In 2017, female lawyers at the Women’s Right Unit visited the women’s prison to check the detention conditions. In light of the continued cooperation between the Women’s Unit and the female prison, the unit increased the number of visits in order to offer the biggest number possible of legal and consultation aid for female prisoners. During this year, they unit provided a training about self-care, well-being and personal security to the inmates and policewomen in prison.

Indicators

- The number of visits to the women’s prison: 15.

2.2.2.2 Providing legal consultations for female prisoners

The lawyers at the Women’s Rights Unit provided legal consultations to female prisoners during the visits.

Indicators

- The number of legal consultations provided: 52. It should be noted some prisoners received legal consultations more than once.

2.2.3 Legal Aid was Provided for Women in Beit al-Aman (Women Shelter)

The Women's Unit continued cooperating with Beit al-Aman administrated by the Ministry of Social Affairs that gives shelter to the women victims of violence by providing legal services to women there. The Unit is the only one that offers legal aid for Beit al-Aman that gives shelter to 20 - 25 women. The Women's Unit started cooperating with Beit al-Aman since 2012.



PCHR's Women Unit's Visit to Al-Aman Shelter for Women

2.2.3.1 Visiting the shelter to check living conditions

The unit paid periodic visits to Beit al-Aman to check the living conditions, provide legal aid to them and follow up their cases before the Shari'a courts sometimes. Moreover, the Unit organized 2 joint visits with the OHCHR to Beit al-Aman in order to document and observe the work mechanisms. Hanan Mater, Director of Women's Rights Unit, and Majeeda Shehahda, Researcher at the Women's Unit participated in the visit.

Indicators

- The number of visits implemented by the unit to Beit al-Aman: 48 visits; 3 to 4 visits per month.

Indicators

- The number of women in the shelter who received legal aid from the unit: 10

2.2.3.2 Representing women in the shelter before Shari'a courts

The unit represented women in the shelter before the Shari'a courts.

Indicators

- The unit filed 10 cases on behalf of a number of women from the shelter.

2.2.3.3 Providing legal consultations to women in shelter

The Women's Unit provided legal consultations to women in Beit al-Aman during the visits.

Indicators

- The number of consultations provided by the Unit:190

2.3 PCHR Pressured Duty Bearers for the Promotion of Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democratic Transformation

Along with its work in the field of legal protection against the PA violations, PCHR exerted efforts on the level of advocacy and lobbying to change policies relevant to human rights. PCHR addressed several duty bearers for the protection of human rights, the rule of law and democratic transformation. This included observing and documenting violations of human rights, interventions to stop legislations and decisions affecting human rights, revealing violations through dissemination, raising awareness for Palestinians on human rights and democracy, including women rights, capacity-building for human rights defenders, promoting the dialogue and leading discussions about human rights issues, including women rights, networking with partner human rights organizations and CBOs, and holding meetings with Palestinian duty bearers for the respect of human rights.

2.2.1 PCHR Monitored and Documented Human Rights Violations Committed by the PA

PCHR's Fieldwork Unit has documented the PA violations in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip through an experienced team of fieldworkers, who geographically exists in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem. The fieldwork includes: conducting field visits, recording interviews with victims and/or their family, and eyewitnesses; collecting affidavits, filing up special forms relevant to violations; taking photos; collecting documents about violations and writing field reports. The Fieldwork Unit fed PCHR's database with all needed information, which was documented. That included referring all documented materials through scanner to so PCHR's database to be archived so that other PCHR's units benefit from them. In addition to entering the data in the forms filled related to killings, injuries, arrests and demolition of property.

Indicators

- The number of violations documented: 7348.

- The fieldworkers conducted 1496 field visits in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- The fieldworkers made 1213 interviews.
- The number of affidavits collected by fieldworkers:352.
- The number of forms filled out by the fieldworkers: 1454.
- 499 photos were taken.
- The number of documents is: 85.
- The number of filed reports is: 2833.
- The number of entries in the database is 1454.
- The number of documents electronically archived is 3243.

2.2.2 PCHR Monitored General and Local Elections

PCHR supported holding local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In this regard, PCHR welcomed the decision by the Council of Ministers on 31 January 2017, to hold local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 13 May 2017, and was ready to monitor the elections. However, PCHR emphasizes that successfully holding local elections requires a comprehensive national dialogue and consensus on the procedures. Those elections were scheduled to be held on 07 October 2016, but the Supreme Court in Ramallah issued a decision on 03 October 2016 to hold elections in the West Bank but not in the Gaza Strip “because of the current judicial situation”, pointing to the unlawfulness of the Gaza Strip courts formed in violation of the law. This decision was followed by another decision from the Council of Ministers to defer the elections for 4 months until the circumstances are convenient for the Gaza Strip’s participation, and the latter decision was welcome by PCHR at the time. In light of that, The Palestinian President previously issued a presidential decree to amend the Local Council Elections Law No.10/2005. According to this amendment, a special court was established to consider the electoral appeals as the First Instance Court in each city used to be responsible for the electoral appeals according to the old law.

PCHR strongly reacted with the developments relevant to

holding the elections. On 06 February 2017, PCHR issued a position paper titled: “Holding Local Elections Requires Comprehensive National Dialogue to be Successfully Held in West Bank and Gaza Strip.” PCHR is concerned over the amendment to the Local Council Elections Law without consulting the political parties, threatening the viability of holding the elections in Gaza and even the participation of some political parties, particularly Hamas movement. Meanwhile, PCHR understands that the amendment came as a necessity after the Supreme Court refused to recognize the lawfulness of the Gaza Strip courts. Thus, establishing a special court has become a necessity to prevent canceling the elections again. PCHR believes that although the nomination of judges for the elections court is within the Supreme Judicial Council’s competence, PCHR calls upon the Council to consider the current political situation and nominate judges in consultation with the political parties in order to reassure all parties and give the confidence needed in the electoral process so as to ensure the participation of all. In this context, PCHR believes that the abovementioned decision of postponing the elections has become useless and does not guarantee holding elections in Gaza if the government, Supreme Judicial Council and the Central Election Commission (CEC) will not find a common ground to hold the elections with the participation of other political parties, including Hamas. PCHR participated in several meeting with the relevant parties, including CEC, civil society organizations and Hamas Movement. On 19 February 2017, PCHR organized a panel discussion on elections where representatives of political parties, civil society organizations and the CEC participated in it.

Indicators

- PCHR’s position was mainly addressed during discussions and activities PCHR made over the coming months with civil society organizations and other stakeholders. However, things were kept as they are as no results has been reached in discussion with parties to the internal conflict. The discussion reached a closed end as Hamas Movement refused to hold elections in the Gaza strip while the West Bank Government held the local elections in the West Bank only on 13 May 2017.



Mohammed Ghannam, a Fieldworker at PCHR, During his Work on Documenting Violations

2.2.3 PCHR Monitored Legislations to Ensure Adherence with International Human Rights Standards

PCHR continued monitoring the legislations that were issued in both the Gaza Strip and West Bank. In cooperation with partner human rights organizations and CBOs, PCHR intervened to stop the chaos of legislations and decisions that limit the public freedoms and civil society and violate human rights.

Indicators

- PCHR's interventions contributed to promote the civil society to face legislations issued in light of the split.
- PCHR's interventions provided a basic material to work in facing the legislations and criticizing them.

2.3.3.1 Monitoring Legislations and Presidential and Governmental Decrees

PCHR monitored legislations issued by the Reform and Change Bloc in the Gaza PLC and the presidential and governmental decrees.

Indicators

- PCHR monitored the legislative developments in the annual report relevant to the conditions of legislations in the PA under the title "Continuing Chaos of Legislations"

2.3.3.2 Issuing Reports/Critical Notes and other Materials regarding Legislations and Decrees

PCHR issued the following reports and press releases about the Palestinian legislations and governmental decrees that are relevant to human rights:

- » on 06 September 2017, PCHR issued a legal review of the Cyber Crimes Law in 2017, which was issued by the Palestinian President in a decision that has the power of law on 24 June 2017. This legal review aimed at measuring the consistency between this law with the international standards, particularly those related to freedom of opinion and expression. The reviews concluded with 21 recommendations, which confirmed that this law needed to be fully replaced due to the weakness of the legal formulations and is violation of all the international standards by banning the freedom of opinion and expression and the right to privacy and personal security.
- » On 13 March 2017, PCHR issued a press release in which PCHR criticized Hamas Movement's decision to form an administrative committee in the

Gaza Strip. PCHR stresses that solving the Gaza strip problems will only be through the national reconciliation and holding the Presidential and Legislative elections. PCHR also warned that forming the Administrative Committee is considered as a setback for the reconciliation efforts as it institutionalizes the division and paves the way for totally separating the Gaza Strip.

- » On 05 April 2017, PCHR condemned the latest measures taken by the National Unity Government in Ramallah against the Gaza servants, including deductions for their salaries, amounting to 30% of their total salaries.
- » According to PCHR's follow-up, on Tuesday, 04 April 2017, more than 50,000 civil and military servants of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the Gaza Strip were surprised with large deduction from their salaries, ranging between 30% and 50% of their total salaries. These deductions also included servants, who are still on duty.
- » On 10 July 2017, PCHR issued a press release in which PCHR criticized the decision issued by the Palestinian President to suspend salaries of 37 Members representing the Change and Reform Bloc in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) in the West Bank. PCHR emphasizes that suspension of PLC Members' salaries is in violation of law and not in any way of the President's or any other's powers. PCHR

also stresses this step sets a dangerous precedent to intensify the executive authority's intrusion into the other authorities.

- » On 11 July 2017, PCHR issued a press release in which PCHR criticized a decision issued by the National Unity Government in Ramallah to put thousands of civil servants on early retirement without any legal justification.
- » On 12 July 2017, PCHR issued a press release in which PCHR criticized the Palestinian national government's call upon the Israeli authorities to minimize the electricity supply to the Gaza Strip. and warns of the disastrous consequences of the already deteriorating humanitarian situation.
- » On 06 August 2017, PCHR issued a press release in which PCHR criticized a decision issued by the National Unity Government to put 6,145 civil servants in the Gaza Strip on early retirement, thousands of whom work in the health and education sectors. This decision would aggravate the already deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, in addition to suspension of basic services offered to 2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- The number of interventions to stop/amend legislations and decrees: 8 interventions.

2.3.4 PCHR Exposed Human Rights Violations Committed by the PA

PCHR did so via the issuance of press releases and field updates relevant to the security chaos incidents. In addition, PCHR issued an annual reports and other thematic reports addressing violations of rights like the right to the freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

Indicators

- There are detailed information relevant to the PA violations available on PCHR's website.

2.3.4.1 Issuing press releases on Palestinian violations

The press release is one of PCHR's most important tools to expose the violations of human rights, advocacy and pressurizing the stakeholders in order to stop these violations and prosecute the perpetrators. PCHR's press releases varied in 2017 in addressing violations of the right to freedom of expression, right to peaceful assembly, death penalty, arbitrary detention, right to education, right to health, electricity crisis, suspend servants and deduct their salaries.

Indicators

- The number of press releases issued by PCHR on the PA violations: 46.

2.3.4.2 Issuing updates on security chaos

The DDU prepared updates on the state of security chaos in the PA, focusing on attacks carried out by persons or groups against persons or property or resulting from mishandling weapons.

Indicators

- PCHR issued 21 field updates in 2017.

2.3.4.3 Issuing periodic thematic reports

PCHR issued in 2017 a number of periodic thematic reports shedding light on the PA violations of human rights. The reports addressed the themes relevant to the right of the freedom of expression, torture and the right to peaceful assembly.

- » PCHR issued a report prepared by the DDU on "Violations of the Freedom of Opinion and Expression in the PA", one of a series of periodic reports prepared by the unit about the freedom of expression covering the period from 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. The report, which was published on 02 May 2016. http://pchrgaza.org/ar/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Freedom_of_Opinion_5-2017_ar.pdf
- » On 06 September 2017, PCHR issued a report prepared by the DDU on "Le-

gal Review of the Cyber Crimes Law of 2017.” This review aimed to measure the consistency of the law with the international standards, particularly those relevant to freedom of opinion and expression.

http://pchrgaza.org/ar/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/report_electroniccrimes2017.pdf

- » PCHR issued a report prepared by the DDU also on “Torture in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Facilities” covering the period October 2016 to September 2017. The report, which was issued on 08 November 2017, is the sixth of its kind issued by PCHR.

http://pchrgaza.org/ar/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/PCHR_Torture_Report2017.pdf

- » PCHR issued a report prepared by the DDU on “The Right to Peaceful Assembly in the PA” covering the period from November 2016 to December 2017.

<http://pchrgaza.org/ar/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Peaceful-Assembly-Report-dec2017.pdf>



Indicators

- The number of thematic reports issued by PCHR in 2017 about the PA violations is 4.
- Those reports were widely covered by the media.

2.3.4.4 Issuing annual report on the human rights situation - Palestinian violations

The annual report is the most important and prominent document issued by PCHR since 1997 addressing the situation of human rights and the international humanitarian law in the oPt. The report comprehensively covers the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law for a year. It also includes the Palestinian violations of human rights and recommendations to decision makers and stakeholders. The DDU supervise the preparation of the report in cooperation with the other units. It should be noted that this is the 21th annual report covering 01 January – 31 December 2016.

Indicators

- The annual report was issued on 10 April 2017. It was widely and electronically published.
- The report was released in a special activity with participation of activists on the social media.

Raji Sourani Receives Irish Consul General and Accompanying Delegation

2.3.5 PCHR Raised Awareness of the Palestinian Community on Human Rights and Democracy, Including Women Rights and Gender-based Violence

PCHR continued the efforts throughout the year to raise awareness of Palestinians on human rights in cooperation with civil society organizations and grassroots organizations and encourage them to claim and protect their rights. PCHR's Training Unit led this activity through holding training courses on human rights and democracy for various target groups. The unit also held special awareness sessions on certain topics relevant to human rights.

Women had a great focus in raising awareness. In addition to women's participation and addressing women rights in the Training Unit programs, raising awareness for both women and men was a basic element for the Women's Rights Unit, as the latter held special raising awareness sessions for women and men. The legal awareness program at the Women's Unit focused on the Family Law, women rights, confronting gender-based violence and gender issues.

The DDU dedicated big part of its efforts to raising awareness on democracy through sessions addressing the basic rights that are directly related to the democratic transformation, especially the freedom of expression, the right to organize peaceful assembly, political participation and death penalty. The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit contributed to raising awareness through holding sessions that shed the light on these rights, especially the right to health and rights of persons with disabilities.

Indicators

- The number of participants in all training and raising awareness sessions was 4,663, including 3,607 women constituting 77.3% of the total number.
- The number of participating organizations is 182.

