

REPORT ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENT IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

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PALESTINIAN GUNFIRE TRANSFORMS SETTLER LIFE

The idea that the existence and expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories were not incompatible with the march toward a historic peace between Israelis and Palestinians was one of the central assumptions underlying the Oslo process. During the last decade, successive Israeli governments of varying political stripes married a settlement policy of relentlessly “creating facts on the ground” to a strategy of diplomatic engagement with the national leadership of the Palestinian people, Yasser Arafat’s PLO. This unlikely combination was embraced by the United States, which discounted an Israeli policy intended to cripple prospects for Palestinian sovereignty as merely a “complicating factor” in the negotiating process. It was warily toler-

ated by the PLO leadership itself, which proved unable to fashion a diplomatic framework to constrain Israel’s ongoing settlement expansion, let alone roll back the status quo.

In contrast to their representatives, the people of the occupied territories—in Jenin and Nablus, Balata and Deheisha, Hebron, Rafah, and Khan Yunis—are forced to confront on a daily basis this contradiction at the heart of the Oslo process. To them, ever-expanding settlements, and the Israeli investments in related infrastructure and military deployment that follow in their wake, *do matter*.

The Palestinian rebellion that erupted in September 2000 has been fueled by the popular Palestinian belief that settlements and settlers are both the symbolic expression of Israeli intentions to deny them national self-determination and the practical obstacle to the peaceful and dignified conduct of a viable daily existence.

The instruments of settler existence in the occupied territories—settlements, the roads connecting them with each other and with Israel, as well as the settlers themselves—are the principle context in which the violence of the past year has taken place.

During the course of the intifada, 62 settlers have been killed in drive-by shootings and roadside ambushes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Everyday life in settlements, from sending children to school to trying to have a washing machine fixed by a technician who refuses to travel to these areas, has been

transformed by concerns for personal security and economic well-being.

“Our lives here have been absolutely transformed,” explained a settler from Homesh in *Ma’ariv*. We know when we leave our homes, but we don’t know when, if ever, we will return.”

In Gilo, reported *Ha’aretz*, “The bedroom door of Haim and Jeanne Yiflah is now blocked by sandbags. Their house overlooking the slopes of Beit Jala, resembles a military dugout.”

“We have succeeded in making the lives of the settlers very difficult,” explained Marwan Barghouti leader of Fateh’s Tanzim in the West Bank, “Their settlements have become military bunkers rather than homes. Our message is simple: The Israeli people will not feel secure for as long as they continue to occupy our territory.”

The transformation in everyday settler life has been all the more remarkable because of the extraordinary sense of personal security nurtured in the decades since 1967. With the exception of the 1988–1993 uprising, Palestinian violence directed at settlers and settlements had been notable by its scarcity, ineffectiveness, and episodic nature—that is, until last September.

“However secure and eternal the settlers [in Gaza’s Katif bloc] believe themselves to be,” noted an August article in *Ha’aretz*, “the fences surrounding their homes continue to grow . . . and the perimeters of settlements are now lined with concrete blocks.

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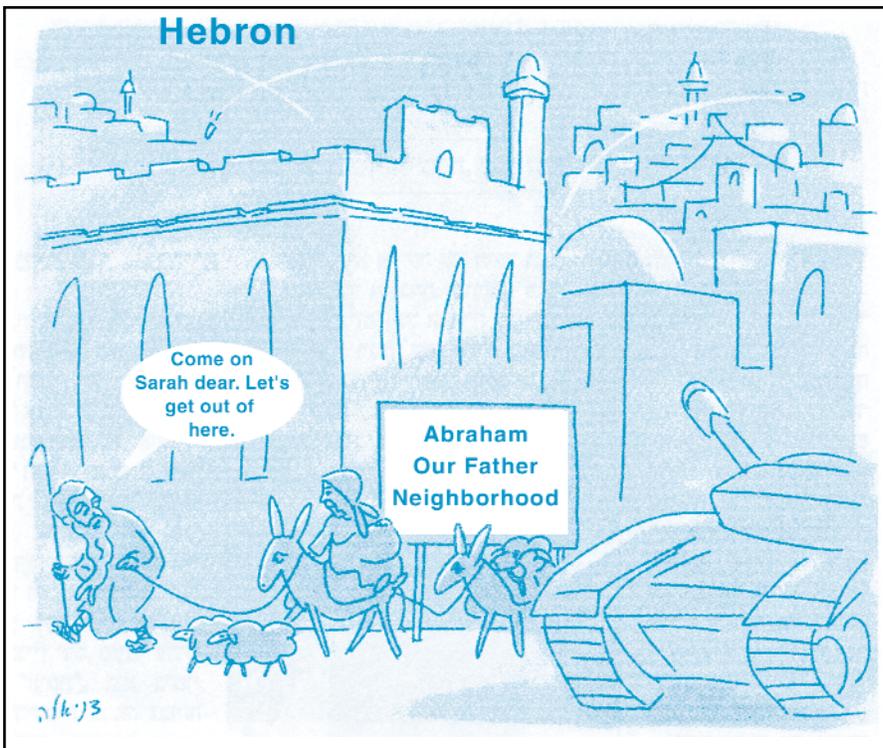
TO OUR READERS

Israel's historic drive to settle Jews in the occupied territories is a moral, political, and security disaster for Israel, a rejection of justice for Palestinians, and the main cause of the current uprising. The widespread Israeli belief that the Palestinians have rejected peace and opted for violence to destroy Israel is a product of self-serving propaganda by Israeli leaders who distort the meaning of the failed Oslo process and remain committed to settlements. It is also a result of ignorance about a harsh occupation that was bound to engender revolt. Arafat is also to blame for lack of a coherent political strategy, especially his failure to halt terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians. This has played into the hands of Sharon and the Israeli right who seek to demonize him and to avoid negotiations on core issues like settlements. Terrorism has also alienated the Palestinians' most impor-

tant potential allies, Americans and the Israeli moderates.

Fear wrought by violence and propaganda has obscured these plain truths: Peace and security require two viable states; Israel's settlement policy makes this impossible; and imposed "separation" is a panacea. Most Palestinians—except for Islamists—still support two states. But if the current impasse and settlements remain, Palestinians may despair of winning a state of their own and revert to the goal of a bi-national state, counting on eventual demographic superiority to achieve victory. The result would be further decades of civil war and brutalization of both societies.

Philip C. Wilcox, Jr.



Source: *Ha'aretz*, July 16, 2001.

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SHORT TAKES

House sales in Jerusalem's newest neighborhood are up. Located on the south side of Jerusalem with a breathtaking view of the Judean Desert, Har Homa is a major center of building activity in the capital. The Housing and Construction Ministry says that its special, low-interest loans of \$23,750 for purchase of Har Homa and Pisgat Ze'ev apartments are working. Eighty-seven Har Homa apartments were sold in July compared to fifty-five in the previous six months. Figures from the ministry also showed that 60 apartments were sold in Pisgat Ze'ev last month, as opposed to 54 during the period January-June. The special deal, which includes a \$12,000 rebate on the loan, remains available for four months.

Arutz 7, August 2, 2001

At this moment there are 97 Israeli military checkpoints in the West Bank. Roads are also blocked with piles of earth, ripped up, or cut across with trenches. These measures have literally divided the West Bank into over 100 separate, isolated Bantustans that have no connection to the outside world. Supplies are hardly getting through. In Gaza, Israeli forces have implemented many of the same measures.

In Gaza there are currently 32 Israeli military checkpoints. The internal closure of Gaza disallows any travel between the north, south, east, west, and central regions of the Gaza Strip. Additionally, the closure of the territories from Israel and East Jerusalem has been tightened as well.

BADIL Resource Center, August 23, 2001

"It looks something like Sodom and Gomorrah, but everyone is OK." So did Nissim Luzon of Kfar Darom sum up this morning's mortar strike on his home by Arabs from Gaza. The shell directly hit his home, causing extensive damage, and two others fell outside, but no one—even those sitting inside the house at the time—was hurt. "We have had several shells hit our neighborhood in the past," Luzon said, "and it seems as if they have targeted this part of Kfar Darom. We have talked to the army commander about it, and told him that the only solution is for the army to take over some of the adjoining territory so as to put us out of their reach."

In response to the attack, army tanks entered and battered Palestinian posts in neighboring Deir al-Balah. They left the area shortly afterward.

Arutz 7, August 23, 2001

How is Gilo holding up after the long-expected mortar shell was fired upon it yesterday? The shell fell on Havush Street, the most southeastern street in Jerusalem's southernmost neighborhood. One resident [explained] that she will leave when the contract on her rented apartment runs out,

while another said that she would not leave even if she could, "because this would be too easy for the Arabs. If we all leave, they can just come in and take over." A third man said, "It's a difficult situation, but there's no need to panic. We will hold on even for another year if we have to; if the residents in Hebron can deal with what's happening to them, then we can also."

Arutz 7, July 18, 2001

The chances of the Palestinians ever agreeing to Jewish settlement blocs are now nil. Each and every day, the Palestinian public receives reports of the actions of militia groups of settlers that have their own special headquarters and set up roadblocks, organize patrols, operate their own communications network, and field hit teams. The widespread consensus among the Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip is that peace can never be achieved until the last of the settlers has been removed from the territories.

When Palestinian leaders speak about peace, they refer to a treaty with Israel and absolutely rule out "any possibility of a peace that exists alongside a continuation of the Israeli occupation or includes the settlers," as is proclaimed in the official announcements appearing in both Ramallah and Gaza City.

Ha'aretz, Danny Rubinstein, "Confident That the Settlers Have Backing," July 23, 2001

Two minutes travel from French Hill in north Jerusalem, on the road to Ma'ale Adumim, is the roadblock manned by the Border Guard. Seven hundred meters from here, the priest Ge'er Zipokstikos was murdered by gunfire from [Palestinian] saboteurs. The murder was defined as one of "mistaken identity." Instead of murdering a Jew, a Greek Orthodox monk from Wadi Kelt was killed. A few hundred meters from here, one reaches the point where Palestinians on two occasions this week shot towards the Kedar settlement next to Ma'ale Adumim. These shots disturbed the tranquility in a region that is considered the quietest in all the occupied territories.

