

3. Year Review 2008 & 2009

PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY 2008

JANUARY

Jan. 2: After a seven-year hiatus the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Economic Committee meets.

Jan. 8: Pres. Abbas and Israeli PM Olmert meet and instruct their teams to start negotiations on all final status issues.

- US Sec. of State Rice says there is no difference between settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, both being restricted by the Road Map.

Jan. 9-10: During separate meetings with PM Olmert in Jerusalem and Pres. Abbas in Ramallah, US President Bush outlines his vision of a future peace agreement, saying that "Swiss cheese is not going to work when it comes to the outline of a State and I mean that."

Jan. 10: Pres. Bush appoints Gen. William Fraser to monitor the Road Map implementation.

Jan. 15: During Israeli operations in Gaza City, 19 Palestinians are killed, incl. son of senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahhar.

Jan. 23: Thousands of Palestinians from Gaza cross into Egypt through a border wall blown up by militants.

Jan. 24: THE UNCHR adopts a resolution on human rights violations caused by Israeli military incursions in the OPT, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Jan. 28: The European Commission announces the launching the Palestinian European Aid Management mechanism (PEGASE), a new instrument to channel EU and international assistance as a contribution to the building of a Palestinian State and as a follow-up to the current Temporary International Mechanism (TIM).

FEBRUARY

Feb. 4: A suicide bomber blows himself up in the southern Israeli town of Dimona, killing an Israeli woman and wounding 11 others. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claim responsibility for the attack

Feb. 12: Hizbullah Dep. Sec.-Gen. Imad Mughniyah is killed in a bomb blast in a residential Damascus neighborhood, in what is widely believed to be an Israel assassination.

Feb. 19: PM Fayyad rules out a peace accord with Israel this year, because talks were very slow over the past three months.”

Feb. 23-24: At the 35th Session of the Arab Labor Conference held in Sharm El-Sheikh, the Min. of Labor and representatives of workers and employers of the Arab world express their solidarity with Palestine and call for respect of international legitimacy as the foundation for solving the Palestinian Question based on the principles laid down by the Arab summit conferences and out of the Arab countries’ determination to continue to work by all means for the establishment of peace based on justice.

Feb. 24: Israeli and Palestinian expert-level negotiating teams meet, led by Israeli FM Tzipi Livni and Palestinian Chief Negotiator Ahmed Qrei’a, to discuss non-core issues.

MARCH

March 2: Pres. Abbas suspends peace talks with Israel following heavy Palestinian casualties in Gaza.

- The UNSC convenes emergency meeting on the Gaza Strip.

March 6: UNHCR calls for a stop to Israeli military attacks in the OPT and the firing of rockets.

March 7: Israeli army commander in the West Bank, Maj.-Gen. Shemny issues, with the full support of the DM Ehud Barak, an order to reclassify the status of Modi'in Illit settlement to that of a municipality.

March 9: PM Olmert approves construction of 1,100 new homes in settlements.

March 14: Israeli and Palestinian officials meet with US Envoy William Fraser to review Road Map obligations.

- The OIC Summit adopts a declaration, a communiqué and resolutions on Palestine, Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the Middle East peace process.

March 17: Israeli and Palestinian negotiators meet at Bet El to resume talks on how to coordinate civilian and security issues between Israel and the PA and plans to establish two new industrial zones.

March 23: After talks in Sana'a, Fateh (Azzam Al-Ahmad) and Hamas (Musa Abu Marzouq) sign a Yemeni-sponsored deal promising to revive direct talks after months of hostilities, but differences remain, with Pres. Abbas saying that Hamas must accept to end its control of the Gaza Strip before any dialogue could take place. The Sana'a Declaration states "We, the representatives of Fatah and Hamas, agree to the Yemeni initiative as a framework to resume

dialogue between the two movements to return the Palestinian situation to what it was before the Gaza incidents," and affirms the "unity of the Palestinian people, territory and authority."

March 27: The UNHCR adopts a resolution demanding a halt to Israeli settlements.

March 29-30: At the Arab League Summit in Damascus, the member states declare that the offer of the Arab Peace Initiative extended to Israel in 2002 "is tied to Israel executing its commitments in the framework of international resolutions to achieve peace in the region" and indicate that they would reconsider the peace offer, given that there had been little progress on the Israeli side regarding its commitments. In his speech to the summit, Pres. Abbas expresses his pessimism over the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations launched at Annapolis in Nov. 2007, which, he said, "cannot continue under the Israeli bulldozers swallowing our land and building settlements and under the daily Israeli military operations". He also warns that if "we don't reach a solution by the end of this year, it means the whole region will be on the verge of a new era of tension and loss of confidence in peace"

March 30: During a visit by US Secretary of State Rice, Israel pledges to remove 50 West Bank roadblocks.

APRIL

April 1: The Yesha Settler Council says that it would continue to build in West Bank settlements even without the necessary government authorizations.

April 7: Pres. Abbas and PM Olmert resume face-to-face negotiations, agreeing to meet every two weeks.

April 9: Palestinian activists breach the border near the Nahal Oz terminal in Israel and kill two Israeli contractors; Israel cuts off fuel supplies to Gaza in response and kills at least 13 Gazans in subsequent attacks.

April 13: The Israeli cabinet approves 5,000 additional work permits for West Bank Palestinians.

April 15: Eight UN agencies express concern about critical Gaza fuel situation.

April 16: Three Israeli soldiers are killed in Gaza and at least 17 Gazans, incl. a Reuters cameraman, in clashes and Israeli air strikes.

April 18: Israel approves the reopening of 20 PA police stations in the West Bank.

April 21: After meeting former US Pres. Carter, Hamas leadership says it agrees to a Palestinian State within 1967 borders, but no to recognition of Israel, with politburo chief Khaled Masha'al saying "We agree to a [Palestinian] State on pre-1967 borders, with Jerusalem as its capital, with genuine

sovereignty, without settlements but without recognizing Israel," and adding "We have offered a truce... of 10 years as a proof of recognition."

April 24: After talks in Cairo with Egypt's intelligence chief Omar Suleiman Hamas proposes a six-month ceasefire with Israel in the Gaza Strip, with an option to extend it afterward to the West Bank after an agreed and specified period of time. Israel dismisses the proposal.

- Pres. Bush meets with Pres. Abbas in Washington, assuring him that a Palestinian State is a high priority for me and my administration, a viable State, a State that doesn't look like Swiss cheese."

- Fuel shortage halts UNRWA food aid distribution for hundreds of thousand Palestinians in Gaza.

April 29: UN International Conference on Palestine Refugees opens in Paris.

MAY

May 2: Representatives of the Quartet, joined by Representative Tony Blair, meet in London to discuss the situation in the Middle East. They call upon Israel and the Palestinians to fulfill their obligations under the Road Map and to refrain from any steps that undermine confidence or could prejudice the outcome of negotiations.

May 3: Some 480 PA police deploy in Jenin as part of the PA's security plan.

May 5: Following her visit to the region, US Sec. of State Rice says the US would send monitors to study whether the removal of Israeli roadblocks was making life easier for Palestinians in the West Bank.

May 13: At a press conference in Jerusalem, Quartet Representative Tony Blair unveils an agreement between Israel and the PA, which includes a package of steps designed to allow greater movement in the West Bank, and help the Palestinian economy grow in a way in which he said would be consistent with protecting Israeli security.

May 15: Palestinians commemorate the 60th anniversary of the *Nakba*.

- US President Bush starts five-day tour of the Middle East.

May 19: French FM Kouchner confirms that France had had informal contacts with Hamas, saying "These are not relations, they are contacts. We must be able to talk if we want to play a role," and confirming a report in the daily *Le Figaro* that quoted a retired French diplomat as saying he had met with Hamas leaders Mahmoud Al-Zahhar and Ismail Haniyeh a month ago.

May 21: The Palestine Investment Conference opens in Bethlehem, bringing together more than 1,000 business persons and government officials from the WBGs, the Arab world and beyond. More than 100 investment projects, worth over \$1.0 billion, are introduced.

May 26: Pres. Abbas receives officials from Hamas in the Muqata'a in Ramallah, who deliver a letter from Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails calling for unity.

May 29: South African Archbishop Tutu leads a UNCHR-mandated fact-finding mission to the Gaza Strip.

- OCHA reports that the number of Israeli roadblocks has risen to 607 at end of April, up from 566 in Sept. 2007.

JUNE

June 3: The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People convenes a two-day United Nations International Meeting on the Question of Palestine in Malta aimed at fostering greater international support for the creation of a climate conducive to the advancement of the permanent status negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.

June 4: In a speech Pres. Abbas calls for national dialogue with Hamas to implement the Yemen initiative "to end the internal division that harms our people, [our] cause.

June 7: Senegal's Pres. Abdoulaye Wade, Chairman of the OIC, mediates reconciliation talks between Fateh and Hamas. asking among other things for an immediate ceasefire.(

June 19: Israel and Hamas reach an Egyptian-brokered cease-fire deal (tahdi'ah) to put an end to Qassam rocket fire as well as fuel peace talks, which is welcomed by the international community and accompanied with calls for both sides to fulfill their obligations.

June 24: Berlin Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and the Rule of Law - attended by representatives from over 40 countries - secures funding commitments of \$242 million for various projects. Participants include PM Salam Fayyad, Israeli FM Livni, US Sec. of State Rice, Russian FM Sergey Lavrov and Quartet Representative Tony Blair.

- The Quartet also meets in Berlin to discuss the situation in the Middle East and reaffirm support for ongoing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, stressing the urgent need for tangible progress towards the shared goal of an agreement by the end of 2008.

June 30: *Yediot Ahronot* reports that the Israeli FM has instructed a number of officials not to visit Spain, as an international arrest warrant had been issued against them on suspicion of committing war crimes against Palestinians (A Spanish human rights organization had filed a case against Israeli officials involved in the 2002 assassination of Hamas member Salah Shehadeh, which killed 16 Palestinians in the same building). The list includes former DM Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, former Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon, and former PM Ariel Sharon.

- The Knesset approves a bill which mandated a national referendum or a two-thirds Knesset majority vote prior to a withdrawal from any territory under Israeli control.

JULY

July 1: The Knesset approved the government's decision to extend the validity of the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law for another year until 31 July 2009.

July 7: The Israeli army begins four days of raids in Nablus, closing charities, schools, offices and shops allegedly linked to Hamas.

July 8: A Frequency Allocation Agreement between Israel and the PA enables Wataniya, a second mobile operator, to begin operations in the West Bank.

- Pres. Abbas meets with leaders of Palestinian factions in Syria, calls for an Arab League-sponsored national dialogue.

July 9: The G8 summit in Japan reiterates full support for the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

July 10: OCHA reports that 57% of the construction of the separation barrier has been completed.

July 12: PM Fayyad calls for the establishment of a unity government with Hamas.

July 15: French FM Bernard Kouchner calls for a "European Road Map" to help bring peace to the Middle East, saying: "It's not about making proposals contrary to the Americans, nor contrary to anyone... [The change of US leadership] will be the moment to propose a form of partnership that will take more account of the symbolic, and real, weight of the European Union... We will have to propose this particular Road Map to our American friends... This is about giving European foreign policy its rightful place."

July 22: As part of a world tour aimed at displaying his foreign policy chops, Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama arrives in Israel.

July 23: PA warns of a fiscal crisis due to a shortfall of pledged aid.

July 24: The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee approves the construction of a new settlement - "Maskiot" settlement in the Jordan Valley - with an initial construction of 20 housing units.

July 28: After a five-year battle, the Israeli defense establishment agrees to dismantle a 2.4-km stretch of the separation barrier north of Qalqilya and move it closer to Green Line, thus returning 2,600 dunums of agricultural land to its Palestinian owners.

- The Knesset enacts Amendment 9 to the Citizenship Law, which permits the revocation of citizenship for "an action that entails a breach of trust vis-à-vis the State of Israel". It provides a very broad definition of "breach of trust", and although it could result in the statelessness of citizens, it does not require that an individual be criminally convicted of this action.

July 30: US Sec. of State Rice meets with Palestinian and Israeli negotiators in Washington.

- PM Olmert announces that he has decided not to contend in the Kadima primary election and would resign as soon as a new party leader was chosen, due to the criminal investigations in which he has been embroiled in recent months.

AUGUST

Aug. 3: Israel's Supreme Court gives the State 45 days to submit a new route for the separation barrier near Bil'in.

Aug. 4: *Ha'aretz* reports that a recent report by the Israeli branch of Physicians for Human Rights revealed that the Shin Bet had been trying to coerce Palestinians patients to provide information in exchange for medical treatment in Israel.

Aug. 9: · Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish dies after undergoing open heart surgery in Houston. The Cabinet holds a special session in Ramallah to honor Darwish, with PM Fayyad saying "With the departure of the homeland's knight who wrote sweet lines, the Palestinian people have lost one of its most prominent founders of the Palestinian cultural and national identity. One who eternalized with his poetry the Palestinian struggle, the suffering of a nation whose culture was doomed to be covered, marginalized and lost ... He told the whole world about Palestine's wounds, hope, insistence and pulse ... about its mountains, valleys and plains ... as well as fragrance of almond blossoms and more."

Aug. 13: Thousands of Palestinians attend the funeral procession of poet Mahmoud Darwish from the Muqataa to the Ramallah Cultural Palace, where he is buried.

Aug. 14: During a meeting with Pres. Abbas, PM Olmert rules out the return of any Palestine refugees as part of a future statehood deal, saying "the establishment of a Palestinian State is meant to provide an answer to the absorption of Palestinian refugees. Those refugees who are not returned to a Palestinian State will be dealt with by an international force."

Aug. 18: The Israeli Government approves the release of some 200 Palestinian prisoners.

Aug. 21: seven Palestinian factions (Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, Fateh, Fida, the Palestinian Arab Front, the Arab Liberation Front, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the National Initiative and Popular Struggle Front) call for an immediate start of a comprehensive national dialogue to end the internal Palestinian crisis.

Aug. 23: Two boats carrying 44 pro-Palestinian activists from 17 countries arrive in the Gaza Strip from Cyprus after Israel allows them through, determined to draw attention to the blockade of Gaza. The boats are greeted by thousands of people waving Palestinian flags.

Aug. 27: Abie Nathan - Israeli peace pioneer, who flew solo to Egypt seeking reconciliation and founder of the Voice of Peace pirate station, dies in Tel Aviv at the age of 81.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5-6: At a two-day informal EU meeting in Avignon, France, EU FMs call for an active EU role in the coming months to support the Annapolis process.

Sept. 6: At an Arab League meeting in Cairo, Arab FMs urge the Arab League to help resolve intra-Palestinian conflict and end the continued violence between Fateh and Hamas.

Sept. 15: The report to the UNCHR by the head of high-level fact-finding mission, Archbishop Tutu, says the Nov. 2006 shelling of Beit Hanoun may have constituted a war crime.

Sept. 17: Israeli FM Tzipi Livni narrowly defeats chief rival Shaul Mofaz in the Kadima leadership race.