2.3.5.1 Conducting Training courses on human rights and democracy

The Training Unit continued organizing training courses in human rights and the international human rights law. The unit organized 15 training courses throughout the year. The courses targeted human rights defenders; members and volunteers in civil society organizations and NGO's distributed throughout the Gaza Strip; members of youth groups; university students; journalists; media activists; lawyers; farmers and fishermen. The trainees received about 20 training hours in a 5-day course on, inter alia, International Bill of Human Rights (the International Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convent on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convent on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the two Additional Protocols and the Human Rights Committee), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Universal Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, gender, Convention on the Rights of the Child; judiciary independence and rule of law, the freedom of opinion and expression in the international conventions and restrictions imposed on it, general and Cyber Crimes related to the freedom of opinion and expression, right to adequate housing, land and property under international humanitarian, mechanisms of judicial remedy for Palestinian farmers and fishermen, Palestinian land law and ways to prove ownership, monitoring and documenting mechanisms of human rights violations, and democracy and ways to enhance it in the Palestinian society. Trainers from PCHR staff and others of those who already received training at PCHR facilitated the training courses in cooperation with a number of Palestinian local organizations, universities and youth groups.

Indicators³³

The unit carried out 15 training courses

- The number of participants in the training course: 399 persons.
- 233 women participated, i.e. 60% of participants' total number.
- The training courses covered 290 training hours.
- PCHR coordinated with 75 societies and CBOs, 4 univer-



Mohammed Abu Hashem, a Legal Researcher at PCHR During a Lecture About Political Participation

33. Appendix (4): details relevant to the training courses, page ().

sities, and 5 youth groups that are active throughout the Gaza Strip.

2.3.5.2 Conducting awareness sessions on human rights and democracy

This activity was organized by each of the Training Unit, DDU and the Economic, Social and Cultural Unit.

The training courses carried out by the Training Unit addressed the following topics: introduction to human rights, Universal Bill of Human Rights (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Two Additional Protocols); Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention against Torture, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), violence against women, discrimination against women, mechanisms to protect women from discrimination, gender, right to health in international instruments, right to form associations, right to peaceful assembly, right to freedom of opinion and expression and mechanisms to protect it and its legitimate controls, the right to adequate housing, land and property under the international human rights law, political participation, democracy, the rule of law, judicial independence, role of human rights organizations in monitoring and documenting human rights, mechanisms for the protection of human rights' defenders, legal remedy for victims of human rights violations, Citizenship and Community participation and international non-contractual mechanisms for the protection of human rights³⁴. Those activities were carried out in cooperation with CBOs and youth groups active throughout the Gaza Strip.

The DDU carried out also raising awareness sessions; some of which addressed the political participation, freedom of opinion and expression, lawful restrictions imposed on journalism. The biggest part of the meetings held by the unit focused on death penalty.³⁵

34. Appendix (5): details relevant to raising awareness sessions implemented by the Training Unit, page ().

35. Appendix (6): details relevant to raising awareness sessions organized by the DDU, page ().

Furthermore, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit held a number of raising awareness sessions for topics like the right to health and rights of the persons with disabilities.³⁶

Indicators

- The number of raising awareness sessions was 77.
- The number of persons who participated in raising awareness sessions was 1,805, including 1,311 women i.e. 72% of the total number of participants.
- The number of organizations and groups throughout the Gaza Strip with which PCHR coordinated was 67.

2.3.5.3 Conducting awareness sessions on women rights, family law and gender-based violence

The Women's Unit continued to carry out awareness lectures on women rights in the Palestinian community. Although women are mainly targeted in these lectures, the past years witnessed a gradual increase in targeting men too, especially in gender-based violence issues. The lectures were held throughout the Gaza Strip in coordination with NGOs, grass-roots organizations, the Ministry of Social Affairs and schools with special focus on the marginalized areas. The topics of lectures varied covering the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, violence against women, Family Law, crimes on grounds of so-called "family honor" the right of widows, and the right of the child.

From 25 November – 10 December, the unit took advantage of the 16-day international campaign against violence against women to raise awareness about violence through lectures. This year was characterized with PCHR's coordination with the Ministry of Education for the first time to organize legal awareness sessions in female high schools. The Training Unit targeted the girls for being a marginalized category who are not focused or not targeted in the awareness sessions regarding violence as the main focus is on women.

36. Appendix (7): details relevant to raising awareness sessions organized by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, page ().

Indicators

- The number of participants of lectures was 2,459, including 2,063 women and girls and 396 men.
- The number of lectures held by the Women's Unit was 130. They were held in cooperation with 32 organizations and 8 schools.
- The number of lectures relevant to violence against women during was 30.
- The number of lectures relevant tot Family Law was 20.
- The number of lectures relevant to Child's Rights was 6.
- The number of lectures relevant widows' rights was 1.
- The number of lectures on women's' tights was 24.
- The unit organized 16 lectures about crimes on grounds of "Family Honor".
- The number of lectures relevant to CEDAW Convention was 26.
- The number of lectures relevant to Gender was 6.
- The number of lectures relevant to violence against women during the 16-day international campaign was 7.



2.3.5.4 Preparing and issuing training and awareness raising materials

In 2017, the Training Unit prepared and issued a leaflet on human rights, including the International Bill of Human Rights (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil, Political Rights and the Two Additional Protocols); human rights conventions such as Convention against Torture and Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant conventions. Those materials were distributed to participants in training courses and awareness raising sessions as a reference for them to develop their knowledge and capabilities in this field.

Indicators

- The Training Unit printed 500 copies of the human rights' leaflet and distributed it in training courses and lectures organized by PCHR as training materials and reference documents.

2.3.5.5 Producing awareness raising audio-visual materials (posters, films)

No posters or films were published by the Women's Unit in 2017.

Majedah Shehadah, a Researcher at PCHR's Women's Unit, During Awareness Session

2.3.6 PCHR Provided Capacity Building for Human Rights Defenders

PCHR implemented a number of activities that include conducting training of trainers for human rights activists, providing training for lawyers and preparing them to pass the Sharia Judiciary licensing examination and training female lawyers to work before Sharia courts.

2.3.6.1 Conducting training of trainers (TOT) for human rights activists

No trainings were provided for human rights' lawyers due to the lack of funding needed for implementing them.

2.3.6.2 Providing training for lawyers and preparing them to pass the Sharia Judiciary licensing examination

The Training Unit continued organizing various training courses as part of its annual plan. However, no courses were held in 2017 because the unit replaced these courses with 4 other training courses related to the concept of human rights.

2.3.6.3 Training female lawyers to work before Sharia courts

The Women's Unit trained female and male lawyers to convey PCHR's experience to the young generation of lawyers in order to empower them as defenders of women's rights before Sharia courts and to help women have access to justice. In 2017, the Women's Unit continued training 2 female law graduates.

Indicators

- The number of female lawyers who were trained at the Women's Unit was 3.



Training Course to Promote Young Lawyers' Capabilities in Pleading Before Shari'a Courts

2.3.7 PCHR Promoted Dialogue and Lead Debates on Human Rights Issues, Including Women Rights

This was achieved through holding conferences and workshops on national human rights issues; participating in conferences and workshops held by CBOs and stakeholders; conducting media interviews; implementing radio and TV programs on human rights issues and carrying out electronic campaigns in the issues of human rights.

2.3.7.1 Organizing conferences, workshops and other meetings on human rights issues

PCHR held a number of conferences, workshops and meetings addressing different national human rights topics.

PCHR Organizes a Panel Discussion on Local Elections.

On 19 February 2017, PCHR organized a panel discussion regarding the local elections. The panel discussion was attended by representatives of national and Islamic factions, representatives of civil society organizations and CEC. The meeting was held in light of a decision issued by the government to hold the local elections on 13 May 2017, and Hamas Movement rejection of the decision. The Participants in the panel discussion stressed the importance of dialogue and discussion between the various factions to hold simultaneously the local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the joint work in order to overcome the obstacles and create a suitable environment. They also emphasized that postponing the elections is possible to ensure holding them. Moreover, the participants called upon Hamas

Movement to reconsider its position of rejecting the elections. The participants also stressed that Hamas Movement should seek to hold the elections and guarantee the Gaza Strip's participation in them under with the support of civil society. Furthermore, the participants called upon the Palestinian President, Government, Fatah Movement and the authorities in Gaza to work for providing a proper environment in order to hold free and fair elections.



Photo (38) Panel Discussion About Holding Elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

PCHR Organizes Panel Discussion about Legal Assistance and its Impact to Promote Women’s Rights

On 07 March 2017, the Women’s Unit organized a panel discussion about the legal assistance programs and its impact to promote the women’s rights at PCHR’s office in Khan Yunis. The workshop was attended by 28 representatives from the Shari’a judiciary and organizations that provides legal assistance to women in the Gaza Strip in addition to a number of Shari’a lawyers.

PCHR Organizes Workshop Titled “Impact of Salaries’ Deductions on Rights of Public Servants in the Gaza Strip”

On 09 April 2017, PCHR’s Economic and Social Rights Unit organized a workshop titled as, “Impact of Salaries’ Deductions on Rights of Public Servants in the Gaza Strip. This workshop was attended by civil and military public servants, representatives from the Public Servants’ Union, political factions, Civil Society and media organizations. The workshop aimed at discussing the deductions from the rights of civil and military servants in the public sector and its impact on their living conditions in order to conclude recommendations that would contribute to achieving the job security and protect the servants and their family members from the deterioration of their economic and social conditions. The following had intervention: Raji Sourani, PCHR’s Director; Aref Abu Jarad, Head of the Union of Public Employees in

the Gaza Strip; Taysir al-Burdainy, Member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council; Salamah Abu Zeitar, Head of the General Union of Health Services and Member of the Secretariat of the General Federation of Palestinian Trade Unions; and Muhsen Abu Ramadan, Director of the Arab Society for Agricultural Development.

PCHR Organizes Workshop on “Shortage of Medicines and Medical Supplies in Public Health Sector”

On 22 May 2017, PCHR’s Economic and Social Rights Unit organized a workshop on the “Shortage of Medicines and Medical Supplies in Public Health Sector” that was attended by a number of interested persons representing the Ministry of Health, World Health Program (WHO), nongovernmental organizations and media. The workshop aimed at discussing the crisis resulting from the shortage of medicines and medical disposables in the public health sector and the impact of that crisis in order to come up with recommen-



Photo (39) Workshop Titled as Shortage of Medicines and Medical Supplies in Public Health Sector

dations that guarantee the patients' right to the highest attainable standard of health services, including providing the medicines and medical supplies periodically. Each of Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR; Moneer al-Bursh, Director General of Pharmacy in the Health Ministry; Mohammed Lafi, from the WHO office; Aied Yaghi, Director of the Medical Relief Society, had intervention in the workshop.

PCHR Organizes Workshop Titled as “Consequences of Former Prisoners’ Salary Suspension on their Economic and Social Rights”

On 25 July 2017, PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit organized a workshop titled as, “Consequences of Former Prisoners’ Salary Suspension on their Economic and Social Rights” in light of the National Unity Government's decision to suspend the salaries of 277 former prisoners. The workshop, which was attended by former prisoners, representatives of Defending Prisoners' Rights Organizations and representatives of civil society and Media, aimed at discussing the consequences of former prisoners' suspension on their economic and social rights and their life conditions in order to come up with recommendations contributing to protecting prisoners' and their families from the deterioration of their social and economic conditions. The following had interventions: Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director; Qaddour Faris, Head of Palestinian Prisoner's Club; Mahmoud al-Muradawi,

a former prisoner whose salary was suspended; Mustafa al-Masalamani, from the National Committee to Defend Prisoners whose Salaries were suspended; and Yasser Saleh, Media Officer in Muhjat al-Quds Foundation.



Workshop Titled as “Consequences of Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners’ Salary Suspension on their Economic and Social Rights

Social and Economic Policies Monitor and PCHR Organize Conference on “Right to Health: Palestine 2030

On 01 August 2017, a conference was held in Ramallah and Gaza on the “Right to Health: Palestine 2030”. The conference was organized by the Social and Economic Policies Monitor (al-Marsad) and Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), as the latter hosted the conference in Gaza. The conference aimed at understanding and promoting the right to health via discussing approaches of Palestinian and international organizations and experts working in the health sector. The conference, which was organized in the context of following up and considering the social and economic policies and developmental interventions to achieve the social jus-

tice and mainly the right to health, was comprised of four sessions.



Workshop Titled Right to Health-Palestine 2030

Workshop on Cyber Crimes Law

On 19 September 2017, the DDU organized a workshop on media freedoms in light of PCHR's legal review of the Cyber Crimes Law. The workshop titled as "Legal Review of 2017 Cyber Crimes Law in light of International Standards on Freedom of Expression" was attended by Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), politicians, journalists, jurists, academics, and representatives of civil society organizations. Mohammed Abu Hashem, author of the legal review, tackled 8 major flaws in the Cyber Crimes Law and concluded with the recommendations in the Review. Jamil Sarhan, Deputy Director of the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) in the Gaza Strip, emphasized that the basic criterion which drawing punitive laws relative to freedom of expression should be based on is the Palestinian Basic Law (PBL) that guarantees the freedom of expression. The workshop concluded with a number of recommen-

dations; most prominent of which emphasized on immediate abolition of this law, which violates the fundamental human rights, particularly the freedom of expression, and undermines any chance of democratic transformation in Palestine.



Panel Discussion about the Cybercrimes Law

Panel Discussion on Death Penalty in Gaza Strip

With the participation of civil society organizations, representatives of military judiciary, public prosecution, public figures, academics and journalists, on Tuesday morning, 10 October 2017, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Gaza organized a panel discussion titled as, "Death Penalty Breaches in 2017." This panel discussion was organized in conjunction with the World Day against Death Penalty to immediate suspension of death penalty in the PNA. The panel was held in Laterna Restaurant Hall in the

center of Gaza City. Each of Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director; Issam Younis, Director of al-Mizan Center for Human Rights, and Jamil Sarhan, ICHR's Deputy Director in the Gaza Strip, had interventions.

Position Paper: Unleashing Media Freedoms Should be Priority in Reconciliation Table Agenda

In light of the Palestinian reconciliation, on 02 November 2017, PCHR preferably focused on media freedoms through organizing a panel discussion titled as, "The Future of Media Freedoms in light of National Reconciliation". The panel discussion was attended by experts, decision-makers, journalists, politicians, civil society representatives, academics and new media activists. The meeting was held on 02 November 2017 in the Lighthouse Hall in Gaza City. The meeting concluded with several results and recommendations. The most important of which was the need to include journalists in the reconciliation, ensuring the creation of a proper legal and political environment to unleash press freedoms, including the amendment of laws, correction of policies, and the need to unify the Journalists Syndicate to confront the risks and challenges facing journalists and media activists in the next stage. The meeting concluded with a position paper that highlighted what was discussed and the recommendations on the government agenda.



Panel Discussion Titled as The Future of Media Freedoms in light of National Reconciliation

PCHR Organizes Panel Discussion on Report of Torture in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Facilities

On 16 November 2017, PCHR organized a panel discussion to discuss the results and recommendations of its new report on "Torture in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Facilities from October 2016–September 2017 in PCHR's Head office in Gaza city. The panel discussion was attended by representatives of the security services in Gaza, Comptroller General of Security Services, representatives of human rights and civil society organizations, and elite of academics and lawyers. This meeting was coincided with national discussions initiated by the PA in light of Palestine's accession to a number of international conventions, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The participants highlighted the significance of promoting cooperation between the monitoring bodies in the security services and human rights organizations to



Panel Discussion Titled as Torture Crimes in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Facilities

contribute at ending torture practices in the Palestinian detention and interrogation facilities.

