

CHRONOLOGY

16 NOVEMBER 2000–15 FEBRUARY 2001

This section is part sixty-nine of a chronology begun in JPS 23, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time. For more detail on events related to the peace process, see the Peace Monitor in this issue.

16 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes enter their 50th day, with the internal closure on Palestinian towns in the West Bank still in place. **Israeli PM Ehud Barak** tells Israelis to prepare for a protracted conflict, threatens to escalate actions against Palestinians. To pressure the **Palestinian Authority (PA)**, Barak suspends plans to transfer \$64 m. in taxes and customs duties owed the PA to cover salaries and regular expenses. Overnight, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** shell **Fatah** offices in Hebron, Jinin. During the day, IDF troops fatally shoot **4 Palestinians**, fire on a Palestinian police station. 1 of the 4 Palestinians dies while the IDF blocks an ambulance crew fr. reaching him for 2 hrs. Inside Israel, **Israeli Arabs** clash with **Israeli police officers** nr. Sakhnin, leaving 1 demonstrator slightly injured. **IDF West Bank cmdr. Brig. Gen. Benjamin Gantz** warns that he “could probably wipe out Bayt Jala in a matter of hrs.” **Jewish settlers** uproot a Palestinian olive grove nr. Ramallah, fire on Palestinian cars nr. Zatarriyya Junction, injuring 2. (AFP [Internet], MENL, MM 11/16; LAW, NYT, WP 11/17; AIC 11/20; NYT 1/17)

In Gaza, **U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross** meets with **PA head Yasir Arafat** to discuss ways of halting the ongoing violence, resuming peace talks. (HA, WP, WT 11/17; MEI 11/24)

Hizballah claims responsibility for setting off a small bomb in the disputed **Shaba Farms** area of the **Golan Heights**, slightly injuring **1 IDF soldier**. The **UN** condemns the attack, expresses concern. (AFP [Internet] 11/16; MM, NYT, YA 11/17; MEI 11/24) (see 11/15)

17 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **6 Palestinians** dead. **Arafat** publicly orders Palestinian gunmen to stop shooting at Israelis fr. PA-controlled areas, but there is no sign the order is heeded. **Barak** tightens economic sanctions on the Palestinians, bar-

ring any goods other than food or medicine, including fuel, fr. reaching the PA areas.

Israel again bars **Palestinians** under age 45 fr. attending Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. The **IDF** shells residential areas of Ramallah, destroying an empty building. **Jewish settlers** uproot a Palestinian olive grove nr. Nablus, throw stones at Palestinian cars nr. Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah. (HA, LAW, MEZ 11/17; NYT, WP, WT 11/18; MA [Internet], YA 11/19; *al-Quds* 11/19, 11/20 in WNC 11/21; AIC, JT [Internet], MEZ 11/20)

18 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. In Gaza, a **PA policeman** opens fire on an **IDF** post outside a **Jewish settlement**, killing **1 IDF soldier**, wounding 2, before being shot dead. In Khan Yunis camp, an explosion at a **Force 17** building injures 4 Force 17 mbrs.; Israel denies PA claims that the IDF fired a missile at the building. The **IDF** tightens the closure on Palestinian villages in the West Bank; blocks, digs trenches across secondary roads frequented by Palestinians; bulldozes at least 65 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land along roads, especially in Gaza and nr. Tura in the West Bank. The IDF also demolishes 2 Palestinian brick factories in Gaza. **Jewish settlers** stone Palestinian cars on the Nablus–Ramallah road. (LAW 11/18; PCHR, NYT, WT 11/19; AIC, MEZ 11/20)

19 NOVEMBER

With the reinforced closure on Palestinian villages, **Israeli-Palestinian clashes** abate significantly, although **1 Palestinian** is killed. **Israel** decides not to retaliate for the death of a soldier in Gaza on 11/18. The **IDF** reinforces barricades and digs trenches across roads at the entrances to al-Bireh, Hebron, Jinin; reinforces hilltop outposts surrounding Bethlehem, Hebron, Jinin, al-Khadir, Nablus, Qalqilya. Armed **Jewish settlers** chase off Palestinians harvesting their olive groves nr. Tubas. Other settlers uproot Palestinian-owned olive trees nr. Keddumim

settlement; open fire on Palestinian cars nr. Nablus, injuring 1. (LAW 11/19; ADM, AIC, NYT, WP, WT 11/20)

In **Jordan**, an **Israeli emb. official** is shot, wounded in an apparent assassination attempt. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/20; *Tebran Times* 11/21 in WNC 11/22; WP 12/6; AFP 12/6 in WNC 12/8)

Lebanese protesters throw stones at **IDF troops** across the blue line, the UN nonborder separating the 2 countries. IDF troops fire back, injuring 1 protester. (NYT 11/20; MEI 11/24)

Antinormalization Comm. of the Union of Professional Associations in Jordan releases its blacklist of 22 Jordanian individuals, companies that have advocated normalization with **Israel**; urges Jordanians to boycott them. (AP 11/19; NYT 11/22; WJW 11/23; MEI 12/22) (see Peace Monitor)

20 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes intensify when **Palestinians** detonate a large roadside bomb nr. Gaza's Kefar Darom settlement as an armored school bus escorted by IDF troops passes. **2 Jewish settlers**, both adults, are killed and 9 are wounded, including children. Although **Arafat** denounces the bombing, **Barak** blames Arafat and **Fatah** directly, convenes his security cabinet, and orders **IDF** helicopter gunships, naval vessels to shell at least 12 buildings in Gaza City (including Arafat's **Fatah** and **PA headquarters**, **PA Preventive Security Force (PSF) offices**, **Force 17 offices**, **Voice of Palestine Radio**, a **Palestinian TV station**), killing **2 Palestinians**, injuring 125, hitting 4 private homes, and cutting power to areas of the city. Other helicopter gunships target areas nr. Rafah. Nr. Kefar Darom and in Ramallah, the IDF razes 10s of dunams of Palestinian orchards along the roads so Palestinians will have "no place to hide." A **3d Palestinian** is shot dead by the IDF in the West Bank. **Jewish settlers** fire on Palestinians harvesting an olive grove nr. Salfit, injuring several Palestinians; uproot an olive grove nr. Qalqilya; fire on Palestinian cars nr. Jinin, injuring 1. (ADM, HA, LAW, MEZ, MM 11/20; RMC 11/20 in WNC 11/21; HA, MEZ, NYT, WP, WT 11/21; Interfax, MA, XIN 11/21 in WNC 11/22; HJ 11/21, AYM 11/22 in WNC 11/24; NYT, WP 11/22; MEI, MM 11/24; AYM 11/24 in WNC 11/29)

The **State Dept.** for the 1st time since 9/28 states that "**Israelis** also need to understand that the excessive use of force is not

the right way to go." Special envoy **Ross** postpones a visit to the region set to begin today. (NYT, WP, WT 11/21; MM 11/22)

Following the Kefar Darom attack, **Shas** declares it will not renew **Barak's** "safety net," which it agreed to provide until the end of 11/00. With Shas's support, Barak has survived no-confidence motions since the Knesset reconvened on 10/30. (AFP [Internet] 11/20) (see 11/13)

21 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **5 Palestinians** dead. A **6th Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. A Palestinian sniper fatally shoots a **Jewish settler** driving through Gaza; the IDF demolishes a nearby abandoned **PSF** post thought to be the source of the gunfire. IDF helicopter gunships, tanks shell residential areas of Dayr al-Balah (targeting the home of **senior PSF official Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim**), Jericho, Khan Yunis, Nablus, al-Shaykh, Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fire on Palestinian homes in Huwarra (nr. Nablus), in Kafr Deek (nr. Salfit). The IDF bulldozes 60 dunams of Palestinian land along settler bypass roads nr. Kefar Darom, 10s of dunams of olive groves nr. Salfit, a Palestinian road and water network in Ramallah. (ADM, LAW, MM 11/21; AFP, MENA 11/21 in WNC 11/22; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/22; SA 11/22 in WNC 11/24; HJ 11/22 in WNC 11/29; MEI 11/24; WJW 11/30)

In protest over **Israel's** 11/20 shelling of PA offices, **Egypt** recalls **Amb. Muhammad Bassyouni** but does not suspend diplomatic relations. (MM 11/21; AFP, MENA 11/21 in WNC 11/22; MENA 11/21, MENA 11/22, HJ, MENA, *al-Quds*, SA 11/23 in WNC 11/24; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/22; MEI 11/24; MENA 11/25 in WNC 11/29; MM 11/27; JP 12/1; SA 1/22 in WNC 1/23)

Israel informs the **U.S.** it will delay the start of the **Mitchell Comm.**'s investigation into the causes of the al-Aqsa intifada because "the timing is wrong." (MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/22; ATL 11/22 in WNC 11/24; MEI 11/24; WJW 11/30) (see Peace Monitor)

22 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes intensify, leaving **9 Palestinians** dead, including **senior Fatah official Jamal 'Abd al-Razik**, whose car is ambushed and strafed by **IDF** troops. Hrs. later, a remote-controlled **car bomb** explodes during rush hr. in **Hadera**,

Israel, killing **2 Israelis**, injuring 60. Although **Arafat** denounces the bombing, **Barak** blames the **PA**, vows Israel will “get even,” convenes his security cabinet to discuss how to respond; the cabinet recesses without taking a decision. The **IDF** sends more tanks into Gaza; dismantles the vegetable market in Hebron; bulldozes Palestinian land in Bayt Lahia, Dayr al-Balah, Hebron, Nablus; demolishes several homes nr. Kefar Darom, Gush Katif; takes over a home in Ajja for use as a new base. The IDF directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire on residential areas of al-Bireh, Rafah (destroying 1 home, damaging 2). **Jewish settlers** bulldoze Palestinian land and set fire to 2 factories in Tura al-Sharqiyya; bulldoze land nr. Qalqilya, Salfit; fire on Palestinians nr. Jinin; attack Palestinians in Bayt Ilo, Bayt Rimia, Dayr ‘Amar, Qalqilya. The **PSF** successfully removes explosive devices found in schools in Balata camp, Nablus. (ADM, LAW, MEZ, MM 11/22; AFP 11/22 in WNC 11/24; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/23; NYT, WP 11/24; MA, *al-Quds* 11/24 in WNC 11/29; *Independent* [Internet], JP 12/7; PCHR 12/18; WJW 12/28)

In response to the Hadera bombing, **10,000s of Israeli** attend a “Let the Army Win!” rally in Jerusalem’s Zion Square, calling for revenge attacks on Palestinian targets, tougher military action against the **Palestinians**. (AFP [Internet] 11/22; MM, NYT, WP 11/23; MEI 11/24; WP 11/27; MM 11/28)

At an emergency session of the **UN Security Council (UNSC)** in New York, **Egyptian, Palestinian envoys** call for international protection for the Palestinians. The **U.S.** says the emergency session, the call for international observers are inappropriate, unhelpful. (MM 11/22; JT, XIN 11/22, MENA 11/23 in WNC 11/24; MM 11/30)

The **UN Economic and Social Council** adopts (21-19 with 11 abstentions) a resolution by the **UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC)** ordering an investigation of Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights during the recent clashes. (MM 11/30)

23 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least **2 Palestinians** dead, including **Hamas mbr. Ibrahim Bani Odh**, who dies when a car bomb rigged by the **IDF** explodes in Nablus. The 2d Palestinian is shot dead by the IDF in Gaza after a roadside bomb detonates nr. an IDF patrol. **Palestinian gunmen** open fire on an IDF post in Gaza, killing **1 IDF soldier**. A **2d IDF sol-**

dier is killed when a bomb explodes at a District Coordination Office (DCO) in Gaza, where PA-Israeli joint patrols are based. The IDF shells residential areas nr. Rafah border terminal, destroying 1 Palestinian home. (LAW 11/23; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 11/24; HA 12/1; WJW 12/28)

Barak’s **security cabinet** continues discussions on how to respond to the 11/22 Hadera bombing, rejects a list of Palestinian targets for retaliatory strikes, arguing that air strikes have had little deterrent effect on the Palestinians while damaging Israel’s public image, that Israel should switch to “precision operations against specific targets.” Following the DCO bombing today, **Israel** evicts **PSF officers** fr. all DCOs, officially severing all security coordination. Later, however, **senior PA and Israeli security officials** meet at Erez to discuss ways of halting further escalation of violence. (MM 11/23; MENA 11/23 in WNC 11/24; MA [Internet], NYT, WP, WT, YA 11/24; *al-Quds* 11/26 in WNC 11/29)