Sept. 24: A report published by a coalition of 21 aid agencies and human rights organizations, accuses the Quartet of having "lost its grip" on the Middle East peace process and calls on it to take "decisive action" and to "radically revise its existing approach" in order to avoid a further deterioration of the situation. The group also criticizes Quartet Representative Tony Blair for "not making sufficient progress in improving the lives of Palestinians."

Sept. 26: At the request of Saudi Arabia, the UNSC meets to address Israeli settlement activities.

- At its meeting in New York, the Quartet issues a statement in which it underlines its commitment to the irreversibility of the negotiations; to the creation of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian State in the West Bank and Gaza, living in peace and security alongside Israel; and to an end to the conflict. The Quartet emphasizes the need for a renewed focus on improvements in the situation on the ground and stated that visible and tangible progress must accompany the negotiations.

JERUSALEM CHRONOLOGY 2008

JANUARY

Jan. 1: *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM has ordered shop owners in Salah Eddin and Suleiman Streets to replace their stores' current front shades with plastic ones at a cost of NIS 4,000 or otherwise face penalties.

- *Al-Quds* reports that the ILA has authorized the construction of 440 new housing units in Talpiot East on land belonging to Sur Baher and Jabal Mukabber.

- The Israeli High Court rules that eight settler families must evacuate the 7-storey house in Silwan they are occupying since 2004 must.

Jan. 4: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Housing and Construction Min. intends to move forward with plans to construct over 1,000 housing units in Har Homa on absentee land belonging to Palestinians despite the opposition of Atty. Gen. Mazuz and a promise to the US not to invoke the absentee law in Jerusalem.

Jan. 6: *Ha'aretz* reports that 18 dunums of the 24-dunum area slated for construction of 300 units to complete Stage B of the Har Homa plan, belongs to residents of Beit Sahur who were declared "absentees" after the 1967 War. This is in direct contradiction to the February 2005 instructions of Atty. Gen. Menachem Mazuz, ordering the "immediate cessation of the application of the absentee law on East Jerusalem assets."

Jan. 7: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Israel Police has delayed moving into a new building in the E-I area.

- *Ha'aretz* reports the start of construction of 60 housing units in Ma'ale HaZeitim settlement of Ras Al-Amud.

- *Ma'ariv* reports that right-wing groups have purchased 20 dunums of land between Bethlehem and the Tantur Ecumenical Institute south of Gilo settlement, where they intend to build a small new neighborhood.

Jan. 9: PM Olmert tells visiting Pres. Bush that Israel will not accept the American demand to stop building in East Jerusalem's Jewish neighborhoods and in the settlement blocs, saying that "Jerusalem's status is different than that of the settlements."

Jan. 12: *Al-Quds* reports that settlers have attacked the home of Hashim Salaimeh in Sheikh Jarrah, destroying furniture and other properties.

Jan. 14: The Knesset Finance Committee approves a request by treasury officials for an additional 16 million NIS (US\$4.6 million) to fund private security services for some 2,000 settlers in the Abu Dis area, which already receive NIS 38 million from the Housing Min.

Jan. 15: *Ha'aretz* reports that construction has begun on another 60 housing units in the Ma'ale HaZeitim settlement in the heart of Ras Al-Amud, where now 51 settler families live.

Jan. 16: Israeli bulldozers destroy the houses and barracks of the Abu Dahouk tribe in Arab Jahalin near Al-Jib and Nabi Samwil to make way for the construction of the separation barrier.

- In Silwan's Wadi Al-Hilweh area, 11 settler families, protected by Israeli troops, take over 11 houses belonging to the Baidoun and Ajlouny families.

- Near the Old City's Mughrabi Gate, settlers, with the help of the El Ad association, take over two apartments and some 5 dunums of land, claiming ownership.

Jan. 17: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Jerusalem Planning and Construction Committee has approved the expansion of the women's section of the Wailing Wall bordering the Mughrabi Gate.

- In Silwan, Israeli bulldozers and settlers demolish a wall surrounding land of the the Shaban family and raze another plot to prepare for a car parking for the settlers who took over the 11 houses a day earlier.

Jan. 20: The Israeli High Court decides to evict the family of Abdel Mu'atee Abu Qtaish from their house in Sheikh Jarrah, where he had lived since 1967, giving him 45 days to move his belongings. The court based its decision on the ownership claim of two Jewish families, saying the land on which the house was built was theirs. Abu Qtaish is also ordered to pay a penalty of NIS 140,000.

- In Beit Hanina, Israeli bulldozers raze some 10 dunums of land and uproot hundreds of trees belonging to Al-Quds University to make way for a bypass road.

Jan. 22: The WJM announces plans to build 40,000 new apartments throughout Jerusalem over the next decade, incl. several thousand in various settlements.

- Under the protection of Israeli soldiers, a group of settlers push their way into Al-Aqsa compound and try to conduct religious practices there.

Jan. 26: *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM has begun replacing the Arabic names in Silwan with Jewish ones.

Jan. 28: Israeli bulldozers demolish the 5th and 6th floor of a six-storey building belonging to Khalaf Mahmoud Ideiss and Ahmad Hassan Al-Qam in Shu'fat for being not licensed.

Jan. 31: The Israel Antiques Authority begins erecting a new tunnel underneath the Muslim Quarter in the Old City.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that the Yemin Yehuda non-profit association has begun building 200 housing units in Sheikh Jarrah. As part of the project dozens of Palestinian homes are slated for demolition. The new settlement is to stretch over 18 dunums next to the tomb of Shimon Hatzadik and is designed to create a Jewish continuum surrounding the Old City and to cut it off from the Palestinian neighborhoods in northern Jerusalem.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1: *Arutz 7* reports that construction has begun on 200 new housing units to be constructed on 4.5 acres in Sheikh Jarrah.

Feb. 2: *Ha'aretz* reports that construction of the new Agan Ayalot neighborhood in the Givat Ze'ev settlement in the 'Greater Jerusalem' area has been suspended in the wake of the recent Annapolis conference. (see also March 10).

Feb. 6: Israeli forces demolish a twostory house on AlBuraq Street in the Old City for being built without a permit.

Feb. 7: Israel renews closure orders for Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem – incl. Orient House and the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce, closed since 2001, despite the renewal of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians and the international conference in Annapolis in Nov. 2007, where both sides had agreed to immediately implement their respective obligations under the road map.

Feb. 11: WJM forces demolish the house of Sa'di Aramin in Wadi Al-Joz without pre-notification for being built without a permit.

Feb. 12: *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM plans to go ahead with its plans to build over 10,000 new housing units in the settlements in East Jerusalem, incl. in Har Homa and Pisgat Ze'ev.

-*Ha'aretz* reports on plans to construct 4,000 new housing units on 3,000 dunums of land in Givat Hamatos near Beit Safafa.

- Israeli forces demolish the store of Saeb Al-Khatib in Hizma.

Feb. 14: Five Israeli companies have won the ILA tenders to build 307 housing units in Har Homa.

Feb. 15: It is announced that a sum of NIS 250 million would be allocated to renew construction, specifically at the 'Jerusalem Envelope', of the separation barrier, which had been halted for several months due to budget problems.

Feb. 16: Israel extends the closure of Orient House, the Chamber of Commerce, the Arab Studies Society and the Palestinian Prisoners' Society for another year.

- Settlers uproot over 30 olive trees belonging to Mohammed Siam in Silwan.

Feb. 19: Israeli Housing Min. Ze'ev Boim announces plans for 1,000 new housing units in Har Homa.

Feb. 20: The WJM's Planning and Construction Dept. publishes an official notification for a plan to construct 393 new housing units in Neve Ya'akov.

Feb. 21: According to a *Yedioth Ahronoth* report PM Olmert's statement that negotiations over Jerusalem would be postponed spurred Palestinian officials to renew efforts to offer services in the city, with Jerusalem affairs advisor to Pres. Abbas, Hatem Abdel Khader, saying, "In the first stage we are renewing the activity of several departments that operated in the Orient House... This refers to the youth and sports department, the education, relief and welfare department, and the conflict resolution department, which serves as a substitute for the legal department." Some 30 of the 140 Orient House staff have reportedly resumed working, though not from within the sealed building, with their salaries paid by the PLO office in Amman.

Feb. 22: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Canadian Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal by Eliyahu Veffor, who had petition to have his Canadian passport show that he was born in "Jerusalem, Israel," rather than "Jerusalem."

Feb. 24: In Silwan, Israeli forces destroy two lethal workshops belonging to Jamil Abassi for not being licensed.

- Israeli forces destroy the roof of the Nofal family in the Old City and charge them with a 20,000 NIS fine.

Feb. 25: Israeli forces destroy two houses belonging to the Matour family in Beit Hanina and the home of Fayez Irshed in Ath-Thori for not being licensed.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that 3% of immigrants to Israel settle in the West Bank and 19% settle in East and West Jerusalem.

Feb. 28: Israeli forces destroy the house of Ahmed Abu Nab in Beit Hanina for not being licensed.

Feb. 29: *Kol Ha'Ir* reports that the ILA plans to sell five construction plots in the Har Homa settlement.

- The family of Mohammed Al-Fuheidat receives a demolition order for its house in Anata under the pretext that it was too close to a military camp, the separation barrier and a by-pass road.'

MARCH

March 1: *The Times* reports that Jewish settler groups are digging an extensive tunnel network under Muslim areas of the Old City while building a ring of settlements around it to bolster their claim to the disputed city in any future peace deal. The tunnels are largely based on historical water wells or buried pilgrim routes, stretching from the Pool of Siloam in Silwan to the south and joining up with the Western Wall.

March 6: An armed Palestinian, Alaa Abu Dhaim from Jabal Mukabber, opens fire at the Mercaz HaRav yeshiva in Jerusalem's Kiryat Moshe neighborhood, killing eight yeshiva students and wounding another nine, before being shot dead himself. According to Hizbullah's *Al-Manar TV* an organization calling itself 'Galilee Freedom Battalions-the Martyrs of Imad Mughniyeh' claims responsibility for the attack.

March 9: PM Olmert has approves the construction of 750 new housing units in Givat Ze'ev.

March 10: Israeli Housing Min. Ze'ev Boim announces plans for some 2,000 new housing units in settlements, incl. 750 each in Givat Ze'ev's Agan Ayalot neighborhood and in Pisgat Ze'ev, 360 in Har Homa, and 52 in Ma'ale Adumim.

- Shas Chairman Eli Yishai demands that PM Olmert immediately unfreeze the construction of the Kidmat Zion settlement near Abu Dis, where 300 housing units are planned.

- *Ha'aretz* reports about WJM plans to build 400 new housing units in Neve Ya'akov. EU's foreign policy chief Javier Solana immediately deplores the announcement, saying "That may put in jeopardy the peace process".

- A British Foreign Office spokesman states, "We are concerned by reports that Israel plans to build in the settlement of Givat Ze'ev. We see this as unhelpful - particularly when Israelis and Palestinians should be focusing on full implementation of their obligations under phase one of the road map, which include freezing all settlement activity, including natural growth."

- UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-Moon calls on the Israeli govt. to halt settlement construction, saying in a statement that "Any settlement expansion is contrary to Israel's obligations under the road map and to international law."

March 11: Israeli forces demolish the unfinished 250 m² house of Na'im Al-Ayyan in Al-Issawiyya for not being licensed.

March 12: Israeli Min. of Industry, Trade and Labor Eli Yishay expresses his intention to demand that PM Olmert unfreeze construction of the "Kidmat Zion" settlement in Abu Dis, where 220 housing units are planned for settlers.

March 17: **The** Israeli Court orders the Israeli Min. of Antiquities and El Ad settler association to stop excavation works under the property of Ahmad Siam in the Wadi Hilweh area of Silwan.

March 18: Israeli forces raid a body building center in Al-Izzariyya, damaging properties.

March 19: **In Hizma, Israeli forces destroy two houses, belonging to Yousef An-Nunu and Saed Sa'adeh for being located in Area C. In Al-Jib, another house, belonging to Fawzi Ka'abneh, is destroyed to make way for the construction of the separation barrier.**

- A Palestinian stabs a settler in the Ramot settlement.

March 20: Settlers from the Ateret Cohanim group take over a store belonging to Wissam Arnaout near the Dung Gate in the Old City.

March 25: **Israeli forces raid the shop of Walid Zarba in Al-Wad St., Old City, and confiscate some electronic devices for not having paid *arnona* tax.**

- Israeli police break up an event at the Palestinian National Theater meant to announce the winner of an art contest designing a logo for Jerusalem's selection as the 2009 "Capital of Arab Culture."

March 28: **Israeli authorities announce the construction of 813 new housing units – out of a planned 4,000 units - in Givat Hamatos settlement near Beit Safafa.**

March 30: **The WJM has approved the construction of 600 new housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev settlement.**

APRIL

April 1: During a tour of Betar Illit settlement, Shas leaders say that PM Olmert had promised to thaw frozen construction plans in all the settlements near Jerusalem, incl. on 800 homes in Betar Illit.

- The WJM announces plans to build 600 new apartments in Pisgat Ze'ev.

April 2: *PNN* reports that Israeli forces have razed some 2.5 dunums of land in Sheikh Jarrah belonging to the Barakat family, claiming it has been rented by the Custodian of Absentee Property.

April 4: *Israeli forces* demolish two houses of the Hamdan family in Anata for being built without a license.

April 7: The Jerusalem District Court postpones the evacuation of 27 Palestinian homes in Sheikh Jarrah, where settlers plan to build a new settlement consisting of 200 units.

- *Jerusalem Post* quotes Ir Amim as criticizing the Knesset Finance Committee for approving the allocation of another NIS 15 million towards security for settlers in East Jerusalem, bringing the total to NIS 47 million per year.

April 8: WJM bulldozers demolish the house of Khaled Shuman in Beit Hanina for being built without a license.

April 10: The house of Abdul Raziq Asileh near the Old City's Dung Gate is partly destroyed along with a yard due to Israeli excavation work underneath it.

April 14: *Israeli forces* demolish the house of Yunis Sbeih in the Salam area near Shu'fat RC for being built without a license and being located close to the separation barrier.

April 16: In Al-Jib, *Israeli forces* raze land planted with olive and almond trees to make way for the separation barrier.

April 21: An *Israeli Committee* has endorsed the construction of a new settlement ("Ma'ale David"), consisting of initial 110 units, on 10 dunums of land in Ras Al-Amud.

April 22: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Jewish right wing group "Fund for Lands of Israel" plans to seize some 1,150 dunums of land in the Atarot area belonging to villagers from Judera and Bir Nabala.

April 28: *Ha'aretz* reports that settlers plan to take over the police station in Ras Al-Amud once the police has completely moved to its new complex in the EI area, from where it has already begun operating.

- The WJM forces Khaled As-Sayyad to demolish parts of his house in At-Tur for being unlicensed.

MAY

May 4: The Israeli Property Taxation Authority, accompanied by police, raids Palestinian shops in and around the Old City.