PCHR's Women's Unit Organizes Workshop Titled as, "Protecting Women From Violence: Challenges and Problems"

On 03 December 2017, The Women's Unit at PCHR organized a workshop titled as, "Problems and Challenges in Protecting Women from Violence" in Lighthouse Restaurant Hall in Gaza City as part of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls. Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, opened the workshop, which he emphasized that this campaign stresses the close connection between human rights and the violence against women and girls. Her Excellency Minister of Women's Affairs, Dr. Haifa al-Agha, talked about the role of Women's Affairs Ministry in protecting women from violence and future of the 2011-2019 strategic plan to combat violence against women. Heba al-Zayyan, Director



Workshop Titled as "Protecting Women From Violence Challenges and Problems

of UN Women Programs- Gaza Office, reviewed the role of UN Women in protecting women from violence. Hanadi Skeik, Director of the Social Affairs Ministry's Al-Aman Shelter for Women Subject to Violence, highlighted their experience in protecting women from violence. Hanan Mattar, Lawyer at PCHR's Women's Unit, talked about legal challenges relevant to protection of women from violence. At the end of the workshop, the participants concluded with a number of recommendations: A family protection from domestic violence law should be enacted if the PLC convened; laws applicable in the West Bank and Gaza Strip should be unified; current Laws shall be amended for the interest of women; Awareness campaigns on violence against women and Networking and cooperation between the Women's Affairs Ministry and Women's and human rights civil society organizations shall be enhanced; girls should be increased and men should be involved in such campaigns as well; and

women's access to services provided for them by the human rights, women's and community-based organizations shall be facilitated.

Indicators

- The number of meeting that were organized is 10.

2.3.7.2 Participating in conferences and workshops organized by civil society and other stakeholders

PCHR has participated in conferences and workshops organized by partner human rights organizations, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. In 2017, representatives from PCHR were invited to a number of meetings as speakers, where they presented papers and interventions and reviewed PCHR's position in a number of human rights issues, contributing to raising a debate and creating joint visions relevant to these issues. The following are the most important participations:

- » On 03 January 2017, Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit, participated in a meeting for PNGO's Rehabilitation Sector. The first meeting was designated for discussing the State of Palestine's first report following its accession to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Shaheen had an intervention in which he presented many critical comments to the abovementioned report. A committee was formed to draft a critical review about the report, and Shaheen was assigned to prepare the critical review on behalf of the Rehabilitation Sector to hand it over to the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- » On 09 January 2017, the committee that was formed by the PNGO's Rehabilitation Sector held a meeting at its office in Gaza City and Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit, presented the critical review that he was assigned to prepare and the committee approved it. The critical review was then sent to the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- » On 02 February 2017, Samir Hasaniya, Lawyer in PCHR's Women's Right Unit, participated in a workshop for the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW) about "Amendment of Personal Status Law and Documentation of Violations against Women."
- » On 13 February 2017, Samir Hasaniya, Lawyer in PCHR's Women's Right Unit, presented a worksheet organized by the General Union of Palestinian Women titled: "Comparison of Women's Conditions in Palestinian and Arab Laws (Personal Status Law)."
- » On 15 February 2017, PCHR participated in a meeting organized by CEC, political parties and civil society organizations in light of a meeting between

CEC Chairman Hanna Nasser and leaders of Hamas Movement and Hamas refusing to hold local elections.

- » On 23 February 2017 Majedah Shehadah, a Researcher at PCHR's Women's Unit, presented a worksheet titled: "Beggary and Child Rights" in a workshop organized by Bunyan Association for Community Development about "Children's Beggary".
- » On 14 March 2017, Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit presented an intervention about: "Mechanisms of Promoting Customer's Protection" in a panel discussion organized by Coalition for Accountability and Integrity- Aman Organization in its office in Gaza City about the monitoring role on the overall performance to promote the customer's protection.
- » On 16 March 2017, Hanan Matar, lawyer at PCHR's Women's Unit, participated in a workshop organized by Women's Affairs Center about: "Gender-Based Justice and Equality in Employment" where she talked about Amal Coalition.
- » On 22 March 2017, Hamdi Shaqoura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, facilitated a national workshop titled: "Palestinian Women Face Israeli Occupation and Racial Discrimination- Steadfastness and Challenge." The workshop was organized by the PNGO in Roots Hotel hall in Gaza City.
- » On 27 March 2017, Mohammed Abu Hashem, a legal researcher at PCHR, presented a position paper about "The Freedom of Opinion and Expression in the PA" in a seminar PCHR organized in Gaza University and Zoon Media Institution titled: "Visual Title and Eligibilities of the Current Stage".
- » On 11 April 2017, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in a seminar organized by the ICHR about the Salaries Crisis in the PA in Gaza International Hotel. Sourani presented PCHR's position of the decision to deduct from the public servants' salaries.
- » On 26 April 2017, Khalil Shaheen presented a worksheet titled: "Ensuring Accountability to Achieve the Fourth Sustainable Development Goal Related to Education and People's active participation in Palestine" in a conference organized by the UNESCO, Teacher Creativity Center and Palestinian Education Forum in Laterna Restaurant hall about Education for All.
- » On 03 May 2017, Hamdi Shaqqura delivered a speech in a protest organized by the Forum for Palestinian Journalists in front of the OHCHR in Gaza on the anniversary of the World Press Freedom Day.
- » On 31 May 2017 Raji Sourani, PCHR's

- Director, and Hamdi Shaqqura, PCHR's Deputy Director, participated in a panel discussion organized by the PNGOs Network about "Steadfast Society" on the 50th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.
- » On 10 July 2017, Hamdi Shaqqura presented an intervention in a workshop organized by the PNGOs Network about "Impact of Division on Legal Condition and Human Rights Situation". The workshop was held in Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children in Gaza City.
 - » On 17 August 2017, Hanan Matar presented a worksheet titled: "Depriving Women of Marriage and Its Impact on their Right to Inheritance" in a workshop organized by the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR).
 - » On 17 August 2017, Mona Shawa, Head of PCHR's Women's Unit, presented a worksheet titled as "Economic and Social rights of Women in the Gaza Strip" in a workshop organized by the PNGOs Network about "Impact of Division on Women's Reality in the Gaza Strip."
 - » On 13 September 2017, Hamdi Shaqqura participated in a conference organized by the PNGOs Network titled: "Enhancing Civil Society's Role to Achieve National Unity and Confront Political Division." The conference was held in the Light House Restaurant hall in Gaza. Shaqqura presented a working paper about the impact of the division on public freedoms.
 - » On 13 September 2017, Majedah Shehadah participated in a workshop about "the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", which was organized by the Nawar Educational Center of the Society of Culture and Free Thought under the title "Women's Rights Between Reality and Hopes."
 - » On 24 September 2017, Mohammed Abu Hashem presented a worksheet About Cybercrimes Law in a seminar organized by the Forum of Palestinian Journalists in Gaza titled: "Decisions and Laws of Media, Motivations and Goals."
 - » On 28 September 2017, PCHR participated in a meeting organized by the PNGOs Network in its office in Gaza to discuss the role of the civil society in light of the developments related to the reconciliation. The meeting resulted in several steps, including an appeal to support the reconciliation.
 - » On 11 October 2017, PCHR participated in a panel discussion organized by the PNGOs Network. This panel was attended by civil society organization's representatives and political and democratic factions. This panel, which was

held in Marna House Hall in Gaza City, was designated to discuss the methods of supporting efforts to achieve the national reconciliation.

- » On 31 October 2017, PCHR participated in a panel discussion organized by the ICHR in its office about the Palestinian reconciliation and was attended by representatives of the civil society organizations.
- » On 28 November 2017, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, delivered a speech in the ceremony of Short film Competition for talented young filmmakers. The ceremony was organized by the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP) on the anniversary of the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women in al-Mashtal Hotel in Gaza City.

Indicators

- The number of participations made by PCHR staff members is 24.

2.3.7.3 Participating in media interviews

Director and staff members of PCHR participated in a number of media interviews on local human rights issues.

Indicators³⁷

- The number of media interviews that addressed Palestinian issues and violations: 64.

2.3.7.4 Conducting radio and TV talk shows

PCHR did not implement any radio and TV talks in 2017.

2.3.8 PCHR Cooperated with Partners about National Human Rights Issues, Including Women Rights

PCHR stepped up its efforts with partners about the national human rights issues, including women rights, through partic-



Lawyer Raji Sourani Receives Deputy Consul General of Spain on 06 March 2017

37. Appendix (1) includes a list of media interviews in which PCHR's staff participated in local and international media.

icipating in the meetings of PHROC; activities of Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Woman; issuing joint statements and position papers; participating in joint activities with partners; participating in activities organized by partners; and promoting the ties with partners through the PCHR Alumni.

Indicators

- During this year, PCHR worked and cooperated with 182 institutions, including human rights organizations; CBOs; grassroots institutions and youth groups.

2.3.8.1 Participating in PHROC meetings

PCHR has participated in meetings organized by PHROC that formed a platform to coordinate the efforts and consolidate the views towards the national human rights issues. PCHR also was elected as a Member of the PHROC.

Indicators

- The total number of meetings held by PHROC was 5.

2.3.8.2 Participating in coordination meetings and activities of Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Women

The Director of the Women's Rights Unit along with the unit's lawyers has participated in Amal Coalition meetings to Combat Violence against Women, which was held in the Women Affairs Center in 2017.

Indicators

- The Women's Rights Unit participated in 10 meetings organized by the Coalition.

- - The coordination efforts between the members resulted in the development of a detailed plan of activities implemented by members within the 16-day campaign against violence.

2.3.8.3 Join and participate in Other Coalitions

1. Membership of the Palestinian National Women's Coalition for the Implementation of CEDAW Convention

PCHR joint CEDAW Coalition, which composed of 35 human rights and women organizations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and led by the GUPW. This coalition aims at organize working on mechanisms of monitoring and accountability for implementing CEDAW Convention and preparing and following-up the shadow report related to the convention.

2. Participation in Women's Sector meeting in the PNGOs Network

PCHR's Women's Unit joint Women

Sector at the PNGOs Network and attended meetings and activities organized by the sector.

3. **Joining National Coalition for the Right to Associations**

PCHR participated in the National Coalition for the right to Associations, which was established by al-Dameer Association for Human Rights to promote the right to form associations. PCHR participated in the coalition through his long term experience in following-up the file of the right to form associations. The coalition discussed important causes such as restrictions on the freedom of activities in associations, restrictions on the freedom of travel for associations' members and associations' right of privacy. The coalition concluded recommendations that were submitted to decision-makers.

4. **Joining National Coalition for Monitoring Elections' Financing**

PCHR participated in the National Coalition for Monitoring Elections' Financing, which was established by the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (Aman) and the CEC. PCHR's staff members participated in a training course about monitoring the elections financing and participated in meetings that were held later. The meetings resulted with perceptions of how to combat corruption in any upcoming electoral process through monitoring

sources of financing.

Indicators

- PCHR participated in 2 meetings of the Palestinian National Women's Coalition for the Implementation of CEDAW.
- PCHR participated in 5 meetings of Women's Sector in PNGOs Network.
- PCHR participated in 3 meetings of the National Coalition for Monitoring Elections' Financing.
- PCHR participated in 3 meetings of the National Coalition for the Right to Associations.

2.3.8.4 Issuing Joint Information/ Position Papers

PCHR and national partners issued several joint press releases and position papers, which included national human rights causes related to violations of the right to life, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, violations of job security of the public servant in the Gaza Strip, violation of the principle of separation of powers, and the rule of law.

- » On 06 September 2017, a joint press release was issued: "PHROC" Calls for Immediately Releasing al-Qawasmah and 'Amr and other Detainees for the PSS on grounds of expressing their opinion.
- » On 27 August 2017, a joint position paper was issued about: "The Decision to put public servants on early retirement, the southern Gaza Strip – Gaza Strip 2017.
- » On 27 August 2017, a joint press release

was issued: “PHROC” Calls upon the PA to Stop the Flow of Enacting Legislations.

- » On 20 June 2017, a joint press release was issued : “PHROC Denounces the Decision to Reduce the Electricity Supply to the Gaza Strip Warns of a Human Disaster.”
- » On 23 May 2017, a joint press release was issued: “Military Field Court issued Death Penalty against 3 Persons Within a Week; PHROC Demands of Retrial of the Accused and Provide them Fair Trial.”
- » On 13 March 2017, a joint press release was issued: “PHROC Condemns Attacking Peaceful Assembly in front of the Courts Complex and Warns of the Consequences of Deterioration in Rights and Freedoms.”

Indicators

- Number of issued press releases is 10.

2.3.8.5 Participating in joint activities with partners.

During this year, PCHR organized joint activities with local partners. The activities included training, raising awareness and capacity-building programs that were organized by PCHR’s units in corporation with NGOs and youth groups throughout the Gaza Strip. Moreover, other joint activities were organized with OHCHR in the Gaza Strip, which dealt with human rights situation in the PA.

- » On 10 October 2017, PCHR ICHR, and

OHCHR Organize Panel Discussion on Death Penalty in Gaza Strip on the World Day against Death Penalty.

- » On 19 March 2017, in cooperation with Amal Coalition to Combat Violence Against Women, PCHR’s Women’s Unit at organized an awareness meeting titled as, “ Gender Justice and Equality in Employment” as part of the 8th March activities organized by PCHR and Amal Coalition. The meeting was held in PCHR’s head office in Gaza City and attended by 19 female workers from women’s organizations in the Gaza Strip.
- » On 03 December 2017, PCHR’s Women’s Unit organized a workshop titled as, “Problems and Challenges in Protecting Women from Violence” in Lighthouse Restaurant Hall in Gaza City as part of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls. Her Excellency Minister of Women’s Affairs, Dr. Haifa al-Agha participated in the workshop, which was attended by 109 participants/representatives of local and international women’s and human rights’ organizations.



Workshop Titled as Protecting Women From Violence within the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls

Indicators

- Number of activates held by PCHR in corporation with national partners:3.
- Number of organizations and groups that worked with PCHR: 3 organizations and groups.

2.3.8.6 Participating in activities organized by partners

PCHR participated in many activities organized by the national partners about national human rights issues. PCHR representatives attended the meetings, conferences and workshops, which were organized by NGOs, other partners and stakeholders; in addition to participating as speakers in seminars. Furthermore, they facilitated conferences and carried out training in programs relevant to partners.

Indicators

- Number of meetings and seminars in which PCHR's representatives participated as speakers: 22.
- Number of training session conducted by PCHR's staff members with partners: 10 training sessions.

2.3.8.7 Engaging trainees in PCHR's Alumni activities.

Over the years, the Training Unit was able to form a large gathering of those who received training courses in the unit and keep in touch with them within PCHR's Alumni, aiming to engage them in the field of human rights and democracy and promote their role in the Palestinian so-

ciety. The Alumni is an important linkage between PCHR and community. Those involved in the Alumni have the priority when PCHR offers temporary job opportunities, such as monitoring the elections, fieldwork during Israeli operations. PCHR provide the Alumni members with the theory and practice needed for every field. The Training Unit has a detailed and up-to-date database about the trainees.