24 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **5 Palestinian** dead, including senior **Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) mbr. Firas Qasim Saba’na**, who is assassinated by IDF troops in Jinin. A **6th Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. In Gaza, clashes erupt when the **IDF** attempts to remove a roadblock outside Khan Yunis. When the IDF responds to stone throwers with heavy weapons, **PA police** and **Palestinian gunmen** fire back, killing **1 IDF soldier**. The IDF also shells a Palestinian hotel in Bethlehem “to flush out gunmen.” Palestinian gunmen fatally shoot a **Jewish settler** in the West Bank. The **IDF** bulldozes 18 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Kefar Darom settlement, 35 dunams nr. Netzarim settlement. For the 7th straight wk., Israel bars Palestinians under 45 fr. attending Friday prayers at **al-Aqsa Mosque**. The IDF says that since 11/22, it has arrested 119 West Bank Palestinians suspected of throwing stones, Molotov cocktails. (AP, LAW 11/24; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 11/25; IsraelWire [Internet] 11/26; PCHR 12/18)

Arafat and **Barak** agree to resume security coordination during a 3-way phone conversation arranged by **Russian pres. Vladimir Putin**. Arafat, who is in Moscow on a 1-day visit to meet with Putin, suggests Russia convene a Madrid-style international conference on the peace process, but Barak

rejects the idea. (Interfax, ITAR-TASS 11/24, ITAR-TASS 11/25, HJ, SA 11/26 in WNC 11/29; NYT, REU, WP, WT 11/25; AFP [Internet], MA [Internet] 11/26)

This evening, **senior PA and Israeli security officials** hold more coordination talks, agree to allow PSF officers back into DCOs. (AYM 11/24, HJ 11/26 in WNC 11/29)

25 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **4 Palestinians** dead. In Gaza, IDF shells hit 2 ambulances, wounding 2 Palestinian Health Min. employees. The IDF bulldozes farm land nr. Hebron and directs tank, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas of Aida camp, Bayt Hanun, Bayt Lahia (damaging 5 Palestinian homes, a water pump), Bir al-Hummus, Jinin, Khan Yunis, Sudaniyya, Yatta. **Jewish settlers** severely beat an ambulance driver nr. Nablus, assault Palestinians in 6 villages in the Nablus area. Overnight, the IDF captures an armed **Palestinian** crossing into the West Bank fr. **Jordan**. Israel allows **PSF officers** to return to DCOs but complains that they are not actively coordinating. In Gaza, **Arafat** meets with **Israeli tourism M Amnon Shahak** to discuss security cooperation. (ADM, LAW 11/25; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 11/26; MA 11/26 in WNC 11/29; NYT, WP, YA 11/27; HJ 11/27 in WNC 11/29; WP 11/28)

26 NOVEMBER

After 19 days of recounting votes, **Florida** certifies **Texas gov. George W. Bush** as winner of the 11/7 presidential election in the state, giving him the electoral college votes to become president. Lawyers for Democratic rival **VP Al Gore** plan to challenge the Florida certification, which will drag out the process for at least a wk. (NYT, WP, WT 11/27; MEI 12/22)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Nr. Qalqilya, **IDF snipers** fatally shoot **4 Palestinians** (each hit 4–11 times). A **5th Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. The **IDF** shells residential areas in Khan Yunis, damaging 1 home. The IDF also bulldozes 10s of dunams of Palestinian land nr. Dugit settlement, Kefar Darom settlement, Kissufim crossing (destroying 1 home, damaging another), Netzarim Junction, Rafah crossing (destroying 4 storerooms, 6 irrigation systems, 1 well serving 50 families). (LAW 11/26; LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 11/27; PCHR 12/18)

In Cairo, **PA, Israeli security officials** hold mtgs. on halting the clashes. (YA 11/27)

Hizballah detonates a roadside bomb nr. an **IDF** convoy in the Shaba' Farms area of the **Golan Heights**, killing 1 soldier, injuring 2. **Israel** responds with air strikes, artillery and machine-gun fire on Hizballah targets in s. **Lebanon**, wounding 1 **Lebanese civilian**. (IDF Radio [Internet] 11/26; MM, NYT, WP, WT, YA 11/27; MM 11/28; MEI 12/8)

27 NOVEMBER

On this 1st day of Ramadan, **Israeli-Palestinian clashes** abate; **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. The **PA** announces it has arrested **2 Hamas mbrs.** in connection with the 11/22 Hadera car bombing. In response, **Israel** eases restrictions on the passage of goods, fuel through Qarni crossing. The **IDF** opens heavy machine-gun fire on Bayt Jala in response to Palestinian sniping directed at the neighboring Jewish settlement of Gilo. IDF tanks fire on residential areas of Aida, Bayt Jala, Hebron. **Jewish settlers** bulldoze 40 dunams of Palestinian crop land nr. Khan Yunis. The **IDF** bulldozes 68 dunams of land, including 2 homes, nr. Netzarim Junction. (PCHR 11/27; LAW, MA [Internet], WP, WT 11/28; AYM 11/28 in WNC 11/29; PCHR 12/18)

The **IDF** completes an inquiry into the fatal shooting of 12-yr.-old **Muhammad al-Dura** in Gaza on 9/30, concluding that it was "quite plausible" that he was killed by PA gunfire. The **PA**, the **France 2 cameraman** who taped the incident reject the report. (NYT, WP, WT 11/28; AYM 11/28 in WNC 12/1; WJW 11/30; MM 12/8)

28 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue to abate, though **2 Palestinians** are killed and a **3d Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. To mark Ramadan, Israel partially reopens Rafah crossing, says it will transfer some of the money owed the PA. In Gaza, 2 roadside bombs explode nr. **IDF** patrols, causing no injuries; after 1 explosion, IDF soldiers open fire on nearby Palestinians, injuring 15. The IDF shells residential areas of Aida, Bayt Jala, Hebron, Khan Yunis, and Rafah, injuring 30 Palestinians; bulldozes around 150 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Gush Katif settlement, Khan Yunis, Kissufim crossing, and Qarni crossing in Gaza, leveling a total of 8 homes, an irrigation network. **Jewish settlers** set fire to

Palestinian crop land nr. Jinin, fire on a PSF post nr. the bypass road to Keddumim settlement. (HA, LAW, MM 11/28; MENA 11/28 in WNC 11/29; JP [Internet], PCHR, WP 11/29; HJ, *al-Quds* 11/29 in WNC 12/1; WJW 11/30)

The **Knesset** convenes to vote on 5 no-confidence motions. Expecting to lose the votes given the expiration of **Shas's** safety net, **Barak** opens by announcing his willingness to hold new elections as early as spring 2001. MKs overwhelmingly approve the motions. (AFP [Internet], MM 11/28; MM, NYT, WP, WT 11/29; WJW 11/30; JT 11/30 in WNC 12/1; AYM, *al-Quds* 11/30 in WNC 12/7; WJW 12/7; MEI 12/8) (see 11/20)

29 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, killing at least **4 Palestinians**. Another **2 Palestinians** die of injuries received earlier. **Palestinian gunmen** critically wound a **Jewish settler** driving through the West Bank. The IDF bulldozes over 87 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Kissufim crossing, Netzarim Junction; opens fire on residential areas of al-Amal, Hebron, Khan Yunis. (LAW, NYT, PCHR, WT 11/30; PCHR 12/18)

Barak adviser and chief negotiator Gilead Sher meets with **Palestinian Council (PC) speaker and senior negotiator Ahmad Qurai'** in Ramallah. No details are released. (MA [Internet] 12/12)

Likud MK Ariel Sharon says he will challenge Barak for the premiership, but no Likud mbrs. publicly support him, waiting to see if **fmr. Likud PM Benjamin Netanyahu**, considered a stronger candidate, also announces. (MM 11/29; NYT, WP, WT 11/30; MM 12/4; JP 12/7; MM 12/8) (see 12/9)

30 NOVEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least **2 Palestinians** dead. Nr. Bethlehem, **IDF** troops fire live ammunition at a Palestinian school, killing 1 student, wounding 10. Nr. Bethlehem, a **Jewish settler** intentionally hits a Palestinian with his car, killing him. The **IDF** bulldozes 16 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Netzarim Junction. (LAW 11/30; *al-Quds* 12/5 in WNC 12/8; PR 12/6; PCHR 12/18)

Barak proposes a sharply scaled-back peace accord that would recognize a Palestinian state on about 30% of the West Bank, plus the 65–70% of Gaza the PA now controls. The **PA** rejects the offer as a campaign ploy. (MM 11/30; HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/1;

MENA, *al-Quds* 12/1, MENA 12/2 in WNC 12/7; AYM, *al-Quds* 12/2, MA 12/6 in WNC 12/8; MEI 12/8)

1 DECEMBER

On this 1st Friday of Ramadan, **Israel** lifts age restrictions on Palestinians attending prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque and places **Israeli riot police** surrounding the mosque compound under strict orders to avoid actions that could spark riots. The **IDF**, however, bars West Bank Palestinians from entering East Jerusalem, some Jerusalem Palestinians from entering the Old City. Though there are several stone-throwing incidents after prayers, the police do not respond with gunfire as in previous weeks. **Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue in the West Bank and Gaza, leaving **3 Palestinians** dead. The **IDF** fires antitank missiles and heavy machine guns at residential areas in Hebron, Ramallah. Israel partially reopens the Gaza airport (closed since 11/8). (LAW 12/1; NYT, WP, WT 12/2; PCHR, WT 12/3)

2 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **2 Palestinians** dead. A **3d Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. **IDF** tanks fire on residential areas in Hebron, Khan Yunis. (LAW 12/2; LAW, WP, WT 12/3; NYT 1/17)

U.S. Pres. Bill Clinton phones PM **Barak** to urge him to move ahead with the **Mitchell Comm.** investigation. U.S. officials describe the 45-min. conversation as "difficult." (HA, WT, YA 12/3, 12/4; MA 12/4 in WNC 12/8; MM 12/8) (see 11/21)

3 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **1 Palestinian** dead. The worst fighting is nr. Bethlehem, where armed **Jewish settlers** fire on Palestinians outside a mosque in Husan, trapping other worshippers inside; **IDF soldiers** intervene, firing guns and tear gas; the situation devolves into a riot that spreads to al-Khadir. In total, 25–30 Palestinians are injured. After dark, **Palestinian snipers** for the 1st time in a wk. open fire on **Gilo settlement**, causing no injuries. The **IDF** shells neighboring Aida, Bayt Jala in retaliation, destroying 1 home, damaging 10s. The **IDF** also shells Khan Yunis, bulldozes 14 dunams of agricultural land in the Rafah area; sends more tanks into Gaza. (LAW 12/3; WP, WT 12/4; HJ 12/4 in

WNC 12/8; BDL, NYT, WP, WT 12/5; PR 12/6; MEI 12/8; PCHR 12/18)

Israel says it will cooperate fully with the **Mitchell Comm.** but expects PA-Israeli differences over the comm.'s mandate to be resolved before investigators arrive in mid-12/00. (WVP, WT 12/4; MA 12/4 in WNC 12/8; MM 12/6; JP 12/7) (see 12/2)

4 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes intensify, but no fatalities are reported. **IDF** helicopter gunships fire missiles at **Palestinian gunmen** during a 3-hr. battle nr. Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, which leaves 14 Palestinians injured, 2 Palestinian homes destroyed. In Gaza, the **IDF** forcibly removes **100 Jewish settlers** blocking a road that the army had reopened to Palestinian use. Settlers also stone Palestinian cars, burn a stand of olive trees nr. Nablus. The **IDF** shells residential areas of Aida, al-Amal, Bayt Jala, Khan Yunis; bulldozes 10s of dunams of Palestinian farm land in Gaza to create a 2d bypass road fr. Qarni crossing to Netzarim settlement; levels land nr. Rafah. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on an **IDF** vehicle nr. Jinin, and soldiers return fire; no one is injured. A roadside bomb explodes nr. a bus nr. the Allenby Bridge crossing to Jordan, causing no injuries. (BDL, HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/5; AIC 12/6; WJW 12/7; MEI, NYT 12/8; PCHR 12/18)

5 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **2 Palestinians** dead. Palestinian gunmen continue to snipe at Gilo, and the **IDF** again fires rockets back at Bayt Jala. The **IDF** also fires on residential areas of Rafah and at Palestinian fishing boats off the Rafah coast, injuring 1 fisherman. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron sever telephone wires, cutting phone service to about 1,000 Palestinians. Settlers also set fire to a Palestinian barn nr. Nablus, killing several goats. The **IDF** arrests **8 Palestinians** in the West Bank village of al-Mughir; bulldozes 10s of dunams of Palestinian land btwn. Netzarim Junction and Qarni crossing, in the Rafah area, nr. Kissufim crossing. (LAW 12/5; AIC, IDF Radio [Internet], LAW, NYT, PCHR, WT 12/6; YA 12/7; PCHR 12/18)