As one approaches Jericho, the number of cars traveling the road decreases dramatically. It is not so nice to travel an empty road when it is clear that drivers have chosen another route out of fear.

An Israeli car, bearing the white license plate of the IDF, identifies the passengers as soldiers, outfitted in helmets and body armor. There are military helicopters in the sky, standing in place. A new mission for the IDF, aerially reinforcing protection along the roads.

"Manning the Jordan Valley," Shlomo Tzazneh, *Ma'ariv*, Friday supplement, July 6, 2001

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December 25 The Palestinian Center for Human Rights reports bulldozing activities on cultivated Palestinian land south of Deir al-Balah near the Katif bloc. The land is to be used for a bypass road linking the settlement bloc to Israel.

Israel's two chief rabbis demand that the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif) remain under Israeli control, stating that "no one has the right to give away the site of the Holy Temple . . . the Temple Mount is the basis on which rests our right to the entire land."

December 26 Palestinians fire at the Psagot settlement, at IDF outposts near Netzer Hazani and Neve Dekalim in Gaza. A roadside bomb explodes near a settler convoy between the Karni checkpoint and the Netzarim settlement in Gaza.

December 27 Seven members of the right-wing Temple Mount Faithful are arrested in Jerusalem and more than 200 of them prevented by Israeli police from entering the Haram al-Sharif. The compound has been closed to non-Muslims since Ariel Sharon's controversial visit in September 2000.

The *Jerusalem Post* reports a plan by deputy defense minister Ephraim Sneh to build a 46-mile security fence of cement walls, iron poles and concrete blocks along the Green Line.

December 28 Three Palestinians are injured when Israeli settlers and soldiers open fire on al-Khader village.

An Israeli is shot and wounded outside Elon Moreh. Shots are fired at a bus traveling to Kiryat Arba.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak renews the designation of settlements as areas of highest national priority. The map designates 87 percent of the settlers and 86 percent of the settlements as having National Priority A status. This designation entitles settlers living in these communities to benefits and subsidies that include a seven percent income tax break, housing grants, subsidized mortgages, free schooling from the age of three, free school busing, and grants for businesses in agriculture, industry and tourism.

December 31 Palestinians fire on Israeli cars along the new Givat Ze'ev-Atarot highway, injuring one person. Shooting is reported at Avnei Hefetz, Bracha, Efrat, Hebron,

on the Tunnel Road and in Gadid and Netzarim in Gaza.

Israeli tanks fire four mortar shells on al-Bireh in response to gunfire on Psagot.

Settlers fire on numerous Palestinian men near Hizma, east of Jerusalem, killing one.

Two settlers, Binyamin Kahane, the son of Meir Kahane, and his wife are shot and killed while traveling south of Ofra. The couple's five children are injured in the attack.

The Palestinian Authority's communications minister says that "killing settlers is a Palestinian prerogative. . . . They had better leave now safely, before they have to leave in coffins."

Israel agrees to sign the Rome Statute calling for the establishment of an International Criminal Court. The signature comes with a qualification designed to protect Israel from sanctions resulting from its settlement activity in the Occupied Territories.

January 1 An Israeli bus is shot at near Shavei Shomron; no injuries are reported. (*Arutz-7*)

A settler shoots at a Palestinian car traveling on the Nablus-Deir Estya road, injuring two passengers. (*Hear Palestine*)

Groups of settlers block seven junctions around Ramallah to private Palestinian cars to protest roadside attacks on settlers. (*Ha'aretz*)

Settlers from Ofra seize a hilltop where a previous attack on settlers occurred. The residents vow not to leave, claiming that the site is part of Ofra's expansion plan and that it was seized as "a fitting Zionist response to Palestinian terror." (*Ha'aretz*)

January 2 The IDF razes three Palestinian homes in Ayn Yabrud, next to Ofra. (*Arutz-7*)

Settlers obstruct Palestinian traffic on the road around the Tapuah junction, hurling stones at Palestinian motorists. (*Ha'aretz*)

Settlers from the Jordan Valley stage a protest demonstrating against possible concessions in the region. (*Ha'aretz*)

Settlers from Homesh attack Palestinian farmers in Sila, near Jenin, preventing them from cultivating their land. (*Hear Palestine*)

January 3 Prime ministerial candidate Ariel Sharon declares that he will not dismantle any settlements in the West Bank and Gaza if elected. (IDF Radio)

January 4 Barak rejects a recommendation by his security services to allow Jews to visit the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif). The chief rabbis of Israel reject an appeal from National Religious Party members calling for a halakhic ruling permitting Jews to enter the holy site. (*Ha'aretz*, *Arutz-7*)

Settlers from Beit El, Elon Moreh, Kedumim and Yitzhar close their schools and workplaces to protest recent violence and shooting attacks. (*Ha'aretz* and *Arutz-7*)

Beit El settlers occupy an outpost on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road, stating they will not move until the IDF takes over the site. (*Ha'aretz* and *Arutz-7*)

Settlers from Kokhav HaShahar block the Allon highway to Palestinian traffic. (*Arutz-7*)

Settlers march to Jerusalem while chanting "Israel is fighting for her soul." (*Arutz-7*)

Settlers in Netzarim take cover in bomb shelters for the first time in three months due to a fierce gun battle between the IDF and Palestinians. (*Hear Palestine*)

January 5 Palestinians vandalize water pipes in the Yitzhar settlement. The West Bank civil administration spokesman states that since October 2000 about eight cases of vandalism to water installations have occurred throughout the territories.

January 7 Shooting occurs near the Elon Moreh, Neve Dekalim, and Psagot settlements and at an Israeli bus traveling in the Jordan Valley. (*Arutz-7*)

Two former security officers send a public letter to Barak warning of security threats to the Temple Mount by extremist, messianic groups. They state "Calls made by rabbis are liable to be interpreted as sanctions given to an attack against the Temple Mount [by Jewish groups]. . . . Exhortations to destroy the mosques and take vengeance for the murder of Binyamin Kahane [make] the [Haram al-Sharif and other Islamic sites] prime targets for attacks by Jews." (*Ha'aretz*)

January 8 Israeli settlers shoot and kill a Palestinian during clashes with security services in Kfar Haris. (*LAW*)

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Palestinians fire on Israeli cars traveling near Jerusalem, injuring one boy. Palestinians from the Aida refugee camp fire on the Gilo settlement. (*Arutz-7*)

About 300,000 Israelis gather in a mass rally opposing the division of Jerusalem between Israelis and Palestinians. (*Arutz-7*)

January 9 Palestinian students throw stones at an Israeli bus carrying settlers from Homesh, near Jenin. The settlers respond with fire aimed at the school and adjacent homes, killing one Palestinian. (*LAW*)

The Tunnels Road between the Etzion bloc and Jerusalem closes temporarily as a result of intermittent shooting. (*Arutz-7*)

The Mufti of Jerusalem, Sheik Arama Tsabari, issues a ruling that the Temple Mount, the Western Wall and its adjoining plaza are all properties of the Muslim Waqf and “there can be no compromise on [the] matter.” (*Arutz-7*)

January 10 Palestinians shoot at the Ayosh junction, Einav, and Psagot. Palestinians also fire on Israeli cars near Elon Moreh, Itamar, and Kadim. (*Arutz-7*)

January 13 *Hear Palestine* reports the bulldozing of more than 300 dunams of Palestinian land near the Ele Sinai settlement in Gaza.

January 14 Palestinians fire at Neve Ya'acov in northern Jerusalem for the first time. (*Arutz-7*)

The IDF establishes two new outposts at the sites previously occupied by settlers from Ofra and Beit El. (*Ha'aretz*)

A settler from the Katif bloc is kidnaped and killed.

Israeli forces continue to bulldoze land from Beit Lahiya near the Ele Sinai settlement. Bulldozers begin constructing a one km road linking the Kfar Darom settlement to agricultural land in the east. The road cuts through land from the Palestinian village of al-Azaiza in Deir Balah. (*Hear Palestine*)

January 15 *Hear Palestine* reports that settlers cut down more than 200 olive trees in Hawara, near Nablus. The head of the Hawara municipality states that settlers have destroyed more than 1,700 trees since the beginning of the al-Aqsa Intifada.

Israel Radio reports that settlers in Hebron have been authorized to set up armed

patrols, supervised by the Israeli police.