Indicators

- Seven persons, who received ToT course, were chosen to give lectures and awareness meetings within the Unit's activities in human rights field.
- Active participation of the team in "Promoting Media Freedoms" project carried out by PCHR and funded by the Canadian Government.
- participating in PCHR's activities and communicating with it, in which they are informed of everything issued by PCHR
- Feeding the information base owned by the unit for all persons who received training in the center during the year, Around 399 trainees' files were added to the list. These files contain the following information: name, place of residence, workplace, telephone number, e-mail, if any, participating organization, coordinating organization and the location and date of the training.
- Around 300 trainees' emails were added to the PCHR's mailing list, in which they were informed of all the activities

and reports issued by the PCHR.

- Ongoing visits by people, who received training in PCHR and their urgency to volunteer at PCHR, in addition to welcoming and guiding them by the unit's director.
- Hosting members of OCHR's crew as speakers in workshops, lectures and meetings organized by organizations, where trainers work.
- Attending workshops and conferences

organized by PCHR.

- Reporting violations by phone or by attending to PCHR with the victims.
- The Unit received many shields and certificates of thanks and appreciation from a number of organizations in recognition of its role in disseminating the human rights culture among its members and volunteers, and its participation in the implementation of joint activities with them.

2.3.9 PCHR Pressurized the Palestinian Duty Bearers to Respect Human Rights

PCHR and its partners used previous interventions as means for advocacy to influence the national duty bearers to respect human rights. Moreover, PCHR held meetings and conducted phone calls with the duty bearers to discuss issues relevant to human rights. PCHR also sent letters and participated in issuing petitions sent by the partners to the stakeholders.

2.3.9.1 Conducting meetings with duty bearers

PCHR's Director and members held a number of meetings with PA officials, including ministers, PLC members and officials in the Palestinian security services and governmental departments, about human rights issues, elections, national reconciliation and so on. PCHR's members also participated in meeting organized by these categories.

- » On 22 February 2017, PCHR participated in a meeting for human rights organizations with Hamas Movement to discuss the developments relevant to

local elections.

- » On 22 April 2017, PCHR organized a meeting, which included representatives of human rights and PNGOs Network, Dr. Bassem Na'im, Head of Health and Environment Authority in Gaza Administration that was formed by Hamas Movement. The participants discussed the human rights' conditions, including the measures taken by the authorities in Gaza following the crime of killing Mazen Foqaha'a.
- » On 17 April 2017: PCHR participated in a meeting upon an invitation sent by Hamas Movement to human rights or-

ganizations and civil society organizations to discuss the current conditions and security repercussions for the assassination of Mazen Foqaha'a.

- » On 03 October 2017, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, held a meeting with the Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki, Ziad Abu-Amr, Deputy Prime Minister, and Kamal al-Sharafi, the human rights adviser to the Palestinian president. The discussion in the meeting focused on the reconciliation and its prospects.
- » On 01 November 2017, PCHR participated in a meeting upon an invitation sent by Hamas Movement about the recent developments relevant to the national reconciliation's efforts.
- » On 05 December 2017, PCHR received a delegation from Hamas Information Office headed by Mushir al-Masri, Hamas Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), along with Fawzi Barhoum, Spokesperson of Hamas Movement to Media; Taher al-Nunu, Media Advisor to the Head of Hamas Political Bureau; and Salamah Ma'rouf, Head of the Government's Information Office in Gaza. The delegation met with Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, and the Administration Unit's staff. The meeting discussed the recent devel-

opments regarding the national reconciliation and Egypt's positive role in pressurizing the Palestinian factions to move forward with the reconciliation.

Indicators

- Number of meetings with Palestinian duty bearers and stakeholders: 6.

2.3.9.2 Sending letters and petitions

- » On 22 January 2017, PCHR joint a petition upon an invitation sent by PNGOs Network demanding the government to reconsider the structure of the Board of Directors of the Social Security Corporation, which was formed by the government on 20 December 2016.
- » On 21 February 2017, PCHR joint an initiative by the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN) to support holding the local elections and guarantee the participation of the Gaza Strip.
- » On 01 October 2017, a Joint petition from PCHR and to welcome the reconciliation efforts. This petition was signed by 120 CBOs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- PCHR referred 3 petitions to officials and decision-makers.

(3). PCHR's Organizational Capacities and Staff Capacities Improved

During 2017, PCHR promoted its organizational and staff capacities in order to promote its financial and administrative capacity in addition to its staff skills and motivation in a way ensuring the efficient and effective achievement of the strategic goals.

3.1 Expanding the Funding Base of PCHR

PCHR made unremitting efforts in 2017 to widen the funding base and ensure the recruitment of required fund to implement its activities and different programs, including reviewing and updating the funding strategy, promoting the already existing partnerships and searching for new partnerships.

Indicators³⁸

- Renewing expired contracts with the already existing partners.
- Signing contracts with new partners.



PCHR Receives Delegation from the Irish Representative Office to the PA

3.1.1 Reviewing and Updating the Funding Strategy

PCHR prepared a draft for a new funding strategy (Resources Mobilization Strategy), which will be approved in the coming period. The draft will contribute to clarifying the frameworks and tasks for the staff.

3.1.2 Promoting the already existing partnerships and searching for new partnerships

PCHR promoted the already stable and existing partnerships for years and established new partnerships with new partners like French Consulate and Canadian Government. Additionally, PCHR expanded the already existing partnerships to achieve financial stability for the center.

38. The financial report is published in a separate document, which includes all the PCHR's financial statements throughout the year.

3.2 PCHR's Systems were Developed

3.2.1 Developing PCHR's Administrative and Financial Manuals

PCHR completed by 2017 a review of the updated organizational structure of the Center in accordance with the proposals submitted by the consulting company within the meetings of several levels represented by the PCHR's Board of Directors.

PCHR adopted draft the of the Financial Policies and Procedures, Human Resources Manual, and procurement policies and procedures manual provided by the consulting company appointed by the Center to complete these tasks.

3.2.2 Training of PCHR Relevant Staff on the New Administrative and Financial Manual

PCHR's relevant staff received training on the new draft in April 2017.

3.3 Developing Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) System for PCHR

3.3.1 Preparing Log frame

PCHR worked in implementing its plan according to the new log frame, which was prepared in 2106; according to which the 3-year strategic plan, will be transferred to be a 5-year plan adopted by the center for the years 2015-2019.

3.3.2 Conducting Baseline Study

PCHR implemented a baseline study for its activities that are related to awareness-raising in human rights, aiming to develop its capacity to follow up, evaluate and measure the impact in the society. PCHR has achieved four stages of this study from 10 April to 14 December in 2015.

Indicators

- Updating PCHR's plan and training materials.

3.4 PCHR's Staff Capacities and Motivation Improved

This was achieved by conducting trainings to improve the capacity of the PCHR's staff; assigning members from the PCHR's staff to participate in trainings organized by the partners and by organizing a recreational activity for the staff.

3.4.1 Conducting Trainings to Improve the Abilities of PCHR's Staff

- No training courses were implemented by PCHR in 2017.

3.4.2 Engaging Members from PCHR's Staff in Training Courses Held by Partners

2017 witnessed the participation of many members from PCHR's staff in capacity building activities conducted by local and international organizations in different fields as follows:

Table of the training courses PCHR's staff participated in during 2017

Training course Period	Subject	Organizer	Venue	Number of Participants	Notes
18 - 14 February 2017	Women and Islam	Kvinna -Till-Kvinna	Jordan-Amman	2	Woman Unit's crew: Hanan Matar and Aya al-Wakil
March 2017	Preparing Digital Stories	Kvinna -Till-Kvinna	Al-Dawhah Center-Gaza	3	IT Technician Sami Gherbawi, Media Officer Nour Sourani and lawyer Khalil Wazir
28 February - 14 March 2017	Exchange Experience	European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)	Germany-Berlin	1	Lawyer at Legal Aid Unit Mohammed al-'Alami
10 March - 27 April 2017	Exchange Experience	ECCHR	Germany-Berlin	1	Lawyer Suheir Kharma
23 April- 04 May 2017	Exchange Experience	ECCHR	Germany-Berlin	1	Lawyer Suheir Kharma
09 - 10 July 2017	Training at Purchasing Management	Dan Church Aid	Laterna Restaurant hall- Gaza	2	Financial Manager Basmah al-Mishal and Procurement Officer Haya Saqr

Training course Period	Subject	Organizer	Venue	Number of Participants	Notes
17- 20 July 2017	Advocacy Skills through Media and International Advocacy	Women's Affairs Center	Women's Affairs Center- Gaza	1	Lawyer Nadwa Badaro
31 July 2017	Advanced Project Management	European Commission	al-Mathaf Hotel- Gaza	2	Financial Manager Basmah al-Mishal and Fundraising Officer Feda'a Morjan
03 - 31 July 2017	UN Special Procedures for Special Rapporteurs	OHCHR	OHCHR - Gaza	2	Ahlam al-Aqra' and Mohammed al-'Alami, lawyers at PCHR's Legal Aid Unit, and Mohammed 'Atallah, a trainer at PCHR
06 - 07 August 2017	Promotion of Follow-up and Evaluation in PNGOs	PNGOs Network	al-Mathaf Hotel- Gaza	1	Human Resources and administrative support Manager Ahmed Abu Dayah
07 August 2017	Social Media	Palestine Telecommunication Company (PALTEL)	Roots Restaurant hall- Gaza	2	IT Officer Sameer Alhowiti, IT Technician Sami Gherbawi and Media Officer Nour Sourani
20 - 25 August 2017	End Violence against Women and Gender-based violence	Women's Affairs Center	Women's Affairs Center- Gaza	1	Trainer at Women's Unit Hanna'a Abdul 'Aal
13 - 14 September 2017	Training for Directors'	Kvinna -Till-Kvinna	Roots Restaurant hall- Gaza	3	Head of Women's Unit Mona Shawa, Financial Manager Basmah al-Mishal and Human Resources and administrative support Manager Ahmed Abu Dayyah
20 - 25 August 2017	End Violence against Women and Gender-based violence	Women's Affairs Center	Women's Affairs Center- Gaza	1	Trainer at Women's Unit Hanna'a Abdul 'Aal

Training course Period	Subject	Organizer	Venue	Number of Participants	Notes
27 September 2017	Training at GMS System	OCHA	Office of UNSCO-Gaza	2	Financial Manager Basmah al-Mishal and Fundraising Officer Feda'a Morjan
25 - 26 October 2017	Theory of Strategic Planning and Change	Christian Aid	PCHR's office- Gaza	3	Hamdi Shaqoura, Head of Democracy Development Unit, Head of Women's Unit Mona Shawa and Fundraising Officer Feda'a Morjan
31 October - 02 November 2017	Developing and Using Human Rights Indicators in the oPt	OHCHR	Al-Salam Restaurant hall- Gaza	2	Fundraising Officer Feda'a Morjan and Legal Researcher Mohammed Abu Hashem
06 - 07 November 2017	Quality and efficiency Standards and Combat Corruption	Dan Church Aid	Laterna Restaurant hall- Gaza	2	Head of Women's Unit Mona Shawa and Researcher at Economic and Social Rights Unit Fadel Muzaini
06 - 07 December 2017	Application of Change Theory	Dan Church Aid	Laterna Restaurant hall- Gaza	2	Financial Manager Basmah al-Mishal and Fundraising Officer Feda'a Morjan



Ceremony to honor Mr. Jaber Wishah After the End of His Career

» 34 members, including 20 women, from PCHR's staff participated in courses organized by PCHR's partners.

3.4.3 Conducting Annual Recreational Activity

PCHR did not organize any recreational activity in 2017.

3.4.4 Honoring PCHR's Staff Members

- » PCHR held a ceremony to honor Mr. Jaber Wishah after finishing long career upon his request for reaching the retiring age.
- » PCHR held an honorary meeting for its lawyer Khalil al-Wazir, who recently ended his service at PCHR's Legal Unit, to join the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as a legal advisor.

Indicators

- PCHR held 2 honor ceremonies for PCHR's staff.

3.5 Promoting Gender in PCHR and its Programs

PCHR worked on engaging gender-based policies in its work and activities according to the plan.

3.5.1. Implementing Recommendation from Gender Policy and 2012 Evaluation

PCHR continued its work during 2017 by engaging the gender in its policies and programs. During this year, PCHR adopted a special gender policy, which will be applied in the coming years on the level of administration as well as on the programs and activities. During this year, PCHR showed a fair representation of women in many activities, including training courses and awareness sessions. Moreover, PCHR organized activities on women rights, promoted women's testimonies and concentrated on violations of women rights. PCHR was also committed to a balanced employment policy to promote the women role in the center.

3.6 Enhancing Institutional Security and Safety

Indicators:

PCHR worked on the follow-up and maintenance of the security system installed by PCHR last year that included the following

- Surveillance cameras in PCHR's offices.
- Fire alarm system.
- Security electronic System.



Lawyer Raji Sourani Receives Delegation From Kifaia on 11 September 2017

Appendixes

Appendix (1): PCHR's Interviews with international, Arab and local media in 2017

Date	Media	Subject
06/01/2017	Ma'an News Agency	PCHR's position on local election
06/01/2017	Al-Kofiyah TV	Local elections
07/01/2017	Al-Kofiyah TV	Aggravating electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
10/01/2017	Al-Quds TV	Aggravating electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
10/01/2017	Al-Quds TV	Extra-judicial executions committed by Israeli forces
10/01/2017	Interview with Sarah Doghmush	Treatment of Gaza Strip patients abroad
10/01/2017	National Media Agency	The Palestinian government's performance during the political division
10/01/2017	Al-Kitab TV	Human rights situations
11/01/2017	Al-Watan Voice Radio	Aggravating electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
11/01/2016	Asdaa' Website	Extra-judicial executions committed by Israeli forces
14/01/2017	Ajyal Radio	Aggravating electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
15/01/2017	CC TV	The Electricity Crisis in Gaza
16/01/2017	Al-ray Radio	The Israeli attacks
16/01/2017	Al-Ray Radio	The Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen
18/01/2017	Voice of Palestine Radio	The Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen
19/01/2017	Al-Hayah al-Jadida Newspaper	Social networking sites

Date	Media	Subject
23/01/2017	Al-Kofiyah TV	Measures to create Jewish majority in Jerusalem
25/01/2017	Palestine TV	Accusing Israel of committing systematic killing
25/01/2017	Women FM TV	Death Penalty
25/01/2017	Hona Al-Quds Channel	Youth Rights
27/01/2017	Al-Kofiyah TV	Issuing heavy sentences in the Gaza Strip on grounds of collaborating with Ramallah
28/01/2017	Hona Al-Quds Channel	Elections
29/01/2017	'Alam Radio in Hebron University	Death Penalty
06/02/2017	Al-Manar TV	Human rights situations
07/02/2017	In the field- Al-Jazeera Media Network	Blackmailing patients at Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing
08/02/2017	Saudi Satellite Channel	The Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen
08/02/2017	Saudi Satellite Channel	Deterioration to Health Conditions in the Gaza Strip
08/02/2017	Voice of Palestine Radio	Military Court's decision on Fatah activists and PCHR's role in defending them
09/02/2017	Masr Al-Arabia Website	Poverty, unemployment, and residents' suffering due to the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip.
09/02/2017	Al-Watan Voice Radio	Preventing patients from travelling
09/02/2017	Masr Al-Arabia Website	Poverty and unemployment in the Gaza Strip
13/02/2017	Palestine TV	Palestinian prisoners conditions in the Israeli jails
15/02/2017	Ma'an News Agency	Economic and Social Conditions in Gaza Strip
16/02/2017	Al-Najah University Channel	PCHR's report about siege