The PA's **Qurai'** makes a low-key trip to Jerusalem to meet with Israel's **Sher**. (MA [Internet] 12/12) (see 11/29)

In **Jordan**, an **Israeli emb. employee** is ambushed, shot in the leg. (MM, NYT, WP,

WT 12/6; AFP, JT 12/6 in WNC 12/8; MM, WJW, YA 12/7; DUS, *Star* 12/7 in WNC 12/12; WT 12/8; MEI 12/22) (see 11/19)

IDF soldiers manning the blue line fire across the border into **Lebanon**, wounding a **Hizballah** mbr. manning a checkpoint. **IDF** soldiers cross the border into Lebanon to treat the man until a UN medical team arrives. (MA 12/6 in WNC 12/8)

6 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, but no fatalities are reported. **Israeli Arabs** fr. Kafr Kana deliver 200 tons of food, clothing collected fr. Israeli-Arab households to West Bank Palestinians; this is their 2d aid delivery, a 3d is planned for 12/9. (HA 12/7)

7 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, killing at least **1 Palestinian**. A **2d Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. In Hebron, **IDF** troops push, kick, detain **Palestinians** accompanying **UN special envoy Terje Larsen** on a tour of the Palestinian section of the city. Larsen says he will report the incident to **UN Secy.-Gen. Kofi Annan**. The **IDF** continues to bulldoze lands, structures nr. Netzarim Junction, Dugit settlement. (LAW, WT 12/8; PCHR 12/18)

The **PA State Security Court** sentences to death **Alam Bani Odeh**, nephew of **assassinated Hamas official Ibrahim Bani Odeh**, for treason and espionage. Alam, who was arrested on 11/28, reportedly confessed to having been recruited by **Shin Bet** to monitor his uncle. (LAW 12/11) (see 11/23)

8 DECEMBER

On the 2d Friday of Ramadan and the 13th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1st intifada, **Israeli-Palestinian clashes** escalate sharply, leaving **7 Palestinians**, **2 Jewish settlers**, **1 IDF soldier** dead. 5 of the Palestinians are killed when **IDF** tanks open fire on a **PSF** post nr. Jinin; **15,000 Palestinians** march in Jinin to protest. The soldier, 2 settlers are killed in separate incidents nr. Hebron and Jericho in which **Palestinian gunmen** fire on their vehicles. In response, **Barak** tightens the blockade on Palestinian villages, which had been eased slightly for Ramadan. **50 Jewish settlers** rampage through the Arab section of Hebron, damaging Palestinian property, occupying a Palestinian home. Settlers also attempt to occupy 3 Palestinian homes in

Banidar, Musharqat al-Fawqan. The IDF bars West Bank Palestinians fr. reaching East Jerusalem to attend prayers. Tensions erupt into clashes after services, with **Israeli police** in Jerusalem opening fire on worshippers with tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition, killing at least 1. Serious clashes are also reported in Ramallah. (AP, IDF Radio [Internet], LAW, REU 12/8; NYT, WP, WT 12/9; LAW, NYT 12/10)

For the 1st time in 6 yrs., **Israel** places an **Israeli Arab**, Ghassan Athamla of Nazareth, under administrative detention on charges of incitement stemming fr. clashes btwn. Israeli Jews and Arabs in Nazareth in 10/00. **Barak** personally signs the order, which is based on secret evidence. (HA 12/8; Adalah press release 1/15)

9 DECEMBER

In a surprise move, **Barak** announces he will resign on 12/10, call elections for PM only within 2 mos. Barak thus triggers a law that restricts candidates in a special election for PM to current MKs, thereby keeping Likud's **Netanyahu**, who leads Barak by 15 points in public opinion polls, out of the race. Netanyahu would only be able to run if the **Knesset** dissolved itself, forcing general elections. (MENA 12/9, AYM, MENA, RL 12/10 in WNC 12/13; HA, MA [Internet], NYT, WP, WT, YA 12/10; HJ 12/10, *al-Quds* 12/11, DUS 12/12 in WNC 12/14; MM 12/11; WJW 12/14; JP 12/15; AYM 12/15 in WNC 12/21; MEI 12/22) (see 11/29)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate due to severe weather that keeps many people indoors. **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. In Hebron, **80 Jewish settlers**, armed with machine guns and pistols, attempt to take over 5 Palestinian homes, damage 11 homes, open fire on Palestinians, seriously injuring 1 teenager. The **IDF** bulldozes 20 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Netzarim Junction, 7 dunams (including 1 home) nr. Gush Katif settlement. (LAW 12/9; NYT, WT 12/10; PCHR 12/18)

10 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **2 Palestinians** dead, including **leading Fatah activist Mahmud Mughrabi**, who is shot by **IDF** troops. **Jewish settlers** open fire on Palestinians in Bayt Dajan and Bayt Furik, injuring 1. The **IDF** bulldozes 26 dunams of Palestinian land in the Netzarim area. (LAW 12/10; WT 12/11; WJW 12/28)

In Jerusalem, **Israeli FM Shlomo Ben-Ami**, chief negotiator **Sher**, **fmr. deputy General Security Services head Yisrael Hasson** hold a low-key mtg. with the PA's senior negotiators **PA Local Government M Saeb Erakat**, **Gaza PSF head Muhammad Dahlan**, **Information M Yasir 'Abid Rab-buh**. (MA 12/12 in WNC 12/14; AYM 12/14 in WNC 12/18) (see 12/5)

Mbrs. of the **Mitchell Comm.** arrive in Israel to begin 3 days of initial consultations with Israeli, PA, Egyptian, Jordanian leaders. (WT 12/11; ATL, *Der Spiegel*, MENA 12/11 in WNC 12/13; MA [Internet], NYT, WP 12/12; MENA 12/12 in WNC 12/14; HA, WJW 12/14; *Guardian* 12/20) (see 12/3)

11 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. In Nablus, **IDF** soldiers assassinate **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Anwar Mahmud Hamran**. A **2d Palestinian** dies of wounds received earlier. **Jewish settlers** stone Palestinian cars outside Ofra settlement, destroy several Palestinian cars in Hawara, bulldoze 7 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Khan Yunis. **Israel** moves the Beitar Forest checkpoint marking the **Green Line** btwn. West Bank, Israel 300 m. to the east, effectively annexing a 5-dunam area to Israel. The **IDF** directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in Aida, Bayt Jala (damaging 8 homes), Bayt Jibrin, Dahaysha camp, al-Khadir, Khan Yunis (cutting off electricity), Rafah; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Dugit and Gush Katif settlements, Nablus, Ramallah. (LAW 12/11; BDL, NYT, WT 12/12; PCHR 12/18; HA 12/19; JP 12/22; WJW 12/28)

Israeli FM **Ben-Ami** flies to Paris to meet with **1 or more senior Arab officials** in advance of U.S. special envoy **Ross's** meeting with **Arafat** in Rabat tomorrow. (MA [Internet], MM, NYT, WT 12/12; MA [Internet] 12/13; JT [Internet] 12/14; NYT 12/15)

12 DECEMBER

Texas gov. **Bush** is declared the winner of the 11/7 presidential election. VP **Gore** concedes. Bush will take office on 1/20/01. (NYT, WP, WT 12/13; HA 12/14; MA, MENA 12/14 in WNC 12/18; MM 12/15; Globes 12/17 in WNC 12/20; MM 12/20) (see 11/26)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least **3 Palestinians** dead. The **IDF** shoots **senior Fatah mbr. Yusif Abu Sawi** in another apparent assassination. 2 Palestinians are killed, 15 wounded in

clashes with the IDF in Khan Yunis, during which the IDF shells a **PSF** post. The IDF bulldozes more Palestinian land in Dayr al-Balah, damaging 2 Palestinian homes and destroying 2 homes, the foundations of 1 home under construction, a greenhouse, an apiary, and an irrigation system. IDF shelling in Bethlehem damages St. Nicholas's, St. Michael's Greek Orthodox churches. (LAW 12/12; MEZ, NYT, WP, WT 12/13; AYM 12/13 in WNC 12/18; PCHR 12/18)

In Rabat, Morocco, U.S. special envoy **Ross** meets with **Arafat** to explore whether Arafat is "ready to return" to negotiations with Israel. (MM, WT 12/12; IDF Radio [Internet] 12/13; NYT 12/15; NYT, WP 12/16; NYT 12/29)

13 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **5 Palestinians** dead. At 1:00 a.m., the **IDF** sends a bulldozer protected by armored vehicles into Khan Yunis in Gaza to demolish an earthen embankment (see 11/24). **PSF** officers open fire on the advancing soldiers, who fire heavy machine guns and tanks shells at the camp, killing **4 PSF officers**, injuring 43 Palestinians, damaging 10 homes, igniting fires, cutting electricity. During the 9-hr. battle, frightened Palestinian families pile their goods into cars, flee the area. In Hebron, the **IDF** assassinates a wanted **mbr. of Hamas's Izzeddin al-Qasam Brigades, Abbas al-Iwaywi**. (LAW, MEZ 12/13; NYT, WP, WT 12/14; *al-Quds* 12/14, SA 12/16 in WNC 12/20; MEI 12/22)

14 Jordanian MPs submit a motion for an open debate to review the peace treaty with **Israel**. (MEI 12/22)

14 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. **Hamas's Hani Abu Bakir** is assassinated by **IDF** troops in Gaza. **IDF** soldiers, **Palestinian gunmen** engage in a protracted gunfight outside Morag settlement in Gaza; later, the **IDF** bulldozes at least 17 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Morag. **Palestinians** ambush, seriously injure a **settler** nr. Ramallah. A grenade explodes nr. Gush Katif settlement, causing no injuries. **Israel** approves the entry of **13,000 Palestinian laborers** needed to help bring in the citrus, flower, other crop harvests. (LAW 12/14; HA, NYT, WP, WT 12/15; PCHR 12/18; MA 12/25 in WNC 12/27)

Late this evening, **Arafat**, Israeli FM **Ben-Ami**, Israeli chief negotiator **Sher** hold talks at Erez on resuming peace talks. (REU 12/14; HA, IsRN, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/15)

15 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes escalate, leaving **8 Palestinians** dead, including **senior Islamic Jihad mbr. Sa'ir al-Khruf**, who is assassinated by the **IDF**. (1 Palestinian dies en route to the hospital when his ambulance is detained by the IDF for over 1 hr.) In Nablus, **20,000 Palestinians** attend a funeral for 3 of the dead killed overnight. **Israel** allows a small number of West Bank, Gaza Palestinians over age 35 to attend Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. Those who are barred scuffle with Israeli police, who respond with rubber bullets, stun grenades, tear gas. The IDF also places curfews on Salfit, Qasrah to conduct an arrest sweep. **IDF** directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in Aida, Aqbat Jabir camp, Bayt Jala (damaging an elementary school), al-Bireh, Dayr al-Balah, Nablus, Ramallah (damaging the PA Local Government Min.), Tulkarm; bulldozes Palestinian agricultural land across Gaza, in Qalqilya. In Rafah, the IDF fires a shell at a family protesting the bulldozing of their land, injuring 6 children. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinian property around Qalqilya, shoot at Palestinians in Silt al-Thahir (wounding 1). (ADM, LAW 12/15; NYT, WP, WT 12/16; PCHR 12/18; NYT 1/17)

Israel's **Ben-Ami** meets with **Arafat** at Erez to discuss resuming peace talks, holds follow-up mtg. with PA Information M **'Abid Rabbuh** in Tel Aviv. The **State Dept.** says that midlevel **Israeli, PA** negotiators may come to Washington the wk. of 12/18. (NYT, WP 12/16) (see 12/10)

In Gaza, more than **30,000 Palestinians** attend a **Hamas** rally in support of continuing the al-Aqsa intifada, against the **PA** resuming negotiations with **Israel**. (MEI 12/22)

16 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. The **IDF** shells residential areas of Bayt Sahur, Hebron, Rafah, damaging a total of 12 homes; bulldozes another 24 dunams of land nr. Morag settlement, destroying 21 greenhouses, several water networks. (MEZ, WP, WT 12/17; PCHR 12/18)