May 6: The Israeli army raids tens of houses and buildings in Shu'fat RC, causing losses and damages.

- The Israeli Property Taxation Authority, accompanied by police, raids Palestinian homes and stores in Al-Issawiyya.

- Ma'ale Adumim municipality places a new caravan in the disputed E-I area, with mayor Benny Kashriel claiming that the move was "in coordination with the Ministry of Defense."

May 12: Peace Now reports that settler leaders, with the help of Israel's DM, have begun placing a mobile home in the EI area.

- The Israeli Min. of Antiquities has reportedly been earmarked to receive NIS 3,5 millions to continue its excavation works near the Mughrabi Gate of the Old City.

May 14: *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM is in the process of approving a plan by the EI Ad association to establish a new settlement, including synagogue, kindergarten, underground parking and 10 apartments in Silwan.

May 15: WJM officials hand administrative demolition orders to 18 house owners in Jabal Al-Mukabber under the pretext of lacking building permits.

May 16: *Kol Ha'Ir* reports that the Jerusalem Committee on Planning and Construction has approved 150 additional housing units for Gilo settlement.

May 19: *The Jerusalem Post* reports that the new Police HQ on a hilltop in the E-I area has quietly opened and 99% of the police units have already moved in.

May 20: Israeli forces demolish four apartments belonging to Amin Al-Abbasi and two apartments belonging to Majed Salaimeh in At-Tur for being unlicensed.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM has begun the process of approving a plan, submitted by the Elad association, for a new housing complex, incl. 10

apartments, a synagogue, kindergarten, a library and underground parking, in the heart of Silwan. The land in question is located 200 meters from the Old City walls and belongs to the ILA, which has leased it to Elad.

May 22: *Ma'ariv* reports that approximately 50,000 Palestinians have moved into Israeli neighborhoods in West Jerusalem because of a lack of affordable housing in East Jerusalem.

May 27: *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM has sealed the house Ibrahim Abu Idhaim in Jabal Mukabber for having added 300 m² structure to the existing building without license.

May 30: Israeli forces demolish the house of Zaidan Al-Shweiki in Beit Hanina for the second time since 2006.

JUNE

June 1: Israel's Housing Min. Ze'ev Boim announces the construction of 884 houses in East Jerusalem with spokesman Eran Sidis saying: "We will invite tenders for the construction of 121 housing units in Har Homa and 763 others in Pisgat Ze'ev." Peace Now Dir. Yariv Oppenheimer slams the announcement, saying: "More settlements in Jerusalem will mean that the physical ability to have compromises between Israelis and Palestinians will be harder;" and telling *Israel Army Radio* that the move "constitutes one more nail in the coffin of the Annapolis understandings... The Olmert government is opening a 'going out of business sale' when it comes to houses in settlements. Sadly, the legacy of the current government will not be a peace deal with the Palestinians, but rather turning the final status agreement into something nearly impossible to achieve."

- Israeli Police prevents Palestinian Jerusalemites from holding an event commemorating the 9th anniversary of the death of the late Faisal Al-Husseini at Al-Hakawati Theater.

- Pres. Abbas' office calls Israel's decision for new construction in Jerusalem settlements a "dangerous threat" to the peace process, saying that it "cannot advance without a complete and total halt to settlement activity."

- A poll released by Ir Amim reveals that 78% of Jewish Israelis believe that Jerusalem is already divided, while 65% agree that in the context of a final status agreement, Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem would come under Palestinian rule.

- For the second time in two years, religious-Zionist rabbis enter the Haram Ash-Sharif.

- *Al-Quds* reports that the Israeli Antiquities Authority has begun with the restoration of the Old City's wall.

June 2: The ILA publishes tenders for 47 housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev.

- In Jabal Mukabber, Israeli Authorities have handed the Surour and Mashahra families military warnings to demolish 18 buildings for not having permits.

- Israeli authorities inform Beit Hanina Village Council of the decision to confiscate 5,500 dunums of its lands to construct segments of the separation barrier.

June 4: The Knesset approves in a preliminary reading an amendment to the Israeli Basic Law making Jerusalem not just the capital of Israel but of the entire Jewish people.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish the house of Zeidan Ra'fat Al-Sheiwaky in Beit Hanina for not being licensed.

- Israel conducts extensive land leveling in the vicinity of the Har Homa settlement.

June 6: Israeli forces survey lands of Walajeh after giving the Village Council a notification of the proposed route of the separation barrier.

June 7: *Al-Quds* reports that the Israeli Local Committee for Building and Construction has endorsed the first stage of a plan to build 2,337 new housing units, 1,837 of which in Givat Hamatos settlement and 500 for Palestinians of Beit Safafa.

June 8: A group of settlers assault Palestinian stores near Dung Gate in the Old City, causing damage and losses.

June 10: In At-Tur, Israeli bulldozers destroy for the second time the house of the Faqih family for lacking a permit.

- In Al-Issawiyya, Israeli forces demolish the house of Khamis Tahhan, rendering 9 family members homeless.

- In Beit Hanina, Israeli forces destroy the house of Fatina Al-Ajrab, home to 8 people, without any prior warning.

June 11: Nabil Al-Imwasi is forced to demolish his family house in Beit Hanina to avoid being fined NIS 80,000 in case the WJM carries out the demolition.

- *Al-Quds* reports that a second stage of constructing 60 housing units in Ma'ale HaZeitim settlement in Ras Al-Amud has begun.

- The WJM issues eviction and demolition orders against three adjacent houses in the Ras Khamis area of Shu'fat RC, belonging to Maher Rajabi, Suleiman Turk and Amjad Abu Turki. All three houses are located near the barrier separating Ras Khamis from Pisgat Ze'ev.

June 12: Israeli forces demolish the 50-m² house of Ihab Zuhdi At-Tawil in Beit Hanina's Wadi Al-Dam – Housh Al-Tawil area for the second time since 2005 for being built without a permit in a "Green Area".

June 13: The WJM's Regional Committee for Housing and Planning has agreed to construct 1,300 new housing units in Ramat Shlomo settlement.

June 15: The Jerusalem Planning Committee approves the construction of 40,000 housing units across the city, incl. in East Jerusalem settlements, and for the first time, in Palestinian neighborhoods, among them Al-Issawiya, Shu'fat, and At-Tur.

- The Israeli Company of Developing Jerusalem and WJM employees try to take over a 2-dunum plot owned by the Orthodox Patriarchate in Silwan to construct a parking plot.

- The WJM hands out military warnings to demolish three houses in Ras Khamis in Shu'fat RC being unlicensed and located close to the separation barrier.

- The WJM distributes demolition orders against 18 houses and buildings in Jabal Al-Mukabber for lacking permits.

June 16: *Wafa* and *Al-Quds* report that a settler group calling themselves "Yeshiva Hayim Ha'olam" hands military warnings to the Kastero and Al-Hashim family in Aqbat Al-Khalidiyya area near Al-Aqsa Mosque to evacuate their houses within 14 days, claiming their ownership of the buildings since 1948. The nearby house of Mohammad Sidawi had already been targeted by the same organization seven months ago.

- Israeli forces demolish two houses belonging to Ihab Tawil and the Jaba'ari family in Beit Hanina and another house belonging to Anwar Assila in Ras Al-Amud for lacking building permits.

June 20: The Israeli army distributes a military order to confiscate 1,500 dunums of Palestinian land to construct the separation barrier between Beit Hanina and Ramot settlement.

June 23: Israeli bulldozers uproot some 300 olive trees and raze lands in Beit Hanina Al-Tahta near Ramot settlement to make way for a section of the separation barrier.

June 24: A WJM court issues an order to stop the evacuation of Mohammed Al-Kurd's house in Sheikh Jarrah.

June 25: Israeli forces raid several car workshops in Hizma, Anata, Az-Zaim and Al-Izzariyya, confiscating cars and properties.

June 28: At night, hundreds of Israeli forces raid the 5-story building of Majed Abu Aisha near the Dajani Hospital in Beit Hanina, home to seven families. Its over 60 residents are violently forced to leave, before the entire house is demolished and eventually blown up by remote control burying all the furniture and property of its inhabitants. Hundreds of Palestinians, incl. national and religious figures, demonstrate nearby against the demolition, but are attacked and partly injured or arrested by police.

June 29: The Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee tours East Jerusalem to prepare for the first reading of a bill requiring a two-thirds Knesset majority to transfer control or authority in the city.

June 30: With a focus on East Jerusalem and the Golan, the Knesset approves with 65:18 the first reading of a referendum bill, which mandates a national referendum or a two-thirds Knesset majority vote prior to a withdrawal from any territory under Israeli control.

JULY

July 1: *Al-Quds* reports that an Israeli restraining order stops the demolition of the Abdel Fattah Abed Rabbo cave and the confiscation of 50 dunums of lands located in the northern part of Al-Walaja, where the Givat Ya'el settlement is planned.

- *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM intends to revive a plan – frozen two years ago - of demolishing 100 Palestinian houses in Silwan's Al-Bustan neighborhood.

July 2: A Palestinian, Hussam Dwayat from Sur Baher, working for a construction firm laying the foundations for the city's new railway system, drives his bulldozer into a bus and several cars in Jaffa Road, killing three people, before being shot dead.

- Israeli authorities order close the headquarters of the Palestinian Housing Council in Jerusalem.

July 3: Israeli bulldozers demolish without any pre-notification the house of Kamil As-Sa'ou in Beit Hanina and another house owned by Mohammed Nasser in Al-Issawiyya.

- In the wake of the bulldozer incident a day earlier, Vice PM Haim Ramon tells *Army Radio* that Israel should treat the East Jerusalem neighborhoods of Jabel Mukabber and Sur Baher as West Bank villages, wall them off the city, and revoke the permanent residency status of their residents.

July 6: In Sur Baher and Jabal Mukabber, groups of settlers try to attack the houses of the Dwayat and Abu Dhaim families, whose sons had perpetrated the 2 March attack on a yeshiva and the bulldozer stack on Jaffa Road four days ago.

- Israeli bulldozers raze a piece of land owned by 'Awad Samrin near Ein Silwan Mosque.

- The WJM forces Khaled Sharabati to demolish his house in Wadi Al-Joz under the pretext of lacking building permits.

July 9: The Interior Min. has tentatively approved a WJM plan to build 910 new homes in Har Homa's Homat Shmuel C area.

- The Jerusalem Regional Construction and Planning Committee has approved another 900 housing units for Pisgat Ze'ev settlement.

July 13: In Anata, Israeli forces raid garages and workshops, confiscating several yellow-plated cars under the pretext that Palestinian Jerusalemites are not allowed to have their cars repaired at West Bank workshops.

July 15: *Al-Quds* reports that the Israeli Supreme Court has issued an evacuation order to Fawziya Al-Kurd from Sheikh Jarrah, claiming her house was Jewish property (being one of 28 Palestinian houses in the area threatened under the same pretext.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish the two-storey house of Ishaq Hamdan in Al-Issawiyya and hand military warnings to the owners of 20 other houses in the area for lacking building permits. For the same reason destroyed are two

apartments owned by Osama and Munther 'Abdel Salam Ar-Razim in Beit Hanina.

- Over 47 residents of Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan receive military orders to demolish their houses within a week.

July 17: *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM has handed demolition orders to the owners of 32 buildings and housing units in Al-Issawiyya under the pretext of being unlicensed. Another 28 buildings are threatened as well. Three days later, the Office of the PM's Legal Adviser for Jerusalem Affairs issues a precautionary order from the WJM court to prevent the demolition of 29 out of the 32 units.

- Israeli forces destroy the house of Ahmad Mohammad Al-Aramin in Al-Izzariyya.

July 22: Ghassan Abu Ter from Sur Baher rams his tractor into cars and a bus on King David St., injuring over 20 people and destroying a bus and five cars before being shot dead by a motorist and a policeman. The attack is seen as a copycat act of to the July 2 attack, although some witnesses and the perpetrator's family claim he had lost control over the vehicle and the incident had been an accident.

July 23: For the second consecutive day, Israeli forces raid Umm Tuba and Sur Baher, detaining a number of young people.

July 24: Israeli forces raid a stone, pottery and seedling shop at the Hizma intersection, confiscating large amounts of stones under the pretext that it is prohibited to build houses and establish shops in the region.

- A poll published by *Israel Radio* shows that an equal percentage of Israelis (43%) support and oppose a physical separation of Jerusalem in light of recent attacks.

July 26: The Israeli High Court of Justice has issued a ruling to evict Mohammad Kamel Al-Kurd and his family consisting from their house in Sheikh Jarrah, claiming it belongs to Israeli settlers.

July 27: Israeli bulldozers demolish the five-storey building of Majed Abu 'Eisheh in Beit Hanina for being built without a permit, rendering some 70 people homeless.

- Israeli forces raid the houses of Saleh Al-Khalid and Fayez Bishara in Shufat's Ras Khamis area, claiming they are searching for weapons.

July 28: With regard to another bulldozer incident in Jerusalem, PM Olmert says, "Whoever thinks it's possible to live with 270,000 Arabs in Jerusalem must take into account that there will be more bulldozers, more tractors, and more cars carrying out attacks."

- Former Likud DM Moshe Arens acknowledges in an article in *Ha'aretz* that Israel's failure to meaningfully unite the city was a factor in the recent attacks in Jerusalem, saying: "had progress been made over the years in properly absorbing the Jerusalem Arab population into Israel, the task facing the Palestinian

extremists would have been more difficult." He also states that the wall built around Jerusalem "does not in any way alleviate the problem. It only exacerbates it. Jerusalem's Arab population - rightfully feeling that the policy of the Israeli government and the Jerusalem Municipality discriminates against it - is being fenced in. Nothing good can come of that. And the destruction of the homes of the families of the perpetrators of recent acts of terror will only breed bitterness and resentment." Arens further argues that to integrate Jerusalem's Arab population, "equalizing the municipal services provided to Arab and Jewish neighborhoods, as well as welfare, health-care and educational services," and "encouraging the participation of the Arab population in municipal elections" are needed.

July 29: Israeli Pres. Shimon Peres says that "Jerusalem has become a security problem of late. We have to make both a wall and a bridge in Jerusalem. We have to ensure separation and also let [Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem] live differently, otherwise [the city] will be like a pressure cooker that is liable to explode."

- A group of Israeli settlers forces itself into a Palestinian home in Shu'fat's Ras Khamis area, claiming ownership of the 20-dunum property, saying it belonged to Ramat Gan resident Eliyahu Cohanim and constitutes part of the 'Eastern Gate' compound between the French Hill and the outskirts of the Pisgat Zeev settlement, where the WJM has previously proposed to build a 2,000-unit settlement ('Sha'er Mizrah').

July 30: *Al-Quds* quotes MK Hanna Suweid as saying that some 15,000 Palestinian houses in Jerusalem are threatened by demolition for not being licensed.

- An Israeli court issues a restraining order to stop razing the land of Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan, which is mainly slated for the establishment of a touristic park.

