



PCHR
المركز الفلسطيني
لحقوق الإنسان



Annual report 2016

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

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

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

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

The Philosophy of the Centre's Work

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

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

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

1. Fieldwork Unit

The fieldwork is considered the basic activity of the Centre. Well-trained field workers located in different areas of the Gaza Strip obtain accurate and documented legal information on human rights violations in the Gaza Strip. They gather information in the field from victims and witnesses of human

rights violations. The information is received by the coordinator of the unit and other researchers to verify accuracy. Through the field workers' presence in the field the Centre has been able to maintain close contacts with the community. In this way, the community is able to influence the work of the Centre and the Centre is able to meet the community's interests and demands.

2. Legal Unit

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

3. Democratic Development Unit (DDU)

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

4. Economic and Social Rights Unit

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

5. Women Rights Unit

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

6. The Training Unit

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

7. The Library

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

Funding of the Centre

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

- » Oxfam Novib
- » Open Society Institute – U.S.A
- » Christian Aid - UK
- » Dan Church Aid – Denmark
- » Grassroots International – U.S.A
- » European Commission
- » Representative Office of Norway
- » Irish Aid
- » Kvinna Till Kvinna - Sweden
- » Al-Quds Association Malaga-Spain
- » Trócaire – Ireland
- » CARE International West Bank and Gaza
- » Medical Aid for Palestine (MAP) – UK
- » The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- » Royal Danish Representative Office
- » Austrian Representative Office
- » Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency

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

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Анатолий



This report is the outcome of PCHR's work in 2016. PCHR has published annual reports since 1997.

PCHR's 2016 Annual Report is divided into two sections:

- **Part One** provides a comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in the oPt from 01 January to 31 December 2016. It is divided into two sub-sections:
 1. Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law perpetrated by the Israeli forces in the oPt; and
 2. Human rights violations perpetrated by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and obstacles to democratic reform in the PA.
- **Part Two** documents all PCHR activities from 01 January to 31 December 2016. It covers activities by PCHR and its units at both the local and international levels over the year.

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



**PART (1):
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUA-
TION IN THE OPT**

Summary

With the publication of this report on the human rights situation in the oPt in 2016, we will be on the cusp of the 50th anniversary of the continuous Israeli occupation since 1967 - 50 years of ongoing denial of legitimate and inalienable rights to the Palestinian people. These rights were exploited by the Israeli authorities to tighten their control over the rest of historic Palestine and to undermine the two-state solution, which has international, Arab and Palestinian consensus. By imposing geographic and demographic facts on the ground to be made impossible to establish an independent Palestinian State in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with its capital in East Jerusalem alongside the State of Israel; i.e. 22% of Palestine's area during the British Mandate. As part of tightening its control and applying its colonialist project, Israel and its forces committed wide-scale violations of human rights and international humanitarian law against Palestinian civilians and their property; some of them amount to crimes against humanity, and persecution and discrimination crimes.

Israel has aimed at seizing more lands from the oPt for years to create a Jewish majority through ethnic cleansing of its indigenous people. This project started in Jerusalem on 25 June 1967: The Israeli government took a decision to impose Israeli law on occupied Arab Jerusalem, so East Jerusalem became a subsidiary of the municipality of Jerusalem. In 1980, the Israeli government enacted a law to annex Jerusalem and consider it, complete and united, as the capital of Israel. Therefore, the policy of creating facts on the ground, confiscating Palestinian lands and building Israeli settlements quickly increased in the rest of the West Bank. The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement, which established a Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip and limited parts of the West Bank, did not prevent Israel from moving forward with its colonialist project.

Throughout 23 years of the peace process, Israel doubled the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and confiscated more Palestinian lands and properties. Moreover, Israel continued to build the annexation wall in the oPt in order to seize more lands, especially lands located in Area C, as classified by the Oslo Accords. Israel also continued to create a Jewish majority in occupied Jerusalem by strengthening Jewish settlements and presence in the city and its surroundings. Furthermore, Israel tightened the noose on the city's indigenous people, using legislative and administrative means to guarantee a Jewish majority and expel Palestinians from the city in order to implement a full ethnic cleansing project.

The Oslo Accords, which established self-governance over parts of the oPt, stipulated that the oPt is a single territorial unit and secured a safe passage between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. However, Israel has worked on gradually separating the West Bank from the Gaza Strip and has, finally, completely isolated the Gaza Strip from the rest of the oPt and imposed collective punishment on almost 2 million Palestinians. Furthermore, Israel totally isolated Jerusalem from its surroundings and established military checkpoints at the entrances to the Palestinian villages and cities, turning them into separate cantons.

The Israeli "Gaza Disengagement Plan" of 2005 served Israel's strategy of isolating the Gaza Strip from the rest of the oPt while keeping control over land, sea and air by regulating the movement at the sea and land outlets and controlling Gazans' life in every detail. In the West Bank, Israel tightened its control over 60% of the land



through the settlements and annexation wall in addition to turning Palestinian cities and villages into separate cantons by establishing hundreds of military checkpoints. Israel also intensified its settlement activities, including the continued creation of a Jewish majority and ethnic cleansing, in Jerusalem. Moreover, the Israeli systematic practices have created a new pattern of apartheid, where settlers enjoy privileges and are supported by Israel while Palestinians are deprived of their most basic human rights.

For the past 23 years, since the Oslo Accords have been signed, Israel has systemically undermined and sieged the PA and its institutions to create a fragile entity, which allows Israel to tighten its security control. Thereby, Israel could continue to apply its strategic plans of displacing Palestinians and squashing them in geographic units separated from each other, while destroying the roots of the Palestinian State. The Israeli practices' sole strategic goal is to institutionalize a Palestinian entity in the Gaza Strip; seize the West Bank; end the two-state solution, which has international consensus, and limit the talks to only a Palestinian State in the Gaza Strip.

In 2016, Israeli forces continued its policies to control the oPt, cut the two areas apart and create a Jewish majority. The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip witnessed deterioration due to the ongoing closure and collective punishment against 1.8 million Palestinians in the 10th consecutive year. The Israeli forces also continued to impose restrictions on the movement of persons and goods. This resulted in the aggravation of people's suffering, deterioration of their living conditions and hindering the prospects for the development and evolution of the economic life. According to international organizations' estimates, the unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip amounted to 43%, which is the highest rate in the world, while the unemployment rate among youth arose to 60% and among women to 65%. Moreover, 75% of the Gaza population depends on foreign aid. Meanwhile, dozens of civilians are homeless as their houses were destroyed during the three offensives carried out by the Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip in less than 6 years. The UN's plan, which became known as Robert Serry's Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, has proven its failure in light of most optimists' expectation to finish possibly Gaza's reconstruction within 15 years.

During the reporting period, the Israeli forces continued their attacks against civilians, particularly in the land and sea Access Restricted Areas (ARA), including attacks against fishermen off the Gazan shore and depriving them of their livelihoods. This year also witnessed more killings of civilians due to the use of excessive force in reaction to protests organized by Palestinians adjacent to the border fence and by shelling houses and property.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces continued to expand settlements and build new housing units in order to increase the number of settlers. Moreover, Israeli forces confiscated many Palestinian lands for the benefit of existing settlements or building new settlements. Israeli forces continued their racial practices in Jerusalem, including the isolation and ethnic cleansing of the original inhabitants. In 2016, the Israeli settlers' attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property increased and encompassed killings as well as crop destruction. The Israeli forces also continued to establish more military checkpoints at the entrances and between the Palestinian villages and cities, aiming at cutting them apart, creating new facts on the ground and preventing civilians' movement. This year also witnessed the continuation of killings and the excessive and disproportionate use of force during protests that have been taking place in the oPt since October 2015. These protests are the outcome of decades of injustice and oppression.

On the national Palestinian level, 2016 has been one of the worst years. The human rights situation has been deteriorating in view of the continuing internal split and efforts failing to achieve reconciliation. The internal split resulted in a collapse of the Palestinian political system, including the existence of 2 independent judicial systems in the Gaza Strip and West Bank; the paralysis of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and its failure to carry out its supervisory and legislative duties; the executive authority's acts in absence of any accountability, which includes the ignoring of elections.

The PA structures continued to collapse as the executive authority took measures that undermined the judicial authority's independence. The most prominent of these measures was the humiliating overthrowing of Chief Justice, Sami Sarsour, aiming at exercising further control over the judicial authority and granting more powers to the execu-

tive authority's President. Moreover, the Palestinian President's decision of 03 April 2016 to form a constitutional court was reflected in the advisory opinion issued by the Constitutional Court on 06 November 2016, giving the President the right to lift the immunity of PLC members and even dispossess the PLC, which is the only body that has an absolute power to lift the immunity of its members.

In a step reflecting the executive authority's interference into other authorities' affairs and as part of applying the Constitutional Court's abovementioned decision, the Palestinian President issued a decision to lift the immunity of five PLC members from the Fatah Parliamentary Bloc, including his political rival, Mohammed Dahlan. Therefore, four of the mentioned PLC members organized a sit-in in front of the ICRC office in Ramallah, protesting against the decision. On 19 December, Palestinian police officers forcibly dispersed the sit-in.

This collapse in the PA structures and the executive authority's interference into the legislative and judicial authorities affected the human rights situation in the PA-controlled areas, as the majority of internal violations are related to the split. These violations amounted to a setback in public freedoms, including the freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly, and led to arbitrary political arrests and torture crimes. Moreover, the split remarkably aggravated the living conditions of the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip. The crisis of Rafah Crossing Point unprecedentedly exacerbated because the crossing was only open for a few days throughout the whole year, which negatively affected dozens of patients, students and holders of residency permits abroad. In addition, the electricity crisis, already deteriorating for 10 years, exacerbated, as the outage hours significantly increased. : The most serious of all, the crisis of confidence between Palestinian civilians and components of the Palestinian political system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip deepened due to the ongoing state of division and general feeling of despair over the possibility of ending it.

On the international level, the absence of accountability and effective deterrent measures as well as the continued impunity under the American political cover contributed to the deteriorating situation in the oPt and encouraging Israel to persist on its crimes against Palestinian civilians and their property, in flagrant defiance of international law.

However, during the reporting period, some positive developments emerged in terms of international accountability. The International Criminal Court (ICC) continued its preliminary examination into the situation in Palestine in order to establish whether to proceed with an investigation into alleged crimes committed by Israeli forces in the State of Palestine. It is hoped that the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, will take a positive decision to move towards opening a criminal investigation into the situation in Palestine in the coming months. PCHR and its partners contributed to these efforts through holding meetings with the ICC Prosecutor and staff and lodging 3 memorandums on Israeli crimes against Palestinians.

At the end of 2016, the UN Security Council issued a resolution on Israel's establishment of settlements in the oPt. On 23 December, the Council adopted a resolution to halt Israeli settlement activities in the oPt. The resolution, presented by Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain and Venezuela, underlines that the international community will not recognize any changes to the 04 June 1967 lines, including Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations. The resolution also calls for immediately ending all settlement activities. PCHR welcomed the UN Security Council Resolution and believes that this is a significant and long-awaited for resolution. Moreover, PCHR calls for prompt and effective action to restore confidence in the rule of law, put an end to the prolonged Israeli challenge and denial of international law, and to the inherent impunity enjoyed by Israel for decades.

First:**Israeli Violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.****1. Willful Killings and Other Violations of the Right to Life and Personal Security**

PCHR documented the killing of 97 Palestinians¹; 95 of whom were civilians, including 36 children and 8 women. Among the total number of victims, PCHR documented the killing of 88 Palestinians in the West Bank; 86 of whom were civilians, including 33 children and 7 women. Meanwhile, in the Gaza Strip 9 Palestinians were killed; 8 of whom were civilians, including 3 children and a woman. During this period, 840 persons were wounded; most of whom were civilians.

In 2016, Israeli forces continued to commit willful killings and violations of the right to life against Palestinian civilians in the oPt. Israeli forces continued to use excessive and disproportionate force against civilians, including summary executions of Palestinians, also of children and women, claiming they carried out or intended to carry out stabbing or run-over attacks against Israeli officers and settlers in the West Bank and Israel. During the first half of 2016, summary execution crimes escalated as series of similar crimes accompanied the wide-scale wave of protests in the oPt, which had started in October 2015. In this regard, PCHR documented 58 summary executions of Palestinians. The majority of those heinous crimes were documented with cameras or via social media. Investigations carried out by PCHR and other human rights organizations, including Israeli organizations, revealed that the committed killings could have been avoided if less force was used, especially as many cases claimed by Israeli forces as stab or run-over attempts did not pose any threat to the life of Israeli security officers. The investigations also revealed that Israeli forces employed excessive force in all cases without taking into consideration the principle of proportionality. Moreover, many victims were left lying on the ground bleeding to death without Israeli forces giving them the necessary medical care or even allowing the ambulance crews to treat them. The investigations also proved the falsity of Israeli allegations that their security services were subject to stabbing and run-over attacks in an attempt to justify their crimes against civilians. What happened in reality were direct and cold-blooded killings of defenseless civilians because they were suspected of crimes and because Israeli soldiers stationed at the checkpoints panicked.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces escalated the excessive use of force in reaction to the wave of protests that had broken out on the eastern border areas of the Gaza Strip and Israel. During 2016, Israeli forces shot dead 4 Palestinians during clashes with the Israeli forces. During those clashes, the protesters threw stones at the military fortified site along the border fence. Moreover, the Israeli forces killed 3 Palestinians, including 2 children, when they targeted military sites belonging to the Palestinian armed groups adjacent to civilian houses.

1. On 07 July, Nael Soliman Salah (18) from al-'Atarah neighborhood in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, succumbed to the wounds he sustained on 08 May 2015 after being shot by Israeli soldiers stationed along the border fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip, northwest of Beit Lahia. He was hit with a bullet to the head and treated in hospitals in Gaza and Jerusalem before he died.

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

In 2016, Israeli forces continued to impose restrictions on the freedom of movement in the oPt. In the Gaza Strip, the closure for the 10th consecutive year and restrictions on the movement of commodities and persons continued. Since the beginning of the year, the Israeli authorities imposed new restrictions on the Gaza population and decreased the few numbers of already limited categories allowed to travel through Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing. In the same context, the Israeli authorities continued to use Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing as a trap to blackmail and arrest Gaza residents, including traders, patients and their companions, while passing the crossing.

Although the days in which the Rafah Border Crossing was open increased in the last two months of 2016, the crossing is, until now, almost completely closed. The Rafah Crossing was closed for 323 days, making up 88.5% of the entire year, while it was open for 42 days, which constitute 11.5% of the year. As a result, the Gaza population was deprived of their right to freedom of movement from and into the Gaza Strip.

On the level of commodities movement, PCHR documented that the Israeli authorities closed the sole commercial crossing for the Gaza Strip in 2016 for 132 days, i.e. 36.1% of the total days of the year. Since September, the Israeli closure has intensified and the quantity of goods allowed to enter Gaza unprecedentedly declined. Moreover, the tightened restrictions continued on the entry of around 400 goods into the Gaza Strip, most of which were basic commodities and raw materials.

The Israeli authorities continued to ban the Gaza exports to the West Bank, Israel and abroad for the 10th consecutive year. However, in an exception they allowed limited Gaza products for export, most of which were agricultural.

The closure led to the violation of civilians' right to adequate housing. According to the latest estimates, issued by the Ministry of Public Affairs and Housing, UNDP and UNRWA, 784 families comprised of 51,000 persons are homeless. Moreover, the closure violates civilians' economic rights. The restrictions imposed on the entry of raw materials necessary for production, the ban on Gaza exports and destruction of 70% of the active economic facilities during the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip paralyzed the different economic sectors. As a result, and as reported by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the number of unemployed persons in the Gaza Strip has reached 202,800 (an average of 41.2%), according to the International Labor Organization's (ILO) definition.

In the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, the Israeli forces continued to impose arbitrary and tightened restrictions on the movement of civilians and goods between the cities in 2016, thereby continuing the collective punishment policy, cruelties and degrading treatment. Following the increased stabbing and run-over attacks against Israeli soldiers and settlers, the Israeli forces imposed tightened restrictions on the Palestinian civilians' movement and the movement of goods between cities in the West Bank.

In 2016, the number of permanent checkpoints amounted to 472, 17 of which were in the H2 sector² in Hebron. Among those checkpoints, 39 were established along the Green Line (the armistice line) and considered as border crossings between the West Bank and Israel. Israeli private security companies controlled a part of the checkpoints under the supervision of the Crossings and Borders Department of the Israeli forces. In 2016, Israeli forces increased the arbitrary establishment of temporary checkpoints at intersections between Palestinian cities. Moreover, the Israeli forces reclosed settler bypass roads, which Palestinians used to take, to increase the Palestinians' suffering.

2. In 1997, an agreement was reached between the PA and Israel concerning the redeployment of Israeli forces in the city, which was divided into two sectors: H1 sector, which is under the control of the Palestinian Authority and H2 sector, which is under Israeli control. However, in 2002, following the Operation Defensive Shield, the Israeli forces took over complete control of the city and established permanent watchtowers in H1 sector.

Israel has continued its policy of closing off and isolating occupied Jerusalem from its surroundings; entry to East Jerusalem is prohibited for Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, except for limited categories. Moreover, Israeli forces continued to impose an unprecedented closure on the Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem. Following increased stabbing attacks and attempts against Israeli settlers and soldiers in the city, Israeli forces imposed strict restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the city, its suburbs and villages. Those measures included the establishment of several electronic gates and police checkpoints in the old city's neighborhoods and at its entrances. Those measures also denied Palestinian civilians' access to the occupied city. Furthermore, the annexation wall established in the West Bank increased the suffering of Palestinian civilians, including those whose houses or agricultural lands were isolated as well as those who work in these areas, such as teachers, doctors and health workers etc.

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

Over 7,000 Palestinians have been arbitrarily detained and subjected to cruel and inhuman conditions in 20 Israeli prisons and detention facilities. Those arrested include 370 prisoners from the Gaza Strip, 300 children, 64 women and 700 administrative detainees without trial. The majority of the prisons are established outside the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967³ and inside Israel, in a clear violation of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which obliges the occupying power to detain prisoners in the occupied territory until the end of the sentence.

This year witnessed a constituent wave of individual hunger strikes, which dozens of administrative detainees went on in protest against their detention conditions without trial as a punitive measure. The Israeli authorities continued to use force-feeding against Palestinian detainees on hunger strike, after it was legalized by the Israeli Knesset in July 2015. On 12 January 2016, the Israeli forces applied the force-feeding law against the administrative detainee, journalist Mohammed al-Qeeq,⁴ who was handcuffed and then forcibly administered intravenous fluids. This year also witnessed other attempts of Israeli authorities to force-feed detainees on hunger strike, including Malek al-Qadi (20). Most recently, the Supreme Court suggested to the military prosecution that both detainees on hunger strike, Anas Shadid and Ahmed Abu Farah, be force-fed.