PA negotiators **Erakat, Dahlan** discuss with Israeli negotiators **Ben-Ami, Sher** the

possibility of resuming final status talks. **Arafat** phones **Clinton** regarding sending negotiators to Washington. The **White House** says **Clinton** has received pres.-elect **Bush's** approval to negotiate an Israeli-PA deal before the inauguration. (NYT, WP, WT 12/16; XIN 12/16 in WNC 12/20; JP [Internet], MM 12/18)

17 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **5 Palestinians** dead; a **6th Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. In Qalandiyya, **senior Fatah mbr. Samih Malabi** is killed when his booby-trapped cell phone explodes. A **Jewish settler** is wounded in a drive-by shooting nr. Jinin. The **IDF** shells residential areas of Abu Snaina, al-Harayik, al-Shaykh, al-Zaytun; demolishes a Palestinian home in Dayr al-Balah. (LAW, MEZ, REU 12/17; LAW, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 12/18; MENA 12/18 in WNC 12/20; NYT 12/19; WJW 12/21; MEI 12/22; WP 1/8)

Israeli, PA negotiators agree to hold separate talks with **U.S.** officials in Washington in an attempt to revive negotiations. (NYT, WP, WT 12/18)

18 DECEMBER

At Bolling Air Force Base (AFB) in Washington, the **U.S.** peace team holds separate preliminary mtgs. with the **Israeli**, the **PA** teams. (HA, JP, MM 12/18; AYM 12/18 in WNC 12/20; WT 12/19; AYM 12/19 in WNC 12/26; NYT, WP, WT 12/20; WJW 12/21; MEI 12/22) (see Peace Monitor)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least **2 Palestinians** dead. In Tulkarm, a **senior Fatah mbr.** is found stabbed to death in what the PA alleges to be another Israeli assassination. In Gaza, a **top PSF officer** is killed when he attempts to defuse an unexploded IDF shell. In Nablus, **Jewish settlers** open fire on a Palestinian high school, wounding 2 pupils. The **IDF** shells residential areas of Bayt Lahia, al-Bireh, Khan Yunis, Rafah; destroys a water network, 2 PSF posts nr. Bayt Lahia; bulldozes 25 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Netzarim. (LAW, PCHR 12/18; MENA 12/18 in WNC 12/20; LAW, NYT 12/19; MEI 12/22)

Israel suspends plans to allow **13,000 Palestinians** into Israel to work, since only a handful requested permits. (MA 12/25 in WNC 12/27; MM 1/5) (see 12/14)

A **UNSC** res. calling for the deployment of 2,000 unarmed UN observers in the West Bank, Gaza fails to get the 9 votes needed to pass. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/19; MM 12/20; *al-Ra'i* 12/20 in WNC 12/26; WJW 12/21)

19 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, but no fatalities are reported. **IDF** shells residential areas of Salfit. **Jewish settlers** attack the Palestinian village of Burin, breaking into several homes, and fire on an elementary school in Hebron. (LAW 12/19; *News From Within* 12/00)

At Bolling AFB, the **U.S.** peace team continues separate talks with **Israeli, PA** negotiators. (MM 12/19; WT 12/20; QA 12/20 in WNC 12/26; MEI 12/22)

The **Knesset** passes (65-45) a bill amending the election law so Likud's **Netanyahu** may run for PM, but rejects (49-69) a bill that would dissolve the Knesset, force general elections. Netanyahu says he will not run, since it would be impossible for any PM to work with the current parliament. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/19; NYT, WP 12/20; MEI 12/22; MA 12/22 in WNC 12/27) (see 12/9)

20 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least **3 Palestinians** dead. A **4th Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. In a "gun battle" nr. Rafah, the **IDF** shoots dead 2 Palestinians, wounds at least 40 others; no Israelis are injured. (LAW 12/20; LAW, WP 12/21)

After 2 days of talks at Bolling AFB, the **U.S.** brings PA negotiator **Erakat**, Israeli negotiator **Ben-Ami** together at the White House in a mtg. with **Clinton, Secy. of State Madeleine Albright**. Sides agree to begin direct talks on 12/21. (XIN 12/20 in WNC 12/26; HA, MENL, MM, NYT, WP, WT 12/21; *al-Quds* 12/22 in WNC 12/27)

Arafat goes to Egypt to consult with **Mubarak. Israeli Meretz party leader Yossi Sarid** is also in Egypt for mtgs. with Mubarak, but there is no indication he meets with Arafat. (MENA 12/20 in WNC 12/21; NYT 12/21)

21 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. **1 Jewish settler** is shot dead in a drive-by shooting in the West Bank. The **IDF** halts an ambulance carrying a wounded Palestinian

to a hospital in Ramallah, forces the ambulance to drive to an IDF post where they arrest the wounded man, detain him for 2 hrs. before transporting him to a hospital inside Israel. (LAW 12/21; WP 12/22; LAW 1/30)

Israel, the **PA** begin direct negotiations at Bolling AFB. The PA team walks out when **Ben-Ami** begins talking about Israel annexing 10% of the West Bank in a final agmt (whereas he had earlier said 5%) but agrees to continue talks after conferring privately with **Ross**. (REU 12/21; HJ, MENA 12/21 in WNC 12/26; WP, WT, YA 12/22; WT 12/23; WT, YA 12/24)

22 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least **4 Palestinians** dead, including a **Palestinian suicide bomber** who injures **3 IDF soldiers**, **6 Jewish settlers** in an attack on a roadside cafe nr. Mehola settlement. The **IDF** directs tank, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in Hebron, Gaza, al-Ram. **Israel** again restricts Palestinians' access to Jerusalem for Friday prayers. (LAW 12/22; NYT, WP 12/23)

PA-Israeli talks continue at Bolling, with Secy. **Albright's** participation. (HA 12/22; WP 12/23)

23 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate slightly. **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. The **IDF** shells residential areas of Khan Yunis, damaging 10s of homes; raids a school, several shops in Jinin, firing tear gas. (LAW 12/24)

Clinton, **Albright** hold a 2d mtg. with **Ben-Ami**, **Erakat** at the White House. Clinton presents the teams with proposed "parameters" for a final status agmt. based on his understanding of the points of accord reached at Camp David. Clinton requests Arafat, Barak tell him by 12/27 if they accept the parameters as a basis for further negotiations, in which case he will invite them to Washington. (HA, WP, WT 12/23; MA [Internet], NYT, WP, WT 12/24; AYM, *al-Quds* 12/24, HJ 12/25 in WNC 12/27; WP 12/25; MEI 1/12) (see Doc. D1; Peace Monitor)

24 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue to abate, possibly due to rainy weather, Ramadan celebrations (which are greatly scaled back). **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. (LAW 12/24; WT 12/25)

Arafat flies into Bethlehem fr. Amman to attend Christmas mass, marking his 1st trip to the West Bank since clashes began on 9/28. (WP, WT 12/25; Polish Radio 1 12/25 in WNC 12/27; HA 12/26)

25 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate significantly for the 2d day. No fatalities, major clashes are reported. (WT 12/26)

Barak says Israel is prepared to accept **Clinton's** parameters (see 12/23) without changes if the **PA** does the same; his security cabinet will issue a formal reply on 12/27. The **PA Negotiation Affairs Comm.** begins 2 days of debate on the U.S. proposals. **Clinton** phones Egyptian pres. **Mubarak** to discuss the proposals before Mubarak meets with **Arafat** later in the day. (MENA, XIN 12/25 in WNC 12/27; MA [Internet], NYT, WT, YA 12/26; AFP, ATL, DUS, *al-Quds* 12/26 in WNC 12/28; AYM 12/26, SA 12/31 in WNC 1/2; NYT, WT 12/28; NYT 12/29)

King Abdullah warns "elements within Jordan as well as outside it" not to exploit the al-Aqsa intifada to try to destabilize the kingdom, says the army is prepared for confrontation. (IsRN 12/25; *al-Ra'i* 12/25 in WNC 12/28; MENL 12/28; MEI 1/12)

26 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate further. Noting a reduction in Palestinian sniping at IDF and settler vehicles, the **IDF** eases the internal closure, removing some roadblocks. **Israeli dep. DM Ephraim Sneh** announces that **Barak** has approved plans to erect a 45-mi. security fence (cement walls, iron rails, ramparts) along the **Green Line** to block the movement of Palestinians into Israel. (HA, YA 12/26; WJW 12/28; JP [Internet] 1/1; WT 1/3)

With **Arafat's**, **Barak's** authorization, Israeli tourism M **Shahak**, **Barak adviser Yossi Ginossaur**, PA senior negotiator **Qurai'** open secret talks in New York aimed at narrowing the gaps in their positions on the Clinton parameters to the point where 3-way talks among Arafat, Barak, Clinton could be held. Unnamed U.S. officials participate. (MA [Internet] 12/28, 12/31)

27 DECEMBER

Ramadan ends. As a gesture to **Hamas**, the **PA** releases spokesman '**Abd al-'Aziz Rantisi**, who was detained on 10/18. (NYT 12/28; SA 1/2 in WNC 1/3)

Barak conditionally accepts **Clinton's** 12/23 peace proposals as a basis for discussion but says Israel seeks clarification on some points. **Arafat** says the PA cannot accept or reject the proposals without additional information, forwards Clinton a list of clarifying questions. Clinton phones the leaders of **Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia** to urge them to press Arafat to accept the parameters. (AFP, MENA 12/27 in WNC 12/28; XIN 12/27, MENA 12/28 in WNC 1/2; AP, NYT, WP, WT 12/28; AYM 1/3 in WNC 1/8)

28 DECEMBER

As **Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue, **2 bombs** explode on a bus in Tel Aviv, injuring **13 Israelis**, and a roadside bomb detonates in Gaza, killing **1 IDF soldier, 1 Israeli border policeman**, injuring 2 other soldiers. **Israel** seals the borders of the West Bank, Gaza. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinian homes nr. Hebron. The IDF bulldozes 115 dunams of agricultural land nr. Bayt Hanun. (REU 12/28; NYT, WP, WT 12/29; WT 12/30; PCHR 1/6)

Pres. **Clinton** tells **Arafat** he sees no point in further discussion with the PA until Arafat accepts the 12/23 parameters, stating the U.S. will not reply to the PA's 12/27 letter. Clinton phones the leaders of **Egypt, Jordan, Russia, Saudi Arabia** to urge them to back the parameters. (MENL 12/28; MENA 12/28, SA 12/31 in WNC 1/2; HA, MA [Internet], NYT, WP, WT, YA 12/29; YA 1/10)

Three days of secret **PA-Israeli** talks on the Clinton parameters end in a deadlock. (MA [Internet] 12/28, 12/31) (see 12/26)

IDF soldiers shoot across the blue line with **Lebanon**, injuring **5 Lebanese civilians**, including 1 child. (MEI 1/12)

29 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. In Gaza, a **PSF** officer is killed when the **IDF** shells his post in response to gunfire directed at troops bulldozing 76 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land in nearby Khan Yunis. (NYT, WP, WT 12/30; PCHR 1/6)

30 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. **IDF** directs heavy machine-gun fire at Dahaysha camp, Khaza, Rafah; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Bayt Hanun, Khan Yunis. **Jewish settlers** clash with Palestinians outside Nahalin village, around Hebron; at-

tack Palestinian cars outside Tfouh settlement. (HP 12/31; PCHR 1/6)

On the blue line with Lebanon, the **IDF** shoots, kills **1 Lebanese protester**, wounds several whom troops say were attempting to scale the border fence. (WP, WT 12/31; RL 12/31 in WNC 1/2)

31 DECEMBER

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **2 Palestinians, 2 Jewish settlers** dead. Nr. Ramallah, Palestinian gunmen ambush the car of **Jewish settler leader Benjamin Kahane** (son of late anti-Arab extremist rabbi Meir Kahane), killing him, his wife, injuring 5 of their 6 children. The **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade** claims responsibility. The funeral procession through Jerusalem, attended by 20,000 Israelis, turns into a riot, with Jews smashing storefronts of Palestinian shops, seeking out and beating Palestinians, injuring **10 Israeli riot police**. Hrs. after the Kahane shooting, the **IDF** assassinates **senior Fatah official Thabet Thabet**, gunning him down outside his home in Tulkarm. The 2d Palestinian is killed in a drive-by shooting by settlers. **Israel** closes the Rafah crossing. **IDF** directs tank, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas of Amari refugee camp, Beitunia, al-Bireh, Khan Yunis, Rafah, al-Salam, Satih Marhaba. Machine-gun fire fr. **Psagot settlement** damages the **Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS)** headquarters in al-Bireh. (PRCS press release, WP 12/31; HA, ISRN, LAW, WP, WT, YA 1/1; MENA 1/2 in WNC 1/3; WJW 1/4; JP 1/5; PCHR 1/6; WP 1/8; MEI 1/12)

1 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, killing **5 Palestinians**. A **car bomb** explodes in the Israeli town of Netanya, lightly injuring 39, seriously injuring 1 (the suspected perpetrator); **Hamas** claims responsibility. **Israel** shuts Gaza airport completely, tightens the internal closure on the West Bank, Gaza. The **IDF** demolishes 3 Palestinian homes nr. Kefar Darom settlement as part of work on a new settler bypass road; bulldozes agricultural land nr. Morag settlement; fires on residential areas of al-Matahin Junction, Rafah. **1,500 Jewish settlers** blockade several West Bank roads, occupy a hilltop nr. where **Kahane's** car was ambushed on 12/31 to set up a "protest encampment." (AP, HA, JP [Internet], MA [In-

ternet], UPI 1/1; LAW, NYT, WP, WT 1/2; PCHR 1/6; WT 1/10)

The **White House** announces that **Arafat, Clinton** will meet in Washington on 1/2. (MENA 1/1 in WNC 1/2; NYT, WP, WT 1/2; AYM, SA 1/2 in WNC 1/3)

According to British government files made public today, on 9/19/70, **King Hussein of Jordan** asked, through **Britain** and the **U.S.**, for **Israeli** air raids on the **Syrian** army, which was supporting Palestinian factions during the Black September revolt. **Israeli PM Golda Meir's** response is not noted, but intervention by the Israelis was ultimately unnecessary, when Jordanian forces defeated the Palestinians. (NYT 1/2; WT 1/3; WJW 1/4)

2 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes subside slightly, though **1 Palestinian** is killed.

