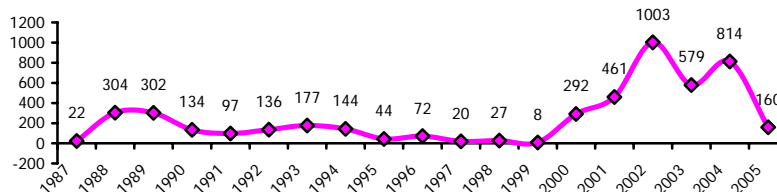


2. ISRAELI OCCUPATION POLICIES

■ Killings and Injuries

- Statistical figures for deaths and injuries differ by source. The following graph shows the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis since the outbreak of the first *Intifada* in Dec. 1987 as monitored by the Israeli human rights group *B'Tselem*. These figures do not include Palestinians who died after being delayed in receiving medical treatment (e.g., by being stopped at checkpoints). As of 31 Oct. 2005, 3,308 **Palestinians** were killed by Israeli security forces during the current Intifada, incl. 665 **minors** under the age of 18. At least 193 Palestinians were extra-judicially **executed** by Israeli units, in the course of which an additional 307 Palestinians were killed. In addition, 41 Palestinians were killed by Israeli civilians. On the **Israeli side** 982 people were killed by Palestinians (449 in the WBGs and 533 inside Israel), 118 of them under the age of 18.

Palestinians killed by Israelis since the first Intifada
(9 Dec. 1987-31 Oct. 2005)



(Source: B'Tselem website, <http://www.btselem.org/English/Statistics/Casualties.asp>.)

The above numbers do not include the 13 Palestinian citizens of Israel that were killed in Oct. 2000 by Israeli forces, nor other Palestinian citizens of Israel that were killed by Israeli forces, nor Palestinian suicide bombers.

- The *Palestinian Red Crescent Society* counts 3,452 **dead** (29 Sept. 2000-31 Oct. 2005) and least 29,11251 **injured** (for daily updates see <http://www.palestinercs.org/Database/Date/>).
- According to *Defense for Children International*, some 722 **children** under the age of 18 were killed during the current Intifada (as of Oct. 2005). Of those, 253 were 16-17 years old, 248 13-15, 123 9-12 and 98 8 years or younger.

■ Arrests, Imprisonment, Forced Transfer and Deportation

- Due to Israel's ongoing arrest operations, the **number of detainees** in the current Intifada varies from day to day. According to Mandela Institute, there were 8,279 Palestinian security detainees or prisoners as of **30 June 2005**, incl. 5,352 in the 10 central prisons governed by the Israeli General Prisons' Administration (Ashqelon, Nafha in the Negev, Beer Sheba, Ramleh, Telmond near Khadera, Gelbo'a, Rimonim, Hadarim on the Haifa Road, Kfar Yuna, and Shatta near Megiddo) and 2,607 in one the three military detention camps (Megiddo, Ofer near Ramallah, and Ketziot or 'Ansar 3' in the Negev), and 320 in eight other arrest detention compounds. Of the 8,279 prisoners, 117 were **women**, 325 **juveniles**, and 630 **administrative detainees**.
- From the beginning of the first Intifada (Dec. 1987) until today, thousands of Palestinians have been held in **administrative detention** for periods ranging from six months to several years. According to B'Tselem, the Israeli army was holding **596** Palestinians in administrative detention as of 1 Aug. 2005, not including those to whom administrative detention orders have been issued, but not yet approved by a judge.
- As of Oct. 2005, around 347 **children** under 18 years were detained in Israel, 5 of them girls. Of the total number 5 were held in admin. Detention (DCI Palestine). Since Sept. 2000, over 2,500 children were arrested for various periods (Ministry of Detainees and Ex-Detainees, *Monthly Update: Palestinian Child Political Prisoner*, Oct. 2004).
- On 6 Sept. 1999, the Israeli High Court outlawed the use of arbitrary **torture** as an interrogation method (though stopping short of absolutely banning it as required by international law). However, certain forms of physical punishment persist. In April 2005, Human Rights Watch reported that Israel practices abusive interrogation techniques, such as isolation, denial of access to lawyers and family members, prolonged interrogation sessions, use of collaborators to threaten detainees, and threats to family members.
- During the current Intifada Israel has **deported** 18 Palestinians to Europe (following a 35-day siege of the Nativity Church in Bethlehem in May 2002), and **forcibly transferred** 46 Palestinians from the West Bank to Gaza (some of whom were allowed to return in 2005). Those transfers are used as reprisal and/or intimidation measure especially against family members of suspected "terrorists".