Throughout the year, Israeli forces issued exaggerated and harsh sentences against minor detainees. On 07 November, the Israeli military court issued a prison sentence of 12 years against Ahmed al-Manasrah (14) for the claim of attempting with his cousin to stab Israelis⁵ in occupied Jerusalem last year. The Israeli authorities have escalated these sentences as they have previously issued hundreds of prison sentences against minors.

4. Attacks on Journalists and Media Personnel

In 2016, Israeli forces continued their systematic violations against local and international journalists and media personnel in the oPt who were covering crimes against Palestinian civilians and their property to expose them to the outside world. Those attacks included violations of journalists' personal security, as 20 journalists were wounded with live bullets, rubber-coated metal bullets and direct gas canisters. Nine journalists were beaten up and subject to different forms of violence, humiliation and degrading treatment. Thirty journalists were arrested; 7 of whom were sentenced on grounds of incitement against the Israeli forces on social media. Eight television channels and radio stations as well as media organizations were raided while 5 others were closed. Moreover, journalists' houses were raided

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

4. On 26 February, al-Qeeq ended his 94-day strike and on 29 May was released after serving his sentence.

5. The Israeli forces arrested al-Manasrah after they opened fire at him and his cousin Hasan Khaled al-Manasrah (15) on 12 October 2015, under the pretext of attempting to stab Israelis in occupied Jerusalem. As a result, his cousin was killed and Ahmed sustained serious wounds. A video leaked from an Israeli interrogation facility revealed that the interrogators subjected Ahmed to physical and psychological torture.

and 10 printing houses were closed on the grounds of printing inciting materials against the Israeli forces.

In 2016, arrest and trial of civilians, including journalists, on charges of inciting violence against Israeli forces on social media significantly escalated. This escalation came following the Israeli Security Cabinet's decision on 10 March to close down radio stations and satellite channels under claims of "incitement". As a result, many radio stations and printing houses were closed while dozens of civilians were arrested and tried for various periods on charges of incitement against Israel on social media.

The shooting incidents carried out by Israeli forces against journalists working in local and international media agencies resulted in the wounding of 20⁶ journalists through live and rubber-coated metal bullets or tear gas canisters. The Israeli soldiers deliberately and directly fire tear gas canisters at civilians to harm them. On 02 September, Nidal Ishtayah (42) from Salem Camp, east of Nablus, was hit with a gas canister on the back of the head, causing him wounds to the head and lacerating the helmet. The aforementioned was wounded when he was on duty covering the weekly Kafr Qaddoum protest, northeast of Qalqilya. Moreover, 9 civilians were severely beaten up and subject to different means of violence, humiliation and degrading treatment. On 27 June, Israeli forces beat up and pushed media crews in al-Aqsa Mosque yards, including journalists Ahmed Jaradat and Osayd 'Amarnah. The Israeli forces arrested or detained around 30 journalists in addition to raiding and searching their houses. Seven of them were sentenced on varying charges, including incitement against Israeli soldiers, while others were either released or are still under arrest. Among those arrested was Sami Sa'id al-Sa'ie (36), who was arrested on 09 March and sentenced on 15 May for 9 months on charges of incitement against the Israeli forces on Facebook. Moreover, 8 media organizations were raided, particularly radio stations, as the Israeli forces thoroughly searched these organizations and confiscated some of their contents. On 31 August, Israeli forces raided and closed Sanabel Radio Station in Hebron. They also arrested its director and confiscated its contents. Moreover, the Israeli forces raided houses of journalists. On 05 April, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to Diala Jweihan in al-Thawri neighborhood, south of occupied Jerusalem.

The Israeli forces continued to prevent al-Resalah and Palestine newspapers, which are published in Gaza City, from being printed in the West Bank's printing houses for two years. On 28 May 2014, the Israeli authorities issued a decision to ban the printing of the two newspapers in al-Ayyam printing house in the West Bank. They raided al-Ayyam newspaper office in Betunia village, west of Ramallah, in the center of the West Bank. Moreover, the Israeli forces unprecedentedly escalated the closure of Palestinian printing houses in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and confiscated their contents on charges of using inciting materials against the Israeli authorities. PCHR also documented the closure of 10 printing houses throughout the year, including the closing of al-Rayan Printing House in al-Ram village, north of Jerusalem, after being raided and their contents being confiscated on 20 October.

5. Destruction of Civilian Property

In 2016, the demolitions deteriorated in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem. This year witnessed significant escalation in the demolition of houses and other civilian objects used for agricultural, industrial and commercial purposes. During the reporting period, Israeli forces demolished 256 dwellings, including 89 houses in East Jerusalem and its suburbs; 7 of which were self-demolished by their owners under the pretext of not obtaining a building license. Thus, the number of demolished dwellings on grounds of unlicensed building and collective punishment amounted to 281 houses and shelters. The Israeli authorities in East Jerusalem use the policy of forcing Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses. Most of the Palestinian civilians usually do so to avoid paying high fines, includ-

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

ing unlicensed building fines and the expenses for Israeli demolition vehicles.

In the Gaza Strip, PCHR documented in 2016 that 3 houses in Beit Hanoun, in the northern Gaza Strip, sustained partial damages after being shelled by Israeli forces stationed along the eastern border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. PCHR also documented that agricultural lands were leveled by Israeli forces during limited incursions into Rafah, Khan Younis and central Gaza Strip. As a result, plantings and trees were damaged.

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

Israeli forces continued to confiscate more Palestinian civilian property for settlement purposes. In 2016, areas classified as C were targeted by Israeli forces and evacuated for the interest of settlement expansion projects. Those areas witnessed widespread demolition of dozens of residential dwellings and agricultural facilities. Moreover, settlers continued to carry out attacks against owners of agricultural facilities in order to deport them, while around 9700 trees were leveled by the Israeli forces' and settlers' bulldozers. Meanwhile, the settlement expansion into Palestinian civilian lands continued through tendering construction plans in the Israeli settlements. The Israeli government approved plans to build 3,000 new housing units in different settlements, in addition to the military orders issued to confiscate thousands of dunums of Palestinian lands. The Israeli forces confiscated around 13,295 dunums in 2016 under various pretexts, such as security reasons, the annexation wall, state lands and closed military zones. The Israeli Civil Administration also surveyed 62,000 dunums of West Bank lands to pave the way for annexing those lands later as Israeli settlements.

7. The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

The Palestinian civilians' suffering continued due to the Israeli annexation wall through imposing a reality which isolates civilians, including the separation of entire families and of people from their work. Moreover, the Israeli forces imposed complicated procedures for communication that became possible only through Israeli crossings. Palestinians are forced to go through long procedures and take bypass roads in order to reach a place, which used to be only a few steps away without the wall. Facts on the ground and the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2004 show, that Israel, which built the annexation wall on alleged security grounds, created new unilateral facts on the ground, making the wall an obstacle for Palestinians who seek the establishment of their state within the 1967 borders. According to Palestinian estimations, the area of Palestinian lands surrounded by and isolated through the annexation wall reach about 680 square kilometers within the 1967 borders, i.e. 12% of the West Bank; 454 square kilometers of which are agricultural lands and pastures.

8. Awaited Justice and Absent Justice

The Palestinian people, for the third consecutive year, still await the ICC's decision to open an investigation into the crimes committed in the oPt since 13 June 2014, and the issuance of summons and arrest warrants against Israeli leaders responsible for those crimes, particularly during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, in July 2014. Palestinian human rights organizations had lodged 3 submissions on the alleged crimes committed in the oPt since June 2014 and urged the ICC to open an investigation. The last submission was submitted on 22 November 2016, to examine the Israeli closure of the Gaza Strip and the resulting crimes against humanity. The abovementioned organizations previously delivered 2 submissions regarding the 2014 offensive; the first one was on the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in 2014 while the second was on the so called Black Friday Massacre committed in Rafah City and, particularly, the "*Hannibal Directive*."

The Israeli authorities continued to ignore the complaints filed to investigate acts alleged to be war crimes against Palestinian civilians or delivered negative responses by claiming the nonexistence of violations in order to immunize Israeli war criminals. PCHR filed 247 complaints to the Israeli Military

Prosecution to initiate criminal investigations into violations committed by Israeli forces during the 2014 offensive. Until now, PCHR received 31 responses only, in 7 of which the Military Prosecution claimed that investigations were in process; 14 others stating the closing of files for a lack of suspicion of criminal misconduct; and 10 responses requesting further evidence. In 2016, PCHR filed 10 challenges to the closure of files but did not receive any response from the Military Prosecution.

In 2016, PCHR followed up the notifications filed to the Israeli Ministry of Defense to claim reimbursement for Palestinian victims from the Israeli forces' attacks, as required by Israeli law. PCHR had filed 1,078 notifications to the Israeli Ministry of Defense following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in 2014 and only received a general response stating the receipt of notifications.

The Israeli judicial system continues to grant Israeli soldiers impunity from any prosecution for crimes and violations committed against Palestinian civilians. This Israeli policy significantly contributes to the escalation of violations by Israeli soldiers and settlers against Palestinian civilians. By claiming to have precise oversight mechanisms of the Israeli forces' conduct and through employing huge media apparatus attempts, the Israeli judicial system creates an unreal image of investigating alleged violations by Israeli soldiers.

Second:

Palestinian Violations of Human Rights and Obstacles to Democratic Reform

The state of political division and conflict between Hamas and Fatah movements remained the trigger of further deterioration of the human rights situation on the internal level for the 10th consecutive year. All efforts made to end the split failed although the reconciliation agreement was signed and the National Unity Government was formed in 2014. This negatively and increasingly affected the human rights situation in the oPt, as PCHR stresses that the majority of violations committed in 2016 were related to the internal split.

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

In 2016, more violations of the right to life and personal security continued due to the misuse of weapons and attacks on the rule of law in the oPt. The oPt also witnessed continued killings due to the use of weapons in personal and familial disputes; killings due to the illegal use of weapons and murdering of women for different reasons, including on grounds of “family honor”. During the reporting period, the number of civilians killed by security services in law enforcement missions where excessive force was used significantly increased.

In incidents related to the misuse of weapons and assault of the rule of law in 2016, PCHR documented the killing of 50 persons; 27 in the Gaza Strip and 23 in the West Bank. The total number includes 5 children and 6 women while around 40 persons were wounded. Violations of the right to life and personal security were perpetrated in the following contexts: use of weapons in personal and familial disputes (26); illegal use of weapons (11); murders motivated by “family honor” (2); and excessive use of force by law officials (10). Moreover, one person was killed in a separate incident related to Palestinian armed groups’ actions in the Gaza Strip.

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

In 2016, PCHR and other Palestinian human rights organizations received many statements and complaints from civilians who claimed that they have faced torture and inhuman treatment in Palestinian prisons and detention facilities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Those complainants stated that the victims were subject to various forms of physical torture, including shackling (shabeh), sleep deprivation, death threats and other forms of psychological torture. Most complaints documented by PCHR were from persons interrogated on criminal grounds in the criminal investigation departments. Moreover, PCHR received other statements claiming torture on political and security grounds. In addition, the detainees were placed under highly degrading conditions or in narrow and poorly ventilated cells, which is considered a violation of the prisoners’ minimum human rights.

In 2016, the security services in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continued to arrest civilians and summon them on political grounds. Moreover, the security services violated the civilians’ rights, guaranteed under the Palestinian Basic Law and relevant international standards, in spite of the Palestinian Supreme Court’s decision, issued on 20 February 1999, stating the illegality of political arrests and

that all executive authorities should respect the Court's decision and refrain from practicing illegal political detention. Arrests often take place without a legal arrest warrant and those arrested are subject to beating and inhuman and degrading treatment.

In 2016, 2 prisoners died in Palestinian prisons and detention facilities; one in the West Bank and the other one in the Gaza Strip. Available data creates suspicion over the responsible authorities' medical care offered to the prisoner who died in the criminal investigation office in Deir al-Balah, and over their negligence of a prisoner's disease which must have been discovered in the first examination upon arrival at the prison. Meanwhile, another prisoner died immediately after he was arrested in al-Jneid Prison in Nablus, after having been beaten up by dozens of security officers. PCHR reiterates its demand to investigate the circumstances of the deaths of those civilians and to publish the results to the public.

3. Continued Disruption of the Legislature

This year revealed the executive authority's clear interference with the legislative authority as on 12 December 2016, Hassan al-'Oari, Legal Advisor to the Palestinian President, emphasized the Palestinian President's decision to lift immunity of five PLC members from the Fatah Parliamentary Bloc. This step came after the advisory opinion was taken by the Constitutional Court on 06 November 2016, when the Court upheld the Palestinian President's right to issue a presidential decree to lift immunity of PLC members according to his powers ensured in Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law.

The PA has lost its political legitimacy following the disruption of the constitutional right to legislative and presidential elections in 2010. There have been legal merits and justifications for the Palestinian President and PLC to continue to practice their duties after their term ended. However, this situation has reflected a serious violation of civilians' right to have authorities representing their real orientations, especially after taking into account that the electoral bloc decisively changed during the ten years since the last elections.

The legislation chaos in the PA continued for the 10th consecutive year as the Palestinian President issued 24 presidential decrees in 2016. The President acts as absolute legislative authority without compliance with the law, which only allows him to issue legislations in cases of extreme necessity. Meanwhile, the Change and Reform Bloc continued to issue laws on behalf of the PLC without any legal merit as 3 laws were issued and only enforced in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli forces continued to detain 6 PLC members. Both, Ahmed Sa'adat and Marwan al-Barghuthi, are serving their life sentences in Israeli prisons, while 4 other PLC members are detained; 3 of whom are administratively detained. In 2016, Israeli forces arrested 6 PLC members but only released 2 of them before the end of the year. The Israeli authorities released 3 PLC members; two of whom were arrested for 6 months in the reporting year, namely 'Abdel Jaber Foqahaa' and Hatem Qafishah. The third PLC member, Khaledah Jarrar, was released after serving her imprisonment sentence. Khaledah Jarrar was arrested in 2015.

4. Deterioration of the Judicial Authority

The judicial authority continued to deteriorate since the Palestinian division in 2007 which resulted in the division of the judiciary in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In 2016, severe developments occurred during the executive authority's efforts to dominate the judicial authority and undermine its independence. These developments increased the seriousness of the situation within the Palestinian judiciary, which was subject to high political pressure following the division of the Palestinian Authority in 2007. The overthrowing of the Chief Justice was one of the most prominent assaults occurring under the judicial authority, indicating the bad state the Palestinian judiciary is in. This incident also revealed the absence of the separation of powers, as the executive authority completely dominates the judicial authority. In 2016, the Palestinian President established the Constitutional Court amidst an atmos-

phere which raises doubts over the aim of establishing it, in light of the division and at this particular time. Those doubts were confirmed after the Court reinforced the President's powers by giving him the power to lift immunity of PLC members.

5. Obstruction of General and Local Elections

The hopes to revive the democratic process within the PA in 2016 suffered a setback after local elections were delayed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for four months. The elections were scheduled to be held on 08 October, upon a decision by the Palestinian Council of Ministers. PCHR hopes that elections will be consensually held in 2017 and pave the way for holding the general elections in a prelude to rehabilitate the PA institutions and end the state of division.

2016 ended with the democratic process in Palestine continuing to be disrupted since 2007. The general elections (presidential and legislative) scheduled for 2010 have not been held yet, while local elections have not been conducted since 2005 in the Gaza Strip and only partially been held in the West Bank in 2012. In addition, the PLC's work was completely disrupted while unelected local councils were running the municipalities in the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, there are municipalities in the West Bank that were elected in an unfree atmosphere and boycotted by Hamas, which had the vast support in the municipality elections of 2005.

6. Violations of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

In 2016, violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression continued in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a result of the Palestinian division in its tenth consecutive year. Both parties to the division continued to misuse the laws enacted to undermine the freedom of expression and information. Repeated summonses and detention pending investigations in addition to cruel and inhuman treatment as well as torture are the most prominent means used to undermine the freedom of expression and opinion. The authorities worked on undermining the freedom of opinion on social media through chasing social media activists on grounds of their political opinions and criticism of the public authorities. 2016 also witnessed a serious development in terms of freedom of belief. Law enforcement officials in the Gaza Strip committed violations against the practice of freedom of expression, during which sectarian accusations were provoked and even a murder was committed. The freedom of information is not protected by law and nothing proves its existence in reality. The freedom of information is considered as part of the freedom of expression and opinion, and the opinion lacking the freedom to information access, which forms this opinion, is incomplete as the Palestinian legal system lacks any law to protect the right to information access.

7. Violation of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

The obstacles and restrictions imposed by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly continued and included practical procedures to deprive civilians of enjoying this right. This included banning and forcibly dispersing peaceful assemblies and beating and threatening those participating in them. Those violations exceeded the official restrictions to include private meetings, which do not even fall under the umbrella of the Public Meetings Law No.12/1998. These meetings held in closed places, like seminars, parties or conferences, do not require notifying the police and the PBL, and the Public Meetings Law ensures holding them without the police's interference.

Imposed restrictions and obstacles resulted in the decline of using the right to peaceful assembly, which is supposed to provide a platform for expression, peaceful protest or seeking to influence public policies in the PA controlled areas. In general, protests and demonstrations which are against the governing authority's interests in Gaza and the West Bank significantly decreased. In most cases, where such public meetings were held, especially demonstrations, they were either violated or banned. In

addition, those participating were subject to beating, summonses and arrests.

8. Violation of the Right to Form Associations

In 2016, the PA in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continued its policy of tightening restrictions on civil society. The National Unity Government's Council of Ministers imposed new restrictions on associations' funding in addition to the legal restrictions previously imposed on associations in order to undermine their work and leave civil society weakened when facing political authority. The ministries and security services in Gaza continued to target associations via imposing arbitrary search measures and interfering into their independence, including a series of regulations and decisions issued by the Ministry of Interior since the Palestinian division. This situation created restrictions sufficient for establishing a new state of self-commitment within associations, particularly among emerging ones or those whose owners do not have sufficient power to protect them, to avoid enraging the authorities.

9. Escalation of Applying Death Penalty

2016 witnessed a dangerous decline in the respect of the right to life through excessively applying the death penalty and carrying out extra-judicial executions. In 2016, death sentences increased and were applied without the Palestinian President's ratification. The Prison Service in Gaza applied 3 death sentences against persons convicted of murder. The Gaza courts issued 23 death sentences in 2016; one of which was against a woman, setting a precedent in the history of the Palestinian judiciary. Meanwhile, no death sentence was reported in the West Bank and this punishment has not been applied since 2002.