Israeli forces move the Kiryat Sefer checkpoint from the entrance of the settlement to the eastern entrance of the Palestinian village of Na Elin, over 500 meters from the settlement, and block the village entrance with large cement blocks. Israeli forces place Na Elin and neighboring villages under strict closure. (*Hear Palestine*)

Palestinians fire on Israeli targets in Hebron, Neve Dekalim, and Elon Moreh. A bomb explodes near an Israeli convoy traveling from Netzarim to the Karni checkpoint in Gaza. (*Arutz-7*)

Settlers set fire to Palestinian homes, fields, and greenhouses near al-Mawasi, close to the Kfar Yam settlement in Gaza, in retaliation for the killing of a settler. (*Ha'aretz*)

The Israeli army places a curfew on Dahiyat al-Barid in the West Bank in retaliation for shootings at Neve Ya'acov. (*Hear Palestine*)

Israeli bulldozers level more than 30 dunams of land belonging to Palestinians for the expansion of the Harsina settlement in Hebron. (*Hear Palestine*)

January 16 Settlers kidnap, shoot and kill a Palestinian man. (*Hear Palestine*)

January 17 Palestinians throw three Molotov cocktails at Israeli cars in Pisgat Ze'ev. Palestinians fire on Psagot. (*Arutz-7*)

January 18 Palestinians fire on Israeli cars between Nahliel and Neria and on Netzarim in Gaza. Palestinians throw two firebombs at Psagot, setting fire to an apartment. (*Arutz-7*)

January 20 The IDF constructs a new road north of Mawasi to connect the Katif bloc and Tel Katifa. The road, lined with barbed wire, will prevent Palestinians from entering Mawasi from Deir al-Balah. An IDF spokesperson states that the construction is in response to the killing of a settler by Palestinians. (*Hear Palestine*)

January 21 The Council of Jewish Settlements of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza (YESHA Council) call on settlers to support the candidacy of Ariel Sharon for prime minister. (*Ha'aretz*)

Shots are fired on Ateret, Neve Dekalim, and Psagot. (*Arutz-7*)

January 22 Twenty-five settlers from the Modi'in area file suit in the Israeli High

Court against IDF chief of staff Shaul Mofaz, demanding increased security along the Modi'in-Jerusalem bypass road, especially during the night. (*Arutz-7*)

The Israeli High Court convicts a West Bank settler of second-degree manslaughter in the death of a Palestinian boy, sentencing him to six months of public service and fifteen months probation. (*Ha'aretz*)

January 23 Two firebombs are thrown at the Givat HaMatos settlement in East Jerusalem. Shots are fired at IDF outposts near Gadid and Neve Dekalim. (*Arutz-7*) An Israeli car is fired on while traveling from Givat Ze'ev to Atarot. (*Israeline*)

Israeli forces close al-Nafaq in Beit Jala and al-Khader after finding two explosives on bypass roads used by settlers. (*Hear Palestine*)

January 24 Shots are fired into the Netzarim and Psagot settlements. (*Arutz-7*)

According to Israeli reports, ten factories in the Erez industrial park in Gaza have been forced to close due to violence in the area. An Israeli official tells *Ha'aretz* that if the industrial zone is forced to shut down, it would be “just like evacuating a settlement.” (*Palestine Report*)

January 25 An Israeli traveling from the Atarot industrial zone to Givat Ze'ev is shot and killed in his car. (*Israel Line*)

Palestinians fire on Psagot for the second day in a row. Three settlers are arrested in connect with retaliatory attacks on Palestinian property. (*Arutz-7*)

January 28 Netzarim, Neve Dekalim, and Psagot are fired on. (*Hear Palestine*)

Settlers from the Eshkalot settlement, south of Hebron, set up a checkpoint in the al-Ramadin area, stopping Palestinian cars and searching them. (*Hear Palestine*)

January 29 Neve Dekalim is fired on. IDF soldiers kill a Palestinian in an exchange of gun fire. (*Arutz-7*)

A settler from Ofra traveling from the Atarot industrial area is shot and killed at the Adam junction, north of Neve Ya'acov. (*Arutz-7*)

January 30 Barak states, “just as we set a limit to Lebanon and had the strength to leave it . . . we shall have the strength to take our boys out of Judea and Samaria. We will do everything for a peace deal—but if it is

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not possible, we will bring separation within two or three years, and we will not stay forever in Itamar Cimmel and Netzarim.”

A mortar shell is fired into the Netzarim settlement, damaging a house. Chief of staff Mofaz predicts that should the conflict worsen, there will be more Palestinian attempts to attack settlements. (*Ha'aretz*)

The head of the Golan Regional Council meets with Likud Party members and discusses a multiyear plan for expanding the Jewish presence in the region. (*Ha'aretz*)

January 31 *Hear Palestine* reports the establishment of a new settlement on land from Kufer Thuluth. Bulldozing and razing are underway to link Ma'ale Shomron and Ginat Shomron.

The YESHA rabbis council calls on IDF chief of staff Mofaz to forbid Palestinian traffic through YESHA or resign. (*Arutz-7*)

Settlers from Kokhav HaShahar and Rimonim block the Allon Road to Palestinian traffic. Beit El settlers block Palestinian motorists from traveling the stretch of highway from the T junction to the Ayosh Junction. (*Arutz-7*)

The IDF announces plans to distribute maps to settlers demarcating roads on which travel forbidden due to violence, roads that are officially open but require special security coordination, and roads open to travel. (*YESHA News Daily*)

February 1 The IDF imposes a ban on private Palestinian cars traveling on roads controlled by Israel in the Etzion bloc. (*Ha'aretz*)

A settler traveling from Jerusalem to his home in Karnei Tzur, in the Etzion bloc, is shot and killed near a refugee camp in Bethlehem. It is the first shooting incident in Bethlehem after several weeks of relative calm. (*Ha'aretz*)

An Israeli is shot and killed north of Jenin. (*Ha'aretz*)

Israeli worshippers outside Rachel's Tomb are fired upon. (*Arutz-7*)

February 4 Shots are fired at Psagot and Efrat. (*Arutz-7, YESHA News Daily*)

The IDF destroys six Palestinian homes near the Karni crossing in Gaza in an effort to prevent shootings at Israeli targets. (*Arutz-7*)

The IDF announces that more vehicles will be stationed on the roads in the West Bank. All entrances and exits to Palestinian cities will be “encircled” and Palestinians will only be permitted to travel by public transportation. All dirt roads used to bypass closed roads will be off limits as well. (*Arutz-7*)

February 5 Shots are fired at the Kadim settlement. (*Arutz-7, YESHA News Daily*)

The IDF closes the Tunnel Road after shots are fired from al-Khader. (*Arutz-7*)

Hear Palestine reports the leveling of grape vines and almond trees north of the Beit Umar village in efforts to expand the Etzion bloc. *Hear Palestine* reports the confiscation of more than 1,000 dunums of Palestinian land near Jericho for the construction of a bypass road.

Three Beit El settlers are arrested for blocking an intersection near Ramallah and denying access to Palestinian motorists. The settlers call on the IDF to implement a promise to prohibit all Palestinian vehicles from using roads used by settlers. (*Ha'aretz*)

According to *Ha'aretz*, settlers return to the abandoned Havat Maon outpost that was destroyed a year earlier following an agreement between the YESHA council and the government.

February 6 Ariel Sharon defeats Ehud Barak in the election for prime minister of Israel.

February 9 Barak informs President George W. Bush that “nothing is agreed until it's all agreed,” asserting that concessions he made during negotiations with PA leader Yasser Arafat do not commit prime minister-elect Sharon to the same. (*Ha'aretz*)

February 10 A mortar shell is fired on Netzarim and settlers are ordered into bomb shelters. (*YESHA News Daily*)

February 11 A settler from the Etzion bloc is killed along the Tunnel Road. Palestinians fire on Gilo. (*YESHA News Daily*)

February 12 Settlers from the Etzion bloc attack Arab motorists with stones at the Efrat junction. They also attempt to block area roads to Arab motorists. (*YESHA News Daily*)

A militant element of Fatah declares “the settlements that Sharon spent his life building at the expense of Palestinian land will be turned into hell and fire. The downfall of Sharon and his settlements is our goal and the goal of our bullets and our resistance.” (*Los Angeles Times*)

The IDF demolishes two Palestinian homes and a large orchard in southern Gaza. Officers justify the razing as an effort to expand the no-man's-land zone around Kfar Darom and provide added security to the settlement. (*YESHA News Daily*)

February 13 The IDF closes all roads leading to and from Gush Etzion to settler traffic due to gunfire. (*Arutz-7, Ha'aretz*)

Settlers from Gush Etzion block area roads to Palestinian motorists. (*YESHA News Daily*)

Palestinian gunfire penetrates the industrial zone of Neve Dekalim in the Katif bloc, injuring one worker. (*Arutz-7*)

Israeli cars are shot at along the road to Beit El. Palestinians fire on Gilo. (*Arutz-7*)

The Knesset passes a bill giving Israelis eligible for housing subsidies an extra \$15,000 (for dwellings on privately owned land) to \$20,000 (for dwellings on state land) toward an apartment in Jerusalem. The Finance Minister opposes the law because it will cost about \$40 million per year. (*Ha'aretz*)

February 14 Palestinians fire on Elon Moreh. Two bombs are discovered along the Tunnel Road. (*Arutz-7*)

February 15 The IDF closes roads in Givat Ze'ev after Palestinians fire at a house there. (*Jerusalem Post, Arutz-7*)

Arutz-7 reports the refusal of insurance companies to insure workers in the Barkan and Atarot industrial areas.

The IDF kills a Palestinian attempting to enter the Kfar Darom settlement in Gaza. It was the second such attempt in three months. (*Ha'aretz*)

According to *Arutz-7*, power is cut to the Ma'aleh Hever settlement in Hebron due to Palestinian gunfire.

February 16 IDF deputy chief of staff Moshe Ya'alon states that the Israeli retreat from Joseph's Tomb in October 2000 “fired up the fighting spirit of the Palestinians. It

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will be a grave error if Israel continues to pull out of other areas or settlements under fire.” (*Ma'ariv*)

Kol Ha'ir reports the cancellation of a tender for the creation of a high-tech park in Pisgat Ze'ev due to lack of interest, due to “the security situation in recent months.”

February 18 After serving seven and half years of an eleven year sentence, the Israeli High Court paroles Yoram Skolnick who murdered a Palestinian suspected of stabbing a settler. (*Ha'aretz*)

The IDF closes the Tunnel Road between Jerusalem and Gush Etzion after exchanges of gunfire and installs protective concrete slabs along the route. (*Ha'aretz*, Israel Radio)

Palestinians in Beit Jala fire on Gilo. The IDF returns fire with machine guns, tanks, and missiles. (*YESHA News Daily*)

February 19 The IDF closes the Tunnel Road after exchanges of fire between the IDF and Palestinians near al-Khader and Neve Daniel in Gush Etzion. The IDF cuts off access to the settlement of Homesh after the discovery of suspected roadside bombs. (*YESHA News Daily*)

The IDF allows Israelis to travel along the Trans-Judea Highway (Route 35) for the first time in months. The Hebron Hills Regional Council is running bullet-proof bus service along the route. (*YESHA News Daily*)

Palestinians fire on the settlements of Elisha, Gilo, Kadim, and Psagot. (*YESHA News Daily*)

February 20 The *Jerusalem Post* reports IDF bulldozing of two Palestinian houses near Beit Umar, south of Jerusalem. Israeli officials claim the houses were illegally built.