When **2 roadside bombs** explode nr. Dugit settlement in Gaza, injuring **1 IDF soldier** in a passing convoy, the soldiers fire at "suspicious points" in the area, killing a **Palestinian farmer** working his field. **Palestinian snipers** fire on a vehicle nr. Ramallah, injuring **2 Jewish settlers**. **IDF** troops bar the passage of 2 ambulances to al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City. The IDF shells residential areas of Bab al-Zawiyya, Bir al-Hummus, al-Mighraqa, al-Shaykh; bulldozes 75 dunams of agricultural land nr. Bayt Lahia, 35 dunams nr. Kefar Darom settlement; demolishes at least 1 Palestinian home. (NYT 1/3; AYM 1/4 in WNC 1/8; PCHR 1/6; MEI 1/12)

Arafat arrives in Washington, meets with the **Egyptian, Saudi Arabian** amb. before entering 2 rounds of talks with **Clinton**, who presses Arafat to accept his 12/23 proposals and focuses on what the PA can do to halt the clashes. Arafat also meets with **CIA Dir. George Tenet**, agrees to resume the tripartite (Israel, PA, U.S.) security comm. (REU 1/2; AYM 1/2 in WNC 1/3; AP, HA, NYT, WP, WT 1/3; AYM 1/3, 1/4, SA 1/7 in WNC 1/8; JT, MA, QA, SA 1/4 in WNC 1/5; MEI 1/12)

A **Lebanese** gunman fires across the blue line at an **IDF** post, injuring an **Israeli workman**.

3 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. **Jewish settlers** fr. Harsina shoot at nearby Palestinian homes. The IDF tightens the in-

ternal closure; directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire on residential areas in Khan Yunis (damaging 3 Palestinian homes, 3 commercial buildings), Rafah; razes 137 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Dugit settlement (destroying 10 homes, 6 irrigation networks, 4 greenhouses, 2 cars), 5 dunams nr. the Rafah border (destroying 1 greenhouse, damaging several others). (HJ 1/4 in WNC 1/8; PCHR 1/12)

In a final mtg. with **Clinton, Arafat** agrees "with reservations" to accept the 12/23 parameters, promises to take steps to curb the clashes. **U.S. mediators** plan to work with **PA, Israeli negotiators** to narrow differences on the parameters. If sufficient progress is made, Clinton will bring both sides together for a last attempt to finalize a comprehensive permanent status agmt. (MM 1/3; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/4; MA, SA 1/4 in WNC 1/5; *Arab News* [Jeddah], AYM, *al-Quds* 1/4 in WNC 1/8; JP, MEI 1/12)

Barak says he has given up on reaching a comprehensive final status agmt. before the 2/6 election, Israel is on "strategic alert for war." (MA [Internet], MM, YA 1/3; *Star* 1/3 in WNC 1/5; HA 1/4)

Hizballah fires 7 mortars at an **IDF** post in the Shaba' Farms area, causing no damage. The IDF fires 44 tank, mortar shells at s. Lebanon, forcing a **Lebanese family** to flee their home. (MENA 1/3 in WNC 1/4; *Daily Star* [Internet] 1/8; WP 1/30)

4 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue to abate, leaving **1 Palestinian** dead. The **IDF** demolishes 4 Palestinian homes nr. Dugit settlement; fires on an ambulance nr. Khan Yunis, preventing its passage to al-Shifa hospital; directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in Khan Yunis (damaging 4 Palestinian homes, cutting electricity), Rafah (damaging 6 Palestinian homes). (REU 1/4; WT 1/6; PCHR 1/12)

Israeli chief negotiator **Sher** arrives in Washington for mtgs. with the **U.S.** peace team. (MM, NYT, WP 1/4; MM, WP, WT 1/5; NYT, WP, WT 1/6)

In Cairo, **Arafat** briefs **Mubarak**, the **Arab League** on his mtgs. with Clinton. The Arab League endorses Arafat's conditional acceptance of the U.S. proposals. (MM 1/4; MENA, RMC 1/4 in WNC 1/5; AYM 1/4, SA, *al-Safir* 1/5 in WNC 1/8; MA [Internet], MM, NYT, WP 1/5; MEI 1/12)

5 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a low level, leaving **2 Palestinians** dead.

Israel says it will have to "see if the trend continues" before it can resume negotiations with the **PA, 1,000s of Palestinians** in Nablus, Ramallah, Tulkarm protest **Arafat's** acceptance of the Clinton parameters. The **IDF** moves the Maccabim crossing point on the **Green Line** a few hundred m. east into the West Bank. The **IDF** directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in Bayt Hanun, Dahaysha camp, Hebron, al-Khadir, Khan Yunis, Rafah, Tulkarm; razes 77 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Bayt Lahia (destroying 2 homes), 96 dunams nr. Dugit settlement (demolishing 10 homes). **Jewish settlers** block roads nr. Nablus. (AFP [Internet] 1/5; HP, WT 1/6; MENL 1/7; LAW 1/8; MEI, PCHR 1/12)

6 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. The **IDF** directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, damaging 20 Palestinian homes, 10 commercial and government buildings; bulldozes 3 dunams of Palestinian land nr. the Rafah border, closing 5 roads used by Palestinian farmers to reach their land. (PCHR 1/12)

7 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **2 Palestinians** dead. The **IDF** shells residential areas in al-Bireh, Jinin, Khan Yunis; bulldozes 10 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land along roads leading to Netzarim Junction. (LAW, NYT, WT 1/8; HP 1/9; HA 1/10; MEI, PCHR 1/12; NYT 1/17)

In Cairo, CIA Dir. **Tenet** meets with Gaza PSF head **Dahlan**, **West Bank PSF head Jibril Rajub**, **Israeli military intelligence dir. Avi Dichter** on reviving security cooperation, halting violence. (IRNA 1/7 in WNC 1/8; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/8; MENA 1/8 in WNC 1/9; MM 1/9; MENA 1/10 in WNC 1/11)

8 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **2 Palestinians** dead. When a bus of **Jewish settlers**, **2 IDF** escort jeeps enter a Palestinian village nr. Jinin, students fr. a nearby school throw stones at the bus; settlers, soldiers open fire on the school and adjacent houses, killing 1 Palestinian. The 2d Palestinian is shot by **Jewish settlers** during

clashes in Kafr Haris. **Palestinian snipers** fire on at least **4 Jewish settler vehicles** nr. Nablus and Ramallah, causing no injuries. The **IDF** shells residential areas of al-Bireh, Jinin, Khan Yunis, al-Maghrqa, Tal al-Sultan; razes 58 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Dugit settlement (destroying 1 storage building, 11 greenhouses, 4 wells, 1 irrigation network), 55 dunams nr. Netzarim settlement (demolishing 2 homes). (HP, LAW 1/9; PCHR 1/12; MM 1/16; AFP [Internet] 1/18)

CIA Dir. **Tenet** holds another round of talks with **PA, Israeli, Egyptian** security officials. The sides reportedly agree to an 8-point proposal, drafted by Tenet, for reducing tensions. (AFP [Internet], MM, REU 1/8; MENA 1/8 in WNC 1/9; SA 1/9 in WNC 1/10; MM 1/10; SA 1/10 in WNC 1/11; AYM, QA 1/10, AYM 1/11 in WNC 1/16; MENL 1/12)

100,000–250,000 Israelis, mostly right-wing, religious Jews, attend a rally at the Wailing Wall sponsored by **MK Natan Sharansky's Yisrael Ba'Aliya party** to "pledge allegiance" to a united capital of **Jerusalem**, to oppose **Clinton's** parameters for a peace agmt. (AFP [Internet] 1/8; AYM 1/8 in WNC 1/9; MM, NYT, WP 1/9; MM 1/10; WJW 1/11, 1/18; JP 1/19, 1/26, 2/2)

9 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **2 Palestinians** dead; 1 dies en route to the hospital by car after the IDF bars an ambulance fr. reaching the scene. Nr. Jinin, IDF soldiers fire 3 shots toward a marked Vatican car carrying the **Catholic Bishop Boulos Marcuzzo**. A roadside bomb explodes nr. an **IDF** post outside Jabaliya, causing no damage; in response, the IDF shells residential areas of Jabaliya, destroying 1 building. The IDF also shells residential areas in Khan Yunis (damaging 7 Palestinian homes), fires on 1 ambulance nr. Gaza City, delays a 2d ambulance fr. reaching a wounded Palestinian for 20 mins. The **IDF** also begins work on a new 100 m. settlement road to link Kefar Darom with its greenhouses, bulldozing 72 dunams of Palestinian land and dividing a Palestinian farm in half. (Latin Patriarchate press release, LAW 1/9; IsRN, WT 1/10; NYT, PCHR 1/12; WJW 1/18)

Israeli, PA security officials agree to resume low-level security contacts. **Arafat**, Israel's **Shahak** meet to discuss reviving negotiations in light of progress on security.

(HA, MA [Internet], YA 1/10; SA 1/10 in WNC 1/11; NYT 1/12)

The **Mitchell Comm.** technical staff arrives in Israel to begin their research. The staff refuses to sign an Israeli document requiring them to have an Israeli rep. present at all stages of testimony, to coordinate any planned tours of Israel or the PA areas with the FMin. (YA 1/9) (see 12/10)

10 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, but no fatalities are reported. The **IDF** raids several Palestinian homes in Husan, arresting 4 youths; fires tear gas at Palestinian schools in Bethlehem, Jinin; sets fire to a Palestinian factory in Tulkarm; bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Salfit; tightens the closure on Hebron; directs shelling, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas s. of Gaza City and in al-Shaykh, Tulkarm; bulldozes 59 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Dugit settlement; and orders a Palestinian family living nr. the settlement to evacuate their home. (HP 1/11; PCHR 1/12)

11 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes abate significantly. **Israel** reopens the Gaza–Egypt, West Bank–Jordan crossings; reopens Gaza airport, the main north–south road in Gaza; lifts the blockade on Jinin, Qalqilya; reinstates travel privileges for some Palestinian VIPs. An Israeli civilian discovers, neutralizes a remote controlled bomb in Mea Sherim, West Jerusalem. The **IDF** shells residential areas of al-Gharbi. (MM, YA 1/11; MENL, MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/12; JT 1/12, MENA 1/14 in WNC 1/16; LAW, WJW 1/18)

Late this evening at Erez, **Israel**, the **PA** resume high-level final status talks. Each side sends 3 negotiators: **Ben-Ami, Shahak, Sher** for Israel; **Dahlan, Erakat, Qurai'** for the PA. (HP, MM 1/11; MA 1/11 in WNC 1/16; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/12; NYT, WP 1/13; *al-Quds* 1/13, 1/14 in WNC 1/18)