PCHR documented that the number of death sentences significantly increased in the PA this year. The number of death sentences issued in 2016 is 23, all of which were executed in the Gaza Strip. Sixteen of them were new sentences issued by the first instance courts, while the other 7 were issued to support previous sentences. Nine of the total sentences were issued by military courts. Thus, the total number of death sentences issued in the Palestinian Authority controlled areas has risen to 174 sentences since 1994; 154 of which were issued in the Gaza Strip. Among those issued in the Gaza Strip, 96 sentences have been issued since 2007. Since the establishment of the PA, 35 death sentences were applied; 33 of which were in the Gaza Strip and two in the West Bank. Among the sentences applied in the Gaza Strip, 22 were executed since 2007 without the ratification of the Palestinian President, in violation of the law.

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

For the tenth consecutive year, the Palestinian political division, which started when the Hamas movement took over the Gaza Strip in June 2007, continued. In 2016, accusations were exchanged between both parties through the issuance of laws, decrees and policies that inflicted bad impacts on the civilians' life in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Gaza population's conditions, including their economic, social and cultural rights, unprecedentedly deteriorated and have reached their worst state since the beginning of the Palestinian political division. The political conflict between the two parties continued alongside the conflict over powers to administrate the Gaza Strip through taking a series of measures and decisions that obstructed fulfilling the minimal level of the Gaza reconstruction. Gaza was the victim of an Israeli wide-scale offensive in 2014, which resulted in massive destruction inflicting dozens of dwellings, property and other civilian objects. At the same time, around 65,000 persons who were displaced from their houses which were destroyed during the Israeli offensives are still homeless. They are awaiting the international promises to rebuild their houses, amidst the illegal closure restrictions imposed by Israel on the entry of construction materials, according to the UN Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, which has proved to be ineffective.

Recommendations

In light of the continued Israeli violations, the escalation of settlement activities in the West Bank, attempts to legalize some settlement outposts and rebuild others, the Israeli closure that has been imposed on the Gaza Strip for the 10th year, Israel's persistence to immunize Israeli war criminals from accountability, the denial of Palestinians' right to reparation, the obstructed Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism and the resulting suffering of war-displaced persons, and in light of awaiting the ICC's decision to open an investigation into Israeli crimes, the UN Security Council's Resolution against Israeli settlements in the West Bank and calls to stop them, the ongoing Palestinian political split, and the national unity agreement that was nipped in the bud, PCHR presents the following recommendations to the international community and Palestinian decision-makers:

Recommendations to the International Community

PCHR warns about the escalating settlement construction in the West Bank, the attempts to legitimize settlement outposts established on Palestinian lands in the West Bank and the continued summary executions of Palestinian civilians under the pretext that they pose a security threat to the Israeli forces. PCHR reminds the international community that thousands of Palestinian civilians have been rendered homeless and lived in caravans under tragic circumstances due to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip that has been under a tight closure for almost 10 years. PCHR welcomes the UN Security Council's Resolution No. 2334, which states that settlements are a blatant violation of the Geneva Conventions and calls upon Israel to stop them and not to recognize any demographic change in the oPt since 1967. PCHR hopes this resolution will pave the way for eliminating the settlement crime and bring to justice those responsible for it. PCHR further reiterates that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are still under Israeli occupation in spite of Israel's unilateral disengagement plan of 2005. PCHR emphasizes that there is international recognition of Israel's obligation to respect international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law. Israel is bound to apply international human rights law and the law of war, sometimes reciprocally and other times in parallel, in a way that achieves the best protection for civilians and remedy for the victims.

1. PCHR calls upon the international community to respect the Security Council's Resolution No. 2334 and to ensure that Israel respects it as well, in particular point 5 which obliges Israel not to deal with settlements as if they were a part of Israel.
2. PCHR calls upon the ICC in 2017 to open an investigation into Israeli crimes committed in the oPt, particularly the settlement crimes and the 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip.
3. PCHR Calls upon the European Union (EU) and all international bodies to boycott settlements and ban working and investing in them in application of their obligations according to international human rights law and international humanitarian law considering settlements as a war crime.
4. PCHR calls upon the international community to use all available means to allow the Palestinian people to enjoy their right to self-determination through the establishment of the Palestinian State, which was recognized by the UN General Assembly with a vast majority, using all international legal mechanisms, including sanctions to end the occupation of the State of Palestine.
5. PCHR calls upon the international community and United Nations to take all necessary measures to stop Israeli policies aimed at creating a Jewish demographic majority in Jerusalem and at voiding Palestine from its original inhabitants through deportations and house demolitions as a collective punishment, which violates international humanitarian law, amounting to a crime against humanity.
6. PCHR calls upon the international community to condemn summary executions carried out by Israeli forces against Palestinians and to pressurize Israel to stop them.
7. PCHR calls upon the States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC to work hard to hold Israeli war criminals accountable.
8. PCHR calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions to fulfill their obligations under article (1) of the Convention to ensure respect for the Conventions under all circumstances, and under articles (146) and (147) to search for and prosecute those responsible for committing grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions to ensure justice and remedy for Palestinian victims, especially in light of the almost complete denial of justice for them before the Israeli judiciary.
9. PCHR calls upon the international community to speed up the reconstruction process necessary because of the destruction inflicted by the Israeli offensive on Gaza.
10. PCHR calls for a prompt intervention to compel the Israeli authorities to lift the closure that obstructs the freedom of movement of goods and 1.8 million civilians that experience unprecedented economic, social, political and cultural hardships due to collective punishment policies and retaliatory action against civilians.
11. PCHR calls upon the European Union to apply human rights standards embedded in the EU-Israel Association Agreement and to respect its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights when dealing with Israel.
12. PCHR calls upon the international community, especially states that import Israeli weapons and mili-

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

13. PCHR calls upon the parties to international human rights instruments, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), to pressurize Israel to comply with its provisions in the oPt and to compel it to incorporate the human rights situation in the oPt in its reports submitted to the relevant committees.
14. PCHR calls upon the international community and, particularly, Arab countries to support the efforts endeavored to achieve the Palestinian national reconciliation through practicing political pressure on the two parties to the split, and urges the international community to accept the results of the reconciliation and to avoid the recurrence of penal sanctions adopted by the international community against the first Palestinian National Unity Government.
15. PCHR calls upon the EU and international human rights bodies to pressurize the Israeli forces to stop their attacks against Palestinian fishermen and farmers, mainly in the border area.
16. PCHR calls upon the international community, especially Arab countries, to work for putting an end to the closure of Rafah International Crossing Point in a way that guarantees the free movement of Palestinian civilians and take into account the actual requirements of the Egyptian security in Sinai.

Recommendations to the Palestinian Decision-Makers

In view of the executive authority's interference into the legislative and judicial authorities, the setback to the reconciliation process, the attempts to administrate the split instead of ending it, the ongoing split in the PA in spite of the formation of the national government in June 2014, the deterioration of the human rights situation, the absence of the PLC's role, the division of the judiciary, the continuing security chaos incidents, the shortage of basic needs in the Gaza Strip, and the ongoing tragic situation of the Israeli offensive's victims, PCHR calls upon Palestinian decision-makers to cooperate and jointly implement the following recommendations:

1. Calls upon the Palestinian President to retreat from all procedures taken against the legislative authority in 2016, the latest of which was lifting the immunity of 5 PLC members.
2. To form a national committee in order to investigate the claims issued by former Chief Justice, Sami Sarsour, who signed his resignation before taking office, and to ensure the non-recurrence of similar cases targeting the top of the pyramid in the judicial authority.
3. Calls upon the Prime Minister, who is also the Interior Minister, to stop the series of procedures aiming at fully controlling associations through regulating its funding sources and restricting their activities, in addition to cancelling all decisions related to associations and issued in light of the division between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. All these decisions violate the international standards binding the PA, which acceded to the ICCPR and ICESCR.
4. To prepare for holding local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 2017 to pave the way for holding presidential and legislative elections.
5. The reconciliation parties should reunite the judiciary as a first step to end the division, in order to have a neutral body that can decide on any dispute that may arise during the process of re-unification.
6. The Palestinian President should comply with the conditions prescribed under Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law for Palestinian President to issue decrees that have the power of law, including the condition of necessity that cannot be delayed.
7. The Change and Reform Parliamentary Bloc should stop holding any sessions on behalf of the PLC and abstain from enacting any laws without the PLC's convening and quorum.
8. To present all the laws that were issued during the division to a constitutional court, once it is established, to consider the constitutionality of these laws.
9. To stop all violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to peaceful assembly and to hold the perpetrators of such violations accountable through appropriate legal means.
10. To stop political arrests, as PCHR emphasizes that all victims have the right to claim for compensation

if it is proved that they were illegally arrested, and their right to prosecute the perpetrators is imprescriptible.

11. The Public Prosecution should stop summoning people through security services without warrants and confirm that the Public Prosecution is the only body warranted to summon people.
12. The administration of prisons and detention facilities should release all persons who are illegally detained, as PCHR confirms that directors of prisons and detention facilities have the full power and even the legal duty to release such persons; otherwise, they will be legally liable and judicially prosecuted.
13. To immediately stop torture in prisons and detention facilities and the Attorney General should hold suspected perpetrators of this crime, which remains punishable at all times according to the Palestinian Basic Law, accountable.
14. To maintain public property, mainly state lands which can only be alienable according to the law, and take into consideration the interests of future generations. PCHR stresses its rejection of the allocation of lands as an alternative to dues.
15. To jointly work on putting an end to the electricity and gas crisis and exerting efforts to re-open border crossings for the movement of persons and goods, especially Rafah International Crossing Point.
16. To stop applying the death penalty and abstain from implementing death sentences that have been issued until the death penalty is abolished from the Palestinian laws.
17. The government should activate the principle of transparency in the PA's institutions, allowing access to information about public affairs, especially through the websites of ministries and various governmental bodies.
18. The government should work on respecting the rights of persons with disabilities and activate the Palestinian Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, especially providing adequate facilities to disabled persons and ensuring their right to work.
19. The right to freedom of movement should be respected. In this context, PCHR emphasizes that restricting this right is possible only through a judicial order, according to the Palestinian Basic Law.



Section (1):
Israeli Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

Willful

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

In 2016, Israeli forces continued to commit willful killings and violations of the right to life of Palestinian civilians in the oPt. This year witnessed the significant and continued use of excessive and disproportionate force by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians, including summary executions, also of women and children, claiming they carried out or attempted a stabbing or run-over attack against Israeli officers and settlers in the West Bank and Israel. During the first half of the year the summary executions escalated as well as similar crimes that accompanied the wide-scale wave of protests, witnessed in the oPt since October 2015. In this regard, PCHR documented 58 summary executions against Palestinian civilians, some of which were documented by cameras or via social media. Investigations carried out by PCHR and other human rights organizations, including Israeli organizations, revealed that the committed killings could have been avoided if less force was used, especially as many cases claimed by Israeli forces as stab or run-over attempts did not pose any threat to the life of Israeli security officers. Moreover, the investigations revealed that Israel used excessive force without taking into consideration the principle of proportionality in all cases, while many victims were left to bleed to death on the ground without being medically treated by the Israeli forces that even denied ambulances' access to the victims. The investigations also proved the falsity of Israeli allegations that their security services were subject to stabbing and run-over attacks in an attempt to justify their crimes against civilians. What happened in reality were direct and cold-blooded killings of defenseless civilians because they were suspected of crimes and because Israeli soldiers stationed at the checkpoints panicked.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces escalated the use of excessive force during protests in the eastern border areas of the Gaza Strip and Israel. During clashes with Israeli forces, 4 Palestinians were shot dead after throwing stones at the fortified military sites along the border fence. Israeli forces also killed 3 Palestinians, including 2 children, when they targeted military sites belonging to the Palestinian armed groups adjacent to the civilian houses.

In general, PCHR documented the killing of 97 Palestinians⁷, including 95 civilians; 36 were children (37% of the total victims) and 8 were women (8% of the total number). PCHR documented that 88 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, including 33 children and 7 women, while 9 were killed in the Gaza Strip, including 3 children and 1 woman. During the same period, 80 Palestinians were wounded, most of whom were civilians.

Some of the victims were killed or wounded when Israeli soldiers, security officers and settlers carried out summary executions against Palestinians, claiming that they either stabbed or attempted to stab Israeli security officers or settlers in the West Bank and Israel. Some were killed or wounded during clashes and peaceful protests against Israeli forces, such as the demonstrations organized against the killings and settlement activities in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. Moreover, Palestinians were killed during assassination crimes or while targeting civilians, houses and lands in the Gaza Strip, including a family in Gaza City, and through murders at the checkpoints or in the vicinity of settlements and their nearby roads.



Israeli forces move into Palestinian cities.

7. On 07 July, Nael Soliman Salah (18) from al-Atarah neighborhood in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, succumbed to wounds he previously sustained on 08 May 2015 after being shot by Israeli soldiers stationed along the border fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip, northwest of Beit Lahia. He was hit with a bullet to the head and then referred to several hospitals in the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem for medical treatment before he was pronounced dead.

First: Summary Executions

The summary executions committed by Israeli forces and security officers were one of the most distinguished forms of willful killings of Palestinian civilians in 2016, particularly in the West Bank. PCHR documented the killing of 58 Palestinians (constituting 60% of the total number of killed persons), including 16 children and 3 women.

- » On 07 January, Israeli forces killed 3 civilians from Kawazbah family from Hebron, near the "Gosh 'Etzion" settlement, south of Bethlehem. Israeli forces claimed that the four civilians attempted to stab Israeli soldiers. The killed civilians were identified as *Ahmed Salem Abdul Majed Kawazbah (19)*, *Alaa Abed Mohammed Kawazbah (19)* and *Mohanad Zeyad Kawazbah (18)*.
- » On 09 January, Israeli forces stationed at al-Hamrah checkpoint, southeast of Tubas, killed *'Ali Mohammed Haj Mohammed (21)* from al-Jadidah village in Jenin and *Sa'id Jawdat Abu al-Wafa (38)* from al-Zawyah village in Jenin. The Israeli forces claimed that one of them attempted to stab the soldiers who were searching cars at the checkpoint, noting that Abu al-Wafa was killed inside his car during the searching.
- » On 17 January, Israeli soldiers shot dead *Wissam Merwan Wasarwah (21)* from Masliyah village, south of Jenin, at Howarah checkpoint, south of Nablus, claiming that he attempted to stab the Israeli soldiers. According to the investigations, Qasarwah threw a knife he had towards the Israeli soldiers from a far distance but none was wounded. The Israeli soldiers stationed in the watchtower immediately opened fire at him. As a result, he was hit with dozens of bullets throughout his body and died on the spot.
- » On 19 February, Israeli forces killed *'Abed Hamed (19)*, from Silwad village, northeast of Ramallah. They opened fire at him after he ran over a number of Israeli soldiers, who were shooting at Palestinian protestors at the western entrance to the village. An eyewitness said to PCHR's fieldworker that an Israeli MDA crew arrived at the scene and offered medical assistance to the soldiers, but left 'Abed bleeding for about an hour, until he died.
- » On 08 March, Israeli Border Guard officers shot dead Fadwa *Ahmed Mohammed Abu Teir (50)* from Jerusalem, from a point blank range near the Cotton Merchants Gate in Jerusalem's Old City. The Israeli officers claimed that she attempted to stab an Israeli soldier near the Iron Gate, one of the al-Aqsa Mosque Gates in East Jerusalem's Old City. As a result, she was hit with 3 bullets and left bleeding for more than half an hour on the ground until she drew her last breath.
- » On 24 March, Israeli forces stationed at "Gelbert" checkpoint, in the center of Tal al-Ramidah neighborhood in Hebron, opened fire at 2 Palestinian civilians in Hebron after one of them stabbed an Israeli soldier in his shoulder. After the 2 Palestinians were wounded, Israeli soldiers opened fire again at them and shot them dead, amidst cries of settlers who arrived at the scene. The two killed civilians were identified as *Ramzi Azez Mostafa Qasrawi (20)* and *Abdul Fatah al-Sharef (20)*. Following a video published displaying the crime, the Israeli forces announced that they have detained the soldier who opened fire and initiated an investigation.
- » On 23 May, Israeli forces stationed at Beit Eksa checkpoint, northwest of occupied Jerusalem, killed *Sawsan Ali Dawood Mansour (17)* from the nearby Beddou

village. Israeli forces claimed that the aforementioned child approached the checkpoint and attempted to stab an Israeli soldier. The Israeli forces opened fire at her in response due to which she sustained serious wounds. Israeli forces arrested her, but she later died. Eyewitnesses said that the Israeli forces denied medical crews' access to the scene and left her bleeding for about an hour before being transferred by an Israeli ambulance to an unknown destination.

- » On 16 September, Israeli forces killed a Jordanian civilian, Sa'id Hayel al-Amr, while walking by al-Amoud Gate area in East Jerusalem's Old City, under the pretext of attempting to stab an Israeli soldier. When he was leaving the Old City in East Jerusalem via al-Amoud Gate, he

approached a group of soldiers stationed at the abovementioned gate and said: "Allah is great". After that, the soldiers opened fire at him. As a result, he was hit with more than 8 live bullets to his chest and neck and died on the spot.

- » On 30 October, Israeli forces killed *Khaled 'Alian Ikhlayel (25)* from Beit Ummar village, north of Hebron, when they opened fire at his Polo car. The Israeli forces claimed that Ikhlayel deliberately ran over a number of Israeli soldiers, wounding one of them. However, Ikhlayel's father told PCHR's fieldworker that his son suffered from a bad health condition due to neurological disorders and was released only two days before the incident happened from a Palestinian police prison for his health status.

Second: Killings during Protests and Demonstrations

Killing civilians, including women and children, during clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian civilians escalated in 2016. The oPt has witnessed a wave of protests and demonstrations since October 2015. Those protests were met with violence, excessive and disproportionate use of force by the Israeli forces, including shooting, firing sound bombs and tear gas canisters at the protestors. In the Gaza Strip, weekly protests are organized near the border fence, particularly in the eastern part of the Gaza Strip, in al-Brej area, while some areas in the West Bank witness weekly protests against the wall and settlements. The number of civilian victims increased during the clashes with the Israeli forces and during incursions carried out by Israeli forces in the Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank.

In 2016, 13 Palestinians, including 5 children, were killed and around 15 were wounded during protests and demonstrations. Four civilians, including a child, were killed and 5 others were wounded in the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, 9 Palestinians, including 4 children, were killed and 10 others were wounded in the West Bank.