Date	Media	Subject
20/02/2017	Masr Al-Arabia Website	Arresting businessmen by Israeli forces at Beit Ha-noun "Erez" Crossing
21/02/2017	Al-Kofiyah Channel	Commenting on a sentence issued against an Israeli soldier, who killed a Palestinian civilian
22/02/2017	Sawa Radio	Death Penalty
22/02/2017	Al-Kofiyah Channel	Israeli and Palestinian violations of Human Rights
24/02/2017	Al-Kofiyah Channel	Preventing patients from travelling via Erez Crossing.
27/02/2017	Palestine Today TV	Extension of Family Reunification Ban Law
28/02/2017	Palestine Today TV	Rights of permanent unemployment servants in the PA
01/03/2017	Al-Jazeera English Channel	Report of State Comptroller in Israel on the 2014 War
01/03/2017	TV Venezuela	The Electricity Crisis
01/03/2017	Middle East Eye TV	The Electricity Crisis
01/03/2017	Hona Al-Quds TV	Developments on the International Criminal Court
03/03/2017	Palestine Today TV	Protecting children in armed conflicts
03/03/2017	Palestine TV	Protecting children in armed conflicts
04/03/2017	Al-Kitab TV	Human Rights Situation
05/03/2017	Palestine Today Newspaper	Right to health and PCHR's role
06/03/2017	News and Media Agency	Economic and Social Conditions in Gaza Strip
07/03/2017	Claquette Radio- Cultural and Free Thought Association (CFTA)	Crime in the Gaza Strip

Date	Media	Subject
08/03/2017	Hona Al-Quds TV	International Criminal Court
14/03/2017	Al-Watan voice Radio	Break up a sit-in in front of courts complex in Ramallah
14/03/2017	Al-Najah University Channel	Break up a sit-in in front of courts complex in Ramallah
15/03/2017	Palestine Newspaper	Human Rights Situation
16/03/2017	Palestine Today TV	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for South-West Asia (ESCWA)
17/03/2017	Palestine Today TV	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for (South-West Asia (ESCWA
18/03/2017	Amad Media	Issuing a death sentence against 2 persons accused of drug trafficking
18/03/2017	Ma'an News Agency	Restrictions on Movement and Arresting businessmen at Erez Crossing
19/03/2017	Watan Radio	Issuing a death sentence against drugs traders
19/03/2017	(Agence France-Presse (AFP	Right to health and PCHR's role
20/03/2017	Ma'an News Agency	Israeli decision to ban calls to prayer (Adhan) in al-Aqsa Mosque
20/03/2017	Palestine Newspaper	Deterioration of economic, legal and social conditions in Gaza
21/03/2017	Palestine TV	The United Nations Human Rights Council discusses the status of the oPt
26/03/2017	Palestine Today TV	The Israeli government support settlement organizations
26/03/2017	Network Radio for Media	Assistance provided to patients and humanitarian cases in travelling
26/03/2017	Mawal Radio	Assistance provided to patients and humanitarian cases in travelling
27/03/2017	Al-Rowad Newspaper	Arresting children in the West Bank
30/03/2017	Sawt al-Sha'b Radio	Woman

Date	Media	Subject
30/03/2017	Hona al-Quds TV	Earth Day
30/03/2017	Sawt al-Sha'b Radio	Woman
31/03/2017	Donia al-Watan Agency	Personal Status Law
31/03/2017	Watan TV	A Gaza government decision to obstruct travelling via Erez Crossing
03/04/2017	'Alam Radio in Hebron University	Leaving the Palestinian wounded persons bleed to death
03/04/2017	BBC Arabic	Israeli restrictions on human rights defenders
03/04/2017	Alaraby TV	Israeli restrictions on human rights defenders
03/04/2017	Al-Kofiyah Channel	Israeli restrictions on human rights defenders
04/04/2017	Amad Media	The Ministry of Interior's declaration about imposing strict measures against collaborators
04/04/2017	Al-Kofiya TV	Preventing human rights activists from entering and exiting the Gaza Strip
05/04/2017	Palestine TV	Israeli restrictions on human rights defenders
06/04/2017	Alaraby TV- London	Death Penalty
06/04/2017	AFP	Death Penalty
06/04/2017	Alaraby TV	Death Penalty
09/04/2017	Al-Kitab TV	Deducting the salaries of PA servants
09/04/2017	Donia al-Watan TV	Imposing fees and taxes on the Gaza Strip
09/04/2017	Palestine Today TV	Imposing fees and taxes on the Gaza Strip
11/04/2017	Sawt al-Sha'b	Rights of women with disabilities and gender justice

Date	Media	Subject
12/04/2017	Masr Al-Arabia Website	Confiscating Palestinians' permits at Erez Crossing
12/04/2017	Al-Najah University Channel	PCHR's annual report 2016
13/04/2017	TRT World	The electricity crisis in Gaza
19/04/2017	Claquette Radio- Cultural and Free Thought Association (CFTA)	Prisoners' conditions in the Israeli jails
14/04/2017	Al-Kofiyah TV	The electricity crisis
15/04/2017	Swat al-Watan Radio	The electricity crisis
16/04/2017	Al-Najah University Channel	Arrest on grounds of expressing opinion
22/04/2017	Quds Press	Confiscating Palestinian civilians' money by the Israeli forces during incursions
23/04/2017	Watan Radio	Prevalence of crimes and their impacts human rights
24/04/2017	Al-Ayam Newspaper	Prevalence of drugs and their impacts on crime and civilians' rights
27/04/2017	Watan TV	The hunger strike of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails
27/04/2017	Al-Kan'aniya TV	The hunger strike of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails
27/04/2017	Palestine TV	The hunger strike of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails
01/05/2017	Palestine TV	Palestinian prisoners case and their hunger strike
02/05/2017	Qasioun News	Deterioration of humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip
02/05/2017	Al-Kofiyah TV	Silencing the Press" Campaign
02/05/2017	Palestine TV	Freedom of opinion and expression

Date	Media	Subject
02/05/2017	Almaghribia TV	Silencing the Press” Campaign
02/05/2017	Watan TV	The Israeli forces policy towards press crews
02/05/2017	Ma’an News Agency	Silencing the Press” Campaign
02/05/2017	Sawa Radio	Silencing the Press” Campaign
03/05/2017	Al-Kofiyah TV	Freedom of opinion and expression
10/05/2017	Italian Il Manifesto Newspaper	Human Rights
16/05/2017	Pree TV	Israeli Attacks
21/05/2017	RT	Death Penalty
21/05/2017	Arab 24	Death Penalty
21/05/2017	Al-Jazeera Media Network	Death Penalty
22/05/2017	BBC TV	Human Rights Situation
22/05/2017	Derek Stoffel CBC News	Death Penalty
24/05/2017	Palestine TV	Deterioration to Health Conditions in Gaza
24/05/2017	Ma’an News Agency	Deterioration to Health Conditions in Gaza
25/05/2017	NHK TV	Skype interview on Human Rights situations
29/05/2017	Press TV	The Israeli siege and closing the Gaza Strip crossings
01/06/2017	Palestine TV	The delay in the reconstruction of economic facilities
01/06/2017	TV	The delay in the reconstruction of economic facilities

Date	Media	Subject
01/06/2017	Al-Quds TV	The delay in the reconstruction of economic facilities
05/06/2017	Telesur English TV	The suffering of arrested children in the Israeli jails
12/06/2017	Al-Mayadeen TV	The delay in the reconstruction of economic facilities
14/06/2017	Palestine Today TV	The freedom of movement and the right to health
14/06/2017	Al-Kitab TV	Humanitarian Conditions in the Gaza Strip
17/06/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	Websites Blocking News
19/06/2017	Alam Radio - Hebron University	Blocking News Websites
19/06/2017	Watan Radio	Blocking News Websites
29/06/2017	Shams Radio- Nazareth	The Israeli government's decision to cancel family visits for Hamas prisoners in the Israeli jails
29/06/2017	Kuwait TV	Aggravating the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
01/07/2017	Sawt al-Watan Radio	Aggravating the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
02/07/2017	Al-Etejah TV	The policy of administrative detention and arresting Palestinian MPs
02/07/2017	Al-Kitab TV	Aggravating the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
03/07/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	The impacts of the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip
04/07/2017	Al-Quds Radio	House demolitions on grounds of collective punishment
09/07/2017	Palestine Today TV	Aggravating the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
10/07/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	Electronic Crimes Law issued in the West Bank
11/07/2017	Al-Quds Radio	Minimizing medical referrals abroad

Date	Media	Subject
12/07/2017	Al-Quds Radio	Israeli forces' killing crimes in Jenin
14/07/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	Aggravating the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
16/07/2017	Nawa Newspaper	Electronic Crimes Law
19/07/2017	Amy Goodman, Democracy Now	Humanitarian conditions and electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
23/07/2017	Palestine TV	Demanding the execution of operations' perpetrators in Israel
25/07/2017	Sawt al-Sha'b Radio	Violence against Women
05/08/2017	Press TV	Aggravating the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
25/08/2017	Palestine Newspaper	The Israeli attacks in Jerusalem
05/08/2017	Palestine Newspaper	Israeli restrictions on patients traveling via Erez Crossing
06/08/2017	TV interview	Film about violations of children's rights in war
06/08/2017	Palestine TV	Israeli racist laws
07/08/2017	Palestine Today TV	Referring the PA's servants for early retirement
13/08/2017	Watan Radio	Electronic Crimes Law
14/08/2017	'Amad Media	Releasing journalists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip
15/08/2017	Al-Doha Center	Electronic Crimes Law
17/08/2017	Nawa Agency	Violations against journalists
24/08/2017	Arabi 21 News	Minimizing medical referrals abroad
24/08/2017	Al-Ray Radio	Electronic Crimes Law

Date	Media	Subject
26/08/2017	Al-Sha'b Radio	Electronic Crimes Law
31/08/2017	Palestine TV	Demanding the execution of operations' perpetrators in Israel
07/09/ 2017	Palestine Today TV	A death of detainee in Beit Lahia detention facility in mysterious circumstances
07/09/ 2017	Palestine Today TV	A death of detainee in Beit Lahia detention facility in mysterious circumstances
07/09/ 2017	Nawa Agency	A death of detainee in Beit Lahia detention facility in mysterious circumstances
11/09/ 2017	Telesur TV Venezuela	Preventing patients from travelling by the Israeli authorities
11/09/ 2017	Telesur TV Venezuela	Forcibly vacating the Bedouin population' houses in al-'Arqoub village
12/09/ 2017	Al-Kitab TV	Human Rights conditions
16/09/ 2017	Alam Radio - Hebron University	Awareness of the law
17/09/ 2017	Alam Radio - Hebron University	The suspension of a sentence issued against a journalist in case of opinion expression
18/09/ 2017	Rima al-Sousi	Murders on grounds of family honor
19/09/2017	Al-Quds TV	Electronic Crimes Law
19/09/2017	Nawa Agency	Electronic Crimes Law
19/09/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	Electronic Crimes Law
24/09/2017	Forum of Palestinian Journalists	Electronic Crimes Law
24/09/2017	Social Developmental Forum	The employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector
24/09/2017	Ma'an News Agency	Electronic Crimes Law
24/09/2017	Al-Quds TV	Electronic Crimes Law

Date	Media	Subject
25/09/2017	Gaza Online Agency	Israeli attacks
26/09/2017	Gaza FM Radio	Child rights
28/09/2017	Alwan Radio	PCHR's role in defending human rights
28/09/2017	Palestine Today TV	A debate with a police officer about detention conditions
09/10/2017	Claquette Radio- Cultural and Free Thought Association (CFTA)	Violence against Women
10/10/2017	Ma'n News Agency	Death Penalty
10/10/2017	Al-Kitab TV	Media workshop
10/10/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	Death Penalty Workshop
10/10/2017	Al-Jazeera Net	The right to Health
10/10/2017	Social Media Radio	Social security for persons with disabilities
10/10/2017	Al-Quds TV	The right to Health
10/10/2017	Beladi TV	The right to Health
14/10/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	The impact of the US withdrawal from UNESCO
18/10/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	The right to health
19/10/2017	Al-Quds TV	Closing media agencies and arresting journalists by the Israeli forces
23/10/2017	Nawa Agency	Encroachment of government land and slums
23/11/2017	Al-Quds News TV	Collective Punishment by the Israeli forces

Date	Media	Subject
03/11/2017	Ajyal Radio	Torture in the Palestinian prisons and detention facilities
06/11/2017	Al-Kitab TV	Gaza Crossings and economic conditions in the light of Palestinian reconciliation
08/11/2017	Italian Il Manifesto Newspaper	Gaza Strip Conditions in the light of Palestinian reconciliation
12/11/2017	Al-Quds Newspaper	Human Rights Conditions
13/11/2017	Al-Quds TV	Siege impacts on the right to education
18/12/2017	Raya Radio- Hebron	Elections Law and elections courts
02/12/2017	Al-Kitab TV	The deterioration of economic conditions in the Gaza Strip
11/12/2017	Wafa Agency	Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel
24/12/2017	Angham Radio	Protection of Palestinian ambulance crews
25/12/2017	Palestine Today TV	Arresting 'Ahed al-Tamimi
26/12/2017	Al-Najah TV	The suffering of patients referred abroad for treatment
26/12/2017	Palestine TV	The suffering of patients referred abroad for treatment
٢٦/12/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	The suffering of patients referred abroad for treatment
27/12/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	Denying patients their right to receive medical treatment abroad and blackmailing them by the Israeli authorities at Erez Crossing
٢٧/12/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	Enacting death penalty in the Israeli Knesset
16/12/2017	Al-Najah TV	Killing protesters in cold blood by the Israeli forces
16/12/2017	Al-Kofiyia TV	Killing protesters in cold blood by the Israeli forces

Date	Media	Subject
21/12/2017	Palestine Today TV	Legal classification of penalties imposed on the Gaza Strip
26/12/2017	Palestine Radio	The Israeli violations against journalists
26/12/2017	Palestine TV	The consequences of Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel- and attacking an the assault of Member of Israeli Knesset against prisoners' mothers

Appendix (2): awareness sessions on the IHL and ICC organized by PCHR's Training Unit in 2017.