■ Expropriation and Destruction of Land

- Between Jan. and Aug. 2005 alone, Israel issued over 150 military orders for **land confiscation** in the West Bank and has confiscated over 13,350 dunums of land, mainly to make way for the construction of the separation barrier, to expand settlements, and build bypass roads and army bases (Negotiations Affairs Dept. – Palestinian Monitoring Group, Aug. 2005).
- Owing to the construction of the **separation barrier**, the West Bank has **lost** some of its most **fertile areas**, with agricultural lands accounting for 86% of the confiscated 270 km² by July 2004. In Gaza, Israeli forces have leveled over 15% of the 172 km² agricultural land. By mid-2004, the total amount agricultural land losses in both the West Bank and Gaza was around 260 km², representing at least 14.5% of the total cultivated land in 2003. (UNCTAD. *Report on UNCTAD's Assistance to the Palestinian People*. July 2005).
- Since 28 Sept. 2000 and as of April 2005, Israeli forces have **razed** some 31,633 dunums of Palestinian - mostly agricultural land - in **Gaza** alone. It is estimated that approx. 13% of Gaza's agricultural land has been leveled since the beginning of Al-Aqsa Intifada (PCHR, Gaza).

■ Closures

- In March 1993, the Rabin govt. imposed a **general closure** denying Palestinians from the WBGS entrance to Israel, free movement between the southern and northern part of the West Bank, and access to Jerusalem. Since then – over 12 years by now - thousands of Palestinians are deprived from reaching places of work and worship as well as accessing medical, educational and economic services. Those Palestinians who enter the city 'illegally' – or assist Palestinians to enter - risk imprisonment and high penalties.
- In addition to the general closure, Israel imposes *total closures* – usually after attacks or to prevent attacks at sensitive times, such as Israeli holidays – in which all entry permits are cancelled, and **internal closures** – mostly imposed after a Palestinian attack on Israeli civilians or security forces – which blockade West Bank towns and villages by *de facto* isolating them.
- The closure policy disregards **international law**, according to which East Jerusalem is an integral part of the West Bank, and the Oslo Accords, which view the WBGS as 'one territorial unit', and has had a devastating impact on the economy of East Jerusalem and thus, on the Palestinian economy in general; it is estimated that the lifting of the Israeli closure (i.e., the opening of Jerusalem) would add some 20% to the overall GDP of Palestine.
- As of **Aug. 2005**, the Israeli army operated 52 permanent staffed **checkpoints** in the West Bank, in addition to 7 partial checkpoints. Besides the checkpoints, there are hundreds of other structures restricting Palestinian movement: as of Aug. 2005, there were 49 roadblocks, 48 gates, 208 earth mounds or walls, and 12 trenches. These numbers do not include 17 checkpoints, 7 gates, and 77 other roadblocks in the **H2** section of Hebron! (UN OCHA).

■ House Demolition

- **Since 1987**, Israeli forces have "administratively" demolished (i.e., for lacking building permits) over 2,500 Palestinian houses in the West Bank (incl. East Jerusalem), and hundreds of other structures, rendering over 16,000 Palestinians homeless. In addition, as 'punishment' 1,061 homes were completely and 64 partially destroyed as well as 299 completely and 118 partially sealed (B'Tselem).
- According to official data, Israeli forces have demolished 1,049 houses and other structures in the West Bank during the period 1999-2004. (B'Tselem).
- Since the beginning of the **Intifada**, the Israeli army has demolished over 4,100 homes, rendering more than 28,000 Palestinians homeless. Most of those houses were destroyed in "**clearing**" operations, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and for **lacking building permits**, others as **punitive measure**, because of family members being suspected of involvement in attacks against Israelis. (B'Tselem).
- According to the PA Min. of Public Works and Housing, the Israeli army destroyed some 7,633 homes completely (WB: 2,855; GS: 4,778) and 65,344 partially (WB: 41,783; GS: 23,561) during the current Intifada (as of May 2005). In addition, 175 public and 415 security buildings were damaged (WB: 220; GS: 370).
- Israel's construction of the **separation barrier** has also resulted in residential and commercial demolitions.

Recommended Research Sources:

<http://www.alhaq.org/> (legal and human rights issues)
<http://www.btselem.org/> (various human rights issues)
<http://www.badil.org/> (focus on refugee and residency rights)
<http://www.phrmg.org> (Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group)
<http://www.assoc40.org> (unrecognized Arab villages).
<http://www.mandela-palestine.org/> (Mandela Institute)
<http://www.piccr.org> (Citizens' Rights)

<http://electronicintifada.net/v2/humanrightswire.shtml>
<http://www.pchrgaza.org/>
<http://www.addameer.org> (focus on prisoners)
<http://www.dci-pal.org/> (children's rights)
<http://www.hrw.org/> (Human Rights Watch)
<http://www.arabrights.org/> (Arab human rights network)
<http://www.icahd.org/eng/> (house demolitions)

Aruri, Naseer H., ed. *Occupation: Israel over Palestine*. Belmont, MA: AAUG Press, 2nd ed., 1989.

B'Tselem, *Oslo: Before and After. The Status of Human Rights in the Occupied Territories*. Jerusalem, May 1999.

Al-Haq, *A Nation under Siege*. Ramallah, 1989.

B'Tselem, *Routine Torture: Interrogation Methods of the General Security Service*. (February 1998).

B'Tselem, *Prisoners of Peace: Administrative Detention during the Oslo Process*. (June 1997).