- » On 15 January, *Mohammed Majdi Qitah (25)* from Kahn Yunis and *Mohammed 'Adel Abu Zayed (18)* from al-Bureij refugee camp were killed when Israeli soldiers stationed along the border fence, east of al-Bureij refugee camp, opened fire at protestors. Dozens of children and youngsters threw stones at the soldiers along the border fence as the Israeli soldiers opened fire in response. As a result, Qitah was wounded from a bullet to the abdomen and died, while Abu Zayed died from a bullet to his neck. Moreover, another protestor was wounded.
- » On 19 February, Israeli forces killed *Khaled Taqatqah (21)* while participating in a protest in solidarity with journalist Mohammed al-Qeeq, who was on a hunger strike. The protest was organized at the western entrance to Beit Fajjar village, south of Bethlehem. Taqatqah was hit with 2 live bullets to the chest, after which Israeli forces beat him up, dragged and handcuffed him. In addition, they prevented the Palestinian medical crews from offering him first aid. The aforementioned person was left like that for half an hour until a Magen David

Adom's (MDA) ambulance arrived and took him to Hadassa-Ein Karem Hospital, where he was pronounced dead in the afternoon.

- » On 19 June, medical sources in al-Ahli Hospital in Hebron declared that *'Arif Shareef Jaradat (22)* from Sa'ir village, east of Hebron, succumbed to his wounds. According to PCHR's investigations, the aforementioned civilian was hit with a live bullet by Israeli forces on 04 May 2016 when moving into the village. He was transferred to al-Ahli Hospital in Hebron and underwent a surgery to remove part of the liver and large intestine. He was later discharged from the hospital. On 17 June 2016, Jaradat was taken to al-Ahli Hospital after his health status had deteriorated. The doctors said that they found the large intestine closed, causing adhesions. As a result, his health status deteriorated and he died. It should be mentioned that the aforementioned civilian suffered from Down syndrome.
- » On 09 September, Israeli forces killed *Abdul Rahman al-Dabagh (16)* after being hit with a

flare bomb on his head during clashes between Palestinian civilians and Israeli forces along the border fence, southeast of al-Bureij refugee camp, in the central Gaza Strip. According to investigations, an Israeli soldier fired a flare bomb that directly hit the child, who was about 10-15 meters away from the fence. The bomb hit him right on his forehead, due to which he fell to the ground with his head on fire. The soldiers prevented anyone from approaching or giving him first aid until the fire terminated. Some young men approached him and took him to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah but a few minutes after he was admitted to the hospital the doctors pronounced him dead.

- » On 11 October, Israeli forces shot dead *'Ali 'Atef Shyoukhi (20)* from Silwan in occupied Jerusalem, when the former opened fire at protestors who gathered to throw stones at the Israeli patrols in the area. As a result, Shyoukhi was wounded with a bullet to the pelvis and left bleeding for more than an hour and a half, as the Israeli forces denied PRCS ambulances access.

Third: Killings during Bombardment Attacks against Civilians' Houses and Property in Gaza

In 2016, Israeli forces carried out several bombardment attacks against houses, civilian objects and military sites in residential areas in the Gaza Strip. As a result, 3 Palestinians, including two children and a woman, were killed.

- » On 12 March, Israeli warplanes fired 3 missiles at Asqalan military site of al-Qasam Brigades (the armed wing of the Hamas movement) in al-Sayafa area, northwest of Beit Lahia, in the north of the Gaza Strip. As a result, the training site was destroyed and the rubble and mud chunks flung over houses, including a house belonging to Salman Abu Khousah. As a result, the latter's children, *Yasin (9)* and *Israa' (6)*, were killed while *Ayoub (12)* and *Ikram (2)* were moderately wounded.
- » On 05 May, Israeli forces killed *Zanah 'Atiya Mohammed al-Emour (59)* and wounded one of her relatives namely *Amir al-Emour (16)* with shrapnel to his leg after a shelling attack that targeted the land where they were working, in the eastern side of al-Fokhari village, east of Khan Yunis, in the south of the Gaza Strip.

Fourth: Killings at Checkpoints

In 2016, the Israeli forces killed 24 Palestinians, including 7 children and 2 women, at the checkpoints erected all over the West Bank. In most cases, Israeli forces claimed that those killed attempted or were suspected of stabbings against Israeli soldiers at the checkpoints. In all cases, Palestinians were killed in cold blood and in circumstances where Israeli forces could subdue them.

- » On 27 April, Israeli forces stationed at Qalandia military checkpoint, north of occupied Jerusalem, opened fire at killed *Maram Saleh Abu Ismail (23)* and her brother *Ibrahim (16)*. The 2 siblings were left bleeding to death at the checkpoint as the Israeli soldiers denied the PRCs crews access to the scene. Israeli forces claimed that the siblings attempted to carry out a stabbing against two Israeli soldiers after the former took the vehicles' track, which is mainly used to check the drivers' IDs, although they were warned. Eyewitnesses said that the warning took few seconds only and the 2 siblings seemed to be ignorant about the track they should have taken.
- » On 16 September, Israeli forces stationed at "Gilbert" military checkpoint, north of Tal al-Rumaida neighborhood, in the center of Hebron, opened fire at *Mohammed Thalji Rajabi (15)* and killed him. Israeli forces claimed that Mohammed attempted to carry out a stabbing and summoned the killed person's father to the military checkpoint (160), south of the city, where he was informed of his son's death.

Fifth: Extra-judicial Executions

PCHR documented one assassination crime committed by Israeli forces in 2016, resulting in the killing of a member of the Palestinian armed groups and the injury of a civilian who was coincidentally in the area.

- » On 13 January, Israeli forces stationed along the coastal border area northwest of Beit Lahia, in the north of the Gaza Strip, fired a shell at members of a Palestinian armed group that was at the beach. As a result, one of them, *Mousa Abu Z'aitar (31)*, from Jabalia refugee camp, was wounded with shrapnel to the left side of the chest and immediately died. Moreover, two members of the armed group sustained shrapnel wounds throughout their bodies while *'Abdel Hafiz al-Sultan (28)* sustained shrapnel wounds to the left side of his waist. It should be mentioned that the latter is a fish trader and used to go there to buy fish from fishermen.

Sixth: Killings among Children

In 2016, Israeli forces killed 36⁸ Palestinian children under different circumstances. Sixteen children, most of whom were under 15 years old, were killed in cases where Israeli forces claimed that they had attempted to stab Israeli soldiers or settlers, while 5 children were killed during confrontations with Israeli soldiers. Two other children were killed when houses were targeted in the Gaza Strip, while others were killed under different circumstances throughout the year.

8. Including Yousif al-Za'alan (12) from Gaza City, who on 11 February succumbed to his wounds, which he sustained in 2011 when Israeli warplanes targeted his house and his father and older brother were killed.

- » On 23 January, an Israeli security guard of “Anatot” settlement, northeast of Jerusalem, killed a 13-year-old Palestinian girl namely *Roqayah ‘Eid Abu Tabikh (13)* from ‘Anata village, northeast of Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities claimed that the girl had been in a quarrel with members of her family before leaving home with a knife in order to carry out a stabbing attack. She would have run with a knife towards a civil security guard at the entrance of ‘Antout settlement. In response, the guard opened fire at her, she sustained critical wounds and died on the spot. The girl’s family said that the Israeli forces killed their child Roqayah in cold blood as she was not holding a knife. Also, she had never thought of carrying out any attack although she quarreled with her family shortly before fire was opened at her.
- » On 26 February, Israeli forces stationed at “Beit Eil” military checkpoint, known as (D.C.O), north of al-Bireh, *killed Mahmoud Sha’lan (16)*, holder of an American passport from Deir Dabwan village, northeast of Ramallah, under the pretext of attempting to stab Israeli soldiers. According to PCHR’s fieldworker, Sha’lan arrived at the abovementioned checkpoint on foot as he was heading to al-Bireh city. A soldier gestured with his gun to make Sha’lan step back, so he moved 4 steps backwards. The soldier then fired 3 bullets at Sha’lan who fell to the ground. An eyewitness said that the soldier approached Sha’lan and fired 2 other bullets at him at point blank range. As a result, Sha’lan was wounded to the chest and arm and was left bleeding to death.
- » On 21 June, Israeli forces killed *Mahmoud Ra’fat Badran (15)* and wounded 4 others, including 3 children. The incident happened when Israeli forces opened fire at a car carrying 6 children and driven by *Ahd ‘Othman (21)*, heading back home to Beit ‘Or al-Tahta. The Israeli soldiers at gunpoint denied the Palestinian ambulance crews’ access to the scene and prevented them from offering first aid to those wounded. Mahmoud’s body was later transferred by an Israeli ambulance to an unknown destination. The Israeli forces claimed in the beginning that Palestinian children threw stones at settlers’ cars on Road 443 between East Jerusalem and Israel. As a result, two settlers were wounded and the Israeli soldiers opened fire at the stone-throwers. Hours later, the Israeli forces admitted that the child was mistakenly killed. Yediot Aharonot’s website stated that, “According to Israeli forces’ investigations, the child was in a car travelling near an oil spot and stones, so the Israeli soldiers thought that the oil was intentionally spilled from the car where the child was, causing cars to slide and get out of the track. As a result, the Israeli forces attacked the car and killed the child inside.”
- » On 19 July, the Israeli soldiers who guard the annexation wall near Nazlet al-Kasarat area in al-Ram village, north of occupied East Jerusalem, fired rubber-coated metal bullets at *Muhie al-Deen Mohammed Tabakhi (11)* when he was overlooking the wall from a nearby hill together with other children. In the meantime, there were clashes between the Israeli forces and dozens of Palestinian young men. As a result, Muhie was hit with a metal bullet to the left side of his chest. Muhie was taken to al-Ram Medical Centre from which he was transported to the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah. After that, doctors announced his death.
- » On 16 September, Israeli forces stationed at the entrance to “Givat Kharsina” settlement, east of Hebron, opened fire at a private car, claiming an attempt to carry out a run-over attack. As a result, the car driver *Feras Mousa Mohamed al-Khdour (17)* was killed, while his relative *Raghad al-Khdour (16)*, who was with him, was wounded. It should be noted that Feras and Raghad are from al-Birkah area in Bani Na’iem village, east of Hebron.
- » On the same day, Israeli forces stationed at Gilbert military checkpoint, north of Tal al-Rumaida neighborhood, in the center of Hebron, opened fire at *Mohammed Thalji Rajabi (15)* and killed him. Israeli forces claimed that Mohammed attempted to carry out a stabbing. The forces summoned the killed person’s father to military checkpoint (160), south of the city, where he was informed of the death of his son.
- » On 20 September, Israeli forces established a checkpoint at the entrance to Bani Na’im village in al-Joz Valley area, east of Hebron, after one day of removing piles of sand and rocks placed at the entrance. *Issa Salem Mahmoud Tarayrah (16)* from the aforementioned village was walking to the checkpoint when the Israeli soldiers, without any prior warning, deployed on both sides of the road and opened fire at him from 30-meters distance. The child was wounded and left to bleed for half an hour before his death was declared. The Israeli soldiers claimed that Tarayrah had a knife and attempted to stab Israeli soldiers.



Seventh: Killings among Women

Israeli forces killed 8 women in 2016, including 7 in the West Bank and 1 in the Gaza Strip, under different circumstances. Meanwhile, 15 women were wounded in the reporting period.

- » On 19 October, Israeli forces shot dead Raheeq Shajee' *Mohammed Yousef (19)* from Northern 'Asirah village, northwest of Nablus, while being present near Za'tarah checkpoint, southeast of Nablus. The Israeli forces claimed that Raheeq attempted to carry out a stabbing attack against the Israeli soldiers and settlers who were at the checkpoint. Israeli forces detained Raheeq's corpse and did not hand it to the Palestinian ambulances, which arrived at the scene.

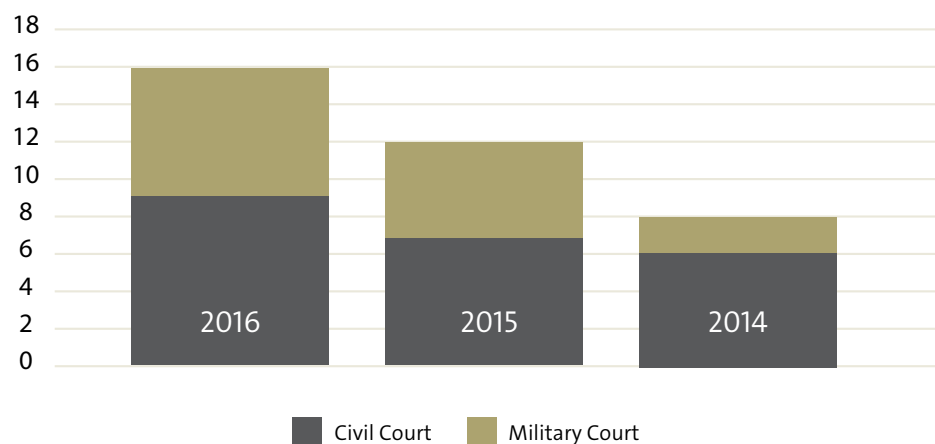
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Application of Death Penalty

This year witnessed a serious decline regarding the respect of the right to life due to the excessive use of the death penalty and the implementation of extra-judicial executions without the ratification of the Palestinian President¹. The prison authorities in Gaza applied 3 death sentences against persons charged with murder. Moreover, the Gaza Courts issued 23 death sentences during this year. One of these death sentences was issued against a woman, setting a precedent in the history of the Palestinian judiciary. However, no death sentences were issued or applied in the West Bank since 2002. PCHR documented a large increase in death sentences issued in the PA this year, all of which were issued in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, no death sentences were issued this year, even though crimes were committed that are punishable by death sentences according to the applicable laws. According to PCHR's documentation during the last 20 years, the judiciary in the West Bank refrained from issuing death sentences, particularly in the last 10 years. By contrast, there was an excessive use of such a sentence in the Gaza Strip, especially in the last 10 years since the division.

In 2016, 23 death sentences were issued by the Palestinian courts in the Gaza Strip; 16 of which were new sentences issued by the Courts of First Instance while 7 others upheld previous provisions. Moreover, 9 death sentences were issued by military courts² this year. Therefore, 174 death sentences were issued since the PA's establishment; 154 of which were in the Gaza Strip. Eighty-six of these sentences were implemented after the Palestinian division in 2007. The PA implemented 35 death sentences since its establishment; 33 of which were in the Gaza Strip and 2 of which

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



22. Al-Qassam Brigades applied execution against one of its members in February 2016, claiming that he committed behavioral and moral excesses denying the law and official organizations.

23. Two of the 9 death sentences issued by the Military Supreme Court upheld previous provisions while 6 of them were new ones issued by a first degree court.

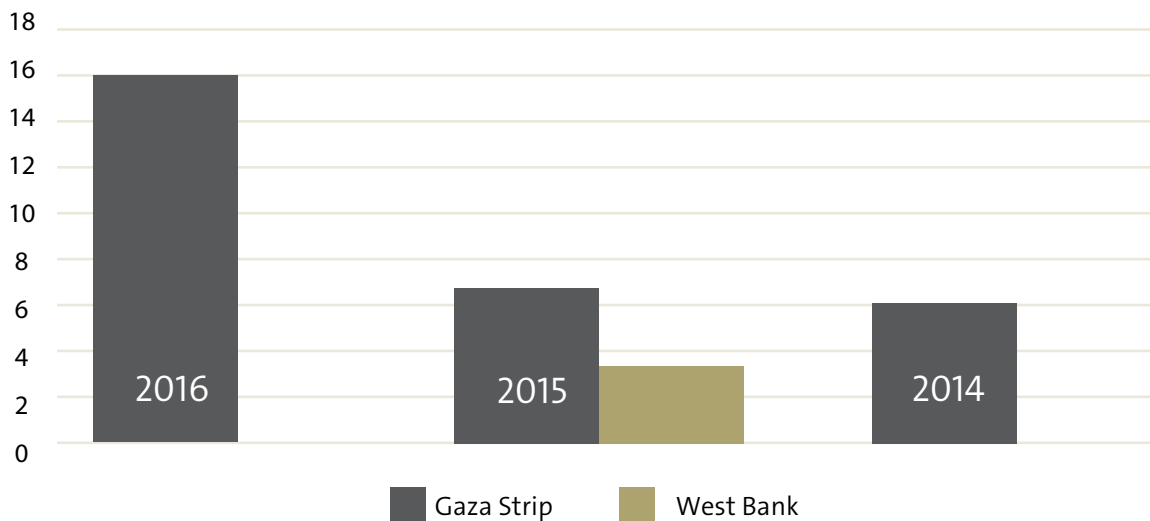
were in the West Bank; 22 of those sentences were implemented in the Gaza Strip without the approval of the Palestinian President.

On 25 May 2016, the Change and Reform Bloc took a decision to “consider the final death sentences, which were issued according to the fair trial standards and exhausted all challenge mechanisms, as ratified and enforceable”. This step was taken to pave the way for applying 3 death sentences on 31 May 2015 without the Palestinian President’s ratification, in a flagrant violation of the law, particularly Article 109 of the Palestinian Basic Law, which is unequivocally clear, as the article provides that “a death sentence pronounced by any court may not be implemented unless endorsed by the President of the Palestinian National Authority.”

PCHR sent a letter to Ismail Haniyah and issued a press release, in which PCHR reviewed the legal and objective arguments to stop these efforts and emphasizes that applying any death sentence without the Palestinian President’s ratification constitutes extra-judicial execution and that the Change and Reform Bloc’s decisions in this regard have no legal grounds. PCHR also stresses that applying any death sentence in this manner will bring the decision makers and those applying it to accountability at the local and international levels, especially in light of Palestine’s accession to the international conventions, including the ICC.

The authorities, particularly in the Gaza Strip, continued to bring persons convicted before the military judiciary. A large number of the provisions were issued by the military courts, most of which were against civilians, who were deprived of their right to present before a civil judge. Human rights organizations, particularly the PCHR, have documented many procedural violations before the judiciary and the systematic use of torture in the prisons and detention facilities. Issuing death sentences in the absence of guarantees and means of lawsuit is a severe matter of concern and objects the simplest rules of justice.