- The Jerusalem District Court rejects a petition submitted by Israeli right wingers, ordering them to evacuate the 7-storey building ("Beit Yehonatan") they are evacuating in the heart of Silwan.

AUGUST

Aug. 1: A public opinion poll by the Tami Steinmetz Center at Tel Aviv University finds that 56% of Jewish Israelis believe that for all intents and purposes the city of Jerusalem is already divided.

- The ILA and the Israeli Housing Min. issue tenders for the construction of 735 housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev.

- After objection filed with the WJM by Ir Amim, Israeli authorities decide to amend the plans regarding the bridge at the Mughrabi Gate to include preservation of all archaeological findings, incl. those from the Ottoman period.

Aug. 4: *Ha'aretz* reports that the WJM is working to prevent the evacuation of settlers from a seven-story building (dubbed "Bet Yehonatan") in Silwan, which was ordered by the Jerusalem District Court on 30 July.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish for the second time the house of Amin Ibrahim Abbasi in At-Tur.

- Israeli forces also destroy a hut near the Panorama Hotel in Ras-Al-Amud and an yet unfinished house in Silwan's Wadi Qaddoum area.

Aug. 5: Israeli Internal Security Min. Avi Dichter renews the closure of East Jerusalem institutions, incl. Orient House, the Chamber of Commerce, the Prisoners' Club, the and Arab Studies Society, for another six months.

Aug. 7: Settlers and right-wing MKs tour a hill located between French Hill and Anata, near Shufat RC, where settlers attempt to establish a new outpost ("Sha'ar Mizrahi" - Gate of the East) on an estimated 180 dunums defined as agricultural property.

Aug. 8: Israeli authorities approve the construction of 300 housing units in Neve Ya'akov settlement.

Aug. 12: Israeli police intercept a group of settlers, trying to put the cornerstone for a new settlement - dubbed Sha'ar Mizrahi - on a hill near Shu'fat RC. Ten settlers are detained for questioning.

Aug. 13: Israeli forces destroy two houses, belonging to the Ajlouni and Abu Sbeih families, in Beit Hanina's Ashqariya area, without allowing the owners to rescue their belongings.

- In Issawiyya, the house of Mohammed Durbas, still under construction, is demolished for being built unlicensed.

Aug. 18: In Beit Safafa, Palestinians prevent settlers from taking over the house of Bah Eddin Darwish.

Aug. 19: Israeli authorities install cameras at Lion's Gate in a bid to further control the entry of worshippers to Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Aug. 20: In Ath-Thori, settlers tried to build iron fences around some four dunums of land they intend to seize near Dar Al-Aytam School.

Aug. 21: In response to a petition by Palestinian landowners, PM Olmert and DM Barak decide to reroute the path of the separation barrier near Ma'ale Adumim so as to restore Palestinian access to some 4,000 dunums of land which the original plan would have placed on the Israeli side of the wall.

Aug. 26: Israeli forces raid Wadi Al-Joz and Anata neighborhoods, causing damage to Palestinian property.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3: Israeli DM Barak tells *Al-Jazeera* that Israel's "basic position is that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel but that we can find a formula under which certain neighborhoods, heavily populated Arab neighborhoods, could become in a peace agreement part of the Palestinian capital, and it will of course include all of the neighboring villages around Jerusalem."

- Vice PM Haim Ramon tells *Ma'ariv* NRG that "Anyone who thinks that the problem of Jerusalem and terrorism is pinpointed and that the demolition of one or another house will help hides his head in the sand. The central question is whether the government wants Jabal Mukabber and Sur Baher as part of Israel or not."

Sept. 4: Yehiam Weitz, Professor at Haifa University's Land of Israel Studies Dept., writes in a *Ma'ariv* op-ed that Israelis are more prepared for a substantive discussion over the city's future, saying that in the past decade "a great deal of water has flowed in all the rivers and seas, and today [the future of Jerusalem] can be addressed without the emotionally charged attitude of a decade ago. We do not have to see every attempt to deal with Jerusalem's future as the violation of a sacred taboo. It can be examined rationally."

- Israeli Police arrest seven Jewish settlers and evicted 30 others trying to place a mobile home on a new outpost ("Sha'ar Mizrahi") on a hill near Shufat RC.

Sept. 5: DM Ehud Barak tells *Al-Jazeera TV* that some Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem could become the capital of a future Palestinian state as part of a final peace agreement, saying: "We can find a formula under which certain neighborhoods, heavily-populated Arab neighborhoods, could become, in a peace agreement, part of the Palestinian capital that, of course, will include also the neighboring villages around Jerusalem".

Sept. 9: *Ha'aretz* reports that Israeli police restricts the entry to Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan, banning men under 45 years and requesting married men aged 45-55 and women aged 30-45 to obtain a permit.

Sept. 10: Israeli police raids the houses of Abu Ahmad Atwan and his son in Sur Baher.

Sept. 13: At the northern entrance to Shufat RC, Israeli bulldozers raze without prior warning 1,5 dunums of land, incl. 7 olive trees, belonging to Fawzi Issa to make way for a planned crossing.

Sept. 18: In a letter to WJM Council member Nir Barkat (Kadima), Dep. PM Ramon outlines his official political agenda, saying he believes Israel should cede control of the Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem to the Palestinians and establish joint sovereignty over the city's holy sites.

Sept. 18: Israeli Transportation Min. Shaul Mofaz disparaged Dep. PM Haim Ramon over his call on the government to cede control of Arab East Jerusalem to the Palestinians and establish joint sovereignty over the city's holy sites, telling a Kadima party convention that "Jerusalem is

not a piece of real estate, and no one has the authority to redivide it." Internal Security Min. Avi Dichter remarks that Israel should unilaterally demarcate its final borders with the West Bank, saying: "It is a mistake to speak of a final agreement ... We need to demand the demarcation of the borders as mentioned in Kadima's election program, which includes a united Jerusalem." - Israeli forces raid houses in Al-Izzariyya.

- El Ad begins building a parking lot in Silwan's Wadi Al-Hilweh area..

Sept. 21: The Aqsa Foundation for Endowment and Heritage reveals Israeli plans to open a synagogue on Wad Street near Hamam Al-Ein, close to Al-Aqsa Mosque, and connect it to a tunnel underneath it.

Sept. 22: A Palestinian teenager, Qassem Mughrabi, 19, from Jabal Mukabber, drives a BMW into a group of off-duty soldiers standing on a Jerusalem street at Tzahal Square, injuring 19, before being killed by a soldier. While widely portrayed as an apparent copycat attack to the bulldozer and tractor attacks earlier in the year, the driver's family denies that it was a terror attack, saying he did not have a driving license and lost control of the car.

Sept. 27: Al-Quds reports that WJM police has designated a special lane for settlers at Az-Za'im checkpoint to facilitate their movement to and from Jerusalem.

Sept. 29: In an interview with the *Yedioth Aharonoth*, outgoing PM Olmert says that Israel would have to withdraw from East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights if it was serious about making peace with the Palestinians and Syria.

OCTOBER

Oct. 5: MKs Uri Ariel and Eli Gabai from the National Union/National Religious Party and a WJM councilman, David Hadari, lead a tour for reporters to some Arab areas of Jerusalem demanding that the homes of local "terrorists" be demolished and their families restricted from doing business in the city, as well as that more be done to combat illegal construction and tax evasion in the Arab neighborhoods.

Oct. 12: The "Ohel Yitzhak" synagogue is opened in the Old City's Muslim Quarter, located between the Cotton Merchants Gate and the Heavy Chain Gate, only 80 m from the Haram Ash-Sharif, creating outrage among Muslim, Christian and Greek Orthodox residents and religious officials, who set up an emergency meeting to condemn the move.

Oct. 17: WJM mayoral candidate Nir Barkat tours the area near Shufat RC where settlers attempt to establish a new settlement ("Sha'ar Mizrahi") and expresses support for the 2,000-housing unit project in the area.

Oct. 19: Six Palestinians are injured in a brawl with a group of Jewish youths . In a separate incident, police arrested three young Jews after scuffles broke out with Palestinian when a garbage truck driven by an Arab was stoned on Bar-Ilan Street.

Oct. 22: Ultra-Orthodox youths riot in Mea Shearim overnight, throwing stones at passing cars and beating Palestinian taxi drivers after stopping them to find out whether they were Arab.

Oct. 23: Near Gilo, a Palestinian – Mohammed Al-Badan, from Tekoa near Bethlehem - stabs two Israelis, killing an elderly man and wounding a policeman, before being killed himself. Hamas say such attacks were a "natural response" to Israel's continued aggression.

Oct. 27: WJM mayoral candidate Arcadi Gaydamak makes a five-hour election tour of East Jerusalem, incl. encounters with Palestinian residents, a businessmen meeting in the Golden Walls Hotel, a visit of Silwan, Shu'fat and Beit Hanina.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2: Ali Bahar, Chairperson of the Palestinian Student Union at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is detained for three hours by university and presidential security officials and has his student card confiscated after refusing to shake the hand of visiting Pres. Shimon Peres, calling him "responsible for the murderer of children."

Nov. 5: WJM forces partially demolish - without prior notification - a wedding hall owned by Samir Qirresh in Beit Hanina.

- In Shu'fat, Israeli bulldozers demolish the house of Abdullah Bisharat for lacking a building permit.

- Clashes between residents and Israeli forces erupt in Silwan's Bustan neighborhood, when the latter try to demolish five houses, two of which – belonging to Mohammed Siam and Said Abu Sanad - are eventually destroyed and 22 protestors are arrested.

Nov. 9: Israeli police storms the house of Kamel Al-Kurd in Sheikh Jarrah and forcibly evict the owner of the house, 62-year-old and sick Mohammad Al-Kurd and his wife from their home.

Nov. 11: Mayoral elections for the WJM are held;

Nov. 14: In response to a Peace Now petition submitted together with Arab residents of Silwan, the Supreme Court ordered a stop to all unauthorized construction and earthworks that is taking place in the Givati Parking Lot in the Old City (except support work on the northern wall is allowed to continue for safety purposes).

PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY 2009

JANUARY

Jan. 2: Protests against Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip are taking place after Friday prayers throughout the Arab and Islamic world.

Jan. 3: Israeli aircraft bombard Gaza and Israeli ground forces enter the Strip to "destroy the Hamas terror infrastructure in the area of operations," according to military spokesperson Maj. Avital Leibovitch. - The OIC FM meeting in Jeddah harshly condemns Israel's bombardment of Gaza.

Jan. 6: Israel shells UNRWA school, killing at least 42 Palestinians.

- Egypt and France put forward ceasefire initiative.

Jan. 8: UNSC Res. 1860 calls for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire.

Jan. 12: The UN Human Rights Council adopts a resolution strongly condemning Israel's ongoing military operation in Gaza.

Jan. 15: Israeli forces shell the UNRWA HQ in Gaza, destroying tons of food and humanitarian supplies.

- Hamas Interior Minister Said Siyam is killed in an Israeli air strike on his brother's home near Gaza City.

Jan. 17: Israel declares a unilateral ceasefire in its 22-day offensive in the Gaza Strip.

- The PCBS says Israel's military assault in Gaza caused damage to the Palestinian infrastructure totaling some \$476 million.

Jan. 18: Hamas announces immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and gives Israel a week to pull its troops out.

- European and Arab leaders meet in Sharm Esh-Sheikh to discuss Gaza humanitarian aid and reconstruction.

Jan. 19: According to OCHA, 1,314 Palestinians were killed during the Gaza War, 412 of them children and 110 women.

Jan. 26: The Arab League files a request for a UN investigation into possible Israeli war crimes in Gaza.

Jan. 27: In a violation of the ceasefire, members of an unknown military brigade detonate an explosive device near an Israeli patrol in the Kissufim area of Gaza, killing one soldier and wounding three others.

Jan. 28: A new Peace Now report reveals that Israel has accelerated construction in illegal settlements during 2008, with 1,257 new structures having been built last year compared to 800 in 2007, marking a 57% increase.

Jan. 29: Israeli air forces violate the ceasefire in Gaza by launching at least one missile targeting two PRC activists in Khan Younis, thereby injuring nine people, including eight children.

- Acting under a doctrine that allows prosecution in Spain of crimes against humanity or crime like terrorism or genocide, even if committed in another country, Spanish Judge Fernando Andreu begins an investigation into seven current or former Israeli officials (incl. former IAF commander Dan Halutz and DM Binyamin Ben-Eliezer) over the 2002 bombing in Gaza that killed Hamas leader Salah Shehadeh and 14 other people, incl. nine children.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 2: The UN launches a US\$613 million flash appeal for emergency relief efforts in Gaza.

- The International Criminal Court looks into ways to prosecute Gaza war crimes.

Feb. 4: At the request of the US, Denmark hosts a two-day international meeting on Gaza arms smuggling.

Feb. 5: The Israeli navy intercepts a freighter carrying humanitarian aid from Lebanon to Gaza and impounds it in Ashdod port. Lebanese PM Fuad Siniora expresses his "utmost condemnation for this blatant attack."

- Hamas officials leave Cairo without reaching an agreement with Egyptian mediators on a ceasefire with Israel. Hamas spokesperson Fawzi Barhoum says reasons were the insistence to link the Shalit file with other talks as well as the non-existence of any guarantees and many clarifications needed from the Israeli side.

- After a 4-day visit to the region, the UN Sec.-Gen.'s Special Representative for Children & Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, says that despite the Gaza ceasefires, children continued to suffer and remained in a precarious state of insecurity.

Feb. 9: UNRWA resumes import of humanitarian supplies into Gaza after Hamas returns aid supplies they had seized earlier.

- UNRWA complains that its food aid to 900,000 refugees in Gaza continues to be jeopardized by the Israeli government's refusal to allow entry of three truckloads of nylon pellets used for making plastic bags used for food distribution.

- Israel launches air strikes on two Hamas targets in Gaza.

Feb. 10: Fateh and Hamas hold preliminary talks on forming a national unity government in Cairo.

Feb. 11: In an interview with *Reuters*, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, says that the next Israeli government must restart serious peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

Feb. 12: UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon announces the establishment of a UN Board of Inquiry into incidents involving death and damage at UN premises in Gaza, to be headed by Ian Martin of the UK and including legal advisers and military experts.

Feb. 17: The European Commission Technical Assistance Office for the West Bank and Gaza announces that the EU would contribute €25.5 million through its PEGASE mechanism for support to the Palestinians, to pay salaries and pensions to over 78,000 persons.

Feb. 18: The Israeli cabinet decides that "it would be inconceivable" for Israel to accept an Egyptian-proposed ceasefire calling for reopening of border crossings without the release of Corporal Gilad Shalit. Hamas spokesman Ismail Radwan calls the decision "a stab in the back to the Egyptian efforts."

Feb. 19: In a joint resolution adopted by 488 votes in favor 5 against and 19 abstentions, the European Parliament called for a damage assessment in Gaza and an in-depth evaluation of the needs of the Gaza population as a basis for reconstruction plans.