Meeting Date	Subject	Partner organization	Targeted group	Venue	Number of Participants	Female Participation
January 19 2017	Basic concepts on IHL	Solidarity Charitable Association	Volunteers in the association	Solidarity Charitable Association's Hall in Rafah	29	49%
23 January 2017	Principles of IHL	Students from al-Azhar and Palestine Universities	Faculty of Law students	PCHR's Hall-Gaza	24	37%
02 February 2017	Basic concepts on IHL	Palestinian Family Association	University students	Palestinian Family Association Hall- Beit Hanoun	26	65%
01 February 2017	Basic concepts on ICC	Geraas youth team	Team members	PCHR's Hall-Gaza	26	50%
01 February 2017	Principles of IHL	Child rights defenders team	Team members	PCHR's Hall-Gaza	23	56%
23 February 2017	Protecting civilians in the IHL and Fourth Geneva Convention	Heker al-Jami' Youth Center Association	Activists from local civil society organizations	Heker al-Jame'a Youth Center- Dir al-Balah	27	74%
18 April 2017	Basic concepts on IHL	University students	Students	PCHR's Hall-Gaza	28	43%
10 May 2017	Principles of IHL	Ghad Moshreq Association	Graduates	Ghad Moshreq Association Office- Khuza'a	29	45%
June 2017 14	Concepts on IHL	Rawafed Association for Community Development	Association members	Rawafed Association 's Hall-Central Gaza Strip	20	100%
1 July 2017	Concepts on IHL	Al - Aqsa Youth Association for Development	Association members	Al - Aqsa Youth Association's office-Dir al-Balah	20	100%
July 2017 10	Human rights-concepts on IHL	Charitable Society for Palestinian Family Support	Volunteers	The office of Charitable Society for Palestinian Family Support- Beit Hanoun	27	52%

Meeting Date	Subject	Partner organization	Targeted group	Venue	Number of Participants	Female Participation
13 July 2017	Protecting civilians in armed conflicts	Al-Azhar University students	Faculty of Law and Trade students	Gaza	21	52%
02 October 2017	Protecting civilians in armed conflicts and redress mechanisms	Premiere Urgence International -PIU	Farmers	The office of Future Home Association- 'Abasan	19	0%
03 October 2017	Protecting civilians in armed conflicts and redress mechanisms	Waleed Charity Association	Farmers	The office of Waleed Charity Association- 'Abasan	18	0%
09 October 2017	Protecting civilians in armed conflicts and redress mechanisms	Al-'Athra Maryam Charity Association	Farmers	Rafah	15	0%
12 November 2017	IHL and mechanisms of protecting civilians in armed conflicts	Premiere Urgence International -PIU	Persons, who affected the Israeli violation in border area	Rafah-Al-Shoka area	13	0%
14 November 2017	IHL and mechanisms of protecting civilians in armed conflicts	Future Home Association	Persons, who affected the Israeli violation in border area	The office of Future Home Association- 'Abasan	15	0%
Novem- 23 ber 2017	The mechanisms of protecting civilians (women and children) during wars	Action Against Hunger Organization	Volunteers	Rafah- al-Mos- abeh neighborhood	30	100%

Meeting Date	Subject	Partner organization	Targeted group	Venue	Number of Participants	Female Participation
28 November 2017	The mechanisms of protecting civilians (women and children) in armed conflicts	EL- Amal Rehabilitation society	Volunteers	The office of EL- Amal Rehabilitation society - Rafah	30	86%
03 December 2018	The mechanisms of protecting civilians (women and children) in armed conflicts	Youth Development Association	Women	Youth Development Association office- Dir al-Balah	11	81%
12 December 2017	The mechanisms of protecting civilians (women and children) in armed conflicts	Future Home Association and Action Against Hunger Organization	Women	The Association office- Khan Yunis	11	100%
19 December 2017	IHL concepts and mechanisms of protecting civilians in armed conflicts	Ard Elinsan Association	Volunteers	The Association office- Beit Lahia	30	56%

Appendix (3): PCHR's meetings with Diplomats and International Organizations in 2017

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
09/01/2017	Eoin Hamil - Trócaire Organization	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation and partnership
11/01/2017	Delegation from Grassroots Organization	Level Up Restaurant	Discussing human rights situation and partnership
19/01/2017	Erwan Van Veen-UNDP	PCHR's Office-Gaza	
25/01/2017	Qais As'ad and Sai Abed al-Shafi-Carter Centre	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
26/01/2017	Gernot Sauer Head of Gaza Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
30/01/2017	Farewell ceremony to Katleen Maes, Head of the Gaza Office of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Al-Mashtal Hotel-Gaza	
12/02/2017	Christian Aid Organization	Via Skype	Discussing the partnership
14/02/2017	Dalia Z'ater- OSF	Via Skype	Discussing the partnership
19/02/2017	Alison Kelly, the Irish Ambassador to Israel and Jonathan Conlon, Representative of Ireland to the Palestinian Authority	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
23/02/2017	Dr. Peter E. Makari- Executive for the Middle East and Europe with Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church.	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
27/02/2017	Ana Sánchez -Spanish NGO Novact-a partner of PCHR	Via Skype	Discussing a report on the Israeli forces' attacks against the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression
28/02/2017	Nicolas Mladenov, UN Special Coordinator for the peace process	UNESCO Office-Gaza	Meeting with human rights organizations and civil society about the invitation for local elections.
02/03/2017	Jennifer Higgins, Policy and Advocacy Advisor Christian Aid Ireland	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
02/03/2017	OSF	Via Skype (Gaza-Amman)	Discussing partnership
02/03/2017	Latifa al-Ja'bari- Diakonia Institution	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Reality of disabled persons
06/03/2017	Eduardo Narbona- Deputy Consul of Spain	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
06/03/2017	Youres van Winkle, Peter Mossop, political officials, European Union office in Jerusalem	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
06/03/2017	Sharry Iapp - new director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation and partnership
06/03/2017	Ashraf Suliman- South African Repetitive Office to the State of Palestine	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
07/03/2017	A delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office in Ramallah by its director Ms .Hilde Haraldstad	Roots Hotel- Gaza	Meeting with partners on the occasion of Women International Day
13/03/2017	David Carden- Head of OCHA Office	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
15/03/2017	Meeting with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	PCHR's Office-Gaza	
20/03/2017	Meeting between Christian Aid and Partners	The office of <u>Women's Affairs Center</u>	
22/03/2017	Andalusia Agency Cooperation Delegation	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation and partnership
26/03/2017	A delegation from the World Health Organization	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Health Conditions and joint cooperation
27/03/2017	EU and civil society dialogue as a prelude to meetings of the European-Palestinian sub-committees	Al-Mashtal Hotel-Gaza	Discussing the priorities by civil society at the Palestinian level
28/03/2017	Ambassador Per Örnéus- Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace Process	Via Skype	Human Rights Situation
12/04/2017	Ceremony of launching the new strategic plan - Cooperation Institution	Al-Mashtal Hotel-Gaza	
12/04/2017	Andrea Messmer- Bertha Justice Initiative	Via Skype	

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
13/04/2017	Nathan Stock, Director of Carter Center in Jerusalem	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Human Rights Situation
26/04/2017	Meeting between Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat and Partner Organizations	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Office in Gaza	Discussing funding mechanisms
23-27/04/2017	Delegation of al-Quds Malaga – Spain Institution		Human Rights Situation and PCHR's work
03/05/2017	Pierre-François Bouchard - French Consul-General	French Cultural Center - Gaza	Discussing Human Rights Situation
09/05/2017	Mr. Manuel Fontaine- UNICEF Director of the Office of Emergency Programmes	UNDP-Gaza	
10/05/2017	Meeting with the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the occupied Palestinian territory, Robert Piper	Laterna Restaurant Hall- Gaza	The meeting was organized by NGOs with representatives of civil society organizations
11/05/2017	Meeting with the partners of Trócaire – Ireland Institution	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Development of monitoring and evaluation tools
14/05/2017	Meeting with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Reviewing Human Rights and Rule of law strategic
15-16/05/2017	Meeting with a delegation from Kavina Tal Kavina Foundation, headed by the Secretary General Lina Ag	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Human Rights Situation
16/05/2017	Farewell ceremony to Veronica (SDC)	PCHR's Office-Gaza	
24/05/2017	Meeting with Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat	(SDC) Office and al-Haq Organization via Skype	
05/06/2017	Meeting with DCA and NCA	The office of DCA and NCA- Gaza	
07/06/2017	Hans Peter Buvollen- Reem al-Shareef- and Nidal Hamdounah (DCA-NCA)	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing partnership
13/06/2017	Fabio Sokolowicz- Consul General of Italy	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Human Rights Situation
13/06/2017	Ashira Ramadan- human rights researcher, Amnesty International Organization	Meeting via Skype with Hamdi Shaqoura, PCHR Deputy Director for. Program Affairs	Attacks against human rights defenders
15/06/2017	Meeting with Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat	(SDC) Office in Gaza	

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
19/06/2017	Meeting with Mr. Pierre Cochard, the Consulate General of France in Jerusalem	French Cultural Center - Gaza	Human Rights Situation
19/06/2017	Meeting with Christian Aid Partners	Via Skype	Discussing partnership
19/06/2017	Meeting with Bertha Justice Initiative partners	Via Skype	Discussing partnership
03/07/2017	Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen- General Secretary of DCA and a staff from DCA, including its special adviser to GS (Troels) and the country director (Antony).	Al-Sammak Restaurant and al-Mashtal Hotel- Gaza	Holding a first meeting with PCHR and then holding another meeting with other partners
10/07/2017	Marie-Elisabeth Ingres- Head Of Mission - Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), along with a communication manager, Klair Magon	PCHR's Office- Gaza	Humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip
10/07/2017	Andrea Messmer- Bertha Justice Initiative	Via Skype	Discussing partnership
10/07/2017	Japanese Ambassador	Roots Hotel-Gaza	Human Rights Situation
11/07/2017	Christian Aid Delegation	The Cultural and Free Thought Association (CFTA)- Khan Yunis	Meeting with partners
12/07/2017	Christian Aid Delegation	PCHR's Office- Gaza	Meeting with PCHR's units directors
16/07/2017	Participating in a welcoming ceremony on the occasion of the French National Day as an invitation from Mr. Pierre Cochard, the Consulate General of France in Jerusalem	French Cultural Center - Gaza	
19/07/2017	Rafael Matos De Careage- Consul General of Spain in Jerusalem and his deputy Eduardo Narbona	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
26/07/2017	Qais As'ad and Sami Abed al-Shafi- Carter Center	PCHR's Office- Gaza	
02/08/2017	Gernot Sauer-Head of UNSCO Office	PCHR's Office- Gaza	

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
03/08/2017	Participating in a meeting with the Working Group on Serious Violations, in the presence of Robert Piper, United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator, and John Konugi, Special Representative of UNESCO	UNESCO Offices in Gaza and Jerusalem- via Skype	
15/08/2017	Ralph Tarraf, European Union Representative		Meeting with representatives of human rights organizations and civil society
23/08/2017	Mr. Josef Martin Hinterseher, the First Secretary for Political Affairs at the German Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority (GRO)	PCHR's Office-Gaza	
27/08/2017	Neil Sammonds- Map-UK	Al-Roots Hotel	Discussing health condition and its impacts on the right to health in the Gaza Strip
30/08/2017	Chantal Neweller, a child protection expert, UNICEF	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing the ways of protecting children and PCHR's relevant work
05/09/2017	Peter Maurer, President of the ICRC	Al-Roots Hotel	General meeting with representatives of human rights organizations, civil society and prestigious figures to discuss the humanitarian situation
07/09/2017	Liza Henry- New Director of DCA and NCA	DCA and NCA Office in Gaza	Meeting with partners
10/09/2017	Eoin Hamill- Trócaire – Ireland Institution	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation and partnership
12/09/2017	Meeting with Open Society Fund	Via Skype-Amman	Discussing partnership
13/09/2017	Prof. Henrik Pelling and Prof. David Henley	Working dinner at PCHR's Office-Gaza	The meeting was organized through Aylak partners - Sweden
13-14/09/2017	Johan Pace- Human Rights Institute in Sydney University - Australia	PCHR's Office-Gaza and al-Roots Hotel	A team to evaluate the work of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat- Via Skype with Fateh 'Azzam and Halla Sho'aibi

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
16/09/2017	A delegation from Misereor	PCHR's Office-Gaza	The delegation included Bernhard Schafer, Joint Initiative on International Humanitarian Law in the Middle East; and Dr. Volker Riehl, Desk Officer-Berlin Office; and Ralph Allgaier, Media Official.
25/10/2017	Participating in a receiving ceremony to new OCHA Director	UNESCO Office-Gaza	
26/09/2017	Peter Mossop-political affairs, European Union Office in Jerusalem	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
28/09/2017	Jamie Wheeler, Head of political team- British Consulate-General Jerusalem	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
02/10/2017	Nikolai Mayanov, United Nations Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace Process	UNESCO Office-Gaza	Meeting with representatives of human rights organizations and civil society
03/10/2017	Gregoire Bonhomme, Attach of Humanitarian, Social and Decentralized Cooperation; and pierre Chevalier, Deputy Director of the French Cultural Center	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing the cooperation with PCHR
17/10/2017	A delegation of medical assistance to the Palestinians (MAP), which included: Aimee Sha'lan, Executive Director; Alan Wadams, Board Member; and Fiker Shalltoot, Program Director in Gaza.	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation
19/10/2017	A delegation from the Church of Scotland- Tantur Ecumenical Institute	PCHR's Office-Gaza	The delegation included 7 members
22/10/2017	Sharry Lapp- Program Director/ Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation and partnership
24/10/2017	A delegation of Spanish co-operation includes: Niara Emido de Larinaga, Eva Suarez and Jordi Galbi	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation and partnership

Date	Visitors	Venue	Notes
25-26/10/2017	William Bell and Carol- Christian Aid	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing partnership and on the next day the Culture and Free Thought Center participated in the meeting
01/11/2017	Emily Harding- Resident Representative West Bank/ Gaza Strip Programs	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation and Palestinian reconciliation
07/11/2017	Filippo Di Carpegna, Sawasya Programme; and Wafa al-Kafarnah, Sawasya programme officer in the Gaza Strip	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing partnership
07/11/2017	German Delegation	Al-Mashtal Hotel	Discussing human rights situation
08/11/2017	A delegation from French Consulate included Oliver de Trogoff, Charge of projects; Gregoire Bonhomme, Humanitarian attache; and Pierre Chevalier, New Director of French Institute in Gaza	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing partnership
14/11/2017			
14/11/2017	Dominik Heinzor, the Human Security Advisor at the Swiss Rep. office. Mr. Stephan Kellenberger, program manager from HQ in Bern	(SDC) Office	
21/11/2017	Participating in a meeting organized by the (SDC)		
22/11/2017	A welcoming ceremony organized by AIDA	Light House Restaurant	
22/11/2017	Remy Boulough, Deputy Consul General of French	French Cultural Center	Discussing human rights situation and Palestinian reconciliation
28/11/2017	Irish diplomatic delegation included Jonathan Kunlun, Ireland Representative to the Palestinian National Authority; Dicklan Johnston, Deputy Representative; and Emile Makhoul, Program Counselor at the Representative.	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation and Palestinian reconciliation Developments
28/11/2017	Belgian diplomatic delegation included Danielle Haven, Consul General in Jerusalem; Marie Charchari, Consul of Political Affairs; and Katelij De Nijs, Consul Development Cooperation	PCHR's Office-Gaza	Discussing human rights situation and Palestinian reconciliation Developments