Death Sentences in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the Last Three Years



Death Sentences Issued in the PA in 2016					
#	Date of Ruling	Name	Place of Residence	Type of Court and Ruling	Accusation
1.	13 January 2016	A. M. G.	Gaza	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
2.	13 January 2016	H. M. G.	Gaza	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
3.	13 January 2016	M. M. G.	Gaza	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
4.	13 January 2016	K. M. A.	Gaza	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
5.	13 April 2016	M. Y. K.	Beit Hanoun	Gaza Court of First Instance	Murder
6.	18 April 2016	A. H. SH.	Gaza	Military Supreme Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
7.	18 April 2016	N. <A. A.	Gaza	Military Supreme Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
8.	18 April 2016	<A. H. Q.	Rafah	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
9.	18 April 2016	W. S. A.	Gaza	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
10.	18 April 2016	M. B. D.	The Central Gaza Strip	Military Court	Collaboration with Israeli forces
11.	19 July 2016	R. H. <A.	Khan Yunis	Civil Court (Appeal)	Murder
12.	19 July 2016	M. <A. A.	Gaza	Gaza Court of First Instance	Murder
13.	19 July 2016	N. <A. A.	Gaza	Civil Court (Appeal)	Murder
14.	17 August 2016	M. M. KH.	Gaza	Gaza Court of First Instance	Murder
15.	05 October 2016	N. GH. A.	Khan Yunis	Gaza Court of First Instance	Murder
16.	09 October 2016	T. M. A.	Khan Yunis	Gaza Court of First Instance	Murder
17.	16 October 2016	M. M. H.	Khan Yunis	Gaza Court of First Instance	Murder
18.	17 October 2016	S. M. SH.	The North	Gaza Court of First Instance	Murder
19.	17 October 2016	H. R. Q.	The North	Gaza Court of First Instance	Murder
20.	17 October 2016	<A. <A. M.	Khan Yunis	Supreme Court	Murder
21.	20 October 2016	H. M. SH.	The North	Gaza Court of First Instance	Murder
22.	27 April 2016 28 November 2016	Z. <A. M.	The North	Court of Appeal Gaza Court of First Instance	Murder
23.	30 November 2016	M. M. KH.	Gaza	Civil Court (Appeal)	Murder

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

The political split has continued for the 10th consecutive year, since Hamas Movement has seized control over the Gaza Strip in June 2007. In 2016, the two parties to the political split exchanged accusations and took a number of measures, including issuing political laws and decisions, which badly affected the life of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the aggravating situation of the economic, social and cultural rights of the Gaza population reached a new level, which is the worst since the beginning of the political division. The political conflict continued between the two parties to the division due to the continued fighting for seizing control over the Gaza Strip. As a result, a number of measures and decisions were taken in 2016, which prevented achieving the minimum level of reconstruction of the Gaza Strip that was victim of a wide range operation by Israeli forces in 2014, which resulted in massive destruction. At the same time, the suffering of over 65,000 civilians in the Gaza Strip increased, as they are homeless and waiting for their houses to be rebuilt in view of international promises and amidst illegal closure restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on the entry of construction materials. Until now, the UN Reconstruction Mechanism to rebuild the Gaza Strip has proven to be a failure.

According to various indicators, the Gaza Strip suffered an economic recession that reached all main economic sectors, including the industry, agriculture, tourism and services sectors. The employment sector suffered almost total recession as the employment rates in the work force have reached new levels. Moreover, estimates of international organizations show a serious increase in unemployment rates in the Gaza Strip up to 43%, which is the highest percentage globally, while the unemployment rate among youth arose to 60% and among women to 65%. The poverty indicator has seriously increased and estimates of human rights organizations working in Gaza show that more than 75% of the Gaza population depend on aid, mostly related to food insecurity, as 47% suffer from moderate or severe food insecurity.

The parties to the division took negative practical measures and policies on the economic and social level, which further deteriorated all economic and social indicators for the Gaza Strip population. As a result, the living and economic conditions of Gaza residents deteriorated, while rates of unemployment, poverty, and social marginalization increased. It also resulted in high living costs, including the costs of basic services, such as heat, education, water, food and medicine. Moreover, the deterioration coincided with the ongoing illegal closure imposed by the Israeli authorities on the Gaza Strip for more than 9 years as a collective punishment against civilians. The closure led to a state of total economic and social strangulation that contributed to obstructing all attempts aiming at improving the living conditions and respecting human dignity. The absence of the National Unity Government's rule continued to be the predominant political scene during this year. At the end of year, Hamas Movement declared to reassign senior positions in the government ministries and bodies and activated the duties of the High Administrative Committee of the Gaza Strip, which stressed the absence of any real prospects for ending the division. As a result, the people in Gaza, especially young men and women, suffered a state of frustration and losing hope, which led them to consider immigration and a future outside of Gaza.

On the one hand, the National Unity Government continued to accuse Hamas Movement of its inability to perform its functions in addition to Hamas' seizure of the Gaza Strip revenues, including fees and taxes. On the other hand, Hamas Movement continued to accuse the government of ignoring the Gaza Strip and depriving it from all the basic expenses in the fields of health, education, social security and other services. This year ended with more darkness and denial of electricity amidst very low temperatures. As a result, a baby, whose family lived in a caravan, which they obtained as a shelter in Johr al-Deek area in the central Gaza Strip, died. It should be noted that the Israeli forces destroyed al-Sawarkah's house during the 2014 offensive¹.

It should be mentioned that 2016 had ended without resolving the financial crisis regarding the salaries of the former Gaza government servants; though there were promises from some donors to provide the money needed in order to completely solve the crisis. Moreover, Hamas Movement paid a monthly rate in advance to the employees. In a serious development, on 29 November 2015, the

Change and Reform Bloc, which convenes in Gaza on behalf of the PLC, had issued a decision to allocate public lands for public servants instead of their financial dues. Taking such a decision is considered a flagrant violation of the Palestinian law's provisions regarding allocation of state lands, as it will aggravate the servants' crisis in light of the accumulation of their financial dues periodically. At the end of this year, the Bloc began handing over pieces of lands to a number of the abovementioned servants, west of Tal al-Sultan neighborhood in Rafah. The bulldozers leveled large areas of the lands located near the Saudi housing projects, west of Rafah, in a prelude to hand it over to those chosen.

At the same time, the civil and military servants from the Gaza Strip suffered from the continued deprivation of obtaining bonuses and promotions like their counterparts in the West Bank. Moreover, the Palestinian President issued a decision in April 2016, to cut off the salaries of those servants claiming they advocate for Mohammed Dahalan, a PLC member affiliated with Fatah Movement.

Deterioration of the Economic and Social Situation

The Palestinian political split contributed to deepening the severe deterioration on the economic and social level. The marginalization of the civilians in the Gaza Strip continued due to a semi-paralyzed economic sector. The Gaza Strip population was deprived of their right to run for public affairs and government jobs, which are annually announced to fill places of retired servants or in response to the demands in both the public and military service. The 2015-2017 National Development Plan was clear about any real prospects for alleviating the rate of poverty and unemployment in the Gaza Strip. The rule of the National Unity Government was limited to offering unemployment programs for those unemployed for about six months with a monthly salary below the minimum wage or the poverty line, which abuses the right to a decent life. Nevertheless, the Unity Government continued collecting fees and taxes, including taxes on the purchase of all goods, such as construction materials, fuel, cars, food supplies, tobacco and other goods.

24. The infant, Mohammed Ahmed al-Sawarkah (12 days), who lived in a caravan in Johr al-Deek area in the central Gaza Strip, died. Medical sources said that the death reason was the lack of breastfeeding and the very cold weather. More information can be found under the following link: <http://www.palsawa.com/news/2017/01/08/special/98464.html>

In addition, the collection of fees and taxes through the ministries and governmental associations, controlled by Hamas Movement, continued. In this context, the Palestinian civilians did not experience any improvement regarding the level of offered services in the fields of health, education and social security. By contrast, these services witnessed a large deterioration, due to which the civilians had to bear an extra financial burden to obtain those services. At the same time, the markets of the Gaza Strip witnessed a severe rise in the goods' prices, especially for meat and chicken. The price of one kilogram of chicken has risen before the Month of Ramadan (June) from NIS 9 to 15. As a result, people abstained from buying fresh chicken because they could not afford it.

The Palestinian policies along with the Israeli policy of institutionalizing the illegal closure of the Gaza Strip raised the unemployment rates in an unprecedented way. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the number of participants in the workforce in the Gaza Strip during the third quarter of 2016 reached 505,000, in a rate of 46.7%. A large gap existed between males and females, as 72.3% were males, while 19.2% were females. Moreover, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO), 218,000 people were affected by unemployment during the same period. A significant difference in the unemployment rate existed between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with the rate having reached 43.2% in the Gaza Strip and 19.6% in the West Bank, among which 47.3% are women. Latest estimates show a severe increase of the unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip among young men and women, with 60% of young males and 65% of young females being affected by it.

Electricity Crisis and Deterioration of the Humanitarian Situation in the Gaza Strip

The year 2016 ended with the continued exchange of accusations between the two parties to the division about the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip on the one hand, and their inability to reduce the severity of the crisis on the other hand. This situation coincided with a storm that had hit the Gaza Strip for two months. In addition, life conditions of the population and basic services, including health facilities and environment, including water networks, sewerage services and others, deteriorated. The main concern for the Gaza Strip population was to search for alternatives. The electricity crisis aggravated day by day in disregard of civilians' suffering resulting from the serious power shortage, and without any hope for improvement. By contrast, the two parties to the political split exchanged accusations on the media and claimed the respective other's responsibility for the deterioration of Gaza's electricity situation.

According to PCHR's follow-up, the Gaza Strip population only received power for 4 hours daily while residents of many neighborhoods and areas in the Gaza Strip complained that they received only 4 hours of electricity within 48 hours. The GEDCO declared that the power shortage increased after the second generator in the power plant went off. According to GEDCO's press statement, the shortage reached 73% of the Gaza Strip needs and there is no schedule for the distribution process. It has become clear, that the parties administrating the electricity sector of Gaza do not have real solutions to reducing the power outage and failed to administrate it.

The Gaza population's main concern has become to search for alternative energy sources, inflicting hardship on the people who are dependent on expensive generators or candles to make up for the shortfall in electricity supply. Due to the aggravat

ing electricity crisis, more than half a million students on all education levels in Gaza were negatively affected, and their suffering increased during the final exams at the end of the semester 2016-2017. Moreover, people who live in multi-story buildings suffer from a restriction of movement, in addition to the conflict between the programs supplying water for their houses. Patients, elderly, and persons with disabilities were not able to move in order to reach their health services in time.

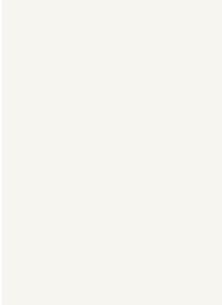
PCHR presented an initiative during the closing conference of the “Lighting Gaza” campaign, which was organized during 6 months last year. During the campaign, PCHR stressed that the electricity crisis is political par excellence and called upon the parties administrating the electricity sector to find strategic solutions on the basis of civilian’s right to enjoy basic services, including electricity. PCHR calls upon the parties administrating the electricity sector, not to involve civilians in the political spilt, and holds the Palestinian Unity Government and the Energy Authority in Gaza responsible for the aggravating electricity crisis. PCHR believes that civilians, who pay their monthly bills, should not bear the failure of parties responsible for the current crisis. Moreover, PCHR calls upon the Energy Authority in Gaza to hand over its powers in the electricity sector administration to the Unity Government, in order to facilitate the administration of the sector for achieving the best interests of civilians. Furthermore, PCHR calls upon the Unity Government to take main responsibility for the electricity sector administration in Gaza, including taking all the administrative and financial procedures that would guarantee a fair and transparent administration of the sector and improve the electricity supplies for the residents under these harsh conditions. PCHR also suggests to establish an independent and national committee comprised of professional figures experienced in the field of electricity and representatives of the political factions, private sectors, human rights organizations and civil society to participate as observers.

Conditions of Disabled Persons

In 2016, disabled persons in the Gaza Strip suffered from a serious deterioration in their rights in light of the ongoing internal split and the conflict of interests between the Unity Government in Ramallah and the authorities in Gaza. There was an absence of genuine concern to implement the legal obligations arising from the accession of the State of Palestine to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in April 2014, in addition to the texts of the Law No. 4/1999 on the rights of persons with disabilities, which grant their rights, especially in the fields of health services, rehabilitation and employment in addition to their rights in the field of entertainment, sports and participation in the cultural life of society. Persons with disabilities and their families were not only affected by the deterioration of economic and social conditions, but also by the irregularity of allocations from the Ministry of Social Affairs. Therefore, many suffered from extreme poverty and were deprived of rehabilitation services and needed medical devices. Despite the accession of the State of Palestine to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in April 2014 and its entering into force, the Palestinian Authority did not take any actions or measures to harmonize the various Palestinian legislations. Neither did it apply the Law No. 4/1999 on the right of persons with disabilities, which demands the issuance of a card guaranteeing a number of basic services in the fields of health, rehabilitation, training and education. PCHR calls upon all ministries and governmental institutions to abide by the law in order to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities to rehabilitation and employment, including the employment of 5% persons with disabilities in all governmental institutions, as a preamble to implement the above mentioned in NGOs and private sector organizations.



Education in the Gaza Strip



During 2016, the education services, including higher education, were negatively affected by the conflict between the Education Ministries in Ramallah and the Gaza Strip. The most prominent manifestation of the conflict took place at al-Aqsa University in the Gaza Strip due to decisions taken by each of the ministries in Ramallah and Gaza, which put the future of about 27,000 students at stake. At the same time, the education sector in the Gaza Strip suffered from the policies and measures taken by school administrations, especially affecting students in the girls' secondary schools, imposing a dress code onto them, which was perceived as a matter of feminization. The students considered this issue as an interference in their personal freedoms. Moreover, several forms of violence spread in Gaza schools in light of the absence of any type of monitoring. Many students were subjected to violence by their teachers as a way of punishment. On 24 September 2016, Mahmoud Wajih Hamudah, a student in the 11th grade from Zuhair al-Alami Secondary School for Boys, was suspended from school and transferred to another one far from his home, because he videotaped a teacher beating his students during class. The teacher punished them for not memorizing al-Dein verse of the Qura'an. Mahmoud was deprived of his right to return to his original school or attend the new school because he could not afford the transportation costs. PCHR interfered and discussed the issue with the Education Ministry in Gaza in order to allow the student to return to his school, but all efforts failed. The ministry and the school administration insisted to apply the decision of the so-called School Board to suspend the student on 03 October 2016 due to the abovementioned case. No punishable measures were taken against the violent teacher, who was transferred to another school, east of Gaza city, as issued in a decision by the Gaza Education Ministry. Furthermore, as Mahmoud reported to PCHR's fieldworker, the Education Department informed him that the Deputy Minister issued a decision to refer him to homeschooling at the beginning of the final exams of the semester, which caused a lot of frustration for the student.

Aggravation of al-Aqsa University Crisis

The aggravating crisis of al-Aqsa University in the Gaza Strip, the major governmental university, has jeopardized the future of over 27,000 students due to the ongoing political conflict to seize control over the university by the Education Ministry in Ramallah and its counterpart in Gaza. This development made thousands of high school students avoid joining the university, which endangers the university's future and educational reputation. The crisis has negatively affected the future of its recent graduates, as they have experienced several problems, including obstacles when seeking accreditation for their certificates. Both Ministries of Education in Ramallah and Gaza exchanged accusations and blamed each other for the deteriorating university conditions.

PCHR issued a position paper about the university crisis¹ of al-Aqsa University and the resulting violations of the right to higher education and stresses the need to protect and respect all Palestinian's right to higher education, in addition to promoting the rights of all university employees. PCHR emphasizes that all parties to the crisis should contribute to creating a positive environment in order to: improve the educational process, promote the university's educational and professional roles in the society, and meet the society's needs by educating students with different specialties and qualifications. PCHR also reiterates that the university crisis is political par excellence and calls upon both parties to the political conflict to give priority to the higher interests of students, and respect the regulations and laws related to the right of each Palestinian to higher education in order to serve the community according to its developmental requirements.

25. See: «Position Paper on al-Aqsa University Crisis in the Gaza Strip», PCHR, 26 September 2016, <http://pchrghaza.org/ar/?p=12688>.

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

In 2016, Israeli forces continued to impose restrictions on the freedom of movement in the oPt. In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli-imposed closure has been ongoing for the 10th consecutive year and restrictions have been imposed on the movement of persons and commodities via border crossings. The closure has resulted in high rates of poverty and unemployment and delayed the beginning of Gaza's reconstruction, necessary after the latest Israeli offensive, for more than one year. The offensive has left the Gaza Strip with extensive destruction of thousands of civilian objects and houses. The Gaza Strip population has been denied the right to freedom of movement in and out of the Gaza Strip, as a consequence of which the humanitarian conditions unprecedentedly deteriorated.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces have continued to restrict the movement of civilians between cities. They imposed collective punishment policies against Palestinian civilians and subjected them to degrading treatment. Following a new outbreak of escalations in the last quarter of the year, Israeli forces imposed even higher restrictions on the movement of persons and commodities by increasing the number of permanent and temporary "flying" checkpoints on the main roads between Palestinian cities. Israeli forces also re-closed many streets allocated for settlers only, although Palestinians were allowed to use them before. Furthermore, Israeli forces started using several internal checkpoints as border crossings to isolate areas classified as C from the rest of the West Bank, such as occupied East Jerusalem or the Jordan valley area along the Jordan-Palestinian border.

Israeli forces tightened the closure on Palestinian neighborhoods in occupied Jerusalem in an unprecedented way and are thereby completely isolating the city, also by denying Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to enter. For the third consecutive year, civilians from the West Bank have not been permitted to enter occupied Jerusalem, except for women over 55 and men over 60 years old.

The construction of the annexation wall that is separating the West Bank lands has doubled the suffering for Palestinian civilians and severely affected their everyday life. Residents suffer from restrictions imposed on their movement and the hindered access to hospitals and schools that are located in neighboring cities, which they need permits for to enter. In addition, the wall's gates are opened and closed during specific times and regulated by a strict security system.

Israeli forces also imposed a policy of racial discrimination against Palestinians by limiting civilian's use of public roads. By depriving Palestinians from using certain roads and only permitting settlers to use them, Palestinians are forced to use vehicles and take back longer distances to reach their destinations.

First: Israeli-imposed Closure on the Gaza Strip for the Tenth Consecutive Year

In 2016, Israeli forces continued for the tenth consecutive year to impose a strict closure policy on the Gaza Strip, hand in hand with high restrictions on the movement of persons and goods at border crossings. In September, the quantity of goods allowed to enter the Gaza Strip declined in an unprecedented way due to even higher restrictions. In addition, Israeli forces continued to impose restrictions on the import of specific goods into the Gaza Strip, the majority of which were basic commodities and raw materials.

Regarding the movement of persons, Israeli forces continued to impose restrictions on the movement of the Gaza population through Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing, which is the only crossing for people to the West Bank, including Jerusalem and/or Israel. As a result, the Gaza population was denied their right to travel to universities, Islamic and Christian holy places and to visit family in the West Bank. However, Israeli forces allowed the following limited categories to travel via Beit Hanoun crossing: patients suffering from serious diseases and their companions; Arabs holding Israeli ID's; international journalists; workers of international humanitarian organizations; businesspeople; and persons travelling via al-Karama crossing. These categories travel through the crossing under very complicated procedures.