PA State Security Court sentences **Majdi Makawi**, arrested 12/16, to death for treason and espionage for his role in the IDF assassination of his nephew Jamal 'Abd al-Razik on 11/22. (LAW 1/12)

12 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a low level. **Israel** notes that in recent days Palestinian demonstrations and incidents of Palestinian gunfire and roadside bombs have

decreased substantially. Nonetheless, 1 Palestinian, **senior Fatah mbr. Shakir Hassouna**, is fatally shot by **IDF** troops in Hebron. The **IDF** also shells residential areas of Khan Yunis; bulldozes agricultural land nr. Hebron. (MM 1/12; LAW, NYT 1/13; LAW 1/18; WP 1/24)

13 JANUARY

Arafat, Israeli MK and fmr. PM Shimon Peres hold talks in Gaza on halting violence, reaching a peace agmt. (NYT, WP, WT 1/14; AYM 1/15 in WNC 1/18; *Arab News* [Jeddah] 1/15 in WNC 1/19)

Israel denounces the **Mitchell Comm.** technical team for visiting the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount today without the accompaniment of an Israeli rep., without coordinating with the FMin. (MA [Internet] 1/16; HA, MM 1/18) (see 1/9)

The **PA** executes **Majdi Makawi, Alam Bani Odeh** for collaborating with **Israel** in the assassinations of Jamal 'Abd al-Razik (11/22), Ibrahim Bani Odeh (11/23). Later, a **PA military court** finds another 4 **Palestinians** guilty of collaboration, sentences 2 to death. (NYT, WP, WT 1/14; AYM 1/14 in WNC 1/20, 1/22; AP, MM 1/15; *al-Quds* 1/15 in WNC 1/18; MM 1/17; HJ 1/17 in WNC 1/19; JT 1/19 in WNC 1/22; HJ 1/19 in WNC 1/26; JP 1/26; WP 2/2) (see 12/7, 1/11)

14 JANUARY

Israel breaks off talks with the **PA** after a **Jewish settler**, missing since 1/13, is found fatally shot nr. Khan Yunis. The **IDF** reseals the Gaza Strip, closing the Rafah and Qarni crossings, shutting the airport, cutting water and electricity to Khan Yunis, and reblocking Gaza's main north–south road. **Jewish settlers** rampage through areas of Khan Yunis, setting fire to Palestinian homes, fields, greenhouses; demolishing irrigation systems; vandalizing other Palestinian homes; shooting guns into the air. The IDF does not intervene for 90 mins. In the West Bank, IDF troops fatally shoot 1 **Palestinian**. Israeli forces raid a Palestinian home in Sawahara al-Gharbiyya, arrest 4 Palestinians, including a 14-yr.-old girl. (AP, HA, MM, NYT, WP, YA 1/15; XIN 1/15 in WNC 1/18; HA 1/16; LAW, YA 1/16; *al-Quds* 1/16 in WNC 1/20; *al-Quds* 1/17 in WNC 1/19; WJW 1/18; JP, MEI 1/26)

15 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. In Khan Yunis, **Jewish settlers** continue to

vandalize Palestinian property in retaliation for the killing of a settler discovered on 1/14. The **IDF** bulldozes the Palestinian orchards where the murdered settler was found, and settlers set up an encampment there as a "Zionist response" to the killing. The IDF also conducts arrest sweeps in Dahiyat Barid, al-Ram. **Jewish settlers** overturn Palestinian stalls in the Hebron market. (MM, YA 1/16; WP 1/17; *al-Quds* 1/17 in WNC 1/19; HP, LAW, WJW 1/18; MEI 1/26)

PA senior negotiator **Qurai'** meets with Israeli FM **Ben-Ami** to prepare for the resumption of Israeli-PA talks on 1/16. **Arafat** meets with Israeli negotiator **Shahak** to discuss the refugee issue. (AP 1/15; AYM 1/15 in WNC 1/18; IsRN 1/16; SA 1/17 in WNC 1/19; MENA 1/18 in WNC 1/20)

The **PA** offers amnesty to any **Palestinian collaborators** who turn themselves in within the next 45 days. (AP 1/15; YA 1/16; *al-Quds* 1/18 in WNC 1/20)

Jordanian PM Ali Abu Raghīb meets with **reps. of political parties and professional associations** for talks on the impact of the al-Aqsa intifada on Jordan; urges them not to take actions "harmful to the kingdom's economy and national unity," such as fighting normalization with Israel. (JT 1/17 in WNC 1/19; JT 1/26, QA 1/27 in WNC 1/29) (see 11/19)

16 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue.

Jewish settlers raid Aqraba, bar Palestinians fr. entering or leaving Bayt Furik while they perform religious ceremonies. The **IDF** issues approval for **Jewish settlers** to carry out armed patrols to ensure their safety. The **IDF** also conducts arrest sweeps in Dahiyat Barid, al-Ram; shells Halhul; bulldozes agricultural land nr. Nablus. (IsRN, MM 1/16; *al-Quds* 1/17 in WNC 1/19; HP, LAW 1/18)

At Erez, **Israel**, the **PA** resume high-level talks on tightening security coordination, Palestinians' need for territorial contiguity. They agree on steps to ease the closure on Gaza but fail to resolve key territorial issues. (MM 1/16; MA [Internet], WP, WT 1/17; SA 1/17 in WNC 1/19)

17 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. **Israel** eases the closure on Gaza, partially reopens the Gaza airport, Rafah and Qarni crossings, key roads. In Gaza, 3 masked

gunmen assassinate **Palestinian Broadcasting Corp. (PBC) head Hisham Makki**, notorious for his corruption, close ties with Arafat. **Israel**, the **PA** concur that the gunmen were probably Palestinian. **Jewish settlers** continue to attack Palestinian property in Khan Yunis, as they have since 1/14. Armed settlers also bar Palestinians fr. leaving or entering Bayt Furik for a 2d day. The **IDF** conducts arrest sweeps in Dahiyat Barid, al-Ram, Silat Dahir; further restricts movement btwn. Jerusalem and Bethlehem/Hebron, arresting 60 Palestinian laborers returning fr. Jerusalem; directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in Tulkarm; bulldozes agricultural land nr. Nablus. (IsRN, MM 1/17; MENA 1/17 in WNC 1/19; HP, LAW, NYT, WP, WT 1/18; NYT, WP 1/19; WJW 1/25; MA 1/25 in WNC 1/26; MEI, MM 1/26; JT [Internet] 2/1)

In Cairo, **Arafat** meets Israeli FM **Ben-Ami**, tells him the PA is ready to hold marathon talks aimed at reaching a peace agmt., or at least drafting a document citing agmts. and differences, by the 2/6 Israeli elections. (IsRN, MM 1/17; MENA 1/17 in WNC 1/19; MENA 1/17, 1/18 in WNC 1/20; MM, NYT, WT, YA 1/18; NYT, WP 1/19)

Israel declares it will not cooperate with a **UNHRC** inquiry into the causes of the al-Aqsa intifada (see 11/22), arguing that the UNHRC comm. is unnecessary since the **Mitchell Comm.** is charged with the same task. (PA press release 1/22; JP [Internet] 1/26; BDL 1/31) (see 1/13)

18 JANUARY

As **Israeli-Palestinian clashes** continue, the body of an **Israeli** boy is found in Ramallah. Ofir Rahum had started an Internet relationship with a Palestinian girl, had arranged to meet her nr. Ramallah earlier in the wk., carrying a large sum of money. **Israel** partially reopens Gaza airport. The **IDF** tightens the blockade on Halhul, arresting more than 30 Palestinians, confiscating 2 Palestinian homes for use as IDF posts. **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinian stores in Hebron. (HP 1/18; NYT 1/19; NYT, WP 1/20; NYT 1/21; WJW 1/25)

Sharon offers his plan for a long-term interim agmt. with the **PA** under which a Palestinian state would be created in the 40–42% of the West Bank (areas A and B) currently under PA control. (HA, MM 1/18; MA [Internet], MM, YA 1/19; HJ 1/19, AYM 1/20 in WNC 1/26; SA 1/22 in WNC 1/23)

19 JANUARY

A day before he leaves office, **Clinton** issues open letters to **Israeli, Palestinian people** lecturing each side on its responsibility to keep pushing for a comprehensive peace agmt. (WP, WT 1/20; WJW 1/25)

Israel resumes construction of a security fence along the blue line with **Lebanon**. (MA 1/19 in WNC 1/22; MEI 2/9)

20 JANUARY

George W. Bush is sworn in as pres. of the U.S. 3 hrs. before the inauguration, **Clinton** makes a final farewell call to **Barak**. (MENA 1/20, *al-Quds* 1/21 in WNC 1/22; AYM 1/20 in WNC 1/23, 1/26; MM 1/22, 1/24; HJ 1/25 in WNC 1/30; MEI, MM 1/26)

After mtg. with his security cabinet, **Barak** announces Israel's acceptance of **Arafat's** offer to enter marathon negotiations on 1/21 in Egypt. (NYT, WP, WT, YA 1/21; AYM 1/21 in WNC 1/22)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a low level. **Israel** credits the **PA** with keeping the number of incidents down over the past few days. (YA 1/21)

21 JANUARY

In Taba, Egypt, **Israel**, the **PA** open marathon negotiations on a comprehensive final status agmt., spend the day discussing ground rules for talks, which will be based on Clinton's parameters. There is no **Egyptian** or **U.S.** mediation. (IsRN 1/21; MM, NYT, WP 1/22; MENA 1/22 in WNC 1/23; *al-Quds* 1/23 in WNC 1/24; WP 1/23; MEI 1/26) (see Peace Monitor)

Israel suspends cooperation with the **Mitchell Comm.** over the technical experts' 1/13 visit to Jerusalem, demands the comm. get a new mandate fr. the **Bush** administration. (HA, NYT 1/22; *al-Quds* 1/22 in WNC 1/24; BDL 1/31; WJW 2/8) (see 1/17)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a low level, leaving **1 Palestinian** dead. With Israeli industry in need of workers, **Barak** instructs the **IDF** to revive plans to allow some **16,000 Palestinian laborers** into jobs in Israel. (JP [Internet] 1/22; MENA 1/22 in WNC 1/23; MEI 1/26; *al-Abram* [Internet] 1/28) (see 12/18)

22 JANUARY

In Taba, **Israeli, PA** teams divide into 4 working groups on Jerusalem, borders, security guarantees, refugees; they exchange

maps and working papers. The PA team issues a statement criticizing **Clinton** for "mistakes and failures" in earlier negotiations. (MM, HA, YA 1/22; MENA 1/22 in WNC 1/23; AYM, MENA 1/22 in WNC 1/24; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/23; MEI 1/26) (see Doc. B3)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. **Hamas** takes responsibility for a roadside bombing today in Gaza that injures **1 IDF soldier**. The **IDF** arrests **3 Palestinians** fr. Shu'fat. (NYT, WP 1/23; ADM 2/5)

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer announces that Pres. **Bush** will begin looking into moving the U.S. emb. to **Jerusalem** but gives no further details. (HA 1/22; WJW 1/25) (see Peace Monitor)

In Amman, the **Jordan professional associations' antinormalization comm.** publishes its 2d "list of shame," naming companies and individuals who have or are engaging in normalizing activities or promoting normalization with Israel. (DUS 1/25 in WNC 1/26; MM 1/26; JT 1/26 in WNC 1/29; FAV, MM 1/29; JT 1/29 in WNC 1/30; WT 1/31; JT 1/31 in WNC 2/1; JT 2/2 in WNC 2/5; MEI 2/9) (see 1/15; Peace Monitor)

23 JANUARY

Israel recalls negotiators fr. Taba, suspends all contacts with the **PA** after **Palestinian gunmen** kidnap, murder **2 Israeli civilians** in Tulkarm; an **Israeli Arab** colleague is released. Hamas's military wing **Izzeddine al-Qassam Brigades** takes responsibility, but the **Hamas political wing** denies it. The PA condemns the murder, saying no civilians, Israeli or Palestinian, should be targeted. **Jewish settlers** blockade the Attara-Birzeit road, attack Palestinian cars. (MENA 1/23 in WNC 1/24; HJ 1/23, MENA 1/24 in WNC 1/26; MM, NYT, WP, WT 1/24; IsRN, NYT, WP 1/25; *al-Quds* 1/25 in WNC 1/26; SA 1/25 in WNC 1/29; NYT 1/26; AYM 1/26 in WNC 1/29; SA 2/1 in WNC 2/5; ADM 2/5)