Israeli soldiers fire first on Beit Jala, ending the policy of only returning fire. (*Arutz-7*)

February 21 *Ha'aretz* reports an average of ten shooting incidents and one roadside bomb blast per day in the Gaza Strip over the last few days. More than half of all bombs placed were on the Karni-Netzarim road. The IDF has destroyed several houses, cleared trees and diverted parts of the road.

Bulletproof windows will be installed in about 900 settlement homes including all those in Gilo that face Beit Jala at a cost of approximately \$8.75 million. (*Arutz-7*)

The Supreme Council of Fatah calls for an end to firing on Israeli positions and settlements from residential Palestinian areas, stating the firing “gives the IDF an excuse to open fire with machine guns and tanks into Palestinian residential neighborhoods.” (*Ha'aretz*)

Five mortar shells are fired into the Gaza settlements of Ele Sinai and Dugit. (*YESHA News Daily*)

February 22 *Ma'ariv* reports that the head of Israel's military courts in Beit El frees 6 Palestinians because career officers in the IDF refuse to travel to Beit El, north of Ramallah.

February 23 The IDF cuts Gaza in half, preventing travel from Gaza City in the north to Khan Yunis and Rafah in the south. (*Arutz-7*)

Shots are fired at Homesh and Psagot. (*YESHA News Daily*)

Yerushalim reports an upcoming tender for the construction of 696 units at Tel Zion at the settlement of Kochav Ya'acov northeast of Jerusalem.

February 24 Shots are fired at the settlements of Mevo Dotan, Psagot and Gedid. (*Ha'aretz*)

February 25 In response to fire on the Ele Sinai settlement, the IDF destroys two Palestinian posts in Palestinian Authority territory and again bisects the Gaza Strip. (*Ha'aretz*)

Shootings, in which two settlers from Ateret are wounded, prompts the closing of the road north of Ramallah. (*Ha'aretz*)

February 26 A YESHA council spokesman states, “Arafat is an enemy. . . . After seven years of war and him sending his own people to kill, we need to assassinate him.” (*Hear Palestine, Ha'aretz*)

February 28 Palestinians fire on a car near French Hill in Jerusalem, injuring one passenger. (*YESHA News Daily*)

March 1 An exchange of gunfire occurs around Psagot. (*Arutz-7*)

Al-Quds reports settlers confiscating 4,000 dunams of agricultural land from the village of Sinjil, in Ramallah. The land is between the settlements of Shilo, Eli and Ma'ale Levona.

Arutz-7 reports that business owners in the Neve Dekalim industrial zone in Gaza claim to be on the verge of collapse due to closures and shootings.

March 2 The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) reports that a Palestinian child is killed in “indiscriminate and unjustifiable firing into Palestinian homes neighboring the Psagot settlement.”

A settler from Ma'ale Adumim is shot near the French Hill Junction in Jerusalem. (*Arutz-7*)

March 3 The PCHR reports a settler from Shilo shooting and killing a Palestinian from Qariout. One Palestinian dies and two are wounded due to shelling by the Israeli army from Psagot. *LAW* reports a settler from Gilo shooting and killing a Palestinian traveling from Ramallah.

Israel's Channel One reports “The IDF is acting to capture territories as a strategic aim in the present conflict. This was revealed by a senior military source. According to the source, the IDF is capturing territories inside Area A, in order to improve positions and also to make clear to the Palestinians that there is a territorial price to the conflict.” The *Jerusalem Post* reports that “the IDF is working to widen the margins of the settlement blocs in the Gaza Strip in order to bolster settlers' security and send a message to the Palestinians that violence on their part will yield only losses.”

March 5 O.C. Southern Command Doron Almog states, “There is no difference between Netzarim and any other town in Israel. The IDF is obligated to protect and defend them all.” (*Arutz-7*)

March 6 *Hear Palestine* reports new settlement expansion and land confiscation near Jalud in Nablus.

Palestinians fire on Psagot. The IDF returns fire. (*Arutz-7*)

In a farewell statement to the General Staff, Barak states that separation, either in an agreement or unilaterally, will entail abandoning isolated settlements. “There is a supreme preference to reach a separation with an agreement, but without an agreement, we should enact a unilateral separation accompanied by setting up blocs of settlements and wide security zones on the eastern border and around Modi'in. [We should

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have] control over the central heights and, at the right moment, we should transfer some of the isolated settlements to settlement blocs or inside the State of Israel.” (*Hear Palestine*)

March 7 Palestinians fire on an Egged bus traveling north of Ofra on Route 60 and on the Ma’ale Levona settlement. (*YESHA News Daily*)

Shots are fired toward Netzarim, Ofra, Psagot, and Shilo. A bomb explodes between the Tunnel Road and Gilo. (*Arutz-7*)

March 8 Bulldozing commences and six caravans are installed south of Ya’ebad, near Jenin, in an effort to establish a new settlement. (*Hear Palestine*)

Tanzim leader, Marwan Barghouti, states, “[Israel] want[s] occupation and settlements, they can’t have security.” (*InfoPal*)

Palestinians fire two mortar shells at Netzarim; exchanges of fire also occur near Neve Dekalim. (*Arutz-7*)

March 9 *YESHA News Daily* reports firing on the Morag settlement.

Settler place three caravans near the Anata settlement in an effort to connect it with Kfar Adumim. (*Hear Palestine*)

Settlers attack Kfar Kik and Broqin, destroying both towns’ electrical units. (*Hear Palestine*)

March 11 Residents of Khan Yunis and settlers in Gush Katif exchange fire. (*Arutz-7*)

Hebron settlers commemorate the 1994 massacre of 29 Palestinians in the Ibrahimi mosque. Settlers, many of whom hold pictures of and are dressed like the perpetrator of the killing, fire live ammunition into the air, vandalize property, and pelt Palestinians with stones and bottles. (Palestinian Media Center)

March 12 Settlers from Shvut Rachel bulldoze land adjacent to the Jalud and Qaryout villages with the aim of confiscating and annexing it to the settlement. (*Hear Palestine*)

Israel Radio reports the establishment of 90 new roadblocks separating Palestinian Authority (Areas A) from Areas B and C and an increased army presence at the entrances to Palestinian cities. The army

denies that these measures are collective punishment but rather they are measures to protect settlers. The closure is the most intense since the occupation in 1967. (*Hear Palestine*)

Yediot Aharanot reports the approval of new army tactics in the West Bank. The plan includes the division of the West Bank into 60 cells, each receiving individual treatment according to local events. The plan includes the detachment of rural areas from urban areas, segregation of the big cities, and entry into Areas A for combat operations—including the use of tanks.

Moria Shlomot, the director of Peace Now states: “The day will come when we’ll have to explain to our children why the State of Israel starved a whole civilian population and how the army of a people who experienced the ghettos cut off entire villages with ditches and barbed wire. Any rational person understands that this measure will not improve security. Determined terrorists will cross any obstacle, but the despair caused by poverty and starvation will only serve to push more and more people into the hands of Islamic fundamentalists. Sharon’s assistants, Benjamin Ben Eliezer and Shimon Peres, will never shake off the permanent stain caused by a policy whose only purpose is to appease the settlers.”

Defense Minister Ben Eliezer, in a meeting with YESHA council leaders, states that he will improve security along the Tunnel Road, the Jordan Valley highway, and the Modi’in highway. A YESHA leader states, “We think the encirclement of Arab villages is an important measure, but even more intense actions must be taken. . . . Suicide terrorists must be deterred in other ways such as having their homes destroyed and their families exiled. The pressure on the Palestinians must be increased until we are able to travel freely on the roads.” (*Arutz-7*)

March 13 *Hear Palestine* reports that two caravans are placed on agricultural land in Beita by Israeli settlers.

Gunfire is directed at settlers cars in Alfe Menashe and Ma’ale Shomron. (*Arutz-7*)

March 14 A settler is wounded on a road in Gadid in the Katif bloc. Two mines are safely dismantled in nearby Morag. (*Arutz-7*)

The IDF announces the introduction of new

security methods for the settlements. The experimental system will track movements around the settlement using optical sensors connected to a central computer. (*YESHA News Daily*)

The IDF purchases 1,000 bulletproof vests for distribution in settlements. (*YESHA News Daily*)

Contesting the ownership of a house, settlers occupy a Palestinian home in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem. (*Jerusalem Times Weekly*)

March 16 Settlers demonstrate on the Dolev-Beit El road, demanding its reopening. (*Arutz-7*)

Dozens of Kiryat Arba settlers block the junction where the Cross-Judea highway meets the Jerusalem-Hebron highway, demanding that the Cross-Judea highway reopen to settlers. (*Arutz-7*)

The IDF announces that it will spend tens of millions of shekels to bulletproof homes in Beit Hagai, Psagot and Vered Jericho. (*YESHA News Daily*)

March 17 The IDF begins reconstruction of a fence separating Israel from the Gaza Strip after portions of it were destroyed during the recent violence. (*Arutz-7*)

March 19 A settler from Efrat is shot and killed while driving near the Etzion bloc.

Settlers open fire on farmers near Surif, north of Hebron, and deny them access to their fields. (Palestine Media Center)

Palestinians fire on the Beka’ot settlement in the Jordan Valley. (*Arutz-7*)

The Palestine Media Center reports that the settlements of Shave Shomron, north of Nablus, and Alfe Menashe, near Kfar Thulath, are expanding. Near the Palestinian village of Beita, the IDF has set up a new outpost to help secure the settler bypass road.