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

Despite the increase in the number of days of opening of Rafah International Crossing Point during the last 2 months of 2016, the crossing is still permanently closed. The number of closure days added up to 323 days; i.e. 88.5% of the year. At the same time, the crossing was opened for 42 days only; i.e. 11.5% of the year. As a result, the Gaza Strip population has been denied their right to the freedom of movement and travel from and to the Gaza Strip. According to the Borders and Crossings Commission in the Gaza Strip, around 14,000 Palestinians are in desperate need to travel and already registered; most of whom are patients, workers holding residency permits in different countries and students studying in universities abroad. Besides, there are thousands of civilians who want to travel but not registered

in the travel lists because registration was closed. The number of Palestinian travelers who were allowed to leave the Gaza Strip was 21,975 persons throughout the year, while the number of travelers allowed to enter to the Gaza Strip was 15,707 persons. Around 2,039 persons were refused to enter from the Egyptian side.

Regarding the movement of goods and commodities, PCHR documented that the Israeli authorities closed the sole commercial crossing of the Gaza Strip for 132 days, i.e. 36.1% of the year. Since September, the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip has been intensified as the quantity of goods allowed to enter the Gaza Strip unprecedentedly declined. In addition, Israeli forces imposed severe restrictions on the entry of about 400 types of goods in to the Gaza Strip, most of which are basic commodities and raw materials. As a result, the availability of dozens of basic goods declined during September, particularly the materials required for infrastructure projects, manufacturing and production, such as construction materials, all types of fuel, cooking gas, industrial machinery and production lines, iron pipes of all sizes, welding machines, melting rods, different kinds of wood, UPSs, X-ray devices, mounted-crane trucks and heavy equipment, different types of batteries and fertilizers.

The Israeli authorities continued to ban the Gaza Strip's exports to the West Bank, Israel and abroad for the tenth consecutive year. However, they allowed the exportation of limited quantities of Gaza Strip products, the majority of which were agricultural. In 2016, the monthly exports amounted to 3.6% of the total Gaza exports before the imposition of the closure in June 2007, when around 4,500 truckloads were exported every month. The ban on exports resulted in the deterioration of economic conditions and the closure of hundreds of factories in Gaza, including dozens of clothing and furniture factories producing high quality

products. Therefore, thousands of workers were discharged and became unemployed, while poverty rates reached unprecedented levels.

Due to the policy of ongoing closure and social and economic strangulation, the indicators of the humanitarian situation reached alarming levels. Moreover, the social and economic rights of the Gaza Strip population deteriorated due to the serious and long-term impacts of the Israeli policies that succeeded in undermining any real opportunity to reconstruct the Gaza Strip and restore its economy. This systematic policy resulted in violations of the Palestinians' right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to adequate housing, work, health and education.

The restrictions imposed on the entry of construction materials into the Gaza Strip in addition to the UN Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism's failure violate the Gaza population's right to adequate housing. The human tragedy of people whose houses were completely destroyed continued due to the delay in the construction of new houses or reconstruction of houses destroyed by Israeli forces during the Israeli comprehensive offensive on the Gaza Strip. Around 784 families, consisting of 51,000 persons, are still living in temporary houses, rented apartments or dilapidated houses and tents, according to the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, UNDP and UNRWA in the Gaza Strip. Therefore, they cannot move on with their life and are deprived of enjoying decent life conditions. According to the latest estimates made by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Gaza currently needs 130,000 housing units to overcome the housing crisis that resulted from the destruction of houses and to meet the natural population increase.

Furthermore, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) stated that 100% of the potable water in the Gaza Strip is polluted and unfit for human use, as it does not meet the World Health Organization's (WHO) standards. In addition, the amount of water available for the Gaza population is insufficient, as each person only receives 90 liters of water per day, which does not satisfy WHO standards, which require that each individual acquires 100 – 150 liters of water per day.

The closure also resulted in the deterioration of economic indicators. The restrictions imposed on the entry of raw materials needed for production, the ban on the export of Gaza Strip products in addition to the destruction of around 70% of the economic facilities during the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip paralyzed various economic sectors. As a result, the unemployment rate reached 41.2%, according to PCBS estimates of 2016.

The ongoing closure also negatively affected the right of the Gaza Strip population to education. Thousands of Gaza students are still deprived of studying in the West Bank universities in the fields they chose, despite the fact that education in these fields is vital and important for the Gaza population. As a result of the closure, the rate of Gaza students joining West Bank universities reached zero %, in comparison to around 26% in 1994.

With regards to the health conditions, the Israeli closure deprived the Gaza population of their right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health, as the Israeli authorities continued to prohibit patients from receiving medical treatment abroad. According to the Ministry of Health, the Israeli authorities obstructed the travel of 10,003 Gaza patients referred to receive medical treatment in Israeli or West Bank hospitals. The Israeli authorities claimed that 1,726 of Gaza patients were prevented from leaving due to security reasons, 411 were asked to change their companions and 46 others were forced to wait for new appointments, while the remaining 7,820 patients were awaiting an Israeli reply following their security interviews.

Moreover, the Gaza Strip witnessed a continued decline in medicine and medical supplies and equipment, in particular during October 2016. This shortage affected the availability of medicines needed in the sections of nursery, laparoscopic surgery, intensive care, orthopedic surgery, electrocardiography (ECG) and birth papers, eye surgery, anesthesia and particularly urinary catheters, ventilators, plasters and different types of injections.

Second: Restrictions on the Movement of Persons in the West Bank and Occupied Jerusalem

The Israeli forces continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of civilians in the oPt in 2016, including collective punishment policies against and degrading treatment of Palestinian civilians. They also re-imposed further restrictions on the movement of civilians and goods between the cities of the West Bank in the last quarter of the year. PCHR emphasizes that the Israeli authorities widely violate Palestinians' right to freedom of movement and use it as part of their collective punishment policy. Those restrictions increase and decrease depending on the situation on the ground.

In 2016, the number of permanent checkpoints amounted to 472; 17 of which were established in H2⁹ area in Hebron, while 39 others were established along the Green Line, which is considered as border crossing between the West Bank and Israel. Israeli Private Security Companies controlled a part of the checkpoints under the supervision of the Crossings and Borders Department of the Israeli forces. In the last quarter of the year, Israeli forces increased the establishment of temporary checkpoints at intersections between the Palestinian cities. The Israeli forces reclosed settler bypass roads, which Palestinians used to take, to increase the Palestinians' suffering.

In occupied Jerusalem, in spite of the ongoing closure imposed on the city, its complete isolation and the banning of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering the city, Israeli forces tightened the closure on Palestinian neighbourhoods in an unprecedented way. Due to continuing stabbing attacks carried out against Israeli soldiers or settlers, Israeli forces imposed restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the city and its suburbs by establishing electronic gates and police checkpoints inside the Old City's neighbourhoods and its entrances. Those measures led to deprive Palestinian civilians from their right to enter occupied Jerusalem.

Israeli forces continued to use checkpoints as border crossings with the purpose of isolating Area C from other West Bank cities, as in the case of occupied East Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley area and other lands located behind the annexation wall. Israeli authorities, who have declared the annexation

of East Jerusalem for several decades, in clear violation of international law and UN decisions, did not deny their interest to additionally annex the Jordan Valley and other lands behind the annexation wall.

Israeli forces use checkpoints and border crossings in the West Bank in order to arrest Palestinians who are allegedly wanted. Civilians are often subjected to degrading and inhuman treatment at these checkpoints, such as physical assaults or humiliation. In 2016, according to PCHR's documentation, Israeli forces arrested at least 291 Palestinian civilians at various checkpoints in the West Bank, including 33 children and 13 women.

In the same context, at the al-Karama ('Allenby') International Crossing Point on the Jordanian border with the West Bank, Israeli forces subject Palestinian civilians to humiliation and cruel interrogation. Israeli forces prohibit thousands of Palestinians from travelling, and those who attempt to cross the border are usually subjected to body searches and humiliation. Palestinians who are denied travel include patients, women, journalists, political activists, students, PLC members, and employees of international organisations. Moreover, the Israeli forces from time to time close the crossing point for long hours without any reason, forcing hundreds of travellers, including children, women, elders and patients, to stay inside the buses.

The construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank resulted in additional restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians who live near the wall. The wall also negatively affects the

9. In 1997, an agreement was settled between the PA and Israel concerning the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the city, which was divided into two sectors: H1 sector, which is under the control of the Palestinian Authority and H2 sector, which is under Israeli control. However, in 2002, following the Operation Defensive Shield, the Israeli forces completely controlled the city and established permanent watchtowers in H1 sector.

life of Palestinian farmers, especially in the olive harvest season, as the Israeli forces deny Palestinian farmers access to their isolated lands to harvest olive or limit their entry and exit hours through the 104 gates established in the wall. These measures and restrictions aim to deprive farmers of the only source of income and force them to leave their lands and neglect them in order for Israel to confiscate them.

Israeli restrictions imposed on the movement of Palestinians did not only affect the agricultural sector, but also all other aspects of life. Many residents were denied access to hospitals in nearby villages, while teachers who come from outside the village were denied access to schools. Furthermore, family and social relations were affected by the necessity of permits for moving around in addition to the gates in the wall, which are open at certain hours only and regulated by a strict security system. The residents are often surprised by closed gates for no reason.

Israel implements a discriminatory policy that curtails the freedom of Palestinian civilians to use public roads. Palestinians suffer as a result, as they are forced to use alternative roads that are unsuitable and add considerable time to their journeys.

Military checkpoints are an obstacle for the movement of cargos as they increase the costs of transportation, which is consequently reflected in the prices of goods, and adds to the financial hardship

of consumers. The policy of closure and restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinian civilians has had a serious impact on their economic, social and cultural rights as well as their civil and political rights. The Palestinian people are experiencing a severe economic crisis that is affecting various sectors, including trade, manufacturing, agriculture, labour, tourism, transportation, investment, and development.

The policy of closure is a form of collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law. Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention specifically prohibits the punishment of protected persons for offences they have not personally committed. It also prohibits collective penalties, measures of intimidation or terrorism, and reprisals against protected persons and their property. Israeli forces have implemented the policy of closure in an entirely disproportionate and excessive manner. Restrictions have been implemented as a means of punishment, intimidation, and retaliation against Palestinian civilians. Israel isolates the Gaza Strip from the West Bank, hindering the movement of people, exports, and imports, and paralysing the Palestinian workforce. This policy culminated in the last quarter of the year when the Israeli forces deliberately reclosed many entrances to cities, villages and refugee camps with physical obstacles, such as iron gates, cement cubes, rocks and sand barriers. Jerusalem and Hebron were the affected the most by to such punitive measures, although the other West Bank cities were similarly affected.

Arrests,

Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment

At least 7,000 Palestinians remain under Israeli custody in prisons and detention facilities, facing cruel and inhuman conditions, including subjected to torture and a degrading treatment that includes been deprived of family visits and education, naked searches, night raids, solitary confinement and medical negligence, especially for patients, who suffer from chronic diseases and so on. The detainees include 54 children and 58 women while 700 others are under administrative detention without trial staying in; around 20 prisons and detention facilities most of which are inside Israel¹⁰, in a clear violation of article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which stipulates, "Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein." These prisoners include 370 prisoners from the Gaza Strip while the others are from the West Bank, including Jerusalem and Palestinians living inside Israel.

The most prominent development in 2015 was when Israel legalized force-feeding against prisoners as dozens of prisoners went on hunger strikes throughout the year in protest against their inhuman detention conditions, including the continuation of administratively detaining them without trial as a punitive measure. On 30 July 2015, the Israeli Knesset passed in the second and third readings as an amendment to the so-called "Law to Prevent Harm of Hunger Strike" allowing force-feeding of prisoners.¹¹

On 12 January 2016, as practical implementation for this decision, Israeli forces applied the force-feeding law against the administrative detainee, journalist Mohamed al-Qeeq¹², who has been on a hunger strike for about 50 days. Al-Qeeq was handcuffed and then forcibly administered intravenous fluids. Israeli forces also attempted to apply the abovementioned law on Malek al-Qadi (20), who went on a hunger strike on 15 July 2016. He was detained in Wolfson Israeli Hospital, but his determination prevented the Israeli forces from applying the above-mentioned law on him. The Israeli High Court recently suggested on the Military Prosecution to apply force-feeding on the detainees Shadid and Abu Farah, who were on hunger strike.

Force-feeding or threatening to use it is considered as a form of degrading and cruel treatment that is prohibited by the Convention against Torture and criminalized by the International Criminal Law. Force-feeding also constitutes an unjustifiable violation of prisoners' personal freedom and their right to bodily integrity, strike and protest after exhausting all means available.

The international community, especially the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, widely condemned the approval of force-feeding law by the Knesset. The aforementioned Rapporteur said, "*feeding induced by threats, coercion, force or use of physical restraints of individuals, who have opted for the extreme recourse of a hunger strike to protest against their detention, are, even if intended for their benefit, tantamount to cruel, inhuman and de-*

10. Except for Ofer Prison established in the western side of Ramallah in the West Bank.

11.

12. Al-Qeeq suspended his hunger strike on 26 February 2016, after 94 days without food; he was released on 29 May 2016 after serving his sentence

grading treatment.” The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health refused any law that legalizes force-feeding and added the patient’s approval of receiving medical treatment is a prerequisite for offering it. He also said in his statement, *“Informed consent is an integral part in the realization of the right to health.”* The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) condemned this law as well¹³.

In the peak of the hunger strike started by a number of administrative detainees in protest against extending their detention, the law was issued. Of those administrative detainees was Belal Kayed (35), from northern Asirah village in Nablus, who went on an open hunger strike on 15 June 2015 in protest against the administrative detention under which he has been placed without charges or trial though Bilal has served his 14 and half years of imprisonment. After 71 days, Belal stopped his strike on 24 August 2016 after his lawyers reached an agreement to release him on 12 December 2016.

On 01 July 2016, arrested civilian Mohammed Ahmed Balboul (26), went on a hunger strike for 6 months in protest against administrative detention. After three months, his brother Mahmoud (22) also went on a hunger strike. on 09 June 2016, the Balboul brothers were arrested from their house in Bethlehem and administratively detained. On 07 August 2016, Ofer Israeli Military Court, sentenced them to administrative detention though the deterioration of their medical conditions. Mohammed and Mahmoud continued their strike for about 80 days. On 08 December 2016, they reached an agreement to end their detention as they were released on the abovementioned date.

Anas Ibrahim Shadid (19), from Dura in Hebron, and Ahmed Mohammed Abu Farah (29), from Surif in Hebron, persisted their open hunger strike since 25 September 2016, in protest of their imprisonment. The health condition of both detainees has severely deteriorated after they refused to consume water in the last days. Israeli Authorities refused to release them despite the deterioration of their medical condition. Human rights sources mentioned that there were damages to their bodies in the heart muscle, vision nerves, uceration of

the mouth and pharynx. They suffered from pain in the head, teeth, muscle, joints, abdomen and groins in addition to muscle atrophy and a significant weight loss. On 22 December 2016, 3 months after their strike, Shadid and Abu Farah suspended their hunger strike, following an agreement with the Israeli military prosecution that the two would be released after one final renewal of their administrative detentions for four months as they will be released in the beginning of June 2017.

During this year, Israeli forces issued cruel sentences against detained minors which is a violation of International Humanitarian Law, the International Human Rights Law mainly conventions pertaining to the child’s rights. This method adopted by the Israeli authorities that have issued hundreds of similar provisions against minors. On 07 November 2016, the Israeli Military Court in occupied Jerusalem issued a sentence against Ahmed Manasra (14) to 12 years of actual imprisonment. They claimed he and his cousin attempted to stab Israelis¹⁴ in occupied Jerusalem last year.

The arrest and cruel treatment practiced against the Manasra child in the Israeli jails in addition to the unfair 12-year imprisonment sentence shed light on hundreds of children, who are detained in the Israeli jails and detention facilities under degrading circumstances. Statistics reveal that over 9,000 Palestinian children have been arrested by Israeli forces since 2000; the majority of whom were psychologically or physically tortured while others were sentenced to actual imprisonment. Statistics of the Defense for Children International Palestine (DCIP) points out that 1,260 children have been arrested in 2016, including 330 children aging between 12-15 years.

Israeli forces also arrested civilians on grounds of expressing their opinions on the social network pages and bringing them to trial on grounds of accusing them of incitement against the State of Israel. PCHR has documented a number of arrest cases, particularly among journalists and media workers. Among them was journalist Samah ‘Alaa’ Edeen Jamil Duwaik (25), who was arrested on 10 April 2016. She was charged her of incitement against

13. See link: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16269&LangID=E>

14. Israeli forces arrested Manasra after opening fire at him and his cousin Hassan Khaled Manasra (15) on 12 October 2015 under the pretext they attempted to stab Israelis in occupied Jerusalem. Ahmed was seriously wounded then but his cousin Hassan was killed. Manasra, who was (13) then, was arrested and tortured in spite of his serious injury. A video leaked from the Israeli interrogation center displayed how Manasra was subject to psychological and physical torture by interrogators.

Israeli authority on her Facebook page. Samah was sentenced for six months imprisonment. On 15 May 2016, an Israeli court issued a sentence against journalist Sami al-Saa'i from Tulkarm, under the pretext of incitement on his Facebook page. Amani al-Janab, Sami's wife, said to PCHR's fieldworker that Salem's Military court issued a sentence against her husband to serve 9 months of actual imprisonment and 12 months suspended for 3 years.

In 2016, Israeli forces arrested 3,982 Palestinians; including 700 children, 63 women and 5 PLC members, in the oPt. Three thousand five hundred and forty-nine persons were arrested in the West Bank; most of whom were arrested during the wave of protests that hit the oPt since the beginning of October 2015. Meanwhile, 184 Palestinians were arrested in the Gaza Strip; 76 of whom were arrested when attempting to sneak into Israel through the border fence, and 43 others, including patients, were arrested while traveling via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing to the West Bank for work or medical treatment. Israeli forces also arrested 59 Palestinian fishermen, who were fishing within the allowed fishing area, off the shore. Around 6 Palestinians were arrested in the confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers along the eastern borders of the Gaza Strip.