24 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. **2 Palestinians** are shot dead in Gaza. A **3d Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. An ailing **Palestinian** dies after the car rushing her to a Ramallah hospital is delayed 45 minutes at an IDF checkpoint. Another Palestinian woman gives birth at an IDF checkpoint after being held there 4 hrs. Around Morag settlement nr. Khan Yunis, the **IDF** reinforces troops, bulldozes 10 dunams of Pal-

estinian land. The IDF also tightens the closure on Tulkarm, reseals the Rafah crossing, shells Palestinian residential areas nr. Netzarim settlement. **Jewish settlers** halt and damage a Palestinian car, threaten the driver nr. Aley settlement; set up a check-point nr. Ashkalot settlement to stop, search Palestinian cars. (MENA 1/24 in WNC 1/26; HP 1/25; NYT, WP 1/26; ADM 2/5; WP 2/16)

The new **Bush administration** takes its 1st step in defining its Middle East diplomacy by having its regional amb. contact Israel and the PA to urge them to resume the Taba talks, to request briefings on the talks. **Israel** agrees to resume the talks on 1/25. (NYT, WP, WT 1/25)

Aides to PM candidate **Sharon** arrive in Vienna to meet with **top Arafat aide Muhammad Rashid (Khalid Salam)**. Sharon says mtgs. are to stress to the PA that he will not hold peace talks until all Palestinian violence ceases. (HP, IDF Radio [Internet], IsRN, MM, YA 1/25; MA [Internet], MM, NYT 1/26; QA, SA 1/26 in WNC 1/29; AYM 1/28 in WNC 1/30; *Die Presse* [Vienna] 1/31 in WNC 2/1; MA 2/1 in WNC 2/5)

25 JANUARY

Israel, the **PA** resume talks in Taba. The sides reportedly compare maps. PA maps reportedly show settlements left in 2% of the West Bank, whereas Israeli maps show settlements on 5% of the West Bank. (MM 1/25; AP, NYT, WP, WT 1/26; *al-Quds* 1/26 in WNC 1/29)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. An **Israeli** taxi driver is fatally shot at a check-point nr. Qalandiyya camp, where he dropped off a carload of Palestinian laborers. Outside Ramallah, **Palestinian ambulance driver**, his aide responding to a call are detained for more than 1 hr., severely beaten by **IDF soldiers**; when a 2d ambulance comes upon the scene, the soldiers detain the 2 medics for 20 mins. before allowing them to take their colleagues to a hospital, where 1 is placed in intensive care. The **IDF** opens tank, heavy machine-gun fire on residential areas of Satih Marhaba. (HP, MENL 1/25; NYT, WP, WT, YA 1/26; LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

26 JANUARY

Israel, the **PA** teams hold several rounds of talks, alternating btwn. Taba, Elat. Mtgs. break this evening for the Jewish Sabbath, are expected to resume tomorrow night. (AP,

MM 1/26; MENA 1/26, MENA, *al-Quds* 1/27 in WNC 1/29; NYT, WP, WT 1/27)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. The **IDF** fires warning shots at a 20-mbr. **EU parliamentary delegation** visiting Khan Yunis; the EU files a formal complaint. **Jewish settlers** beat up Palestinian street vendors in Hebron. (AFP [Internet] 1/26)

Responding to an attack on the Shaba' Farms area by **Hizballah**, **Israel** shells Lebanese areas, injuring **1 Lebanese civilian**. (WT 1/27, 1/30, 1/31).

27 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at the same low level as in the past 2 wks. The **IDF** bulldozes 8 dunams of Palestinian land nr. Bayt Lahia, 10 dunams nr. Netzarim Junction (demolishing 1 Palestinian home); shells residential areas of Khan Yunis. **IDF soldiers** detain a Palestinian man at a road-block nr. Jinin, handcuff and severely beat him. (MEZ 1/29; LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

In Taba, **Israel**, the **PA** end 6 days of talks; issue a joint statement saying they have made substantial progress on each of the issues discussed, they will not be able to finalize an agmt. by the 2/6 Israeli elections. They hope to resume talks following the elections, quickly bridge remaining gaps. (AP, REU 1/27; AFP, MENA 1/27, AYM 1/29 in WNC 1/29; NYT, WP, WT 1/28; AYM 1/28 in WNC 1/30; MM 1/29; AYM 1/29 in WNC 2/5)

Despite statements that talks will not be resumed until after elections, Israel confirms that **Barak** is exploring holding a mtg. with **Arafat** to formulate a joint statement that could be issued before 2/6. (AP, REU 1/27; NYT, WP, WT 1/28; AYM 1/29 in WNC 1/29) (see Peace Monitor)

IDF troops in the Shaba' Farms area shoot dead **2 PFLP-GC mbrs.** on the border inside **Lebanon**. (*Tebran Times* 1/30 in WNC 1/31; WT 1/31; WJW 2/1; MM 2/2; SA 2/4 in WNC 2/5; MEI 2/9)

28 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Another ailing **Palestinian** dies en route to a Nablus hospital when her family's car is turned back fr. an IDF checkpoint, forced to take a longer route to the hospital. A group of **IDF soldiers** in the Israeli-controlled section of Hebron assault a 14-yr.-old **Palestinian** whom they thought was making fun of them, beating him for 30 mins., leaving him unconscious. The **IDF** shells residential areas

in Khan Yunis and Rafah, nr. Netzarim settlement, along Gaza's Salah al-Din road (destroying a Palestinian gas station); bulldozes 55 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land in Bayt Lahia to build a new settler bypass road linking the settlements of Dugit, Aley Sinai. (MEZ, WP 1/29; *al-Abram* [Internet] 2/1; LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, **Arafat** gives a speech condemning **Israel's** military action against Palestinians. In Israel, **Barak**, angry over Arafat's words, vows there will be no further talks with the **PA** before elections. (AFP 1/28 in WNC 1/29; MM, NYT, WP, WT, YA 1/29; *al-Quds* 1/29 in WNC 1/30; NYT, WP 1/30; *al-Quds* 1/30 in WNC 2/1; AYM 1/30 in WNC 2/5; *al-Nabar* 2/1 in WNC 2/13) (see 1/27)

29 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **1 Palestinian**, **1 Jewish settler** dead. The **IDF** detains 5 Palestinians traveling in a minibus outside Khan Yunis, takes them to Netzarim settlement for interrogation, after which 1 is arrested, 4 are released. The **IDF** also shells Palestinian residential areas nr. Erez (destroying a PSF building, a gas station), in Khan Yunis, nr. Netzarim settlement. **Jewish settlers** bulldoze Palestinian land around Ariel settlement, move the settlement fence to incorporate the new land. (AP 1/29; MEZ, NYT, WP 1/30; *al-Abram* [Internet] 2/1; LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

30 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at the same low level. However, 2 serious incidents are apparently staged by Palestinians: a mortar is fired at Netzarim settlement, causing no injuries; assailants attempt to deliver a bomb by donkey, but the bomb does not go off. An ailing **Palestinian** dies en route to a Nablus hospital when his family's car is detained at an **IDF** checkpoint for 30 mins. before being turned back, halted at a 2d checkpoint for 40 mins., turned back again, and forced to take a 3d route. The **IDF** also confiscates, begins bulldozing 3,500 dunams of land btwn. Ramallah, Nablus owned by 43 Palestinian families; fires tear gas into a school in Silwan; shells residential areas in Bayt Rima, Khan Yunis. **Jewish settlers** bulldoze Palestinian land nr. Salfit, move trailers

onto the land to create a new settlement enclave. (YA 1/31; LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

31 JANUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at the same low level, leaving **2 Palestinians** dead. The **IDF** reimposes the closure on PA-controlled Hebron, which had been eased, after **Jewish settlers** attack Palestinians and their property, firing on homes, vandalizing stores, destroying produce stands. (LAW 2/3; ADM 2/5)

1 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **1 Palestinian**, **1 Israeli civilian**, **1 Jewish settler** dead. The **IDF** raids a secondary school nr. Jinin, forcing children to evacuate the building, then firing on nearby houses fr. the school. The **IDF** also blockades Silwan, bulldozes surrounding Palestinian olive groves, denies Red Crescent medical teams fr. entering. (WP 2/2; NYT 2/3; ADM 2/5)

2 FEBRUARY

Fearing an escalation of **Israeli-Palestinian clashes** because of a planned funeral march today fr. Jerusalem to a West Bank settlement for a **Jewish settler** killed 2/1, the **IDF** tightens the encirclement of all West Bank towns excluding Jericho and Qalqilya. **100s of Palestinians** rally in Nablus to protest. The **Israeli DMin.** orders the **IDF** to identify roads that have been the target of frequent Palestinian attacks, allow Palestinians to travel those roads only by public transportation. The **IDF** also steps up patrols along roads during peak hrs. **1 Palestinian** dies from injuries received earlier. (JP [Internet] 2/2; NYT 2/3; HA 2/4; LAW 2/8)

The **IDF** begins bulldozing an area outside Bayt Sahur in Jerusalem for work on a new road. In 1998, **Israel's Jerusalem municipality** approved the site for one of the few new developments for **Palestinians** in the city, the 150-unit Mazmoriyya housing project. (Palestinian Center for Rapprochement Between People press release 2/2)

The **UN** reports that **Israel** appears to be extending its border fence into Lebanon beyond the divided border village of Ghajar, effectively annexing 400 m². Israel vows to halt the construction, move the fence. (HA 2/2; NYT 2/3; MEI 2/9) (see 1/19)

3 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a low level. **1 Palestinian** dies of injuries received earlier. (LAW 2/8)

4 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue at a low level, leaving **1 Palestinian** dead. The **IDF** demolishes 2 Palestinian homes, parts of 2 factories nr. Netzarim Junction. (LAW 2/8)

U.S. Secy. of State Colin Powell says the **Bush administration** will continue to examine moving the **U.S. emb.** fr. Tel Aviv to Jerusalem but currently believes making the move would damage the U.S.'s ability to act as mediator in peace talks. (WT 2/5; SA 2/7 in WNC 2/13) (see 1/22)

5 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. Nr. Rafah border, a **Palestinian sniper** fatally shoots an **IDF soldier**. The IDF seals the border with Egypt, closes the Gaza airport, shells areas around Rafah. The IDF also demolishes 4 Palestinian homes nr. Netzarim Junction; bulldozes 40 dunams of Palestinian land to expand Gush Etzion settlement. **1 Palestinian** dies of a heart attack when the IDF blocks his transportation to Nablus hospital. (HA 2/5; WP 2/6; LAW 2/8)

6 FEBRUARY

As expected, Likud MK **Sharon** wins the Israeli elections for PM by a landslide, taking 62.4% of the vote (78% in Greater Jerusalem), with voter turnout the lowest in Israeli history (59.1% overall, 18% in Arab areas).

Barak concedes defeat; vows to retire fr. politics, resign as head of the Labor party and as MK. (HA, MM 2/6; AFP [Internet], LAW, MM, NYT, REU, WP, WT 2/7; AFP, AYM, MA, MENA, *al-Quds* 2/7 in WNC 2/9; HJ 2/7, AYM, JT, MENA 2/8 in WNC 2/12; MM, NYT, WJW 2/8; MEI 2/9)

Israeli-Palestinian clashes heat up somewhat, leaving **78 Palestinians** injured but causing no fatalities. **Israel** seals the West Bank, Gaza during the elections. After Sharon's victory is announced, **Jewish settlers** place 5 caravans on land in PA-controlled Hebron, nr. Karme Tzur settlement. (AP, HP, WP 2/7; LAW 2/8)

U.S. Secy. of State **Powell** phones the leaders of **Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria** to urge restraint following **Sharon's** election victory, asks them to avoid provoca-

tive actions while Sharon is forming a government, to judge Sharon based on his actions as PM, not his past. (WP 2/8)

7 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue to escalate; 100s are reported injured, but none are killed. The closure on the West Bank, Gaza remains in place. The **IDF** directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas in PA-controlled Hebron, Khan Yunis; opens fire on 2 primary schools in Hebron, wounding 3 students; bulldozes Palestinian agricultural land nr. Dayr al-Balah Junction, destroying several greenhouses and water wells. (HP 2/7; LAW 2/8)

PM-elect **Sharon** visits the Wailing Wall, declares Barak's Camp David concessions null and void, vows he will never allow shared sovereignty over **Jerusalem**. (NYT, WP, WT 2/8)

Arafat sends a letter to **Sharon** congratulating him on his election, expressing hope that negotiations will resume soon from the point they left off at Taba on 1/27. Sharon's office reiterates that all Palestinian violence must cease before talks begin; that even when talks begin, Israel will not seek a comprehensive peace but rather an interim deal exchanging a small amount of land and economic benefits for a nonbelligerency pact. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/8; NYT 2/9)

8 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. A remote-controlled **car bomb** goes off in Mea Sherim, West Jerusalem, injuring **1 Israeli**; the **Palestinian Popular Resistance Forces** claim responsibility. **IDF** soldiers raid Marda village, entering homes, photographing and interrogating Palestinian men, harassing their families. The IDF shells residential areas in al-Bireh and Satih Marhaba, damaging or destroying 3 Palestinian homes, 15 apartments, *al-Hayat al-Jadida* offices, the Red Crescent headquarters. (LAW 2/8; MM, NYT, WP, WT 2/9; QA 2/9 in WNC 2/13)

The **Bush administration** formally abandons **Clinton's** 12/23 peace proposals, saying they belonged to the fmr. pres. and are irrelevant now that **Sharon** has been elected PM of Israel. **Barak** also sends a letter to Bush stating that proposals raised by Pres. Clinton at Camp David and afterward are no longer binding. Secy. of State **Powell** says the Bush administration will look at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the context of its

impact on the region, not as an isolated issue. **Incoming National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice** says future negotiations should be left to the Israelis, Palestinians.