The Jerusalem municipality planning board approves the construction of an additional 2,832 housing units in the Har Homa settlement. In response, Palestinian parliamentary speaker Ahmed Qurai [Abu Ala] declares, “Israel must stop all settlement actions before negotiations can be resumed. There can be no trust if this situation persists.” (*Hear Palestine* and Palestine Media Center)

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March 20 A security officer guarding the Shomron settlement is shot and wounded. (*Arutz-7*)

Residents of the Israeli town of Bet Hefer demand that a wall be built around the area in order to prevent firing on the community. (*YESHA News Daily*)

A water pipe in Shave Shomron is blown up. (*YESHA News Daily*)

The Housing Ministry completes a master plan for the construction of a new settlement in the West Bank. The settlement, Giva'ot, will be in Gush Etzion, south of Jerusalem, between Alon Shvut and Betar. The Ministry hopes to link the settlement to Betar. (Independent Media Review and Analysis)

March 21 Palestinians fire two homemade mortars at Morag and three at Netzarim, forcing settlers into bomb shelters. (*Ha'aretz*, *YESHA News Daily*)

March 22 Betsalem reports six Palestinians have been killed by settlers since the start of the Intifada in September 2000.

Bulldozers resume work on a new bypass road in Ras Kark near the Talmon settlement. (*Hear Palestine*)

March 24 *Ha'aretz* reports exchanges of gunfire near Gadid, Neve Dakalim, and Psagot.

March 25 A security officer for the Shomron Regional Council is shot at the Yitzhar junction between Tapuach and Nablus. (*Arutz-7*)

Shots are fired at Neve Dakalim and Psagot. (*YESHA News Daily*)

March 26 In Hebron, a Palestinian fires on a settler home wounding one adult and killing a baby girl. The IDF responds with heavy machine-gun fire and tank shells, injuring at least 16 Palestinians. Settlers smash windows and vandalize Palestinian cars, prompting the IDF to restrain the settlers. Settlers also torch the Hebron Waqf administration building. (*Ha'aretz*)

Three mortar shells are fired at Morag. (*YESHA News Daily*)

March 27 A suicide bomber wounds 17 people at the French Hill junction in Jerusalem. The YESHA Council calls for an expanded closure on the West Bank: "Today's attacks once again prove that

Palestinian terrorism does not differentiate between Hebron and Jerusalem. . . . Too much blood has already been spilled for the Sharon government not to reach the realization that the government must end its policy of restraint. Abu Sneineh must be taken today, and a hermetic closure must be imposed on all of YESHA, which has become a place of refuge for terrorists." (*Arutz-7* and *YESHA News Daily*)

Hebron settlers tear down the doors to Palestinian produce stalls and seize buildings, claiming that they were originally Jewish buildings and would now be used for a memorial to the child slain on March 26. (*Ha'aretz*)

Arutz-7 reports Katif bloc settlers staging a massive demonstration on the road leading to army headquarters, demanding that the army put a stop to the shootings on Neve Dekalim.

Israeli bulldozers continue to clear land for the expansion of the Avne Hefetz settlement. Settlers set up roadblocks to prevent Palestinians, who have been under closure for the preceding five months from reaching their farmland. (*Hear Palestine*)

Fourteen settlements are added to the list of official development areas, giving them and their residents economic and tax benefits: Avne Hefetz, Bat Ayn, Bruchin, Dugit, Eshkolot, Etz Efraim, Kedar, Negohot, Na'ale, Ofarim, Rahelim, Revava, Sansana and Shima. (*Arutz-7*)

March 28 Former general security service head Carmi Gillon, states, "The security situation would not be improved if Abu Sneineh, Beit Jala, or any other places were taken back. Israel would have tens of thousands of Palestinians to contend with and control. Similarly, the idea of separation is an impossible mission when you have 200,000 Jews living in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and a mixed Jewish-Arab population in Jerusalem. It would only become feasible when a decision is reached over Israel's borders." (*Jerusalem Post* and *Peace Now*)

March 29 Palestinians fire at an IDF outpost near Neve Dekalim. The IDF shoots and kills a Palestinian from Arafat's Force 17 bodyguard service as he opened fire on Netzarim. (*Arutz 7*)

The Israeli minister of infrastructure, Avigdor Lieberman, states he will suggest

the approval of a plan to distribute free land to settlers in efforts to expand existing settlements in the occupied territories. (*Hear Palestine*)

March 30 Settlers from Revava and Yakir attempt to establish an outpost near the Palestinian village of Der Istiya, where an attack on a settler allegedly occurred. The IDF convinces the settlers to abandon the outpost in exchange for razing the hilltop. (*YESHA News Daily*)

Settlers confiscate 200 dunums of Palestinian land in al-Buwayt along a bypass road and raise tents on the confiscated land. Settlers confiscate more than 100 dunums of Palestinian agricultural land in Wadi al-Sumsum in an effort to expand the settlement of Tene. (*Hear Palestine*)

The Israeli military commander of the West Bank issues an order to confiscate 100 dunums of Palestinian agricultural land for the construction of a 1.5 km road connecting a military base near Alfe Minashe with the security coordination office. (*Hear Palestine*)

Hear Palestine reports the destruction of more than 800 dunums of Palestinian crops between Gaza City and the Green Line.

Denmark declares a boycott of Israeli settlement products and demands that the European Union freeze cooperation agreements with Israel. (*Hear Palestine*)

March 31 The IDF exchanges fire with Palestinians near Gilo.

The Jerusalem municipality issues demolition orders for three homes in al-Thuri, five in Ras Amud and five in Um Tuba. The municipality has issued more than 22 demolition orders for Palestinian properties in East Jerusalem and two for Israeli properties in West Jerusalem since the beginning of the year.

April 1 The IDF exchanges gunfire with Palestinians near al-Khader, Hebron, and settlements south of Har Hebron, near the Jenin bypass road, Nablus and Rachel's Tomb. (*Ha'aretz*, *Arutz-7*)

The National Religious Party's Yitzhak Levy, calls on prime minister Sharon to take over the Abu Sneineh hills in Hebron. "Either evacuate all the Jews or protect them by placing the overlooking hills under IDF control. This must be part of a new policy under which all areas used to launch attacks on

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Israelis, such as the hill opposite the Tunnels Highway connecting Jerusalem and Gush Etzion, are taken over by the IDF." (*Arutz-7*)

The Palestine Media Center reports that since March 26, more than 25 Palestinian-owned shops and houses have been set on fire by settlers; several attempts have been made by settlers to seize shops and houses; and settlers have entered parts of H1 in violation of the Hebron Protocol of 1997.

Labor cabinet minister Ephraim Sneh tells Israeli Radio that he understands official complaints against settlers in Hebron. "Whoever doesn't hurry up and hustle to do what they want is considered a traitor. . . . They view the IDF as a tool to carry out their objectives, which, is to seize control of Palestinian Hebron." (*Ha'aretz and Peace Now* report)

April 2 An IDF soldier is killed in a gun battle with Palestinians at Rachel's Tomb. The IDF closes the Tunnel Road because of Palestinian fire on the Otniel settlement in the Hebron Hills. (*Arutz-7*)

Opposition Meretz Party chairman Yossi Sarid states that Jews should be evacuated from Hebron immediately. "People that bite the hand that protects them, the hand of police officers and soldiers, cannot be considered balanced or normal people. . . . Whoever does not evacuate the Jews from there is bringing danger on himself, not just in the territories, but in the entire region." (*Ha'aretz, Jerusalem Post*)

Following the funeral of the infant killed on March 26 in Hebron, Sharon declares the Hebron settlement will remain "forever." (*Hear Palestine*)

Ha'aretz reports the restoration of residency rights to 818 Palestinian Jerusalemites in 2000. In the first three months of 2001, 100 Palestinians regained their permanent residency status, as opposed to 183 in 1999.

April 3 Palestinians fire mortars at Atzmona in Gush Katif, injuring three settlers. Israeli Air Force helicopter gunships bomb a Palestinian Force 17 base near Gaza City and other Palestinian targets near Deir al-Balah, Khan Yunis and Rafah in retaliation. (*Ha'aretz, Arutz-7*)

The IDF begins clearing land for the construction of a bypass road near Alfe

Menashe, following the March 30 military order to confiscate 100 dunams of Palestinian agricultural land near the settlement. (*Hear Palestine*)

Hear Palestine reports vast destruction of Palestinian agricultural land in Aghwar Toubas by settlers from Shadmot Mehola. Witnesses report the destruction of cultivated vegetables and theft of water generators.

April 4 Palestinians fire on Netzarim. (*YESHA News Daily*)

Israeli minister of defense Ben Eliezer approves construction of permanent residential units in the Dugit settlement. The ministry of agriculture is expected to subsidize water prices for the settlement. (*Hear Palestine*)

The *YESHA News* reports, "Over the past few weeks, security chiefs of YESHA Jewish communities have been debating a change in the basic concept of the operation of their volunteer emergency squads. Until now, emergency squads have been trained to behave as an infantry unit, prepared to come into direct contact with terrorists infiltrating a community. The emphasis will now shift to marksmanship for longer-distance contact, changing the squad into an anti-sniper type unit. The reason for the change is that the modes of operation of Arab terrorists have recently changed from actual infiltrations into communities, to sniper and mortar attacks from outside community boundaries."

The *Jerusalem Post* reports that the Israeli civil administration has leveled 14 Palestinian buildings in Hebron and Jerusalem. (*Hear Palestine* reports 28 buildings being destroyed on the same day.) The municipal body has demolished 25 Palestinian buildings in the West Bank this week.

New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton donates \$1,200 to Israeli teachers and medics in the West Bank and Gaza to purchase protective gear. She pledges to work with State Assemblyman Dov Hikind to raise one million dollars for Israeli civilians targeted by Palestinian fire in the Occupied Territories. (*Jerusalem Post*)

April 5 *Hear Palestine* reports armed settlers throwing rocks at Palestinian cars and blocking traffic on Salahedin Road near the Katif bloc for the second day in a row. Witnesses report that the settlers are pro-

tested by five tanks and a score of soldiers. The IDF closes the major road because of settler violence.

The IDF fires on Palestinians marching toward a military outpost by the Kfar Darom settlement. Palestinian security forces prevent a second demonstration from reaching the settlement. (*Ramattan Daily*)

Mortar shells land in Morag and Nisanit. The IDF orders all settlers into bomb shelters, although no injuries are reported. (*YESHA News Daily*)

The Israeli Committee Against House demolitions reports that Israeli forces destroyed more than 20 Palestinian homes and building in the preceding three days.