At the end of this year, Israeli forces continued detaining 6 PLC Members, including Marwan al-Barghuthi, representing Fatah Parliamentary bloc, and sentenced to life imprisonment; Ahmed Sa'adat, representing the Popular Front for PFLP, who is ar-

rested since 2006 and serves a 30 years of imprisonment. Israeli forces also administratively detained 4 PLC Members. They renewed the administrative detention of Hasan Yusuf, who was arrested on 20 October 2015, after Israeli forces raided his house in Betunia. Yusuf was arrested several times before. Moreover, the administrative detention of Mohammed Jamal al-Natcheh was renewed for the 8th time for 6 months. It should be noted that al-Natcheh is detained in the Israeli jails since 27 March 2013. Israeli forces also arrested Mohammed Abu Tair, who was deported from Jerusalem on 28 January 2016. On 13 December 2016, Ofer Israeli Court issued a sentence against Abu Tair to serve 17 months of actual imprisonment and 30-month-suspended sentence in addition to a financial bill estimated around NIS 8000, after he served 11 months of administrative detention. On 28 November 2016, Israeli forces arrested 'Azzam Salhab, who is under the administrative detention in the meantime.

during 2016, Israeli forces arrested 4 PLC Members and released 2 of them before the end of the year. However, they arrested one of them again, while the two others are still under administrative detention. From the other side, Israeli forces released 3 PLC Members, two of them were arrested for 6 administrative months during the year. They were identified as Abed al-Jaber Foqahaa', Hatem Qafisha from the Change and Reform Bloc, and Khaleedah Jarrar, who was released after serving her sentence that began on 04 February 2015.

Administrative Detention

Hundreds of Palestinians in the Israeli prisons are under administrative detention, which is a measure that allows detaining Palestinians for an unlimited period without an indictment or trial according to secret information or an order issued by the Israeli Military Commander, who has the power under Military Order 1651. Since the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, the Israeli government has applied this type of detention as a form of collective punishment which is internationally prohibited under the Fourth Geneva Conventions 1949 in order to make detainees serve the longest possible detention periods without presenting any charges or evidence against them.

In light of the continued protests against Israeli forces particularly in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, it was remarkable that Israeli forces issued dozens of administrative detention provisions against Palestinians under the pretext of incitement against the Israeli forces on media networks. The Israeli authorities detain 700 Palestinian ad-

ministrative detainees in Israeli prisons and detention facilities, including 4 PLC Members, in flagrant violation of the right to fair trial, including his right to receive a proper defense and be informed of any charges against him. The administrative detention is also in violation of the accused person's right to fair trial when imposing under administrative

detention, which is applied according to an administrative order and not a judicial decision, and in a way that affect the fair judicial proceedings, including fair trials.

Medical Negligence in the Israeli Jails

On 25 September 2016, Yasser Thiab Hamdonah (40), from Ya'bud in Jenin in the West Bank, was pronounced dead after suffering from severe bleeding in the brain in addition to cardiac problems in Soroka Hospital in Beersheba in Israel after he was transferred to the hospital. Hamdonah was detained in 2003 in Ramon Prison in Israel as he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

PCHR is concerned that Hamdonah's death is due to medical negligence and not offering the needed medical care for him during his illness. This regime is a systematic policy of the Israeli authorities against Palestinian detainees. They slowdown in offering proper medicine for hundreds of patients, leading to the deterioration of their medical conditions and death in most times. This policy is a violation of the article 76 of Fourth Geneva Convention which stipulates that: *"They shall, if possible, be separated from other detainees and shall enjoy conditions of food and hygiene which will be sufficient to keep them in good health, and which will be at least equal to those obtaining in prisons in the occupied country. They shall receive the medical attention required by their state of health..."*

According to Palestinian and Israeli local human rights organizations, the number of the patients

suffering from medical conditions and chronic or serious diseases such as cancer, cardiac problems and paralysis in the Israeli jails and detention facilities are increasing due to the policy of the deliberate medical negligence and the unsuitable health and environmental conditions for them. According to statistics, there are about 1000 medical conditions in Israeli jails and detention facilities that require medical treatment, while dozens of sick patients need urgent interfere to save their lives. Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein. They shall, if possible, be separated from other detainees and shall enjoy conditions of food and hygiene which will be sufficient to keep them in good health, and which will be at least equal to those obtaining in prisons in the occupied country.

Torture and Maltreatment

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are subjected to torture and degrading treatment from the moment they are arrested. They are harshly beaten by hands and hoses, verbally insulted and humiliated the whole way long to the detention facilities. Prisoners are tortured by officers of the Intelligence Service "Shabak" during interrogation and even when in prison. Prisoners' suffering does not end by the end of interrogation, but continues during their imprisonment. They are subjected to cruel procedures, including torture and inhumane and degrading treatment, sleep deprivation, medical negligence and denial of family visits and their right to receive legal representation and consultation.



Israeli bulldozers demolish Palestinian houses

Israeli

Attacks against Journalists and Media Workers

Israeli forces remarkably escalated their attacks against Palestinian journalists in local and international agencies in the oPt. These attacks violate journalists' right to personal security and discourage them from covering the crimes committed against Palestinian civilians and their property and exposing these crimes to the whole world. Despite the special protection ensured to journalists by international law, the last quarter of the year witnessed an escalation of violations targeting journalists while carrying out their work and covering incidents in the oPt.

This report shows the escalation of the Israeli forces' arrest against civilians, including journalists, under the pretext of "incitement against Israel". The escalation came following the resolution of the Israeli Security Cabinet on 10 March 2016, which stated closing radio stations and satellite channels under the pretext of "incitement against Israel". Due to this decision, the closing of many radio stations and other printing presses the West Bank followed, in addition to implementing an arrest campaign against dozens of Palestinian civilians under the pretext of "incitement against Israel" on social media.

In 2016, Israeli forces carried out more crimes against journalists. The most significant attacks were committed while journalists were covering peaceful protests organized by Palestinian civilians and international solidarity and human rights activists against the confiscation of Palestinian lands in the West Bank for the interest of the annexation wall and settlement expansion. Those attacks included violations of the right to personal security; firing at journalists; beating and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; detention of journalists; denying journalists' access to certain areas; raids on media offices, satellite channels and the houses of journalists; and raids and closure of radio stations.

The shooting incidents carried out by Israeli forces against journalists working in local and international media agencies resulted in the injury of 20 journalists;¹⁵ most of whom sustained severe wounds and suffered disabilities. This total number included journalists wounded with live and metal bullets or directly hit with tear gas canisters as the Israeli soldiers deliberately fired gas canisters at civilians to wound them. On 02 September 2016, Nidal Ishtaya (42), from Salem village, east of Nablus, was hit with a gas bomb to the back of his head. As a result, his helmet was smashed and he sustained wounds to the head. The aforementioned person was covering the Kufor Qaddoum weekly protest, northeast of Qalqilya. Moreover, 09 journalists were exposed to beating, violence, humiliation and degrading treatment. On 27 June 2016, Israeli forces beat and pushed journalist crews in al-Aqsa Mosque yards. The wounded journalists were identified as Ahmed Jaradat and Osaid 'Amarneh. Furthermore, around 30 journalists and media workers were exposed to arrest and detention, accompanied by raids and searching the journalists' houses by Israeli forces.

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

Israeli forces issued judgments against 7 journalists on varying charges, including incitement against Israel. Some of the journalists were released while others are under arrest until now. Among those arrested is a journalist, Sami Sa'ied al-Sa'iy (36), who was arrested on 09 March and sentenced on 15 May for 9 months on charge of incitement against Israel on Facebook. Moreover, the Israeli forces raided 8 press institutions, especially radio stations. They also searched those institutions and confiscated their contents. They closed 5 press institutions on charge of incitement against Israel. On 31 August 2016, Israeli forces raided al-Sanabel radio station, destroyed its contents, confiscated transmission and broadcast equipment, and detained the head of the radio. In addition, they raided and searched 2 houses belonging to 2 other journalists. On 05 April 2016, Israeli forces raided and searched a house belonging to a journalist, Diala Jouyhan in al-Thawri neighborhood, south of occupied Jerusalem.

Israeli forces have been preventing the printing of al-Risalah and Falastin newspapers, which are issued in the Gaza Strip and printed in the West Bank, for 2 years. On 28 May 2014, Israeli authorities issued a decision that prevents the printing of the aforementioned newspapers in al-Ayam printing press in the West Bank. Israeli forces raided the office of al-Ayam in Bitouniya village, west of Ramallah, in the center of the West Bank, and informed the press administration about a military decision that prevents them from the printing and distributing the Falastin newspaper that is issued by Gaza City. Furthermore, Israeli forces unprecedentedly escalated the closure of the Palestinian printing presses in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. They also confiscated their contents under the pretext of incitement against Israeli authorities. PCHR documented the closure of 10 printing presses over the year, including al-Rayyan printing press, which was raided on 20 October and whose contents were confiscated on charge of incitement against Israel.

Destruction of Civilian Property

Israeli forces continued to systematically demolish Palestinian civilian property in Area C, defined by the Oslo Accords between the PLO and Israel in 1993. Although this policy continued also in the West Bank, it particularly concentrated on East Jerusalem this year, as part of the policies ultimately aiming at creating a Jewish demographic majority in the city. The demolitions in the West Bank are carried out under the pretext of not obtaining building permits from the planning and building committee of the Israeli Civil Administration at “Beit Eil” settlement or from the Israeli municipality concerning houses present in occupied East Jerusalem.

In 2016, Israeli forces largely activated the policy of house demolitions as a collective punishment policy. The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, decided to activate this policy by demolishing, blowing up or closing the houses of families of Palestinians who carry out run-over and/or stabbing attacks against Israeli soldiers and settlers in the occupied Palestinian territory. In 2016, Israeli forces demolished and/or blew up and/or closed 25 houses; 7 of which were in occupied East Jerusalem and its suburbs; 8 in Hebron; 4 in Nablus; 4 in Jenin; 1 in Ramallah and 1 in Qalqiliya. PCHR condemns this policy and highlights that it falls within the policy of collective punishment adopted by Israeli forces against innocent Palestinians, in violation of article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War that prohibits collective penalties and reprisals against protected persons and their property.

The Israeli authorities adopted, especially in occupied East Jerusalem and areas adjacent to settlements and bypass roads, prolonged and complicated measures in granting building permits to Palestinian civilians. While the Israeli authorities facilitated the settlement expansion in those areas under the pretext of the urgent need to meet the population growth of settlers and allowed the settlers to randomly build in the oPt, the Israeli authorities imposed restrictions and obstacles on the Palestinian civilians concerning the building permits. As a result of this policy and under the pressure of population growth, thousands of Palestinian civilians were forced to build new houses or attach structures to the present buildings, although they are aware of the consequences in advance. PCHR decisively stresses the illegality of the settlement expansion in the oPt and considers settlement activities as a war crime. Nevertheless, the Israeli authorities embrace racial discrimination when dealing with issues related to non-licensed buildings in the Palestinian villages and non-licensed ones in the settlements.

This year witnessed a remarkable escalation in the demolition of houses and other civilian objects that were used for agricultural, industrial or commercial purposes in the West Bank. In 2016, 256 dwellings were demolished; 89 of which were in East Jerusalem and its suburbs, including 7 houses whose owners were obliged to self-demolish them, and the remaining 167 houses and dwellings were distributed throughout the West Bank. As a result, the number of houses that were demolished on grounds of non-licensing and collective punishment increased to 281. The Israeli authorities apply the policy of obliging Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses. Some Palestinian families do this to avoid paying high fines that include fines for building without a permit and the fees paid for Israeli vehicles applying the demolition decision.

The house demolitions were distributed as follows: 89 houses in Jerusalem, including 7 houses whose owners were obliged to self-demolish them; 48 houses in Tubas and the northern Jordan Valley; 25 houses in Hebron; 9 houses in Bethlehem; 9 houses in Jericho; 70 houses in Nablus; 5 houses in Ramallah and al-Bireh; and 1 house in Tulkarm.

Additionally, Israeli forces demolished 344 facilities used for non-residential purposes, including barracks, commercial stores, fences, tents, storehouses and stone-cutting workshops, in addition to levelling roads and electricity networks. The demolished facilities were distributed as follows: 54 facilities in Jerusalem, including 7 facilities whose owners were obliged to self-demolish them; 28 in

Hebron; 103 in Tubas and the northern Jordan Valley; 3 in Bethlehem; 33 in Jericho; 93 in Nablus; 5 in Jenin; 22 in Ramallah and al-Bireh; and 3 facilities in Qalqiliya.

During this year in the Gaza Strip, PCHR documented that Israeli artilleries stationed along the border fence, in the east of the Gaza Strip, fired shells at many areas in Beit Hanoun, in the north of the Gaza Strip. As a result, 3 houses were partially damaged. Moreover, PCHR documented the demolition of several agricultural dunums, carried out by Israeli forces during limited incursions in Rafah, Khan Yunis and in the central Gaza Strip. Due to these policies, several plants and trees were damaged.

Settlement

Activities and Attacks by Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

The Israeli government, its occupation forces, and settlers living in the oPt in violation of international law have continued the expansion of settlements in the West Bank. Armed Israeli settlers, protected by Israeli forces, have continued to commit crimes against Palestinian civilians and property. This year witnessed the killing of a Palestinian civilian and the severe injuring of his brother by Israeli settlers.

Settlement Expansion

The Israeli government, its occupation forces, and settlers living on Palestinian land in violation of international law have continued the expansion of settlements in areas categorised as Area C, and especially in East Jerusalem. In spite of increasing international criticism towards Israeli settlement activities, Israeli authorities unprecedently continued to increase these activities throughout the year. The end of 2016 witnessed the issuing of a new resolution by the UN Security Council (UNSC) with the agreement of 14 members, while the US abstained from the voting. The resolution reaffirmed that Israeli settlements established on Palestinian lands occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, have no legal validity according to international law. The resolution also reiterates its call upon Israel, as the occupying power, to stop immediately and completely all settlement activities in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, and to fully respect all its relevant legal obligations. Moreover, the decision emphasized that it would not recognize any changes to the borders of 1967, including Jerusalem, except as agreed upon by the parties. In spite of criticism mentioned above, the international community did not take dissuasive measures, which would oblige the Israeli forces to respect international humanitarian law. Therefore, Israel will continue to practice this policy. After the issuance of the UNSC's resolution, the Israeli Prime Minister declared that he will not recognize this decision and will not commit to it.

In clear defiance of international law, the Israeli Knesset approved on 05 December 2016 in the Preliminary reading and on 07 December 2016 in the first reading the "Regulation Bill". This bill allows maintaining the Israeli settlement outposts established on Palestinian privately owned lands and demands in exchange the financial compensation or allocation of other lands for Palestinians.

In addition, this bill stipulates on converting over 55 settlement outposts into official settlements, which will apply to around 4,000 settlement outposts in the West Bank. The bill was issued and voted in the Preliminary reading, following the Israeli Supreme Court decision to vacate 'Amona settle-

ment, which is established on Palestinian privately owned lands belonging to civilians from Selwad village, east of Ramallah.

PCHR emphasizes that the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, is an occupied territory according to international humanitarian law and other international resolutions. Therefore, PCHR has persistently called upon the international community to immediately intervene to compel the Israeli government to stop all settlement activities in the oPt, especially in East Jerusalem, and dismantle Israeli settlements, which constitute a war crime under international humanitarian law.

Confiscation of Palestinian Civilian Property

Israeli forces have continued to confiscate civilian property belonging to Palestinians to facilitate the expansion of settlements. This is in violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits changing the nature of an occupied territory unless there is a military necessity in the narrow sense of the term – a condition that is not fulfilled in this case.

During the reporting period, the area categorised as Area C under the Oslo Accords, as agreed between the PLO and the Israeli government in 1993, was the main target of Israeli confiscation operations in 2016. The aim was to evacuate the Palestinian population to make way for settlement expansion projects. Communities in the area were subjected to wide-scale demolition operations against houses and agricultural facilities, such as water wells, rainwater harvesting pools and cattle barns. Israeli forces issued hundreds of demolition orders for these facilities.

In addition, the illegal settlements were completely supported by the Israeli government, which offered many settlement construction tenders and plans for the West Bank. Construction plans for 3,000 new settlement units in different Israeli settlements were approved. Moreover, military orders were issued concerning thousands of dunums of Palestinian land for the construction of the an-

nexation wall or for confiscation under the pretext that these lands were state property. Accordingly, Palestinians are prevented from using them without permits issued by the responsible Israeli authorities. Israeli forces confiscated around 13,295 dunums in 2016 under several pretexts, including, inter alia, security reasons, state property and closed military zones. The Israeli Civil Administration crews surveyed around 62,000 dunums of the West Bank lands as a step to join these lands to the Israeli settlements later.

Furthermore, thousands of trees were attacked by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank. They cut off, burnt, damaged, dumped trees with sewage water and poisoned them with chemicals. In 2016, the number of trees that were attacked amounted to 9,700 trees, 6,550 of which were olive trees, in addition to citrus, grape, vines, other fruitful trees and woodlands, according to the Land Research Centre (LRC).

Ethnic Cleansing

Following the Oslo Accords in 1993, Israeli forces targeted Area C for settlement expansion. The Palestinian civilians became victims of those projects that would further isolate Jerusalem from the West Bank, while cutting the northern West Bank off from its southern reaches. This would also make the establishment of a viable state impossible.

Israeli forces apply this policy of ethnic cleansing in Area C through demolishing houses and livestock barns under the pretext that they were built with no building permits from the Israeli Civil Administration. Israeli forces force residents to vacate these areas under the pretext of military training or being part of military zones in order to destroy their basic needs and increase their suffering.

In 2016, Israeli forces continued to target the Palestinian Bedouin communities to uproot them from their residence areas, especially the eastern slopes of the West Bank and valleys where around 140 families were displaced. On 04 February 2016, Israeli forces demolished 4 residential tents and 16 facilities in the northern Jordan Valley. On 09 February 2016, Israeli forces demolished 12 residential tents, 6 livestock barns and 6 stores used for storing feed in Tana area, overlooking the central valleys. Moreover, on 10 February 2016, Israeli forces demolished 3 residential

barracks roofed with tin plates; electricity and water networks; and 2 livestock barns and birds in al-Musafeh and Kherbit al-Shona areas, west of al-Jeftlik village, north of Jericho. On the same day, Israeli forces demolished for the second time 4 residential tents in Dira'Awad area in less than a week.

On 11 February 2016, Israeli vehicles demolished 11 dwellings and 25 other attached facilities in al-Farisyia, 'Ain al-Bida and Bardlah areas in the northern Jordan Valley, east of Tubas. On 15 February 2016, the Israeli vehicles demolished 24 residential tents, 30 livestock barns used as sheep shelters and 12 other attached facilities in al-Rashrash area, south of Doma village, southeast of Nablus. On 02 March 2016, the Israeli vehicles demolished for the second time 10 residential tents and 6 other tents used as barns for sheltering sheep in Kherbit Tannah in less than one month. On 07 April 2016, the Israeli vehicles demolished for the third time 16 residential tents, 5 caves used as dwellings and 15 other barns used for sheltering sheep in Kherbit Tannah since the beginning of this year. Moreover, on 07 September 2016, the Israeli forces demolished 3 dwellings and 11 other attached facilities, east of al-Aqaba village in the northern

Jordan Valley. On 27 September 2016, 6 dwellings with their facilities (kitchens and bathrooms) and 9 barns used for sheltering sheep were demolished in Kherbit al-Hemmah in the northern Jordan Valley. On 09 October 2016, the Israeli forces demolished 11 dwellings and 30 other attached facilities in Kherbit Ras al-Ahmar, east of Tubas. On 31 October 2016, 4 dwellings and 13 other attached facilities were demolished in Kherbit al-Deir in the northern Jordan Valley, east of Tubas. On 14 November 2016, the Israeli forces demolished 28 stores in al-Ojaa village, north of Jericho.