Feb. 20: After Israeli Pres. Peres designates Binyamin Netanyahu to form the next government, Pres. Abbas' spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, states that the PA "will not deal with the Israeli government unless it accepts a two-state solution and accepts to halt settlements and to respect past accords," while Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoom says that Israel had picked the "most extremist and most dangerous" person to lead the country whose choice "did not herald a period of peace or stability in the region."

Feb. 21: Over 600 students, third-country residents and medical patients left as Egypt opened the Rafah border crossing for those stranded in Gaza.

Feb. 26: Former peace negotiators call on the international community to engage directly with Hamas.

Feb. 22: An Arab League delegation arrives in Gaza to assess the destruction as well as people's needs. Its findings will be presented to Arab League Sec.-Gen. Amr Musa and to international donors.

Feb. 23: In Brussels, EU FMs call on the incoming Israeli government to re-launch the Middle East peace process.

- Amnesty International called for a freeze on arms sales to Israel and Palestinian groups such as Hamas following the recent Gaza conflict.

Feb. 24: Pres. Abbas says that any national unity government formed after a Fateh-Hamas agreement must respect all past agreements signed by the PLO.

Feb. 25: Reconciliation talks between Fatah and Hamas, mediated by Egypt Intelligence Chief Omar Suleiman, started, with what was described as a series of "icebreaking" meetings by the participants. An aide to PA President Abbas said that agreement had been reached on the issue of exchange of prisoners and on stopping media attacks against each other. A Hamas representative described the talks as "positive and promising".

- After meeting Pres. Mubarak in Cairo, British Foreign Sec. David Miliband calls for the establishment of a "viable and strong" Palestinian State as crucial to the security of Israel and the Middle East and urges Palestinian factions to form a national unity government. He emphasizes that "the settlements are illegal, that a Palestinian State should be based on the 1967 borders, and that Jerusalem should be the capital of both States."

Feb. 26: In Cairo, Palestinian factions agree to work towards setting up a unity government. Former PM Qreia calls it "a historic day," and announces the creation of five main joint committees (one each on unity govt., security, national reconciliation, elections and PLO reform).

- A group of former peace negotiators - incl. former Israeli FM Shlomo Ben-Ami, former UN Middle East envoy Alvaro de Soto, former EU envoy for Bosnia Paddy Ashdown, and former Australian FM and Cambodia peace negotiator Gareth Evans - release a public letter, published in *The Times*, calling for the international community to start engaging directly with Hamas as the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East.

MARCH

March 2: Donors at the International Conference on Gaza Reconstruction in Sharm Esh-Sheikh pledge some \$4.5 billion in aid.

March 4: US Sec. of State Hillary Clinton promises vigorous personal involvement in Mideast peace efforts and criticizes Israel's plan to demolish 88 Palestinian homes in Silwan as "unhelpful and not in keeping with the obligations entered into under the Road Map."

March 7: PM Salam Fayyad submits his resignation to Pres. Abbas to pave the way for the establishment of a unity government.

March 10: The British aid convoy 'Viva Palestina' arrives in Gaza with aid for the besieged Palestinians.

- Palestinian factions meet in Cairo for nine days of reconciliation talks.

March 14: Palestinian negotiators in Cairo sign an agreement to prohibit fighting or the use of weapons to settle internal disputes, while being deadlocked on the composition and obligations of a unity government.

March 15: Presidential Guards College in Jericho is formally opened.

March 16: Prominent jurists urge the UN Sec.-Gen. and UNSC to investigate international law violations during the Gaza War.

- Human Rights Watch says the EU should press for a comprehensive and impartial international inquiry into allegations of serious violations of international law committed by Israeli and Palestinian forces in Gaza and southern Israel.

March 17: Israel arrests 10 prominent Hamas leaders.

- The three-day 5th plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) in Brussels backs the Arab Peace Initiative and efforts to achieve inter-Palestinian reconciliation. Parliamentarians also call on a freeze on *all* settlements and for an independent inquiry into the violations of international humanitarian law and the use in civilian areas of banned weapons in the recent Gaza War.

- Reconciliation talks between Hamas, Fateh and other factions conclude in Cairo, with remaining controversial issues having been referred to a higher committee for further discussion.

March 19: Special UN Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Richard Falk, states in an interview that Israel's military assault on densely populated Gaza appeared "to constitute a war crime of the greatest magnitude under criminal law."

March 23: Deputy head of the PLO in Lebanon Kamal Medhat and three others are killed in a roadside bombing near the Mieh Mieh RC in southern Lebanon. Pres. Abbas condemns the attack.

March 24: Israeli DM Barak approves construction of a new Hebron settlement.

March 25: A new Human Rights Watch report says the Israeli army unlawfully fired white phosphorus shells over densely populated areas of the Gaza Strip during its recent offensive, knowing the munitions threatened the civilian population.

March 28: Ahead of the Arab League Summit at Doha Arab FMs prepare a draft declaration saying that the Arab initiative would not be on the table for ever, but was "dependent on an Israeli acceptance of it."

March 30: At the 21st Arab League Summit in Doha, Arab League Sec.-Gen. Amr Musa says "The deliberate targeting of civilians is just one example of how the Israeli military's ideology is nearing madness" and calls for Israeli soldiers to be held accountable for war crimes committed during the 22-day offensive in Gaza. Pres. Bashar Al-Assad says Syria is still pursuing peace with Israel but the "real aim of Israel's recently elected Government is against peace." UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon addresses the summit, expressing his concern about recent events in Gaza and the peoples' suffering, and calling for a durable ceasefire, open crossings, Palestinian reconciliation, and Israel to freeze settlements as well as unilateral actions in Jerusalem.

March 31: Ali Abu Foul, a Palestinian resistance fighter killed in an Israeli attack along with one other.

- Israeli military investigators dismiss soldiers' testimonies of intentional killing of civilians during the Gaza war and conclude that no war crimes had been committed.

APRIL

April 1: New Israeli FM Lieberman says Israel is not bound by the Annapolis understandings.

April 2: Pres. Abbas rejects PM Fayyad's resignation.

- A Palestinian with an axe and a knife kills a 13-year-old Israeli boy and wounded a seven-year-old boy in the Bat Ayin settlement and then fled. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claim responsibility.

April 3: The UNHRC appoints a fact-finding mission to Gaza, to be led by Justice Richard J. Goldstone of South Africa, former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and including Christine Chinkin, member of the former UNHRC fact-finding mission to Beit Hanoun, Hina Jilani, former Special Representative of the Sec.-Gen. for Human Rights Defenders, and Col. Desmond Travers, former member of the Board of Directors of the Institute for International Criminal Investigations. The PA welcomes the appointments.

April 6: In a speech to the Turkish Parliament, US Pres. Obama says that the US "strongly supported the goal of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. That is a goal shared by Palestinians, Israelis, and people of goodwill around the world. That is a goal that the parties agreed to in the Road Map and at Annapolis. And that is a goal that I will actively pursue as President."

April 14: Pres. Abbas expresses reservations about an Egyptian document proposing a new joint Palestinian committee to prepare for parallel presidential and PLC elections, asking for modifications to the text so that it did not exclude the PLO.

- US Special Envoy for Middle East Peace George Mitchell meets with a number of Arab leaders in an effort to revive the peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

April 15: Israel refuses to cooperate with the fact-finding mission on the Gaza conflict.

April 18: In Cairo, US Special Envoy for Middle East Peace George Mitchell says that a Palestinian State alongside Israel was the only way to end the Mideast conflict.

April 20: The US State Dept. calls PM Minister Netanyahu's demand that the Palestinians recognize Israel as the state of the Jewish people as a condition for renewing peace talks unacceptable.

April 21: At a meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II, US Pres. Obama calls on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to take steps to build confidence and establish the ground for resuming peace talks.

April 22: US Sec. of State Hillary Clinton tells the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee: "We will not deal with nor in any way fund a Palestinian Government that includes Hamas unless and until Hamas has renounced violence, recognized Israel and agrees to follow the previous obligations of the Palestinian Authority."

- The Israeli army announces that an internal investigation has determined that no civilians were purposefully harmed by IDF troops during "Operation Cast Lead" in the Gaza Strip. B'Tselem calls the army investigation flawed and says an independent inquiry from outside the army was needed. Human Rights Watch says the army's findings lacked credibility and confirmed the need for an impartial international inquiry.

April 28: Israel releases PLC member and former Finance Min. Omar Abdel Razeq from prison; he was jailed since Dec. 2008.

April 29: Hamas and Fatah ended a fourth round of talks in Cairo without an agreement, but were to meet again on 16 May.

MAY

May 6: At a news conference with visiting King Abdullah II of Jordan in Berlin, German Chancellor Merkel says that a two-state solution was the only path to peace in the Middle East and urged the new Israeli government to move quickly to begin talks with the Palestinians.

May 8: The Pope arrives in Amman for a week-long trip to include Israel and the OPT.

May 11: Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, Pope Benedict XVI says "I plead with all those responsible to explore every possible avenue in the search for a just resolution of the outstanding difficulties, so that both peoples may live in peace in a homeland of their own, within secure and internationally recognized borders." He will visit the Holy Land until 15 May.

May 14: Quartet envoy Tony Blair tells the Foreign Relations Committee of the US Senate that there was no workable alternative to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, saying, "The opportunity is there. But it won't remain if not seized. As President Obama has recognized, this is the right time to seize it."

May 14-15: The 61st anniversary of Al-Nakba is commemorated across the WBGS.

May 16: Fateh and Hamas hold a new round of reconciliation talks in Cairo.

May 18: At a meeting with PM Netanyahu at the White House, US Pres. Obama stresses the need for a two-state solution, Road Map obligations, and halt in settlement activities.

- The Head of the PLO Negotiations Affairs Dept., Saeb Erakat, welcomes Pres. Obama's unequivocal support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State and his call for Israel to abide by its Road Map obligations.

- Israel has published a tender to launch infrastructure work for 20 homes at the site of the former military base "Maskiyot" in the Jordan Valley, a move that is widely condemned as violating Israel's Road Map obligations.

May 19: Pres. Abbas swears in a new 20-member government with Salam Fayyad as reappointed PM and eight Fateh members. Hamas official Mushir Al-Masri calls the new government "illegal, unconstitutional."

May 24: PM Netanyahu rejects US calls to impose a freeze on all settlement activity, telling his cabinet, "We do not intend to build any new settlements, but it wouldn't be fair to ban construction to meet the needs of natural growth or for there to be an outright construction ban."

May 25: Pres. Abbas rules out restarting peace talks until Israel commits itself to the creation of a Palestinian State and halts the expansion of its settlements.

- OIC Members conclude their three-day meeting in Damascus, criticizing Israel but saying that they were open to better ties if Israel took steps towards a "just and comprehensive" peace deal.

- France's Pres. Nicolas Sarkozy says establishing an independent Palestinian State is a "legitimate right" and that "no one would think seriously about peace in the Middle East without giving the Palestinians a State they have been persevering for years." He adds that Israel must stop settlement construction "as it hinders peace in the region".

May 26: Jordan lodges a strongly-worded protest with Israel over discussion in the Knesset proposing Jordan as a homeland for Palestinians.

May 28: At a meeting with Pres. Abbas at the White House, US Pres. Obama stresses the need to advance peace in the Middle East and a two-state solution as well as commitment to Road Map obligations, a halt in settlement activities on the part of Israel and improving security on the part of the Palestinians.

May 30: After a meeting of leaders from Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other factions, a joint statement says they would reject any international agreement Pres. Abbas might strike "on behalf of our people that would target our people's rights under the guise of peace." They also warn against the "US illusion of a new settlement under the slogan of a 'two-state solution'."

JUNE

June 4: In a speech at Cairo University, US Pres. Obama says there could be no denying of the right of a Palestinian State to exist and that he would "personally pursue" its realization. He also calls for a settlements freeze saying: "The United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements... This

construction violates previous agreements and undermines efforts to achieve peace.”

June 8: UN Asia and Pacific Meeting on the Question of Palestine opens in Jakarta with the theme “Strengthening international consensus on the urgency of achieving a two-State solution.”

June 14: In a speech at Bar-Ilan University, PM Netanyahu calls on Palestinian leaders to “begin negotiations immediately, without preconditions”, and that “a fundamental prerequisite for ending the conflict is a public, binding and unequivocal Palestinian recognition of Israel as the nation State of the Jewish people.” He demands to solve the refugee problem outside Israel’s borders, a demilitarized Palestinian state without control of airspace, and “Jerusalem must remain the united capital of Israel with continued religious freedom for all faiths”. PA Chief Negotiator Saeb Erakat says the speech only confirmed Israel’s intention to unilaterally dictate a solution instead of negotiating a peace, as Netanyahu “left us with nothing to negotiate as he systematically took nearly every permanent status issue off the table.”

June 23: Hamas leader and PLC Speaker Abdul Aziz Dweik is released from Israeli prison, where he had been detained since July 2006 following the capture of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in Gaza.

June 24: The Arab FM meeting in Cairo votes to support the plan outlined by US Pres. Obama in his 4 June speech, saying peace talks should not be resumed until a complete settlement freeze has been established. The ministers further stressed that peace would not be possible without a complete end of the occupation of Palestinian and other Arab areas and a just resolution to the refugee issue.

June 26: At the G8 summit in Italy, the FMs from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK, and the US as well as a EU observer reiterate calls for a halt to illegal Israeli settlement construction in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and urge Israel and Palestine to resume peace talks based on the road map.

- The Middle East Quartet, meeting at the sidelines of the G8 summit, also calls for Israel to halt all settlement construction including “natural growth.”

June 28: Fateh and Hamas begin their sixth round of talks in Cairo.

JULY

July 5: During a speaking engagement at the Aspen Institute in the US, PM Salam Fayyad says that Jews remaining inside a future Palestinian state would be welcome and enjoy equal rights.

July 9: G8 leaders call for the immediate opening of Gaza crossings.

July 10: Following his visit to the Middle East, German FM Frank-Walter Steinmeier tells *DPA* in Berlin that illegal Israeli settlements remain an obstacle to peace in the region, saying, "A solution has to be found... but a solution will not be found as long as the settlements continue to be expanded."

- On the ICJ ruling's 5th anniversary, the UNCHR Chief and the Special Rapporteur call on Israel to dismantle separation barrier.

July 11: In London, EU top official Javier Solana suggests that the UN set a deadline for recognizing a Palestinian state even if Israel does not. Israel rejects the call.

July 14: *Al-Jazeera* broadcasts a report with comments by senior Fateh member Farouq Qaddoumi, accusing Pres. Abbas of involvement in an alleged plot to kill Yasser Arafat. In response, Abbas orders the closure of *Al-Jazeera* offices in the West Bank, a move condemned by the Palestinian Media Forum. The next day PM Fayyad commissions Attorney General Ahmed Al-Mughni to file a suit for "incitement and false information," against the news agency.

July 18: The world's largest *knafeh* pastry is unveiled in Nablus during the second weekend of the city's annual shopping festival, gaining an entry into the Guinness Book of Records.