Israeli housing minister Natan Sharansky publishes tenders for the construction of 496 settler homes in Ma'ale Adumim and 212 in Alfe Menashe, the first by the Sharon government. "In recent days, we saw how important it is to lend a hand and support the citizens who were sent by the Israeli government to settle the territories. . . . This expansion is necessary because of the natural growth in these towns," Sharansky notes.

Sweden, which holds the rotating European Union presidency, condemns Israel's settlement policy, stating, "All settlement activities are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to peace."

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher criticizes Israeli settlement policy stating, "Continuing settlement activity by Israel does risk further inflaming of an already volatile situation in the region. This is provocative and we have consistently encouraged both sides to refrain from provocative acts."

April 6 The IDF erects an outpost along the road between Shilo and Ma'ale Levona. Similar posts have been established near Elon Moreh and Ofra in efforts to deter shootings at drivers.

April 11 The IDF invades Palestinian-held territory and destroys 11 to 15 Palestinian houses and an olive grove in the Khan Yunis refugee camp in Gaza, claiming that the area was used to fire mortar shells at settlements. (*Arutz-7, Reuters, Hear Palestine*)

Israel Radio reports that two mortar shells are fired at Nisanit, in northern Gaza. The Israeli Army retaliates by firing four missiles

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at a Palestinian security location in Beit Hanun, destroying the building.

The IDF fires two missiles at Kufr Aqab, straddling the border between occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank in retaliation for alleged shooting attacks. (*Ha'aretz*)

April 12 The *Guardian* reports Israeli army estimates that more than 70 mortar shells have been fired at settlements and army bases since February 24.

April 15 The IDF completely destroys a row of 30 houses in the Khan Yunis refugee camp, closest to the Neve Dekalim industrial zone. At least two Palestinians are killed and dozens wounded in the attack. (*Ha'aretz*)

The IDF cuts electrical power and fires heavy machine guns in the al-Qarara area, near Khan Yunis, after five mortar shells fall on Netzer Hazani in Gush Katif. Exchanges of gunfire occur at the Ayosh junction and Psagot. (*Arutz-7, Hear Palestine*)

The *Ramattan Daily* reports the arrival of trucks carrying mobile housing units and building materials at Dugit, west of Beit Lahia. It also reports Israeli forces bulldozing Palestinian land near Abu Holy, adjacent to Gush Katif, in efforts to open a new road to Kfar Darom.

The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions reports that more than 500 Palestinian homes have been destroyed by Israeli bulldozers and missiles since September. (*Agence France Presse*)

Participants in a conference coordinated by the High Coordinating Committee of National and Islamic Groups for the Intifada call on the PNA to ban all goods produced in the settlements from Palestinian markets. (*Ramattan Daily*)

Settlers in Hebron begin a sit-in, demanding that the IDF take over the Abu Sneineh hills. (*Arutz-7*)

April 16 IDF air and ground forces attack Beit Hanun in northern Gaza, in retaliation for the firing of mortar shells on the Israeli community of Sderot. (*Arutz-7*)

According to an Israeli housing ministry report, most of the thousands of housing units constructed in public housing projects in Givat Ze'ev and Ma'ale Adumim over the past six years remain unsold and empty. Of the 3,470 units offered in Ma'ale Adumim,

1,610 or 47% remain unsold; 790 of the 810 units constructed in Givat Ze'ev remain unsold (97%). (Despite the empty units, the ministry issued a tender for an additional 496 units for Ma'ale Adumim on April 5th.) The ministry also reveals that 76% of the housing units offered in Har Homa between 1999-2000 (2,200) remain unsold. In efforts to encourage prospective settlers, housing minister Sharansky proposes a grant of \$6,250 and a subsidized mortgage for an equal amount. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, there are currently 6,130 units under construction in settlements throughout the West Bank and Gaza. Under Barak, tenders were published for 3,575 units in settlements. The current settler population is 196,800 in 145 settlements. (*Peace Now and Hear Palestine*)

Arafat issues orders to his security forces to stop attacking Israeli settlements with mortars. (*Mideast Mirror*)

April 17 Israel attacks Gaza by sea, land and air, and splits it into three sections. The IDF spokesman describes the action as "not conquest, but control of an area some several hundred meters inside the strip, in order to prevent Palestinian fire." The *Independent* reports Israeli troops invading Palestinian-controlled territory four times in recent days, leveling orchards and destroying homes. IDF Maj. Gen. Yom Tov Samia says "Quite a large bite was taken out of Area A [Palestinian-controlled Gaza . . . the goal] is for Arafat to get up in the morning and understand that a strip one kilometer wide and three kilometers long, with all of its bases and Palestinian police stations, has been wiped off the map." (*Ha'aretz*)

The IDF shells residential areas in Beit Jala in retaliation for Palestinian gunfire directed at Gilo. (*Hear Palestine*)

April 18 *Hear Palestine* reports Israeli bulldozers leveling hundreds of fruit trees in Khaza, near Khan Yunis, dozens of trees near Qalqilya, and more than 300 dunums of land near the Gush Katif settlement. Settlers from Efrat uproot 300 grape vines and 40 olive trees in al-Khader.

The IDF fires machine guns, tanks, and grenades at Beit Jala in retaliation for machine-gun fire on Gilo. Israel Radio reports Palestinians shelling the Erez industrial area, Kfar Darom, and Neve Dekalim. (*Arutz-7 and the Independent*)

A resolution adopted by the UN Commission on Human Rights calls for the cessation of settlement expansion. A second resolution calls for Israel to stop imposing its laws and jurisdiction over Syrian citizens in the Golan Heights.

April 19 Two mortar shells fall on Atzmona and Morag. The *Ramattan Daily* reports the firing of two mortars at a bulldozer near Kfar Darom.

Defense Minister Ben Eliezer states, "Israel has not given up its policy of no longer regarding Area A delineations as a barrier to IDF actions against mortar attacks. But future IDF actions will carry a small signature, and will not include large-scale troop movements." (*Ha'aretz*)

April 20 The Jewish Quarter Development Corporation announces plans to build hundreds of new apartments in the Jewish and Muslim Quarters of the Old City. The Corporation also plans to build a one-half kilometer long tunnel from the Jewish Quarter to the Western Wall. The estimated cost of the project is \$125 million. (*Jerusalem Post*)

April 23 The Palestinian National Security Directorate for the Gaza Strip reports Israeli forces attempting to open a new settler access road between Kissufim Road and the Katif bloc. The land for the construction is under full Palestinian sovereignty.

Arutz-7 reports Palestinian gunfire on Gilo.

In a meeting with Gush Katif settlers, Sharon "agreed that not one home would be dismantled, . . . and that every house and community are exactly where they should be and that we must continue to grow." (*Arutz-7*)

April 24 Palestinians fire three mortar shells at Gadid in the Katif bloc. (*Arutz-7*)

Ha'aretz reports that since September 2000, Palestinians have fired more than 500 times on the Jewish quarter of the Old City in Hebron.

April 28 Arafat orders his police to end mortar attacks from Palestinian-held territory, for the second time in a month, after shelling wounds five settlers in Netzer Hazani in Gaza. (CNN)

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May 1 A settler is killed in a drive-by shooting on the Ofra-Jerusalem road. (*Mideast Mirror, Arutz-7*)

May 2 *Arutz-7* reports that the IDF has destroyed ten Palestinian buildings and homes in Rafah.

May 4 Settlers from Beit El erect an outpost on the Ofra-Jerusalem road where a settler was killed on May 1. Soldiers are stationed there and at two other outposts on the road. Meretz Party leaders call on the IDF to evacuate the settlers and dismantle the new outpost. (*Arutz-7*)

LAW reports that Israeli forces in the Homesh settlement shell Silat Al Thahir, destroying many Palestinian homes.

May 5 According to *Hear Palestine* and *al-Quds*, the Israeli army bulldozes Palestinian farm lands, uprooting 300 olive trees near Yabed to open a new road for settlers connecting the Hermesh, Katzin, Mevo Dotan, and Shaked settlements.

May 6 For the first time since September, the Israeli army invades Palestinian-held territory in Beit Jala in retaliation for gunfire on Gilo. (*The Independent*)

May 7 A settler from the Ma'ale Yisrael outpost, near Ariel, is killed while on volunteer guard duty near Itamar. (*Arutz-7*)

Israel Radio reports government plans to build five new towns in the northwest section of the Negev Desert to prevent future land swaps with the PA.

May 8 Two Israeli boys are found stoned and stabbed to death in a cave near the Tekoa settlement.

Hear Palestine reports settlers from Betar attacking the Palestinian village of Hussan near Bethlehem. Settlers fire shots at the villagers, wounding at least one and forcing the IDF to intervene.

May 9 *Hear Palestine* reports that settlers from Itamar are leveling, confiscating, and surrounding Palestinian land with barbed wire in efforts to expand the settlement. The settlers repeatedly attack Palestinian farmers and prevent them from reaching their land.

The Egged Bus Cooperative begin using bulletproof buses in Jerusalem. The first routes are to Gilo. (*Arutz-7*)

May 10 Palestinians fire on Gilo. (*Arutz-7*)

May 11 Palestinians fire mortar shells at Kibbutz Nir Am in the western Negev. According to *Arutz-7*, more than 140 mortar shells have been fired from Palestinian areas into Israeli settlements and communities since September 2000.

Housing minister Natan Sharansky, states, "There's no real demand [for new housing]. The construction industry is on the verge of bankruptcy and there's no demand in Ashdod, Carmiel, or Ariel. We'll see what happens in a few months." (*Ha'aretz*)

Foreign minister Shimon Peres, hoping to allay Palestinian objections over the physical expansion of settlements, states that all new construction in the settlements will be in the existing territorial areas of the settlements. (*Ha'aretz*)

May 12 *Hear Palestine* reports four Palestinians injured in an attack perpetrated by settlers.