Raji Sourani Receives Christian Clerics

Appendix (4): Training courses implemented by PCHR's Training Unit in 2017

No.	Number of Training Courses and the Target Group	Partici- pants	Hours	Female Partici- pation
1	Five training courses on human rights concepts and the International Bill of Human Rights for members of associations and community institutions working in civil society and youth groups in the Gaza Strip	140	100	65%
2	Four specialized training courses in the field of freedom of opinion and expression for media professionals, journalists, social media activists and media institutions	88	65	57%
3	Two training courses in the concepts of international human rights law and international humanitarian law for members of associations and community institutions working in civil society and youth groups in the Gaza Strip	60	40	67%
4	Two training courses on children's rights for groups of activists in the field of children's rights	53	40	49%
5	A training course on the right to housing, land and property and legal remedies for violations against fishermen and farmers	27	20	26%
6	A training course on women's rights	31	25	58%

Table clarifies the details of each training course

No.	Partner Organization	Target Group	Place	Participants	Hours	Period	Female Participation
1	Attadamun Charity Association	University students, graduates, and volunteers	Attadamun Charity Association Hall	27	20	09-12/01/2017	40%
2	Child Rights Defenders Group	Group members	PCHR's Office- Gaza	33	20	13-16/02/2017	43%
3	Members of six community institutions from central Gaza Strip	Institutions members	Heker al-Jami' Youth Center Association- Dir al-Balah	31	20	20-23/02/2017	87%
4	Members of seven community institutions from Northern Gaza Strip	Institutions members	PCHR's Office- Jabalia Refugee Camp	29	20	12-15/03/2017	51%
5	Members of ten community institutions from Khan Yunis	Institutions members	PCHR's office- Khan Yunis	24	20	27-30/03/2017	88%
6	Islamic University - Department of Media and Political Science	College Students	PCHR's Office- Gaza	25	20	04-18/04/2017	47%
7	Members of 11 community institutions, east of Khan Yunis	Institutions members	Ghad Moshreq Association Office- Khan Yunis	29	20	07-10/05/2017	55%
8	Members of 8 community institutions and 4 universities - Jabalia	Institutions members	PCHR's Office- Jabalia	32	20	21-24/05/2017	90%

No.	Partner Organization	Target Group	Place	Participants	Hours	Period	Female Participation
9	Community Media Center	Journalists	Community Media Center Hall-Gaza	20	20	17-20/07/2017	65%
10	Members of 7 community institutions in Rafah	Institution members	The hall of Mujaddoon Development Association for Youth - Rafah	28	20	07-10/08/2017	61%
11	Members of 12 institutions and associations	Institution members	Hall of Hope and Peace Society - Rafah	31	25	20-24/08/2017	58%
12	Defenders of farmers and fishermen's rights	Members of 11 institutions that defending farmers and fishermen's rights	Khuza'a Municipality Hall - Eastern Khan Younis	27	20	10-13/09/2017	26%
13	Journalists and human rights activists	Journalists and human rights activists	Light House Restaurant Hall- Gaza	32	10	20-21/09/2017	53%
14	Friends of the Press Freedoms Support Project, which implemented with the support of Canadian Government	Journalists	Light House Restaurant Hall- Gaza	7	25	04-12/10/2017	57%
15	Journalists and human rights activists	Journalists and human rights activists	Light House Restaurant Hall- Gaza	24	10	25-26/10/2017	75%

Appendix (5): Raise Awareness Sessions organized by PCHR's Training Unit in 2017

#	Venue	Number of Awareness Sessions	Participants	Female Participation
1	<u>Northern Gaza Strip</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>231</u>	<u>80%</u>
2	<u>Gaza City</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>65%</u>
3	<u>Central Gaza Strip</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>96%</u>
4	<u>Khan Yunis</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>221</u>	<u>80%</u>
5	<u>Rafah</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>61%</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>1232</u>	<u>100%</u>



Training Course in the Field of Human Rights- Jabalia



On 07 February 2017, PCHR's Director Meeting with Journalists from Gaza

Details of awareness sessions on the IHL organized by PCHR's Training Unit in 2017

#	Partner organization	Target Group	Subject	Participants	Venue	Period	Female Participation
1	Faculty of Dentistry - Al Azhar University - Gaza (The first group)	College students - first level	The right to health in IHL	26	PCHR's Of- fice-Gaza	15/01/2017	80%
2	Faculty of Dentistry - Al Azhar University - Gaza (The second) (group)	College students - second level	The right to health in IHL	26	PCHR's Of- fice-Gaza	16/01/2017	73%
3	Faculty of Dentistry - Al Azhar University - Gaza (The third group)	College students - third level	The right to health in IHL	18	PCHR's Of- fice-Gaza	17/01/2017	84%
4	Ghirass Youth Student Group	Group members	Basic concepts in human rights	21	PCHR's Of- fice-Gaza	18/01/2017	48%
5	Child rights' defenders	Group members	Basic concepts in Child Rights Convention	21	Hall of Independent Commission for Human Rights - Gaza	19/01/2017	43%
6	Al-Azhar University students	Law School Students	Political participation and strengthening youth role	24	PCHR's Hall -Gaza	23/01/2017	37%
7	Coalitions working in the field of human rights	Group members	International Bill of Human Rights	22	PCHR's Hall -Gaza	24/01/2017	50%

#	Partner organization	Target Group	Subject	Participants	Venue	Period	Female Participation
8	Youth and Environment Association	University students	Violence against women	22	Youth and Environment Association- Al-Zawayida	26/01/2017	77%
9	Reyada Association for Social Development	Association members	Basic concepts of human rights	26	Al-Fukhari Municipality	06/02/2017	100%
10	University students	University students	Basic concepts of human rights	27	Hall of Independent Commission for Human Rights - Gaza	07/02/2017	40%
11	Palestinian Family Association- Beit Hanoun	University students	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	26	Office of Palestinian Family Association- Beit Hanoun	08/02/2017	73%
12	Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association	Association members and volunteers	International Bill of Human Rights	27	Hall of Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association	19/02/2017	74%
13	Palestinian Family Association- Beit Hanoun	University students	Right to form Association	27	Office of Palestinian Family Association- Beit Hanoun	27/02/2017	62%
14	Palestinian Red Crescent Society	Society members	Convention against Torture	30	Palestinian Red Crescent Society	06/03/2017	50%
15	Attadamun Charity Association-Rafah	Academics and Association members	Mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders	٢٨	Office of Attadamun Charity Association-Rafah	07/03/2017	49%

#	Partner organization	Target Group	Subject	Participants	Venue	Period	Female Participation
16	Adham Association for Development	Association members	Right to demonstrate and peaceful assembly	27	Adham Association for Development office- Beit Hanoun	19/03/2017	56%
17	Adham Association for Development	women	Gender	26	Adham Association for Development office- Beit Hanoun	22/03/2017	100%
18	Islamic University Students	Students	Freedom of opinion and expression and its protection mechanisms	28	PCHR's Office-Gaza	11/04/2017	43%
19	Team of Legal Edifice of Justice	Team members	Mechanisms to monitor and document human rights violations	28	PCHR's Office-Gaza	26/04/2017	72%
20	Fikra Association for Community Development	Volunteers	Basic Concepts in Women's Rights (CEDAW)	25	Fikra Association office- Beit Hanoun	27/04/2017	100%
21	Culture and Free Thought Association	Association members	Basic concepts of human rights	6	PCHR's hall- Gaza	25/04/2017	50%
22	Ghad al-Moshreq Association	Graduates	International Covenants on Human Rights	30	Ghad al-Moshreq Association office- Khuza'a	08/05/2017	45%
23	Adalah Association for Development and Human Rights	Association members	International Bill of Human Rights	25	Gaza	16/05/2017	60%

#	Partner organization	Target Group	Subject	Participants	Venue	Period	Female Participation
24	University students	University students	Protecting women from discrimination	33	Jabalia	23/05/2017	89%
25	MediaSpace Institution	Graduates	Citizenship and human rights concepts	20	Ra-fah-al-'Aw-da	25/05/2017	84%
26	MediaSpace Institution for community production	Graduates	Democracy and its impact on the protection of human rights	19	Ra-fah-al-'Aw-da	25/05/2017	84%
27	Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association	Women and Graduates	Violence against women	27	Hall of Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association- Dir al-Balah	04/06/2017	100%
28	Forsan Al-Ghad Youth Association	Association members	Gender	20	Beit Hanoun	06/06/2017	100%
29	Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association	Women and Graduates	Women's right inheritance	40	Hall of Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association- Dir al-Balah	07/06/2017	100%
30	Shore the Palestinian Family Association	Association members	Human rights concepts	31	Central Gaza Strip-Dir al-Balah- al-Berka	11/06/2017	100%
31	El Manal Association for the Development of Women and Children	Association members	Violence against women	25	Central Gaza Strip-Dir al-Balah	19/06/2017	100%
32	Forsan Al-Ghad Youth Association	Graduates	Introduction to human rights concepts	20	Beit Hanoun	04/07/2017	100%

#	Partner organization	Target Group	Subject	Participants	Venue	Period	Female Participation
33	Shore Family Charitable Association	Volunteers	Human Rights- IHL concepts	20	Hall of Solidarity Charitable Association	27/11/2016	100%
34	University and colleges students	Students	Basic concepts of human rights	29	Gaza	12/07/2017	59%
35	Community Information Centre	Journalists	Child Rights Convention	20	Office of Community Information Centre	19/07/2017	65%
36	Mujaddoon Development Association for Youth	Graduates	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	28	Rafah-Tal al-Sultan	08/08/2017	61%
37	Al - Aqsa Youth Development Association	Graduates	The right to health in international conventions	20	Dir al-Balah	14/08/2017	100%
38	Al-rowad Association for Palestinian Youth	women	Protecting women from discrimination	37	Association office- Khan Yunis- 'Abasan	17/08/2017	100%
39	Youth Council Against Violence	Council members	The concept of violence against women	28	Rafah	23/08/2017	57%
40	Hope and Peace Association for children	Volunteers	Child Rights Convention	25	Association Office- Rafah	22/08/2017	60%
41	Defenders of farmers and fishermen Rights	Farmers and fishermen	The right to housing and property in international human rights law	27	Khuza'a Municipality office- Khan Yunis	11/09/2017	26%
42	Journalists and human rights activists in the Gaza Strip	Journalists and human rights activists	Restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression in international conventions	32	Gaza	20/09/2017	53%

#	Partner organization	Target Group	Subject	Participants	Venue	Period	Female Participation
43	Binaa' Association for Community Development	Women	Women's rights and the concept of discrimination against women	25	Association Office-'Abasan	24/09/2017	96%
44	Al - Zana Association for Agricultural Development	Women	Basic concepts in human rights	20	Al - Zana Association Office-Khan Yunis	23/10/2017	100%
45	Al - Quds Association for Developing al-Mawasi	Workers in the a association projects	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	25	Association Office-Khan Yunis	08/11/2017	100%
46	Al Shati Primary Mixed School (D)	School teachers and parents (within a 16-day campaign against violence against women)	Women's Rights Under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	32	Al Shati Primary Mixed School (D)	19/11/2017	100%
47	Al Shati Primary Mixed School (D)	School teachers and parents (within a 16-day campaign against violence against women)	Universal Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women	29	Al Shati Primary Mixed School (D)	22/11/2017	83%
48	Abasan Junior Preparatory School	Parliament Students	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	25	Abasan Junior Preparatory School	10/12/2017	100%

Appendix (6): Raise Awareness lectures conducted by PCHR's Democratic Development Unit in 2017

#	Subject	Partner organization	Place	Participants			Date
				Males	females	Total	
1	Political participation	Youth group	PCHR's Office-Gaza	9	9	18	23/04/2017
2	Freedom of expression and UN mechanisms	High Commissioner for Human Rights Office	Al-Salam Restaurant	9	11	20	30 April 2017
3	Freedom of expression and UN mechanisms	High Commissioner for Human Rights Office	Al-Salam Restaurant	9	11	20	30 April 2017
4	Political participation	Solidarity Charitable Association	Solidarity Charitable Association- Rafah	11	8	19	12/05/2017
5	Death Penalty	Mujaddoon Development Association for Youth	Mujaddoon Development Association for Youth - Rafah	6	13	19	15/05/2017
6	Political participation for women	Manal Association for developing rural women	Manal Association for developing rural women- Dir al-Balah	10	10	20	16/05/2017
7	Political participation for women	Women and Child Association for development	Women and Child Association for development - Khan Yunis	0	21	21	17/05/2017
8	Freedom of opinion and expression	Al-Najdah Social Association	Al-Najdah Social Association - Gaza	7	8	15	18/05/2017
9	Freedom of opinion and expression	Al-Zahra Club	Al-Zahra Club	14	2	16	17/05/2017
10	Economic and Social Rights	Al – Mizan Center	Al – Mizan Center	17	14	31	27/05/2017
11	Economic and Social Rights	Al – Mizan Center	Al – Mizan Center	16	15	31	27/07/2017
12	Democracy concept and indicators	Al – Mizan Center	Al-Roots Restaurant	17	13	30	03/08/2017
13	Democratic transition	Al – Mizan Center	Al-Roots Restaurant	17	13	30	03/08/2017
14	Political participation	Al-Zahra Club	Al-Zahra Club	4	13	17	10/08/2017
15	Democracy concept and indicators	Al - Mizan Center	Al-Roots Restaurant	16	15	31	14/08/2017
16	Democratic transition	Al - Mizan Center	Al-Roots Restaurant	16	15	31	14/08/2017
17	Freedom of opinion and expression	'Ataa Association for Mother and Child	Al-Quds Educational Center	8	11	19	30/10/2017
Total				186	202	388	

Appendix (7): awareness sessions implemented by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit

Date	Targeted Group	Place	Number of Participants
29/08/2017	Members of the Fishermen Syndicate	Gaza Seaport	34
30/08/2017	Members of the Fishermen Syndicate	Gaza Seaport	30
14/09/2017	Members of the Fishermen Syndicate	Gaza Seaport	37
25/10/2017	Al-Tawfiq Association for Fishermen in the Gaza Strip	The society's office in Gaza City	28
26/10/2017	Al-Tawfiq Association for Fishermen in the Gaza Strip	The society's office in Gaza City	32
26/10/2017	Al-Tawfiq Association for Fishermen in the Gaza Strip	The society's office in Gaza City	28
26/10/2017	Al-Tawfiq Association for Fishermen in the Gaza Strip	The society's office in Gaza City	28
12/11/2017	Farmers' families in al-Ataa' Charity society	The society's office in Beit Hanoun	16
20/11/2017	Farmers' families in al-Ataa' Charity society	The society's office in Beit Hanoun	23
28/11/2017	Farmers' families in al-Ataa' Charity society	The society's office in Beit Hanoun	27



Khalil Shaheen, Head of PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit During Awareness Session for Fishermen