July 19: Referring to a visit by a Hamas delegation to Bern two weeks ago, Swiss FM Micheline Calmy-Rey says "Hamas is a major player in the Middle East... and you cannot ignore it if you want to end this decade-long conflict."

July 22: The Israeli Education Min. announces to ban the use of the Arabic term *Nakba* to describe the expulsion of Palestinians in 1948.

AUGUST

Aug. 2: Foreign diplomats and the OIC protest the eviction of Palestinian families from their Sheikh Jarrah homes.

Aug. 4: The 6th General Assembly of the Fateh Movement, the first in 20 years and on Palestinian soil, begins in Bethlehem with over 2,000 delegates attending.

- Jordan's King Abdullah II reassures Jordanians about the Kingdom's position on the Palestinian issue, especially with regard to the refugees, saying the right of return and compensation was "constant, unchangeable and nonnegotiable."

Aug. 6: The Fateh Congress adopts a recommendation, calling for an open ended investigation into the circumstances of Arafat's death. Delegates also decide not to renew negotiations with Israel until a prisoner release, settlement freeze and lifting of the Gaza blockade.

Aug. 8: At the Fateh Congress, Pres. Abbas is re-elected as Chairman of the Fateh Central Committee.

Aug. 9: Fateh votes to endorse a platform that calls for a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, alongside Israel, while reserving the movement's right to take up arms against Israel. At the same time, it encouraged Palestinians to use

more peaceful means like demonstrations and boycotting. Delegates elect members of the Central Committee (18) and the Revolutionary Council (80).

Aug. 11: Fateh 6th General Assembly elects a new Central Committee and announces Pres. Mahmoud Abbas as reelected party leader.

Aug. 13: Speaking at the conclusion of the Fateh congress, Pres. Abbas says that negotiations with Israel would only resume "on the basis of commitments made by both sides... particularly a halt to all forms of settlement activity without exception in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories," adding "Our people are committed to the peace option but reserve the right to use legitimate resistance, guaranteed under international law, against occupation and to achieve its goals which are liberty, independence and the creation of its State."

Aug. 14: In Gaza, 24 Palestinians are killed and over 125 injured in clashes between Hamas and Jund Ansar Allah ("Soldiers for God"), believed to be aligned with Al-Qaeda, after Hamas' armed wing stormed a mosque taken over by the radical group.

- The UNCHR Commissioner says there was evidence of gross human rights violations by Israeli forces during operation Cast Lead.

Aug. 17: UNRWA launches a US\$181 million Gaza Ramadan Appeal.

- In an interview prior to his meeting with US Pres. Obama, Egypt's Pres. Hosni Mubarak says that Arab States would be willing to recognize and normalize relations with Israel only after a just and comprehensive Middle East peace was achieved, but not before, adding that the Arab experience with stalled peace talks "did not encourage" taking steps towards normalization with Israel.

Aug. 23: A Peace Now report states that there was no sign of a slowdown in the construction of settler homes despite Israel's announcement that it had stopped approving new building.

Aug. 25: At a news conference in Ramallah, PM Fayyad unveils plans to create a *de facto* state in two years without waiting for the outcome of peace talks with Israel. Among the plan's priorities are reducing the economy's dependence on Israel and foreign aid, trimming the size of the government, increasing the use of technology and implementing a performance-based system in the public sector.

Aug. 26: PM Netanyahu and US Special Envoy Mitchell fail to reach an agreement on settlements during their meeting in London.

- The Elders, a group comprising among other former Brazilian Pres. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former US Pres. Jimmy Carter, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Irish Pres. Mary Robinson, visit the West Bank.

Aug. 31: Nabil Shaath tells journalists in Ramallah that only a full settlement freeze without exceptions or "loopholes" and an Israeli commitment to establishing a Palestinian State would bring Pres. Abbas back to the negotiating table.

- Speaking at a news conference in Ramallah, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Solana says that Europe supports PM Fayyad's vision of an independent Palestinian State that could be established within two years.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 6: Hamas politburo Chief Khaled Masha'al confirms that Germany was mediating an Israeli-Palestinian prisoner swap that would include Gilad Shalit but stressed that the bid was in its infancy.

Sept. 7: Israel approves construction of an additional 455 housing units in settlements.

Sept. 9: In Brussels, EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner says Israel's continued settlement building was the main obstacle to the Middle East peace process.

Sept. 15: The UN fact-finding mission on the Gaza conflict, led by Justice Richard Goldstone, releases its report, concluding that serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law had been committed by Israel, amounting to war crimes, and possibly crimes against humanity. There was also evidence that Palestinian armed groups had committed war crimes in their repeated launching of rockets and mortars into Israel. It recommended that the Security Council require Israel to report, within six months, on investigations and prosecutions with regard to the violations identified in the report. Israel rejects the findings of the Goldstone report.

Sept. 17: Pending a negotiated settlement based on justice for Palestinians the British trade unions (TUC) passed a resolution voting to boycott all Israeli products. The motion was passed at the Annual Congress in Liverpool. The union, which represents 6.5 million workers, will boycott, and divest from any involvement with Israeli companies.

Sept. 22: US Pres. Obama hosts a trilateral meeting with PM Netanyahu and PA Pres. Abbas in New York.

- The Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for Assistance to Palestinians welcomes the PA statehood plan.

Sept. 23: Pres. Obama tells the UNGA that it is time to re-launch Israeli-Palestinian negotiations without preconditions.

Sept. 24: After their meeting in New York, the Quartet releases a statement saying that it "shares the sense of urgency expressed by President Obama and fully supports the steps ahead as outlined in his statement to the General Assembly on 23 September. The Quartet calls on Israel and the Palestinians to act on their previous agreements and obligations — in particular adherence to the road map, irrespective of reciprocity — to create the conditions for the resumption of negotiations in the near term."

Sept. 29: The report of the UN commission investigating the events of Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip last winter, headed by Richard Goldstone, is formally presented to the UNHCR.

OCTOBER

Oct. 2: The UNCHR defers until its March session action on the draft resolution on the situation of human rights in the OPT, which deals with, among other things, the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict.

Oct. 14: The UNSC holds an open debate on “the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”

Oct. 16: The UNCHR endorses recommendations of the Goldstone report.

Oct. 23: Pres. Abbas signs a decree calling presidential and PLC elections on 24 January; in response, Hamas bans elections in Gaza.

Oct. 27: The Arab League requests a UNGA debate in early November on the Goldstone report.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2: The PA applauds the decision of the European Court of Justice not to exempt products manufactured by Israeli settlements from taxes imposed by the EU.

- Israel releases six Hamas-affiliated PLC members after holding them for over three years: Ahmad Attoun and Wael Al-Husseini from Jerusalem, Khalil Ar-Rabai, Samir Al-Qadi, and Maher Badr from Hebron, and Mahmoud Al-Khatib from Bethlehem.

Nov. 3: The US House of Representatives condemns the Goldstone Fact Finding Report on the Gaza War as biased in a nonbinding resolution passed by 344: 36 (22 abstaining).

Nov. 6: The UNGA in New York overwhelmingly endorses the Goldstone Fact Finding Mission report on the Gaza Conflict in a non-binding resolution with 114:18 votes (and 44 abstentions). Palestinian Amb. Riad Mansour applauds the vote.

JERUSALEM CHRONOLOGY 2009

JANUARY

Jan. 1: The Israeli High Court decides to demolish the house of Walid Al-Ja'bari and confiscate his

700 m² land plot in order to build a road leading to a planned new Jewish neighborhood in Beit Hanina.

Jan. 5: The Israeli High Court approves the closure of two floors of a building on Jabal Al-Mukabber.

Jan. 6: The Israeli Supreme Court issues a restraining order not to demolish the four-apartment house of Musa Dweiyat in Sur Baher.

Jan. 10: *Al-Quds* reports that the WJM Committee for Planning and Construction has announced a new plan to build a 200-housing unit Jewish complex on 16 dunums of lands belonging to Beit Hanina.

Jan. 12: A new Israeli military order (No. 09/01/T) is issued to confiscate 506 dunums of Abu Dis lands for a new section of the Israeli separation barrier near Ma'ale Adumim settlement.

Jan. 12: The WJM declares under the law of Land Expropriation its ownership of a 10-dunum plot planted with hundreds of olive trees in the Al-Ghars area in At-Tur.

Jan. 15: The Israeli Central Court orders Abdel Mu'ti Abu Qteish to evacuate within two months his 900 m² house in Sheikh Jarrah, claiming that two Jewish families own the property.

Jan. 19: Israeli forces raid the home of the Abu Dheim family in Jabel Al Mukabber and evacuate the family from the upper floors of the house, closing their windows with cement.

Jan. 28: Israeli bulldozers demolish the two-storey house of Mohammed 'Eid Al-Ja'bari in Beit

Hanina, rendering 45 family members homeless. As well as, for the second time, the house of Talal Shweiki in Wadi Qaddum/Silwan under the pretext of being unlicensed.

- Israeli bulldozers uproot 30 fruit-bearing trees owned by Fawzi Issa to expand an area of already confiscated land for the establishment of a new border crossing at Shu'fat's RC.

Jan. 30: The WJM mayor Nir Barkat freezes the 'Marshall Plan' which foresaw a NIS 200 million investment to rehabilitate the infrastructure of East Jerusalem communities.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1: The Israeli army has bulldozed a 4-dunum land plot belonging to the 'Abbasi family in Silwan to establish a parking lot for visitors to the 'City of David.'

- The floor of an UN-affiliated school near Al-Aqsa Mosque collapses due to Israeli excavation

work under the Old City, injuring 17 Palestinian schoolchildren.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that Israel has invested close to NIS 200 million during the past two years in preparing infrastructure for construction (planned 3,500 housing units) in the E-1 area.

Feb. 2: Israeli bulldozers demolish the three-storey house of 'Imran Gheith as well as the 160 m² house of Nabil Gheith in Ras Khamis due to being located close to the separation barrier. Both buildings were still under construction. Another 12 Ras Khamis families received demolition orders on the same grounds.

- Israeli bulldozers also demolish a garage of the Net Transportation Company spreading on 5 dunums in At-Tur and belonging to Sami Abu Dayyah, as well as a 250-m wall surrounding the

office and a wall surrounding a 2-dunum plot of vacant land owned by Abu Dayyah at the

entrance of Az-Za'im. In the same area, Israeli bulldozers also demolish a large warehouse for construction materials causing an estimated loss of NIS 80,000.

- Furthermore, Israeli bulldozers demolish the Idkeik Gas Station in Az-Za'im owned by Hassan Khalil Idkeik, including two offices, infrastructure, the car wash section and gas tanks.

- The WJM gives green light to Aryeh King to build a new settlement outpost called 'Sha'are Mizrahi' located between Shu'fat RC, Anata and Al-Issawiyya.

- Israeli settlers close with cement blocks the windows of the Al-Kurd family home in Sheikh Jarrah.

- In Sur Baher, Israeli authorities close down the Zayed bin Thabet Qur'an Center and confiscate documents and other materials.

- A new Israeli military order (No. S/02/09) declares - in accordance with military order No. 378 of 1970 - the Jabal Al-Sumud area in Ar-Ram a "seam zone", requiring Palestinian landowners to apply for special permits to access their land, while Israelis have free access to the newly declared "seam zone." Furthermore, new specific crossing points are established at Az-Za'im, Mazmuriya, Dahiet Al-Barid, Beit Hanina East, Beit Hanina West, and Ar-Ram.

- *Ha'aretz* reports that DM Barak has agreed to approve the establishment of a new settlement in the Binyamin region, about 1 km away from the Adam settlement, in return for settlers'

agreement to evacuate the illegal outpost of Migron (and then move into the new 250-house

settlement).

Feb. 4: In Al-Isswaiyya, Israeli bulldozers demolish the still unfinished houses of Musa Mohammed Hamdan and Nabil and Mohammed Ahmad Mustafa, as well as a house belonging to Hatem Hussein Khalil and another one owned by Mohammed Ahmad Mustafa, all for lacking building permits.

Feb. 6: *Al-Quds* reports that the Israeli Antiques Authority has revealed a plan to construct a new tunnel north of 'Ein Silwan Mosque to link it with a network of tunnels that are being built in Silwan and near Al-Aqsa Mosque.

- Israeli bulldozers demolish four barracks belonging to Bedouin families living east of Izzariyya, displacing 35 persons and destroying all their belongings.

Feb. 7: A group of settlers seizes a residential building in the Muragha neighborhood of Silwan.

Feb. 8: Israeli bulldozers demolish the house of Khaled Sayyad in the Sahel area of At-Tur neighborhood for lacking building permits.

Feb. 10: Israeli authorities have declared the area around the Wall in Ar-Ram a "military zone," beginning with the month of February.

Feb. 12: In At-Tur, Israeli authorities confiscate two plots of land - 7.5 dunums and 9 dunums, respectively - for "public use," posting signs that anyone able to prove ownership of the land should contact the WJM within two months in order to receive compensation. There are some 45, mostly inhabited housing units on the sites in question.

Feb. 14: Jamil Al-Shaludi is forced to demolish his own 120 m² house in Beit Hanina to avoid a penalty by the WJM, because the house was built without license.

Feb. 16: Israeli forces demolish four barracks belonging to Bedouin families outside Izzariyya near Ma'ale Adumim settlement.

- Israeli forces close the gate at Dahiet Al-Barid, install surveillance cameras on the closed gate, and dismantle the Ar-Ram checkpoint, which was the only remaining passage between Jerusalem and Ar-Ram, thus requiring all travel now to go through the already overcrowded Qalandia checkpoint.

Feb. 17: The Israeli Regional Committee for Building and Planning rejects the master plan for the Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan, which was submitted by residents in a bid to legalize the 88 houses (home to over 1,500 people) in the area threatened with demolition.

Feb. 18: Israeli authorities order Hasan Al-'Atiq to demolish his house in the Burj Al-Laqlaq area of the Old City or have the WJM to demolish it at his expenses.

Feb. 19: Israeli bulldozers resume work atop the Ma'man Allah cemetery to build the "Tolerance Museum."

Feb. 20: *Ha'aretz* reports that the residents of Al-Bustan neighborhood have unanimously rejected a WJM offer to voluntarily relocate some 1,500 of them (whose 88 houses are threatened by demolition) to alternative lots in East Jerusalem.

Feb. 22: Israeli forces demolish for the sixth time the tent of Umm Kamel Al-Kurd in Sheikh Jarrah.

Feb. 23: Israeli authorities hand 88 families of Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan orders to evacuate their houses under the pretext of building without proper licensing. The PLO International Relations Dept. issues a statement in response, accusing Israel of "ethnic cleansing" and a displacement policy against Palestinians in Jerusalem.

- The Jerusalem Magistrate Court orders Ibrahim Farhan to evict his house in Sheikh Jarrah.

- Israeli bulldozers preparing land for the construction of the separation barrier destroy water pipes in Al-Jib, leaving some 300 residents without water.