Hear Palestine reports settlers from Tekoa setting fire to Palestinian agricultural crops near the settlement. Villagers say the settlers have taken advantage of the closure imposed on the village, which prevents them from reaching their farmland.

Palestinians fire three mortar shells on Neve Dekalim in Gush Katif, injuring one settler. (*Arutz-7*)

LAW reports Israeli forces placing the Palestinian village of Sinjil, north of Ramallah, under curfew. During the curfew, settlers attack the town, destroying the contents of a brick factory. Israeli military forces later destroy the factory, claiming that shots were fired from it at settlers driving on the Ramallah-Nablus road.

May 13 A settler traveling between Ma'ale Levona and Shilo is injured in a drive-by shooting. (*Arutz-7*)

Hear Palestine reports settlers raiding the Palestinian villages of Hussan and Tku, near Bethlehem, attacking residents and destroying homes. Witnesses report that IDF troops were involved in the attacks.

May 14 Palestinians from Beit Jala fire on Gilo, wounding four settlers. Gunfire also penetrates Psagot. (*Arutz-7*)

According to the IDF, there have been more than 150 mortar attacks in the Gaza Strip since September 2000.

May 15 A settler is shot and killed in a drive-by shooting on the Allon Road, near Ma'ale Mikmash. (*Ha'aretz* and *Arutz-7*)

According to *Ha'aretz*, IDF forces take over a Palestinian building outside the Kfar Darom settlement in Gaza. The building houses an office of the Palestinian Housing Ministry and the only cheese factory in Gaza.

May 16 A Palestinian dies from wounds suffered when settlers unleashed a dog on him in the Khan Yunis region. (*Al Ayyam, Palestine Report*)

May 17 An IDF soldier is killed and his mother seriously wounded in a drive-by shooting near Neve Tzuf. (*Ha'aretz*)

Settlers from Rimonim block Palestinian traffic on Route 60 between Ofra and Jerusalem. (*Arutz-7*)

Rene Kosirnik, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross' delegation to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories states, "The installation of a population of the occupying power in occupied territory is considered an illegal move, it is a grave breach of [law]. In principle it is a war crime." (*Hear Palestine*)

May 20 In retaliation for gunfire on Psagot, an IDF tank fires three shells into the home of Palestinian Preventative Security chief Jibril Rajoub. (*Ha'aretz*)

May 22 *Hear Palestine* reports settlers from Kedumim attacking Palestinian cars on the Qalqilya-Nablus road.

Hear Palestine reports dozens of settlers from Hebron, under IDF protection, smashing Palestinians' car windows and stoning their homes. The IDF subsequently declares the market and residential areas of the Old Quarter closed military zones.

May 23 An Israeli on his way to supervise the construction of a bypass road is killed on a road outside Ariel; his bodyguard is wounded. (*Ha'aretz*)

Palestinians fire on Gilo, injuring one person, and on Kfar Darom and Tekoa. Shots are fired at Malha, part of West Jerusalem, for the first time. (*Ha'aretz* and *Arutz-7*)

Labor Minister Shlomo Benizri recommends in a security cabinet meeting that the first row of Palestinian homes in Beit Jala be

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destroyed. Residents of Gilo plan a demonstration outside Sharon's home demanding an end to the shooting attacks on their settlement. (*Arutz-7*)

The Knesset upgrades the status of the Atarot industrial area to a frontline community, giving businesses special benefits and their products higher priority ratings. (*Arutz-7*)

UN Middle East envoy Terje Larson states that an Israeli settlement freeze would be "one of the most important confidence-building measures." (CBS News)

May 24 Shootings occur along the trans-Judea highway, closing the road to traffic. Five mortar rockets are fired at Neve Dekalim. (*Arutz-7*)

In retaliation for mortar shells fired on Netzarim, seven IDF tanks invade territory under Palestinian control, firing shells and machine guns, closing the main road and destroying several grape farms. (*Hear Palestine*)

May 27 A settler from Tekoa shoots two Palestinian motorists, injuring both. (*Arutz-7*)

May 28 A settler is killed in a drive-by shooting incident near Kedumim. (*Ha'aretz*)

Settlers from Yitzhar attack a Palestinian teacher, severely beating him and shooting him in the leg. (*Hear Palestine*)

Ma'ariv reports that Israel's minister of Jerusalem affairs has met with foreign investors to convince them to buy property for settlers from Palestinian Jerusalemites. (*Al-Quds* and *Hear Palestine*)

Two settlers are killed and five others wounded in a drive-by shooting near Neve Daniel, outside Bethlehem. The IDF retaliates by surrounding villages in Bethlehem and erecting road blocks. (*Ha'aretz*)

May 29 The IDF closes the main north-south road in Gaza, dividing the strip into two parts. Israeli forces dig trenches around the Jabalia refugee camp. (*Hear Palestine*)

Settlers from Kiryat Arba destroy cars and throw stones at Palestinians and their homes

in Hebron. The settlers also raid and attack shops in the Palestinian market. Settlers from Kfar Etzion attack and destroy Palestinian cars along the Hebron-Jerusalem road. (*Hear Palestine*)

Arutz-7 reports gunfire from the Palestinian village of al-Bireh toward Psagot.

May 30 Addressing the Knesset, Prime Minister Sharon states "As you are aware, I

In remarks before the Council for Peace and Security, Foreign Minister [Shimon] Peres officially attacked settlements, describing them as an obstacle to an agreement with the Palestinians and even as a danger to Israel's future as a Jewish state.

"The biggest mistake that Israel can make," he said, "is that instead of the struggle against terror we put the settlement issue in its place. In this way we will lose from the beginning, producing an international harmonization against us." According to Peres, the "settlement map as it exists today, does not enable peace. Those who want annexation should say this openly. The result is clear—Israel will be transformed into an Arab country."

"The IDF is Authorized to Widen Assassinations," *Ha'aretz*, July 4, 2001

have chosen to announce a [unilateral] cease-fire. Protecting the citizens of Israel is, of course, our duty and we need to do everything in our power to secure the lives of Israeli citizens. I know that tempers are flaring, and justifiably so. I see terrible pain, and I watch in awe the heroic stand of the residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, their self-control and dedication to the Land of Israel. We are indebted to the residents who stand with the IDF on the front lines, and

I take this opportunity to convey my warmest wishes to the settlers." (*Arutz 7*)

The eulogy of Gilad Zar, a settler from Kedumim killed yesterday, is interrupted by shouts from the mourners calling for war: "You [government ministers] must make war! Stop sitting quietly and eulogizing us! Fight them! You have tanks, anti-aircraft, and planes! Make war already! We are sick of this! It is no shame to fight—this is what we must do!" (*Arutz 7*)

Settlers under IDF protection attack Palestinians and their property in Burqa, Borin, and Deir Sharaf, injuring at least six people. (*Hear Palestine*)

Settlers establish control over a hill in al-Khader, in Bethlehem. More than 10,000 Palestinians south of Bethlehem are placed under closure. (*Hear Palestine*)

May 31 A founding member of the Mevo Dotan settlement is shot and killed in a drive-by shooting near Tulkarem. He is the fourth settler killed on West Bank roads within a week. (*Mideast Mirror*, *Arutz-7*)

Settlers from Mevo Dotan burn the fields of near by Palestinian residents and attack and shoot at least two of them. (*Arutz-7*)

Settlers establish an outpost on the Yitzhar-Kedumim road where Gilad Zar was shot and killed. (*Arutz-7*)

Settlers from Efrat block the Jerusalem-Gush Etzion highway to Palestinian traffic. Settlers attack Palestinians traveling along the Qalqilya-Nablus road, injuring at least two people and closing the highway. (*Arutz-7* and *Ha'aretz*)

Settlers from Itamar stone Palestinian cars, severely injuring at least one person. (*Ha'aretz*)

Settlers attack Palestinians in al-Libban, Awarta, Beit Furik, Borin, Nablus, Salem and Zawiya. Settlers from Yitzhar set fire to agricultural land in Hawara and Ramin. (*Hear Palestine* and *Ha'aretz*)

Visitors to the Katif bloc are greeted with this forbidding sight, which brings to mind the labor camps and army barracks of wartime Europe.”

In February 2001, the IDF published a map offering a vivid visual confirmation of the extent to which Palestinian attacks have forced settlers, and those who are charged with protecting them, to adjust to this new reality. The 1,200 kilometers of roads in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been newly reclassified according to their danger to traveling settlers. Settlers have long been prohibited from entering the Palestinians’ Areas A. New “rules of the road” published in February advise settlers not to enter Areas B except when traveling on main roads, to avoid all contact with Palestinian police, to travel in vehicles equipped with a communications device and armored against stones (the cost of outfitting private cars to withstand gunfire is prohibitive. A special \$50 million allocation for this purpose was announced in July); and to travel in convoys of at least two vehicles.

The economic effects of Palestinian attacks compete with concerns for personal security. The industrial area of Atarot in East Jerusalem has been all but emptied of Israeli businesses, and the nearby airport has been transferred from civilian management to the IDF. Ten percent of the 1,000 small and medium-sized settlement-based businesses in the region north of Ramallah, which employ 30 percent of settlement residents, have closed permanently in the last year and another 30 percent have stopped operating. Less than 10 percent have moved their operations to Israel.

Agriculture in Gaza’s Katif bloc is being crushed under a load of debt that even emergency government advances have little hope of reducing. The situation in the Jordan Valley, which has suffered for years from a declining settler population due to economic hardship, has been exacerbated by the intifada. Three state-owned utilities—the phone, water and electric companies—have threatened, for example, to disconnect the settlement of Yafit from their respective services if outstanding balances are not paid.

“The policy of the present government,” noted a letter sent in September by representatives of the region’s 3,500 settlers to Knesset members, “is throwing the residents of the Valley into a crisis the likes of which they have never known, and is causing departures from the region in numbers that only our honor and yours keep us from specifying in this letter.”