Appendix (8): School visits to PCHR in 2017

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
1	Khan Yunis Elementary School for boys	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- Khan Yunis	12	08/02/2017	1
2	Rafah Elementary School for boys	School students	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- Khan Yunis	20	03/03/2017	1
3	Al Bureij Elementary School (A)	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	17	06/03/2017	1
4	Al Bureij Elementary School (A)	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	30	03/03/2017	1.5
5	Asma Elementary School (B)	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	24	14/03/2017	1
6	Jabalia Preparatory School (H) for Boys	Students' Parliament	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	28	20/03/2017	1
7	Al Bureij Elementary School (A)	Delegation of the school students	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's hall- Khan Yunis	33	23/03/2017	1
8	Jabalia Preparatory School (A) for Girls	Jabalia	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's hall- Jabalia	22	28/03/2017	1
9	Khan Yunis Preparatory School (B) for girls	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's hall- Khan Yunis	14	29/03/2017	1
10	Al Remal Preparatory School	Gaza	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	23	30/03/2017	1

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
11	Khan Yunis Preparatory School (G) for Boys	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's office- Khan Yunis	27	04/04/2017	1
12	Khan Yunis Preparatory School (D) for Boys	Khan Yunis	PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's office- Khan Yunis	42	06/04/2017	1
13	Al-Burajj Elementary School (D)	Al-Burajj	PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- khan Yunis	20	11/04/2017	1
14	Khan Yunis Preparatory School (G)	Khan Yunis	PCHR and introduction to human rights	PCHR's hall- Khan Yunis	10	14/04/2017	1
15	Tal Al-Sultan Elementary School	Rafah	PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's office- Gaza	17	19/04/2017	1
16	The Culture and Free Thought Association "CFTA"	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and its activities	PCHR's office- Khan Yunis	6	25/04/2017	1
17	The Culture and Free Thought Association "CFTA"	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and its activities	PCHR's hall- Khan Yunis	6	30/08/2017	1
18	Al-Zaytoun Preparatory School (A) for Boys	Gaza	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	32	19/10/2017	1
19	Jabalia Elementary School (a) for Girls	Jabalia	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- Jabalia	26	25/10/2017	1
20	Al-Maghazi Preparatory School (A) for Girls	The Central Gaza Strip	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	20	30/10/2017	1
21	Al- Remal Preparatory School (B) for boys	Gaza	PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- Khan Yunis	23	12/11/2017	1

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
22	Beit Lahia Joint School	Jabalia	PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- Jabalia	20	16/11/2017	1
23	Halab Joint School for Girls	Jabalia	PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- Jabalia	30	16/11/2017	1
24	Deir Al-Balah Preparatory School for Girls	Gaza	PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- Gaza City	33	21/11/2017	1
25	Al-Shati'a Elementary Joint School (D)	Gaza	PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	29	22/11/2017	1
26	Khuza'ah School for Girls	Khuza'ah-Khan Yunis	PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- Khan Yunis	19	23/11/2017	1
27	Gaza Al-Jadidah Preparatory School (A)	Gaza	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall- Gaza City	33	06/12/2017	1
28	Mo'en Elementary School for Girls	Khan Yunis	PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- Khan Yunis	32	07/12/2017	1
29	'Abassan al-Jadidah Preparatory School	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	School hall- 'Abassan al-Jadidah	25	10/12/2017	1
30	Al-Amal Primary School for boys	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- Gaza City	30	13/12/2017	1
31	Khan Yunis Preparatory School (B) for Girls	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and Introduction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	PCHR's hall- Khan Yunis	21	13/12/2017	1

Appendix (9): Legal awareness lectures conducted by PCHR's Women's Rights Unit in 2017

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
03 January 2017	CEDAW Convention	Khuza'ah- Khan Yunis	Al-Walid Society	-	15
05 January 2017	CEDAW Convention	Gaza	Najd Charitable Society	-	16
15 January 2017	The Concept of Gender	Khuza'ah- Khan Yunis	Brilliant Tomorrow for Home's Sons Society	10	15
16 January 2017	The Concept of Social Violence	Al-Buraj	Women's Health Center	-	15
19 January 2017	Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment	Beit Hanoun	Ghassan Kanafani's Society	-	20
22 January 2017	The Concept of Gender	Rafah	Ajyal Association for Creativity and Development	-	30
23 January 2017	Women's Rights in Shari'a Law	Gaza	Najd Charitable Society	-	16
29 January 2017	Women's Rights under international conventions	Deir al-Balah	Deir al-Balah Rehabilitation Society	-	15
30 January 2017	Women's Rights in Shari'a Law	Jabalia	Women's Health Center	-	15
31 January 2017	Women's Rights under international conventions	Al-Daraj neighborhood	Women's Activity Center	-	40
02 February 2017	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Khan Yunis	Palestinian Popular Struggle Front	6	10
09 February 2017	Open Meeting on Women's rights and aspirations for 2017	Khuza'ah	Al-Walid Society	-	32
13 February 2017	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	Khan Yunis	Ahmed Abdul 'Aziz Primary School for Boys	22	-
14 February 2017	Women's Rights in Shari'a Law	Gaza	Najd Charitable Society	-	22
19 February 2017	Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment	Gaza	Roqaya Preparatory School for Girls	-	35

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
21 February 2017	CEDAW Convention	Deir al-Balah	Hekr al-Jame'a Youth Center	16	14
21 February 2017	The Concept of Social Violence	Deir al-Balah	Hekr al-Jame'a Youth Center	16	14
26 February 2017	Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment	Khan Yunis	Roqaya Preparatory School for Girls	-	35
27 February 2017	Women's rights in Sharia Law	Khan Yunis	Osama Al-Najjar Primary School for Girls	-	70
28 February 2017	Open Meeting on Women's rights and aspirations for 2017	Qa'a al-Qrein	Open Meeting on Women's rights and aspirations for 2017	-	28
28 February 2017	Open Meeting in Women's rights under international conventions	Bani Suhaila	Bani Suhaila Preparatory School for Girls	-	23
06 March 2017	Violence Against Women	Khan Yunis	Khan Younis Primary School	-	40
09 March 2017	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Osama Al-Najjar Primary School for Girls	-	32
12 March 2017	Domestic Violence and its Impact on Educational Attainment	Khan Yunis	Roqaya Preparatory School for Girls	12	-
14 March 2017	CEDAW Convention	Jabalia	PCHR's office- Jabalia Branch	18	12
14 March 2017	Open Meeting on women's rights in international conventions	Jabalia	PCHR's office- Jabalia Branch	12	18
15 March 2017	Mechanisms of receiving women subjected to violence in police centers	Khan Yunis	PCHR's head office	-	10
19 March 2017	Domestic Violence	Gaza	Roqaya Preparatory School for Girls	-	35
20 March 2017	Personal Status Law	Jabalia	Bena Charity for Human Development	27	-
21 March 2017	Open Meeting on Women's Rights and its Impact on Society	Qa'a al-Qrein	ZamZam Society	42	-

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
21 March 2017	Women's rights under international conventions	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis Primary joint School	-	15
26 March 2017	Women's rights	Deir al-Balah	Youth Development Association	-	25
27 March 2017	Personal Status Law	Beit Lahia	Women's Labor Department	-	22
28 March 2017	Child's rights	Khan Yunis	Al-Fulkhari Preparatory School	8	14
29 March 2017	CEDAW Convention	Khan Yunis	PCHR's office – Khan Yunis	8	14
29 March 2017	Training Session on Gender	Khan Yunis	PCHR's office – Khan Yunis	8	14
30 March 2017	Child's rights	Khan Yunis	Al-Amal School	18	24
02 April 2017	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Gaza	Human Development Association	-	28
03 April 2017	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Federation of Churches	-	25
04 April 2017	Domestic Violence	Khan Yunis	Bani Suhaila Preparatory School	-	45
05 April 2017	Violence Against Women in the Palestinian society	Khan Yunis	Federation of Churches	-	25
09 April 2017	Personal Status Law	Khan Yunis	Yafa Cultural Center	-	20
09 April 2017	Women's rights under Labor Law	Gaza	Najd Charitable Society	-	32
11 April 2017	Child's rights	Khan Yunis	Bani Suhaila School	-	35
12 April 2017	Widow women's rights	Gaza	Beit al-Aman	-	60
13 April 2017	CEDAW Convention	Gaza	PCHR's office - Gaza	-	25
13 April 2017	The Concept of Gender	Gaza	PCHR's office - Gaza	-	25
17 April 2017	Women's rights	Gaza	Al-Azhar University	22	-
09 May 2017	CEDAW Convention	Khuza'ah	Brilliant Tomorrow Society	10	15
09 May 2017	The Concept of Gender	Khuza'ah	Brilliant Tomorrow Society	10	15
11 May 2017	CEDAW Convention	Deir al-Balah	Deir al-Balah Society for Rehabilitation	-	25

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
17 May 2017	Women's rights under Shari'a Law	Gaza	Najd Charitable Society	-	22
18 May 2017	Personal Status Law	Khan Yunis	Palestinian Arab Front	12	14
21 May 2017	Personal Status Law	Al-Qararah	Human Development Association	-	22
22 May 2017	Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment	Khan Yunis	Al-Safa Development Association	-	18
23 May 2017	Training Session on CEDAW Convention	Jabalia	PCHR's office – Jabalia	16	14
25 May 2017	Open Meeting on Women's rights and its aspiration for 2017	Deir al-Balah	Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF)	-	12
06 July 2017	The Concept of Gender	Deir al-Balah	Deir al-Balah Association for Rehabilitation	-	25
10 July 2017	Personal Status Law	Bani Suhaila - Khan Yunis	Charity al-Najat Association	12	9
16 July 2017	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Beit Lahia	Women's Labor Department	-	23
20 July 2017	Women's rights in Shari'a Law	Rafah	Women's Program Center	-	22
23 July 2017	CEDAW Convention	Gaza – al-Daraj neighborhood	Women's Program Center	-	29
24 July 2017	Pre-Marriage Rehabilitation Programs	Khan Yunis	Emaar for Development and Rehabilitation	14	32
25 July 2017	Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment	Rafah	Ajyal Association	7	18
27 July 2017	CEDAW Convention	Khan Yunis	Youth Center	-	16
03 August 2017	CEDAW Convention	Gaza	Palestinian Developmental Women Studies' Association (PDWSA)	-	40
09 August 2017	CEDAW Convention	Rafah	Mojadidon Charity Association	5	12
10 August 2017	CEDAW Convention	Rafah	Attadamun Charitable Society	-	12
13 August 2017	Personal Status Law	Deir al-Balah	PLF	-	11

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
17 august 2017	CEDAW Convention	Gaza	Palestine Polytechnic University	6	11
20 August 2017	Personal Status Law	Tal al-Sulatan	Women's Activity Center	-	22
22 August 2017	CEDAW Convention	Rafah	Hope and Piece Foundation for Children	9	24
22 August 2017	The Concept of Gender	Rafah	Hope and Piece Foundation for Children	9	24
27 August 2017	Women's' rights under Shari'a Law	Khan Yunis	PLF	-	15
28 August 2017	Violence Against Women	Jabalia	Bena Charity for Human Development	-	25
10 September 2017	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Jabalia	Bena Charity for Human Development	12	6
12 September 2017	Killing on Ground of "Family Honor"	Jabalia	Al-Safa Development Association	3	19
14 September 2017	Personal Status Law	Rafah	Women's Activity Center	-	24
17 September 2017	Violence Against Women	Rafah	Mojadidon Charity Association	4	17
17 September 2017	Women's rights under Shari'a Law	Khan Yunis	Right and Justice Society	-	18
19 September 2017	Killing on Ground of "Family Honor"	Al-Buraij	Women's Health Center	-	18
24 September 2017	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Jabalia	Women's Health Center	-	24
25 September 2017	CEDAW Convention	Qa'a al-Qarin	Zamzam Society	-	14
27 September 2017	Personal Status Law	Beit Lahia	Women's Labor Department	-	28
28 September 2017	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Khan Yunis	PLF	12	-
01 October 2017	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis Primary School	-	16
01 October 2017	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis Primary School	-	18
02 October 2017	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Federation of Churches	-	24

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
04 October 2017	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Federation of Churches	-	24
05 October 2017	Killing on Grounds of “Family Honor	Khan Yunis	National society for Democracy and Law	-	22
08 October 2017	Personal Status Law	Rafah	Mem Academy for Education and Languages	-	18
09 October 2017	Personal Status Law	Gaza	Federation of Churches	-	24
11 October 2017	Violence Against Women	Gaza	Federation of Churches	-	24
15 October 2017	Killing on Grounds of “Family Honor”	Khan Yunis – al-Qararah	Human Development Association	-	18
16 October 2017	Domestic Violence	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis Elementary School		19
19 October 2017	Personal Status Law	Beit Lahia	Women Labor Department	-	24
22 October 2017	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	Al-Qararah	Al-Ma’ari Secondary School	-	32
26 October 2017	Personal Status Law	Al-Farahin	Brilliant Future Association	10	10
01 November 2017	CEDAW Convention	Gaza	Al-Aman Shelter	-	16
02 November 2017	Universal Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women	Gaza	Al-Aman Shelter	-	16
05 November 2017	Violence Against Women in the Palestinian Society	Khuza’a	Heart Beat Youth Center	-	15
06 November 2017	Women’s rights in Labor Law	Gaza	Al-Aman Shelter	-	16
09 November 2017	Killing on Grounds of “Family Honor”	Rafah	National society for Democracy and Law	4	17
12 November 2017	Violence Against Women in the Palestinian society	Al-Qararah	Al-Ma’ari School	-	25

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
13 November 2017	Domestic Violence	Khan Yunis	Bani Suhaila Preparatory School	-	25
14 November 2017	Personal Status Law	Jabalia	Bena Charity for Human Development	12	18
16 November 2017	Violence Against Women in the Palestinian society	Al-Daraj neighborhood	Women's Activity Center	-	40
19 November 2017	Women's rights	'Abasan	Rowad Society for Social Development	-	18
20 November 2017	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Al-Buraij	Women's Health Center	-	12
21 November 2017	Gender-based Violence	Khan Yunis	Office of the PLF	7	27
23 November 2017	Women's rights	Deir al-Balah	Al-Ferdaus Association for Woman and Child	-	22
26 November 2017	Violence Against Women	Gaza	Al-Jaleel Secondary School for Girls	-	30
26 November 2017	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Rafah	Mojadidon Charity Association	-	25
27 November 2017	Violence Against Women	Gaza	Basheer El Rayes secondary school	-	30
27 November 2017	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Gaza	Najd Charitable Society	10	20
04 December 2017	Gender-based Violence	Gaza	Ahmed Shawqi Secondary School	-	40
06 November 2017	Gender-based Violence	Gaza	Al-Huda Secondary School	-	35
10 December 2017	Gender-based Violence	Gaza	Al-Zahrah Secondary School	-	38
10 December 2017	CEDAW Convention	Gaza	Women's Studies Centre	4	10
14 December 2017	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	'Abasan	Brilliant Future Association	18	6

17 December 2017	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis Elementary School	-	22
19 December 2017	Violence Against Women	Khuza'ah	Abu Ta'imah Preparatory School	6	32
26 December 2017	CEDAW Convention	Al-Maghazi	Women's Activity Center	-	24
27 December 2017	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Dier al-Balah	Al-Ferdaus Association for Woman and Child	-	18
28 December 2017	Killing on Grounds of "Family Honor"	Beit Lahia	Women's Labor Department	-	30
Total				467	2727



Lawyer Raji Sourani Receives Head of South Africa Representative Office to the PA