Feb. 27: In the wake of the demolition order handed to residents of the Al-Bustan area in Silwan four days earlier, Israeli police, fearing protests, impose tight restrictions on entry to Jerusalem

and on worship at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, barring men under the age of 45 from prayer at the mosque.

Feb. 28: 51 Palestinian families from Jabal Al-Mukkabir receive demolition orders as their homes were built without permits.

- In Beit Hanina's Al-Foul neighborhood, 75 houses are threatened with demolition after the residents' master plan for the area is rejected.

- Palestinians participate in a PLO-led strike in protest of Israeli plans to demolish 88 Palestinian houses in the Al-Bustan area of Silwan.

MARCH

March 2: Israeli forces demolish the house of Mahmoud Abassi in Silwan, rendering 10 people homeless, and the house of Muhammad Taha Afanah in Sur Baher, also home to 10 people. Issa Ja'afrah from Wadi Qaddum/Silwan receives a house evacuation order .

March 3: The WJM delivers demolition orders to the owners of six structures (55 housing units) in Ras Khamis, Shu'fat.

March 4: *Al-Quds* quotes Al-Aqsa Foundation as reporting that Israel plans to open two new tunnels of 56 and 22 meters length to link the Old City's Sharaf quarter with the square west of Al-Aqsa Mosque to protect settlers commuting between Silwan and the Old City.

March 5: The WJM delivers evacuation orders to the Ahmad Sheikh and

Awadallah families, owners of two seven-storey buildings in Al-Abbasiya, Silwan,

home to 250 people. Some 19 other families in At-Tur receive orders to evacuate their houses within 40 days after which they will be demolished as they were built without license.

- Sharif Mohammed Attoun is forced to demolish his 100-m house in Sur Baher for not being able to pay a NIS 120,000 penalty for building without proper licensing documents.

- A bulldozer driven by a Palestinian crushes into a police car and hits a bus before police and a taxi driver shot him dead in what Israel calls a "terrorist" attack.

March 6: The Israeli Municipality court orders the demolition of the house of Na'ef Iweda in Shu'fat for being built without proper license.

- The Hanoun and Al-Ghawi families in Sheikh Jarrah receive military orders to evacuate their houses, claiming they belong to Ateret Cohanim. Some 67 people are affected.

March 7: *Ynetnews* quotes PM Olmert as saying during a public appearance in northern Israel, that no peace agreement can be secured with the Palestinians "if a significant part of Jerusalem is not the capital of the Palestinian State."

- Khalil Muhammad Tarhuni is forced to demolish his house to avoid paying a NIS 20,000 penalty for illegal building.

March 9: A report drafted by the heads of EU member state embassies in Tel Aviv in December 2008 states that Israel destroys prospects for peace with Palestinians by grabbing land, violating civil liberties and "actively pursuing the illegal annexation of East Jerusalem."

- The Israeli Municipality Court of Jerusalem hands Faraj Hussein Alayan from Ath-Thori an order to evacuate his house and demolish it for being built illegally.

March 10: The WJM hands demolition orders to members of the Ka'abna tribe in Jaba' for their barracks and animal sheds.

-The Israeli Jerusalem court issues a demolition order for 35 houses in Al-Abbasiya neighborhood in Silwan; six days later, the decision is frozen after a court hearing.

March 11: The WJM hands demolition orders seven Palestinian families in the Burj Al-Laqlaq area in the Old City in preparation to confiscate 12 dunums for a new outpost and a synagogue.

March 12: Israeli authorities hand over Al-Huda elementary school a military order to demolish a number of rooms in the school under the pretext of being built without a license 15 years ago.

March 16: A group of Jewish settlers attack the house of Elias Dweik in Al-Bustan neighborhood, Silwan.

March 17: Israeli forces demolish the top floor of a six floor house in Beit Safafa displacing a family of 7.

March 18: Israeli forces demolish a house in Al-Izzariya belonging to the Ghazi family.

- In Ath-Thori, 17 house demolition orders are handed to several families for having built without license.

March 19: WJM mayor Nir Barkat says he would press forward with the plan to raze the entire Al-Bustan area in Silwan and to “relocate” its over 1,000 residents to make way for a park.

- Residents of Shu’fat, Al-Issawiyya, Sur Baher, Beit Hanina and Jabal Al Mukkaber receive house demolition orders for 90 structures.

March 21: Israeli police block Palestinians from holding events in East Jerusalem marking the city’s designation as a capital of Arab culture. Some 20 Palestinians are detained at eight different events.

March 23: The Israeli Court postpones the decision to freeze the demolition of Al-Ghawi and Hanoun families in Sheikh Jarrah.

March 25: *Ha’aretz* reports that the WJM has frozen plans for 230 housing units in the Kidmat Zion settler enclave near Abu Dis.

- *Ha’aretz* reports that PM-designate Netanyahu has struck a secret deal with

Yisrael Beiteinu leader Avigdor Lieberman for highly contentious construction in the E-I area.

March 27: The Israeli Interior Min. revokes the ID cards of an Armenian family of four.

- Israeli bulldozers start razing lands and olive trees in the area between Ramot settlement and Beit Hanina in preparation for the construction of the separation barrier.

- US diplomats assess Israeli activities in the “E1” area between East Jerusalem and Ma’ale Adumim for a report to be sent to Washington.

March 29: WJM Mayor Nir Barkat is quoted as proposing to cancel the light rail project after the first two lines are completed and to replace the rest of the planned rail network (five more lines) with Bus Rapid Transport.

APRIL

April 1: The Israeli Magistrate court rejects a Palestinian petition to confirm ownership of land belonging to Darwish Hijazi in Sheikh Jarrah that is also claimed by Israeli settlers.

- The WJM ratifies the construction of 20 new housing units on 5 dunums of lands in Sheikh Jarrah, claiming it is property of US Jewish Millionaire Irwin Moskovitz.

- The WJM says it fine whoever lives in or leases a non-licensed house in Jerusalem

April 2: Settlers from Ateret Kohanim take over the house of Nasser Jaber in the Sa'diya area of the Old City.

- Israeli forces demolish a small shop near the Schmidt School, on Nablus Rd., owned by Musa Shweiki.

- WJM officials hand several demolition orders to residents of Al-Issawiya and

survey the area in preparation for the demolitions.

April 3: WJM officials hand demolition orders to four families living close to the Electricity Co. regarding a six-floor building owned by Hilmi Ghaban. In the At-Tur area, three other buildings – in all 18 apartments - also receive warning for having violated building regulations.

April 4: The Israeli Supreme Court rejects a petition by the Hanoun and Al-

Ghawi families against the eviction from their houses in Sheikh Jarrah, despite

Ottoman-era documents proving the families' ownership of the land.

April 5: WJM officials hand Samir Abu Arrar of Jabal Mukabber a military order to demolish his two-storey house built in 1979 and 1993.

- In the Old City, three Palestinians are injured in confrontations with settlers and forces when they tried to prevent them to reach the Jaber family home (occupied by Jews since 2 April).

April 6: The Israeli army has banned all medical personnel and a large shipment of medical equipment from the West Bank from entering Jerusalem, a measure affecting six Palestinian hospitals in East Jerusalem.

- Israeli forces demolish a house owned by the Al-Fakhouri family in the Burj Al-

Laqlaq area in the Old City, home to 14 people. Nine other families living in the area are handed military orders to demolish their illegally built houses.

- Seven Palestinian families in the Old City's Bab Hutta area receive military orders to demolish their houses for lacking building permits.

- Israeli forces evacuate the house of Martyr Husam Duweiyat in Sur Baher in preparation for demolition.

April 9: Palestinians are prevented from reaching Jerusalem as Israel imposes a strict "security closure" of the West Bank during Passover, incl. Christian worshippers wishing to celebrate Easter.

- The WJM hands over demolition orders to 15 houses in Sawahreh, Sur Baher and Beit Safafa.

April 14: Israeli police orders two Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah to vacate their homes, although they acquired documents from the Ottoman Archives in Ankara showing that the land was theirs.

April 15: Israeli settlers and right-wing groups announce plans to invade Al-Aqsa Mosque the next day, causing high tension in the city.

April 16: Dozens of Palestinians gather at the Al-Aqsa Mosque to prevent members of the Chabad movement from entering it after they were asked "conquer and Judaize the holiest place on earth, which was being desecrated in such a disgraceful and shameful way." Israeli soldiers ban West Bank men under 50 from entering Jerusalem, and Jerusalem residents under 50 from entering the Mosque.

April 19: For the second consecutive day Israeli forces impose restrictions on the entry of Palestinian Christians to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, preventing them to observe Orthodox Easter celebrations.

April 22: WJM forces demolish the house of Amar Hdedon in Jabal Mukabber, for having been built without a permit.

April 24: The Israeli Regional Committee for Planning and Construction has ratified the construction of two buildings in Sheikh Jarrah, next to St. Joseph Hospital, that will be used by the Amana settler group.

April 25: An Israeli Housing Min. committee approves a plan to expand Ma'ale Adumim settlement by 12,000 dunums in spite of objections from the US.

April 26: Construction has begun on a new settler enclave - three 7-8 story

buildings - near Arab As-Sawahreh, allegedly as part of a development plan for East Talpiot settlement.

April 27: The WJM hand over more than 30 house demolition orders to Palestinian houses in East Jerusalem, incl. a 16-apartment building in Beit Hanina, housing over 100 people, and Shu'fat, Al-Issawiyya and Jabal Al-Mukabber.

April 29: The WJM announces that all preparations to demolish 50 homes in Silwan's Al-Bustan area have been finalized.

- PLC member Hatem Abdul Qader, PM Fayyad's Adviser for Jerusalem Affairs, says that the WJM has given orders for the demolition of a two-floor addition to the Armenian Catholic Church and monastery in the Old City.

- Israeli authorities announce a plan to build a synongue over the Tankaziyya School next to Al-Aqsa Mosque.

April 30: A group of right-wing Israelis rallies against the separation barrier near Shu'fat RC, protesting the walls' route that was cutting their land into separate pieces.

MAY

May 1: A UN OCHA report states that at least 1,500 (or 28% of all) Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem (affecting an estimated 60,000 residents) are at risk of being demolished for being built illegally. The report also says that although the number of Palestinian requests for building permits more than doubled from 2003 to 2007, from 138 to 283 annually, the number of permits actually granted remained unchanged at about 100-150. The UN demands that Israel freeze all pending demolition orders against illegally built homes because it is almost impossible to built legally.

May 4: WJM mayor Nir Barkat outlines a plan to give more building permits to Palestinian residents, a total of 23,550 units until 2030. Jerusalem Governor Adnan Al-Husseini rejects the plan as insufficient to meet minimal housing needs.

- The WJM hands demolition orders to Palestinian families in and around the Old City, for having built their homes without permits.

- Israeli Interior Min. Yishai has approved recommendations by a special Interior Min. committee to expand Ma'ale Adumim by 12,000 dunums.

May 5: The WJM Court gives Faraj Hussein Alayan from Ath-Thori 60 days to evacuate his house and demolish it face a \$30,000 penalty for having built illegally.

- WJM Mayor Barkat presents a city master plan for the next 20 years that envisions the capital becoming the greenest city in Israel, with affordable housing for young residents, thousands of new apartments for Arab residents, and the expansion of tourism and employment.

May 8: *Al-Quds* reports that the guardian of Absentee Properties in Jerusalem claims ownership of 70 Palestinian houses in Silwan.

May 10: *Ha'aretz* reports that the Israeli government was working together with settler groups on secret plans, assigned to the Jerusalem Development Authority, to surround the Old City with nine national parks, pathways and other sites, with the aim "to strengthen Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel."

- Israeli authorities close the iron gate leading to Al-Issawiya, preventing Palestinians from accessing thousands of dunums of their lands.

May 11: Israeli forces enter the Ambassador Hotel in Sheikh Jarrah, shutting down a temporary Palestinian Media Center planned in advance of the Pope's visit to Jerusalem.

May 12: Pope Benedict XVI celebrates an outdoor mass at the Kidron Valley outside the Old City and visits the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, meeting with Mufti Sheikh Mohammed Hussein. He also meets with Israel's Chief Rabbis Shlomo Amar and Yonah Metzger.

- The WJM hands over house demolition orders to nine houses in Ath-Thori owned by the Ziad, Al-Bardawil and 'Asela families under the pretext of lacking valid building permits. In addition, a 32-apartment building in Beit Hanina owned by Hamada Mahfouz, built in 1999 and housing over 250 people receives a demolish order.

May 13: The office of Pres. Abbas' Jerusalem affairs adviser Hatem Abdul Qader says that the WJM has decided a day earlier to demolish nine more Palestinian homes in the Ath-Thori neighborhood near Silwan.

May 14: Work on the separation barrier is ordered to halt due to a motion filed against the construction by Aryeh King, Chairman of the National Lands Fund and representative of the Shaar HaMizrach settlers who wants the settlement – unlike the current route - inside the fence.

May 16: Abdel Naser Hamdallah is forced to demolish his house in Jabal Al-Mukkaber for lacking valid building permits.

May 18: The Israeli Reconciliation Court orders the evacuation of the Al-Ghawi

and Hanoun families in Sheikh Jarrah by 19 July 2009 and fines each family \$50,000, with a further fine of NIS 50,000 if they do not comply.

May 19: The UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People expresses its utmost concern over house demolitions and settlement activities in East Jerusalem.

May 20: An Israeli CBS report shows that by the end of 2008, 492,400 (65%) Israelis and 268,400 (35%) Palestinian lived in Jerusalem.

- According to Peace Now, almost 2,000 settlers live in outposts in East Jerusalem, which are protected by 350 private company guards at a cost of NIS 47,876 million NIS (2008) funded by the Min. of Construction and housing.

May 21: Some 200 Palestinians and human rights activists gather outside the Damascus Gate in protest of Jerusalem Day, a holiday in Israel celebrating the unification of the city.

- Right-wing MKs present a bill aimed at blocking any concession to Palestinians on the status of Jerusalem by requiring the backing of 80 (compared with 61 at present) of the 120 MKs for any change in the city's boundaries.

May 22: France accuses PM Netanyahu of prejudicing the outcome of the peace process by declaring that Jerusalem would forever be Israel's undivided capital, saying in a statement: "In France's eyes, Jerusalem should, within the framework of a negotiated peace deal, become the capital of two states."

May 24: Israeli Police hands Yabous a military order prohibiting them from holding the 'Palestine Festival of Literature' at the National Theater (Al-Hakawati) in which 27 artists from all over the world participate.

May 25: The Israeli army keeps the Mufti of Jerusalem, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein, at Qalandia checkpoint after he refuses to answer questions or allow his belongings to be searched.

- The newly appointed PA Min. for Jerusalem Affairs, Hatem Abdel Khader, says in a statement noting that he favored transferring control of Al-Haram Ash-Sharif to the 57-member OIC.

May 27: The WJM issues demolition orders for 17 homes in different parts of East Jerusalem, all for having been constructed without permit.