One of the main tasks undertaken by the IDF during the intifada has been to “increase the sense of settlers’ security” and to enable them to live a normal everyday existence. According to MK Ran Cohen of the opposition Meretz Party,

Eleven Palestinians have been killed by Israeli civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the beginning of the Palestinian rebellion in September 2000, reports the Israeli human rights organization Betzelem.

“Almost half the IDF is invested in defending [settlers] and their roads.” Palestinian actions have made security along the 1,200 kilometers of West Bank roads, the number one problem facing the IDF.

“Travel along roads in the territories can be described in one word,” began a recent article in *Ma’ariv*, “fear.”

In an attempt to restore the settlers’ evaporating sense of personal security, the IDF has adopted a progressively draconian series of steps that, in turn, have crippled everyday Palestinian life. In Gaza for example the IDF has completely separated the traffic patterns of both communities, to the Palestinian’s disadvantage. The Oslo II provision for Israeli control of areas adjacent to roads has been extended from 75 to 300 meters. Palestinian use of more advanced weaponry may be answered by extending the perimeter of “clean” areas denuded of orchards and buildings around roads to almost one kilometer. The system of closures, road closings, checkpoints, and passive security measures have in some cases improved settlers’ sense of security, but it has severely restricted the movement of 3 million Palestinians, who are cooped up in balkanized islands areas under nominal PA control.

Increasing IDF incursions into Areas A have also been prompted, in large part, by the Palestinian policy of targeting settlements. “We went into Beit Jala not to stay but to defend Gilo,” announced Minister of Security Benjamin Ben Eliezer in August 2001.

Palestinians have succeeded in making the lives of settlers hell, but at this time and place, it is a routine, manageable kind of hell punctuated by spasms of anticipated

violence. The sense of insecurity has prompted thousands of settlers to return to Israel and has added to the difficulties of attracting new residents to settlements in a national economy plagued by recession and falling housing prices and demand. An investigation by *Ha’aretz* revealed that 10,000 settlers—5 percent of the total in the West Bank and Gaza Strip—have left the territories this year, five times the typical annual emigration rate. These departures can pose critical social problems, especially in smaller settlements in the Jordan Valley and around Jenin, but after one year of armed Palestinian opposition during the last three decades, they do not imperil the settlement enterprise.

Notwithstanding the population loss, the YESHA council announced an increase of 8.5 percent or 17,000 in the settler population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the last year, up to 227,000. The investigation by *Ha’aretz* suggests far more modest growth of less than 5 percent.

Fewer than 100 armed Palestinians have been responsible for the havoc on roads frequented by settlers. Hizballah forces in Lebanon were also small in number, but that is where the similarity ends. The Palestinian attacks on settlements and

settlers represents not so much a strategy as an opportunistic, uncoordinated, and isolated exploitation of Israeli lines of communication by a small fraction of Palestinians under arms, a tactical instrument aimed at wearing down an enemy that shows no sign of abandoning the settlement enterprise rather than a persistent assault aimed at defeating it.

Although roadside attacks have been concentrated in a few areas, the armed forces of the various elements of the PA have not been engaged in any coherent fashion in a coordinated attacks on traveling settlers, let alone settlements. The shooting at settlements in Gaza, Hebron, Pesagot, and even Gilo in East Jerusalem has been undertaken, at best, with only short-term tactical considerations in mind. Even on such a tactical level, it is difficult to establish the purpose for such actions beyond simply making life difficult for settlers.

To the terrible price Israel has exacted on Palestinians as a consequence of this effort must also be added the rehabilitation of the settler community, which had been on the defensive since the beginning of the Oslo process, in Israel's domestic arena. Palestinian attacks on Gilo, which is viewed by Israelis as an unremarkable part of Jerusalem, and terror bombings throughout Israel proper, have mobilized Israel's entire Jewish population on both sides of the Green Line, adding to the sense that "We're all in this together."

In the Palestinian community, few voices have been raised against shooting at settlers, who are viewed as legitimate targets.

"Israeli society is paying a heavy price as a result of the continuation of the Intifada and the unraveling of [Israeli] security and stability," observed Jamal Abu-Samhadana, one of the founders of the popular resist-

ance committees in Rafah. "This encourages the Palestinian public to carry on and support the struggle against the Israeli occupation."

Yet the option of armed attacks of any sort appears to be under increasing critical scrutiny.

"Only by political means shall we achieve our goals, by the use of rocks to fight the Israelis, on the roadblocks and in the settlements, not inside Israel, and not using firearms," noted an August 2 editorial by the Palestinian news agency *Wafa*. Photographs of Muslim worshippers throwing their shoes at Israeli soldiers during protests at Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque, continued the editorial, "were more effective than mortar shells fired at Israeli settlements. The stone and the shoe are doing the job, and not the mortar shells." ♦

The IDF reports 7,368 incidents of Palestinian attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the period September 29, 2000 to September 1, 2001. Over half (4,322) involved shots fired at IDF installations; there were 1,041 incidents of shooting at vehicles, 679 shootings at settlements, 432 grenades, 291 detonated bombs, 262 mortars, 184 anti-tank missiles, and 22 stabbings/assaults.

Settlement Construction Starts (Units) as a Percentage of Total National Construction by Sector, 1990–1999

Year	Construction starts in Israel and settlements			Construction starts in settlements*			Settlement construction as % of total construction		
	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total
1990	19,380	23,030	42,410	830	980	1,810	4.28	4.26	4.28
1991	61,730	21,780	83,510	7,040	1,070	8,110	11.40	4.91	9.71
1992	22,700	23,330	46,030	5,000	1,210	6,210	22.02	5.19	13.49
1993	6,820	30,160	36,980	400	1,830	2,230	5.87	6.07	6.03
1994	10,460	32,860	43,320	550	740	1,290	5.26	2.25	2.98
1995	27,460	41,440	68,900	1,870	660	2,530	6.80	1.59	3.67
1996	19,440	37,000	56,440	1,000	670	1,670	5.14	1.81	2.96
1997	15,700	36,330	52,030	1,000	900	1,900	6.37	2.48	3.65
1998	9,970	33,730	43,700	1,740	2,160	3,900	17.45	6.40	8.92
1999	9,120	28,090	37,210	1,550	960	2,510	16.99	3.42	6.75

* Excluding East Jerusalem.

The mean percentage of construction starts in settlements compared to total national construction is 6.24%. The mean percentage for the public sector is 10.1%. The mean for the private sector is 3.8%.

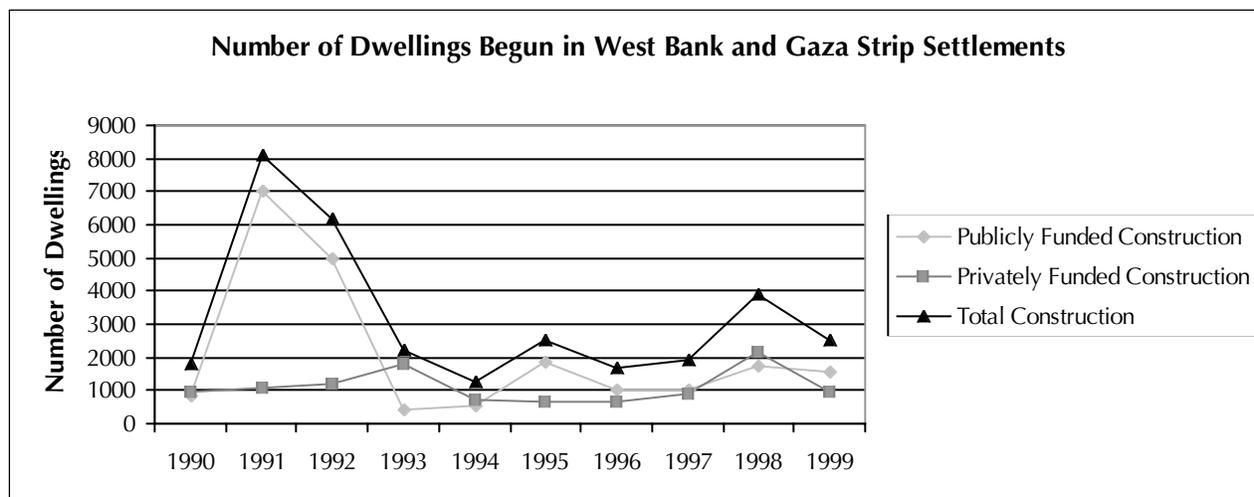
Sources: Statistical Abstract of Israel: 2000 (Table 16.5), 1999 (16.5), 1998 (Table 16.5), 1997 (16.5), 1995 (Table 16.4), 1994 (16.4), 1992 (Table 16.5 p.472, 473).

Prepared by Tobias Van Assche.

above the mean

below the mean

Settlement Construction Starts in West Bank and Gaza Strip (1990–1999)*



*Excluding East Jerusalem.

Prepared by Tobias Van Assche.

Sources: Statistical Abstract of Israel: 2000 (Table 16.5), 1999 (16.5), 1998 (Table 16.5), 1997 (16.5), 1995 (Table 16.4), 1994 (16.4), 1992 (Table 16.5 p.472, 473).

It's no secret that within this government there are tough disagreements, between those who still support Oslo and who see Arafat as a partner who has erred, Mr. Peres among them—and those who think that Oslo was a great mistake and a tragedy, and who see Arafat as our enemy who must be fought and the PA banished back to Tunis. In this struggle [with the Palestinians], we need not suffice with a ceasefire—nor should we run, and we certainly should not crawl demeaningly, to negotiate with [the Palestinians]. We must rather always fight them, not by reacting to their attacks, but by constantly striking at them wherever they are; not just to wait for terrorist attacks, but to constantly hit them. They must always be running away. We must strike at them militarily, and economically, and in their prestige and authority and stability of the Palestinian Authority - until it collapses. 'There is nothing good about them, they are all just wounds and bruises and putrefying sores' (Isaiah 1, 6). . . .

Public Security Minister Uzi Landau at a dinner in honor of Hebron's Jewish settlement, Arutz Sheva News Service, September 2, 2001

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