Bush, Powell phone **Arafat** for the 1st time, urge him to reduce violence. Sharon says he is encouraged by the U.S. actions. (HA, JP [Internet], NYT, WP 2/9; AFP 2/9 in WNC 2/13; NYT, WT 2/10; HJ 2/12 in WNC 2/15)

9 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes intensify, leaving **1 Palestinian** dead. The **IDF** shells residential areas of al-Bireh, severely damaging the Local Government Min., Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Fatah High Command offices. (WP, WT 2/10)

Arafat phones **Sharon** to congratulate him, expresses hopes peace talks could resume soon, mentions the economic hardship in the West Bank and Gaza. Sharon says he will only take steps to lift the blockade if the PA halts violence and rearrests Islamists released fr. PA jails in the past 4 mos. (*Chicago Tribune* [Internet], NYT, WP 2/10)

PM-elect **Sharon** meets with outgoing PM **Barak**, who has yet to officially resign as head of Labor, and offers him position of DM in a unity government. Labor MK **Peres** would be offered the role of FM. Barak, Peres do not reject the offers. (MM 2/9; NYT, WP 2/10; WT 2/11; WJW 2/15)

In a *Sbarq al-Awsat* interview published today, **Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad** says Syria's peace terms have not changed, he would resume talks with any **Israeli** PM who is serious about reaching an agmt., he is willing to meet with **Arafat** if there is a clear objective and agenda. (MM 2/9; SA 2/9 in WNC 2/13; SA 2/14 in WNC 2/15)

10 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue. A grenade explodes nr. an IDF post on the Rafah border, and a mortar lands in Netzarim settlement, causing no injuries but marking a Palestinian escalation. The **IDF** presents **22 Palestinian families** in Gaza's Mawasi district with evacuation orders, saying their houses will be demolished for "security reasons" on 2/11. (Gush Shalom press release 2/10; WT 2/11; *al-Quds* 2/11 in WNC 2/13)

UNHRC fact-finding commission arrives in Gaza to begin its 8-day inquiry into the causes of the al-Aqsa intifada, meets with **Arafat**. (PCHR, WT 2/11; WT 2/12; HJ 2/12 in WNC 2/13) (see 1/17)

11 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **1 Jewish settler** dead. **Jewish settlers** place trailers in new locations, establishing new settlement enclaves. **Palestinians** step up attacks on Jewish settlements, firing on Gilo fr. Bayt Jala for the 1st time in more than a mo., detonating a roadside bomb nr. an IDF convoy outside Kefar Darom settlement, but causing no injuries. **IDF** soldiers return to Mawasi, "advise" 22 Palestinian families to leave immediately before bulldozers arrive to demolish their homes, seal the area (see 2/10); bulldozers arrive but leave after several hrs. when residents refuse to evacuate. (Gush Shalom press release, NYT, WP 2/12; NYT 2/13)

A **PA military court** sentences to death West Bank **PSF officer Hassan Musallam** for abetting the **IDF** by passing information to Israeli soldiers, deliberately firing on IDF soldiers to provide them with a pretext to retaliate. (LAW, NYT 2/12)

Labor MK **Peres** says he would be willing to serve as FM in a unity government under **Sharon**. Labor MKs **Yossi Beilin**, **Ben-Ami**, **Yael Dayan** denounce his position; **Uzi Baram** resigns fr. the party in protest, ending a 25-yr. Knesset career. (*Guardian* [Internet] 2/12)

12 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving **2 Palestinians** dead. Palestinians step up attacks on Jewish settlements, with **Fatah's** Bethlehem branch issuing a leaflet calling on Palestinians to target Gilo specifically, but cause no injuries; Palestinians reportedly fire an antitank missile that causes no damage. The **IDF** directs heavy machine-gun, rocket-propelled grenade fire at residential areas of Khan Yunis, forcing many families to flee their homes, severely damaging 20 homes, a mosque; directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire at residential areas of Aida camp, al-Azza camp, Beitunia, al-Bireh, al-Khadir, Ramallah, al-Tuffah (destroying 11 Palestinian homes, 1 Red Crescent ambulance); bulldozes Palestinian land nr. Kefar Darom settlement, demolishing 2 Palestinian homes. **Israeli officials** tell the press there were never plans to demolish Palestinian homes in Mawasi (see 2/11), the **IDF** informs the 22 families. Israel reopens Gaza airport for 1 wk. to allow Palestinians to fly to Saudi Arabia for the hajj. (Gush Sha-

lom press release, HA, HP, LAW, REU 2/12; NYT, WT 2/13; NYT 2/15)

A Likud spokesman says **Sharon, Barak** have agreed on most guidelines for a national unity government, including a joint peace platform aiming only at reaching an interim agmt. with the **PA** and an agmt. that no new **settlements** would be built, though existing ones would be expanded. (HA, NYT, WP, WT 2/13, 2/16)

13 FEBRUARY

Israeli-Palestinian clashes escalate to their highest point in recent wks. after the **IDF** assassinates **Force 17 cmdr. Massud Ayyad**, firing 4 air-to-surface rockets at his car as he drove through Jabaliya. Israel claims Ayyad led a Gaza-based cell of **Hizballah**, which it asserts had been ordered by **Iran** to take up operations in the West Bank, Gaza. **Barak**, who personally ordered the assassination, publicly congratulates the IDF. A **2d Palestinian**, 14 yrs. old, is fatally shot in a separate incident. Hot spots are in Bethlehem, Gaza, Hebron, Ramallah. The IDF orders 4 schools in al-Khadir shut for 2 wks.; bulldozes 5,000 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land in Halhul; directs shells, heavy machine-gun fire on residential areas of Bayt Sahur (damaging the YMCA), al-Bireh, Khan Yunis, Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** place caravans on Palestinian land nr. Surayf. (AP, LAW, REU 2/13;

NYT, WP, WT 2/14; MENA 2/14 in WNC 2/15; NYT 2/15)

The **U.S.** criticizes **Israel's** "targeted killing" of Ayyad as causing a serious deterioration in the security situation. (NYT 2/15)

Sharon's top foreign policy advisers Moshe Arens (fmr. DM), **Dore Gold** (fmr. amb. to the UN), **Zalman Shoval** (fmr. amb. to the U.S.) meet with officials at the White House, State Dept., Congress. (SA 2/13 in WNC 2/14; NYT 2/14, 2/15)

14 FEBRUARY

A **Palestinian bus driver** with Israeli security service clearance to transport Palestinian workers to their jobs in Israel drops off his passengers in Holon, then rams his vehicle into a bus stop full of Israelis, killing **7 IDF soldiers, 1 Israeli civilian**, severely injuring 17 Israelis, mostly soldiers. In response, **Israel** seals the West Bank border with Jordan, the Gaza border with Egypt; closes Gaza airport; tightens the closure on Palestinian villages; suspends VIP travel privileges for PA officials. (HA, REU 2/14; AFP, ATL, MENA 2/14 in WNC 2/15; NYT, WP, WT 2/15)

15 FEBRUARY

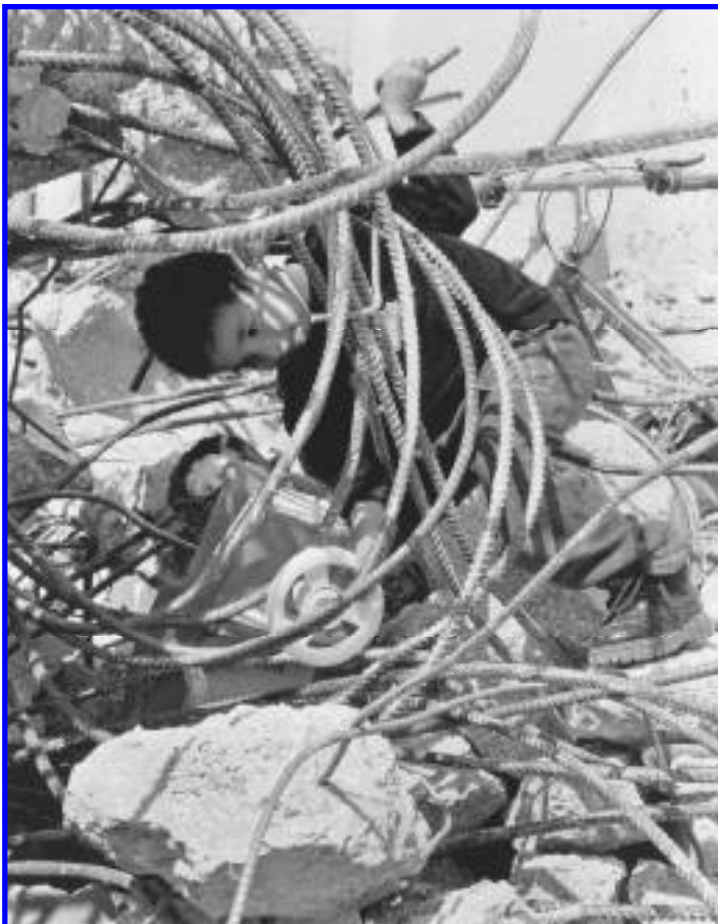
Israeli-Palestinian clashes continue, leaving at least **1 Palestinian** dead. Palestinians fire 2 mortars at a Netzarim settlement, causing no damage. (NYT, WP 2/16)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

ADM	(Addameer—Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association, Ramallah)
AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AIC	(Alternative Information Center, Jerusalem)
AP	(Associated Press, Internet)
ATL	(Anatolia, Ankara)
AYM	(<i>al-Ayyam</i> , Ramallah)
BDL	(BADIL Resource Center, Bethlehem)
DUS	(<i>al-Dustur</i> , Amman)
FAV	(<i>Free Arab Voice</i> , Internet)
HA	(<i>Ha'aretz</i> , Tel Aviv)
HJ	(<i>al-Hayat al-Jadida</i> , Ramallah)
HP	(Hear Palestine, Washington)
IRNA	(Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran)
IsRN	(Israel Radio News, Internet)
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post International Edition</i> , Jerusalem)
JT	(<i>Jordan Times</i> , Amman)
LAW	(Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Jerusalem)
MA	(<i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv)
MEI	(<i>Middle East International</i> , London)
MENA	(Middle East News Agency, Cairo)
MENL	(Middle East Newline, Internet)

MEZ	(al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Jabaliya)
MM	(<i>Mideast Mirror</i> , London)
NYT	(<i>New York Times</i> , New York)
PCHR	(Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PR	(<i>Palestine Report</i> , Jerusalem)
QA	(<i>al-Quds al-Arabi</i> , London)
REU	(Reuters, Internet)
RL	(Radio Lebanon, Beirut)
RMC	(Radio Monte Carlo, Paris)
SA	(<i>al-Sbarq al-Awsat</i> , London)
UPI	(United Press International, Internet)
WJW	(<i>Washington Jewish Week</i> , Rockville, MD)
WNC	(World News Connection [Internet], Washington)
WP	(<i>Washington Post</i> , Washington)
WT	(<i>Washington Times</i> , Washington)
XIN	(Xinhua—New China News Agency, Beijing)
YA	(<i>Yedi'ot Abaronot</i> , Tel Aviv)

Chronology compiled by Michele L. Kjorlien



Seif al-Tirawi, 7, tries to retrieve a toy from the wreckage of his family's demolished house in Rafat, West Bank, 28 February 2001. (AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)