May 30: The WJM approves the eviction of hundreds of Palestinians from King's Valley, on the outskirts of Silwan.

JUNE

June 8: Mohammed Ahmad Ghosheh is forced to demolish his house in Suq Khan Ez-Zeit in the Old City to avoid the WJM doing this job and then make him pay the expenses.

June 9: Israeli forces partially demolish the house of Khawla Walid Al-Hartouni in the Old City (a room and a bathroom).

June 10: Israeli forces serve demolition notices to owners of 88 houses in Silwan's Al-Bustan neighborhood, based on Israeli Law 212, which allows house demolitions or evacuations without any formal legal charges being brought forth or any party convicted of an alleged violation of the Israeli Planning and Building Law.

June 11: Israeli settlers, accompanied by development investors, municipal staff and equipment, attempt to confiscate seven dunums of land on the Mt. of Olives near Beit Orot complex, owned by the Al-Qadamani, Nazzal and Abu Al-Hawa families, but are stopped by Palestinians confronting them. The settlers say

June 12: In the Old City, Israeli authorities force the families of Osama Hashima in the Al-Khalidiyya area and of Jamal Sa'id in Bab Hutta to demolish parts of their own homes to avoid huge monetary fines.

June 15: WJM officials force Mohammed Najib Al-Jubeh to demolish a section of his house in the Old City's Al-Jabsha area.

June 19: Following orders from the WJM municipal council, Mohammed Najib Al-Ju'beh is forced to demolish part of his own home – an extra room built 12 years ago to accommodate the growing family - on Virgin Street near the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the Old City or pay a NIS 13,000 fine for illegal construction.

- At a sit-in demonstration in Silwan's Al-Bustan neighborhood, Islamic Movement in Israel leader Raed Salah denounces Israel's plans to demolish 88 houses in the area to build a new Israeli park.

June 20: In Jabal Al-Mukabber, WJM officials force the Suroor family to demolish parts of their two homes, as well as the Bashir family to demolish part of their house.

June 21: Israeli police, along with municipal workers, ransack 65 houses in Beit Hanina, Shufat and Silwan and hand the families living there demolition orders.

June 22: In response to a question from Israel's newspaper, US State Department spokesperson Ian Kelly tells the *Jerusalem Post* at a Washington press briefing, that the US demand for a cease of Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank must include East Jerusalem.

June 23: In what Palestinians condemn as a provocation, Israeli Internal Security Min. Yitzhak Aharonovitch of the ultra right-wing Israel Beitenu Party enters Al-Aqsa compound under heavy guard and accompanied by Police Commissioner Dudi Cohen and Jerusalem District Police Chief Aharon Franco.

June 24: WJM officials force the family of Mujeer Eddin Qatina to demolish a part of its house the Old City's Al-Wad Street.

June 25: PA Minister of Jerusalem Affairs Hatem Abdul Qader, Fateh youth and local residents prevent an Israeli settlers' takeover of a house in Sheikh Jarrah owned by Darwish Hjazi.

- In a statement to *Ma'an* news agency, PA Minister of Public Works and Housing Mohammed Shtayyeh denounces "the systematic policy Israel is carrying out inside Jerusalem, including expelling its Palestinian residents," such as in Silwan's Al-Bustan neighborhood. He further condemns Israeli "attempts to forge the history of the city by substituting the Palestinian residents with Israeli settlers, substituting the Arabic names of streets with Hebrew words, substituting everything there including Al-Aqsa [Mosque]."

June 27: Israeli settlers attack Palestinian homes in Silwan, injuring three residents trying to stop them with gunshots.

- *Al-Quds* reports that some 139,000 dunums of Palestinian lands – much of it near Ma'ale Adumim settlement - are registered by the Israeli Land Registry Office as abandoned, and that anyone objecting to this must send a warrant to the Beit El DCO within 45 days.

June 28: Press reports state that WJM Mayor Barkat plans to freeze demolition orders of some 70% of unlicensed construction in East Jerusalem and compensation terms with families evicted from the remaining 30%. The plan is co-prepared by deputy mayor for East Jerusalem affairs, Yakir Segev, who is

quoted by *Ha'aretz* as saying that it was the permits policy that pushed residents to build illegally and that "To get a construction permit in East Jerusalem you have to be more than a saint." This, in addition to the fact that the WJM does not have the means to enforce all demolition orders, was the reason behind the new plan. Concerned homes will be listed as "gray houses" and remain illegal but all legal actions against them will cease, and the WJM will collect the usual municipal taxes, which will be invested in a separate municipal company to improve East Jerusalem.

June 30: Nine people are injured, two of them hospitalized, in clashes between Israeli police who demolish a house belonging to Samer Ahmad Abu on the Mt. of Olives and the inhabitants.

- PA Min. of Jerusalem Affairs Hatem Abdul Qader submits his resignation to PM Fayyad in protest of the PA's inability to financially cover Jerusalem's needs, especially fees of lawyers dealing with home demolition issues.

JULY

July 1: WJM employees hand out demolition orders to seven new families in the Wadi Hilweh neighborhood of Silwan.

July 3: Israeli forces disguised as tourists enter the Haram Ash-Sharif and take photos of several sites in the compound.

- During visits to families whose homes were recently demolished, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Atallah Hanna expresses anger at the "inhumanity" of demolishing the homes of Palestinians living in Jerusalem.

July 6: The Community of Sheikh Jarrah Residents, sets off a solidarity campaign whereby activists in several countries will erect sit-in tents in solidarity with families in Silwan, whose houses have been or are ordered to be demolished.

July 7: Senior Fateh figures, incl. Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Hatem Abdul Qader and Fateh spokesperson Dimitri Diliiani, prevent a group of Israeli settlers from occupying another home – belonging to Suleiman Hijazi - in Sheikh Jarrah.

- Fayez Ibrahim Al Toutanji demolishes his house in Beit Hanina to avoid municipal demolition expenses.

July 9: On the fifth anniversary of the ICJ's advisory opinion on the legality of the separation barrier, Roman Orthodox Archbishop Atallah Hanna says the wall should be removed immediately, adding that "the wall demonstrates Palestinian suffering and defines their lives, which have turned into hell."

July 12: Abdel Rahman Abu Tir is forced to demolish part of his house in the Old City.

July 13: Israeli bulldozers demolish the 2-story house of Alaa Shweiki in Beit Hanina and the house of Jamal Masalma in Silwan.

July 14: PLC member Hatem Abdul Qader, who resigned as Min. of Jerusalem Affairs two weeks ago over the PA's refusal to fund his work in Jerusalem, announces that Qatar will finance the legal affairs office dealing with the problems of evictions, home demolitions, and revocation of health insurance as well as covering tuition fees for students and low-cost medications.

- After 20 years of closure, PADICO re-opens the former Red Palace Cinema in Salah Eddin Street as hotel and cultural center with halls and event rooms accommodating up to 600 people ("Red Castle initiative").

July 15: Israeli authorities raid and close down the Nidal Center for Community Development in the Old City.

July 17: Israel's ambassador in Washington, Michael Oren, is summoned to the State Dept. and told to stop the settlement project on the site of the historic Shepherd Hotel in Sheikh Jarrah.

July 18: The WJM orders Ali Salah to evacuate his home and land following a court decision claiming the land belonged to the Jewish Agency.

- Saleh Khalil Nimr is forced to demolish his under-construction two-story home in Sur Baher.

July 19: PM Netanyahu responds to the US demand not to proceed with plan to build on the site of the Shepherd Hotel in Sheikh Jarrah by telling his cabinet that Jerusalem would remain the undivided capital of Israel, that there would be no limits on Jewish construction anywhere in unified Jerusalem, and that Israeli sovereignty over the entire city was indisputable.

- Following Netanyahu's rejection of a US demand to halt a new housing project in Sheikh Jarrah, Pres. Abbas accuses Israel of destroying the Islamic and Christian character of Jerusalem and of trying to force Palestinians out of the city.

- PLC member Hatem Abdul Qader leads a demonstration against Israel's planned eviction of Al-Ghawi and Hanoun families from their Sheikh Jarrah homes, in which also children from summer camps in Jerusalem as well as representatives of civic organizations, local human rights groups, and foreign solidarity activists participated.

July 20: Jordan rejects PM Netanyahu's claim that Jerusalem would remain the undivided capital of Israel and that the Jewish state has a free hand to set up settlements throughout the West Bank, with Min. of State for Media Affairs and Communication Nabil Sharif saying: "The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are occupied territories according to several resolutions issued by the United Nations."

- US State Dept. spokesman P.J. Crowley says the US has made clear to Israel that it opposes construction in East Jerusalem just as it does oppose settlement activity in the West Bank and that the US believes that unilateral moves on the part of either Israel or the Palestinians could prejudice the result of final status negotiations.

July 21: France summons the Israeli Amb. in Paris to demand a halt to plans of a settlement on the Shepherd Hotel site in Sheikh Jarrah.

July 22: Israeli police closes Al-Wad Street and force Palestinian shop owners to shut down their shops at 6:00 pm to facilitate and protect a rally by right-wing Israeli groups near Al-Haram Ash Sharif. Near Silwan Girls' School, six Palestinians are injured in a scuffle with some of the Israelis assaulting them.

July 23: Israeli police allows 45 far-right Israelis to enter Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, marking Ninth of the month of Av on the Jewish calendar, which is observed in commemoration of the destruction of the first and second Jewish Temples.

July 30: The family of Mohammad Siyam is forced to demolish its house to avoid hefty municipality fines.

AUGUST

Aug. 2: Israeli forces evict the Hanoun and Al-Ghawi families from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah, causing a unanimous international outcry.

Aug. 5: Eight Palestinians are injured when they are assaulted by Israeli forces who deliver demolition orders in the Al-Bustan neighborhood of Silwan.

Aug. 8: Women and children are among the dozens injured in Sheikh Jarrah after a group of settlers throw stones and bottles at Palestinian families.

Aug. 10: A section of a main road collapses in the Silwan area as a result of underground Israeli excavations.

Aug. 17: Hundreds of right-wing Israeli settlers demonstrate outside the Shepherd Hotel in Sheikh Jarrah, slated to be razed to make way for a settlement housing complex, as former US presidential candidate Mike Huckabee and Israeli and American right-wing activists attend a dinner there.

- Israeli settlers take over a Palestinian house located near the UNRWA school and the "City of David's" visitors' center in Silwan.

Aug. 18: An OCHA report states that 53 people were evicted from Sheikh Jarrah so far, with another 475 still threatened with eviction.

Aug. 19: Palestinian-owned shops in the Old City close in protest of multiple arbitrary fines by WJM officers who invaded shops and harassed owners in a bid to enforce a law prohibiting shops to display their goods on tables and racks in front of the stores.

Aug. 21: Speaking near the evicted homes in Sheikh Jarrah, former EU parliament Vice-Pres. Luisa Morgantini says the international community must "suspend all military aid to Israel and [...] investment in settlements in the West Bank."

Aug. 23: *Ha'aretz* reports a plan for the building of a new 104 housing units settlement, Ma'ale David, on the site of the former Police HQ in the heart of Ras al-Amud.

Aug. 26: US envoy to the Middle East George Mitchell has recognized on behalf of the Obama Admin. that PM Netanyahu cannot announce a settlement freeze in East Jerusalem.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 9: The ILA has published tenders for the construction of 486 apartments in Pisgat Ze'ev.

Sept. 17: At least 300,000 Palestinian worshippers attended Laylat Al-Qader at Al-Aqsa Mosque, believed to be the night of the year when the Prophet Mohammed received the first verses of the Qur'an from the Angel Gabriel. Throughout the month of Ramadan, Israeli forces prevented Palestinians from reaching the Mosque and interrupted numerous cultural events.

Sept. 25: Israeli forces hand over residents of 'Anata, Al 'Isawiya, Al-Khan and Nabi Musa a new military order stipulating the confiscation of 584 dunums of their lands to expand the Israeli bypass road # 1.

Sept. 27: Dozens of Palestinian protesters and Israeli forces clash after a group of right-wing Jews enter Al-Aqsa compound ahead of Yom Kippur. Jerusalem police uses stun grenades and batons to disperse stone-throwing protesters.

Sept. 29: Overnight, Israeli forces arrest some 50 Palestinians in the Old City allegedly involved in the confrontations at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

OCTOBER

Oct. 4: Palestinians protesters clash with Israeli forces near the Old City's Lion's Gate, when Israeli forces attempted to evacuate and detain about 200 Muslim worshippers holed up in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Oct. 5: The PA urges the world to "force [Israel] to put off its attempts to take over Jerusalem and Judaize it."

Oct. 7: Under tight security a cornerstone is laid for the expansion of Nof Zion settlement near Jabel Mukabber.

Oct. 8: After a week of high tension in Jerusalem, Fateh's leadership calls for a general strike throughout the WBGS in protest against "fierce and planned Israeli attacks" on Jerusalem holy sites.

Oct. 13: Israeli forces detain PA Jerusalem affairs official Hatem Abdul Qader and Islamic Movement Advisor Ali Sheikha as they crossed the Qalandia checkpoint.

Oct. 25: At least 30 Palestinians are injured and 20 arrested when clashes between Israeli forces and youth erupt anew in the Old City after Israeli forces raid the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Oct. 27: In Sur Baher / Jabal al Mukkaber, Israeli forces destroy the 2-story house of the Nimr family as well as the homes of 'Atef Abu Dweh, Khamis Tahhan, and Ahmad Abu Sarhan and pass a demolition order to Abdullah Shqeirat.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2: Israeli bulldozers demolish the houses of Siham Shweiki and Haron Al-Qawasmeh in Ath-Thori for being built illegally.

Nov. 3: Israeli settlers arrogate the home of the Kurd family in Sheikh Jarrah, throwing their furniture into the street.

Nov. 4: UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-moon implores Israel to bring an end to “provocative” actions in East Jerusalem.

Nov. 16: The Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee authorizes the construction of 900 new housing units in Gilo.

Nov. 18: The EU criticizes Israeli plans to build in East Jerusalem, saying it hampered talks over the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Nov. 29: An appeal by the Al-Kurd family to return to their sealed home in Sheikh Jarrah is turned down by an Israeli magistrate’s court.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1: Settlers accompanied by Israeli forces occupy the sealed house of Rifka Al-Kurd in Sheikh Jarrah, claiming they have a court order giving consent to the take-over of the house. UN Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki Moon expresses his dismay at the move.

Dec. 3: PNC head Salim Az-Za’noun welcomes in a statement the EU’s move toward recognizing East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state.

- Head of the Islamic Higher Commission Sheikh Ekrima Sabri receives an order from Israeli intelligence barring him from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque for six months.

Dec. 7: As the Council of EU FMs is set to vote on a resolution that would declare East Jerusalem as Palestinian capital and hint that it would recognize a declared Palestinian state, the PA cabinet urges the EU to adopt “clear positions in accordance with international law”.

Dec. 8: EU FMs call on Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate a solution wherein Jerusalem would become the capital of both their states.