It should be noted that the Israeli forces not only targeted Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley area or areas overlooking it, but also southern areas of Hebron. On 06 April 2016, the Israeli forces demolished 6 dwellings built with tin plates in Kherbit Um al-Kheir, southeast of Yatta village, southwest of Hebron. On 24 August 2016, 2 dwellings were demolished along with a youth center in the same area. Moreover, on 09 August 2016, the Israeli forces demolished 5 dwellings in Kherbit Um al-Kheir. On 16 August 2016, 7 residential houses and a barrack used for sheltering sheep were demolished in Kherbit Jourat al-Khail, east of Sa'ir village, east of Hebron.

Efforts to Create a Jewish Demographic Majority in Jerusalem

The Israeli government and its occupation forces have continued the construction of settlements in East Jerusalem and its suburbs in an effort to create a Jewish demographic majority in the city. They have cut off East Jerusalem from the West Bank, constructed new sections of the annexation wall and continued activities of settlement expansion in and around the city. The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem has continued to demolish Palestinian houses under the pretext of the lack of building permits and/or obliged Palestinian civilians to self-demolish their houses. In 2016, there was an escalation in the demolition of houses and civilian property and an increasing number of demolition notices were delivered to Palestinian civilians in East Jerusalem and its suburbs. PCHR expresses its deep concern over targeting civilians' houses on a wide-scale next year, after orders were issued by the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to speed up the house demolitions in occupied East Jerusalem, under the pretext of non-licensing.

In 2016, Israeli forces, under the instructions of the Municipality of Jerusalem, continued to demolish Palestinian houses throughout the city and its suburbs, citing unlicensed construction as the reason for demolition. The municipality continued to impose lengthy and complicated procedures on Palestinian civilians who attempted to obtain building permits. Thus, many Palestinians, under pressure to build new houses or expand existing houses due to natural population growth, do so without obtaining permits. Meanwhile, Israel, through the Municipality of Jerusalem, the Min-

istry of Housing, the Ministry of Interior and settlement associations, approved the construction of thousands of housing units for Israeli settlers inside and around Jerusalem. The Israeli Newspaper Haaretz reported on 26 December 2016, that this year witnessed a remarkable increase in a number of settlement schemes, which were submitted and approved in Jerusalem. It added that *“since the beginning of this year, around 1506 settlement units were approved, and in 2015, around 395 settlement units were approved, while in 2014, 775 settlement units were approved.”*

In the context of seizing Palestinian facilities for the interest of settlement associations, the settlement associations gained control over a 3-dunum land in al-Sheikh Jarrah, north of East Jerusalem, belonging to Ta’ah and Siyam families. Moreover, they seized control over 2 houses in occupied Jerusalem’s Old City. In the middle of July, Ateret Cohanim Association seized control over a property belonging to al-Bakri family in Bab Hatah area in the Old City, under the pretext that the family was an “unprotected tenant”. The property shelters 6 members, including 3 children. In the middle of July, the Ateret Cohanim Association seized control over a property belonging to Mazen Qersh in the Old City, under the pretext that the family was an “unprotected tenant” and lost the protection because it is from the “fourth generation”. It should be noted that the family has lived in the house since 1936 and around 8 members, including 2 children, are living in the property.

In the same context, El’ad settlement association seized control over a residential building comprised of 2 floors and a plot of land surrounding it in Baydoun neighborhood (Wadi Helwa), in Selwan village. Moreover, it seized control over a 2-storey residential building in Wadi Helwa neighborhood. Israeli settlers seized control over a residential building overlooking al-Sa’diyia neighborhood in the Old City. The building is comprised of many rooms belonging to al-Youzbashi family. On 30 December 2016, the settlement associations seized control over a property in Hosh al-Fakhoury in Wadi Helwa. The property is comprised of 2 floors and was built on an area of 160 square meters. Local sources stated that it is not certain until now that the property was seized because of transferring its ownership between the Palestinian families in the neighborhood.

In addition to these illegal measures, the Israeli Ministry of Interior continued to withdraw identity cards from Palestinian civilians living in the city and expel them from the city to areas in the West Bank. The Ministry withdraws identity cards under various pretexts, including political allegiances or the fact that the individual works outside the boundaries of the city.

PCHR highlights that these measures are illegal, as Jerusalem is part of the oPt. PCHR also stresses that the Israeli municipality is prejudiced against Palestinians when it comes to construction licenses. PCHR believes that the Israeli policy of displacement against Palestinians from Jerusalem is one of the main practices adopted by Israeli authorities to create a Jewish majority in the city.

Additionally, Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on the Palestinian non-governmental organizations in the city under the pretext that they would work under the supervision of the PLO and/or PA. The Israeli practices included raids on associations and banning meetings or events. On 08 August 2016, the Israeli police closed Sa’ed Institution for Educational Consultations in East Jerusalem’s Old City under the pretext of “supporting terrorism”. The police had summoned Jamil Hamami, member of the Islamic Higher Council, the Executive Director of al-Eman schools and member of the Islamic Culture Society. They handed him the closure decision that was signed by the Israeli police general inspector.

Israeli forces continued to violate the Palestinian’s freedom of religion by imposing restrictions on the entry of Muslims and Christians to East Jerusalem to perform their rituals in the city. This coincided with diggings around al-Aqsa Mosque, settlers and security services’ raids on the mosque and demands to create a separation between Muslims and Jews, similarly to what happened in the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron. Wadi al-Helwa Information Center documented that around 15,878 Israeli settlers raided the mosque during this year through al- Magharba Gate, which was seized by the Israeli authorities in 1967.

In a serious and remarkable development, on 04 November 2016, Israeli forces raided the al-Rahman, al-Taybeh and al-Jamia mosques in Abu Dis village, and informed the ‘muezzins’ that call for dawn prayer through the loudspeakers was

banned. They prevented residents of the western areas of the village from reaching the Salah al-Din mosque for dawn prayers. In blatant defiance of all traditions and international laws, the Israeli authorities sought for enacting a law in the Knesset, which prevents the calling for dawn prayer through the loudspeakers, on the ground of the so-called "Israeli noise regulation". This year ended without the enactment of this law, but the attempts to enact it are still ongoing.

In 2016, schools in the city were remarkably attacked and some students were arrested while go-

ing to their schools. Moreover, Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the schools. They also arrested students from their classes. The schools that were exposed to attacks identified as the Islamic Orphans Secondary School in the Old City, Ras al-'Amoud School and al-Tour School. Around 38 students were arrested while heading to their schools and leaving their houses. Moreover, the Israeli forces arrested Samir Jebril, Head of Jerusalem Education Administration, and Mohamed al-Atrash, Headmaster of the Islamic Orphans Secondary School, claiming that their students threw stones at Israeli soldiers.

Attacks by Israeli Settlers against Palestinian Civilians and Property

In 2016, armed Israeli settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

On 18 January 2016, an Israeli settler from "Ariel" settlement ran over two brothers, one of whom was a child from Mas'ha village, west of Salfit, while they were returning by bicycle from their work in Kufor Qassem village. The settler intentionally deviated from the main street, although it was empty, and drove towards the bicycle that was rode by Khalil Mousa Zuhair 'Amir (19) and his brother 'Odai (17). As a result, the bicycle rolled over and 'Amir was immediately killed, while 'Odai sustained serious wounds.

In addition to the abovementioned crime, the Israeli settlers committed several assaults against Palestinian civilians and wounded them by using firearms, knives, sticks and batons. Furthermore, religious areas were exposed to assaults. On 17 January 2016, settlers wrote racist and inciting slogans on the gates of Dormition Abbey of the Virgin Mary on Mount Zion in occupied East Jerusalem, and on the walls of Priesthood Institute, which belongs to Orthodox Patriarchate on Mount Zion.

On 20 March 2016, a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the bedroom of Ibrahim Dawabsha (23) in Douma village, southeast of Nablus, while he and his wife Yaqin Dawabsha (20) were asleep. Their house is close to the house of Sa'd Dawabsha, whom along with his wife and baby were killed due to an arson attack by settlers on 31 July 2015. As a result, the house was set on fire and Ibrahim and his wife suffered smoke inhalation before they could get out of the house. A finger is pointed at the settlers regarding the arson attack, as Ibrahim is the only eyewitness of the previous arson against Dawabsha family.

PCHR emphasizes that those attacks were launched by Israeli settlers under the Israeli forces' protection, which even joined them in launching dozens of attacks. Israeli forces do not intervene to stop such attacks, nor do they take legal action against settlers. In general, Israeli forces ignore complaints submitted by Palestinian victims against Israeli settlers and do not investigate them. This policy adopted by Israeli forces encourages settlers to commit more crimes against Palestinian civilians, and frustrates Palestinian victims who abstain from submitting complaints to Israeli authorities because they are convinced that Israeli authorities would not seriously consider and investigate their complaints.

The Annexation Wall in the West Bank

Although 12 years passed since the Advisory Opinion has been issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 9 July 2004 on the legal consequences of the wall in response to a request by a UN General Assembly Resolution of 03 December 2003, Israel has not taken any measure to change the situation on the ground. The ICJ ruled that the wall's construction inside the oPt, including East Jerusalem, violates international law. It also found that Israel is bound to put an end to its violations of international law, stop the construction works of the wall, dismantle the sections already constructed, abolish all relevant legislation and orders, and compensate Palestinians harmed by the construction of the wall. The ICJ called upon the international community to abstain from helping the continued illegal status, which was established after the construction of the annexation wall, to take the legal steps to stop the Israeli violations and ensure the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention. However, the Israeli authorities and its judicial system have continued to ignore the ICJ's opinion, and the Israeli government continued to act as a state above the law. Moreover, the international community has not taken any measures to deter the Israeli forces or hold them accountable for their crimes and serious violations of international humanitarian law in the oPt.

Facts on the ground show that Israel built the annexation wall on alleged security grounds due to which the wall became an obstacle for the Palestinians, who seek the establishment of their state within the 1967 borders. According to Palestinian estimations, the area of Palestinian lands surrounded and isolated in between the annexation wall and the 1967 borders reached about 680 square kilometers, i.e. 12% of the West Bank; 454 square kilometers of which are agricultural lands and pastures.

The Absence of Justice in the Israeli Legal System

Palestinian people are still awaiting the decision of the International Criminal Court for the third consecutive year, to open an investigation into crimes committed in the oPt since 13 June 2014. They are also waiting for the issuing of summonses and arrest warrants against the Israeli leaders who are responsible for committing those crimes, especially with regards to the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in June 2014. PCHR and other human rights organizations, such as al-Mizan, al-Dameer and al-Haq, submitted 3 legal submissions about crimes committed in the oPt since June 2014, the latest from 22 November 2016 being about the Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and its implications that may amount to a crime against humanity. The abovementioned human rights organizations called for opening an investigation on these crimes. It should be noted that human rights organizations submitted 2 legal submissions about the Israeli offensive of 2014, one of them being about the offensive on the Gaza Strip in 2014 and the other one addressing the Black Friday Massacre in Rafah (Hannibal Directive).

This year began with the resignation of Mr. Makarim Wibisono, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the oPt, on 05 January 2016, after Israel had repeatedly denied him access to the oPt. Moreover, Israel did not allow the International Criminal Court and investigation committees formed to examine the crimes committed during the Israeli offensive in 2014 entry into the Gaza Strip. These details clearly reflect a state of complete denial of the civilian victims and hiding the truth policy, adopted by Israel to immunize the Israeli criminals.

This year witnessed yet another immunity manifestation for Israeli criminals from third states, which continued to protect Israeli criminals from being brought to justice. In June 2016, the Scotland Yard's War Crimes Unit transmitted a letter to the Israeli Embassy in London, inviting Tzipi Livni to a police interview under caution in relation to her role in Israel's 2008-2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip (Operation 'Cast Lead'). At the time of the offensive, Livni was Minister for Foreign Affairs and a member of the Israeli Security Cabinet. As usual, the interference of British politicians helped Livni to immunize her from appearing before the British judiciary, in a setback to all British and international justice principles.

PCHR confirmed in a press release that classifying Livni's visit as a 'Special Mission' involved meetings with diplomats, even though Livni holds no official position other than being a member of the Israeli Parliament in the main opposition party bloc. The British Foreign & Commonwealth Office's decision to recognize Livni's visit as a special mission is a purported attempt to protect her from arrest and prosecution. The British government needs to respond to this extraordinary interference with due process on the part of the police and DPP.

Israeli authorities continued to put obstacles in front of the Palestinian victims of their crimes in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip in order to deny them their right to justice and remedy. This directly contributed to escalating such crimes and prevailing impunity. One of the most significant developments of 2016 was that the Israeli legal system ignored the summary executions carried out by Israeli forces and police against Palestinian civilians under the pretext of carrying out stabbing attacks. In addition, the Israeli legal system continued to disregard and

delay prosecuting the Israeli soldiers and settlers accused of attacking Palestinians. Thus, there is no place for any claim of justice for the Palestinian victims before the Israeli Judiciary and it is clear that the Israeli judicial system does not want to provide justice for Palestinians, but rather insists on granting impunity to the Israeli attackers, both to soldiers and settlers.

Victims of the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in June 2014, "Operation Protective Edge", joined the very long list of victims of the Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip in both 2012, "Operation Pillar of Defense", and in 2008–2009, "Operation Cast Lead",¹⁶ in waiting for justice and remedy. This is considered a serious challenge of the international justice system, which should confront Israel's denial of its international obligations.

PCHR closely follows up the legal files of the Palestinian civilian victims, especially those filed following the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. PCHR filed complaints before the Israeli Military

Advocate General (MAG) demanding opening criminal investigation into crimes committed by Israeli forces during the aforementioned offensive. In addition, PCHR sent civil notifications to the Ministry of Defense to enable PCHR to follow the victims' reparation cases. PCHR emphasizes that the results of resorting to the Israeli judicial system prove that the Israeli judiciary was founded to offer a legal cover for the Israeli criminals and shield them from the international prosecution by misleading the international community that there were internal investigations. PCHR's work before the Israeli judiciary is considered as an important step towards international justice, represented by exhausting all internal means before resorting to international instruments, especially the ICC, which the State of Palestine became a member of in April 2015.

The following facts and numbers explain the Israeli measures to shield Israeli war criminals from prosecution and deny Palestinian victims of repeated Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip from their right to redress.

First: Shielding Israeli War Criminals from Prosecution

Israeli authorities continued to ignore complaints filed to request investigation into acts that are likely to constitute war crimes against Palestinian civilians, or gave negative replies claiming that there were no violations in order to shield the Israeli war criminals. According to PCHR's Legal Aid Unit, PCHR's lawyers submitted 246 complaints to MAG to open criminal investigations into the Israeli violations committed during the 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip and prosecute the perpetrators. PCHR received only 31 replies; in 7 of which the MAG claimed that the military police would conduct an investigation, while in 10 of which it claimed that they need more evidence, and 14 of which it claimed that the case was closed as the suspicion of the commission of a criminal offense was not proven. PCHR submitted 10 objections to closing the case during 2016 and did not receive any response from the MAG.

In 2016, PCHR continued to follow up the Israeli restrictions related to access to land and maritime borders, where the Israeli authorities imposed high restrictions on movement. PCHR submitted 10 complaints to the MAG related to violations in the restricted maritime area regarding the confiscation of 6 fishing boats and the damaging of another one. Moreover, PCHR also continued to follow up 49 other complaints, which were previously submitted to the MAG, about violations in Access Restricted Areas (ARA), 19 of which took place in the maritime areas, 2 of them related to wounding 2 fishermen and 16 others related to confiscating fishing boats.

PCHR confirmed that the MAG uses a systematic policy to deny the right of Palestinian victims to justice and to provide a legal cover for the Israeli criminals in order to immunize them from international prosecution.

16. Israel launched three large offensive operations against the Gaza Strip since the end of 2008 and until now. The first offensive was in 2008-2009 and known as "Cast Lead Operation", the second was in 2012 and known as "Pillar of Defense Operation", while the third offensive was in 2014 and known as "Protective Edge Operation".

Second: Denying Victims' Right to Redress

In 2016, PCHR continued to closely follow up the notifications submitted to the Israeli Ministry of Defense to file cases to compensate the Palestinian victims according to the Israeli law, following Israeli violations. Following the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in 2014, PCHR's lawyers submitted notifications but received only one response confirming the receipt of the notification. PCHR does not expect the Israeli judiciary to ensure remedy for the Palestinian victims due to the obstacles imposed by the Israeli authorities for victims and their lawyers in addition to the lack of fairness and impartiality of Israeli judges. PCHR's work is part of its continued efforts to exhaust all internal means to create the conditions for international means, especially the ICC.

It should be mentioned that Israeli authorities continued to deny the Palestinian victims' right to redress through imposing a series of financial and legal obstacles. The latest of these measures was taken on 16 December 2014, when the Israeli Supreme Court approved regulations that ban Palestinians from Gaza from entering Israel for their compensation cases against the Israeli military in addition to the prohibitively high costs of Israeli legal fees to file reparation complaints and making it impossible to file such complaints, which affects thousands of victims. Furthermore, Amendment No. 8 to the Israeli Tort Law (Liability of the State) of 1952 exempts the State of Israel of any liability

arising from damages caused to a resident of an enemy territory during a 'combat action' or 'military operation'. This amendment applies retroactively from 2005 onwards and exempts the Israeli forces not only from providing reparations to the victims of the latest Israeli offensive, but also to the victims of "Operation Cast Lead" in 2008-2009 and "Operation Pillar of Defense" in 2012 in addition to all the attacks committed against Palestinian civilians since 2005. As a result, PCHR could not file any compensation complaint on behalf of the "Pillar of Defense" victims. Moreover, the Israeli courts dismissed several compensation complaints that were already filed by PCHR on behalf of the victims.

The Israeli Judicial System Encourages Attacks against Palestinians

The Israeli judicial system significantly contributes to the escalation of attacks carried out by Israeli forces and settlers against Palestinian civilians. The Israeli judicial system adopts procrastination and negligence when dealing with the crimes committed by Israeli settlers and soldiers against Palestinian civilians. Moreover, the Israeli judicial system attempts, by claiming the existence of accurate monitoring mechanisms on the Israeli forces' behaviour and by using a huge media machine to reflect a virtual image, to show that it investigates in all allegations submitted about the excesses of its soldiers.

PCHR confirms that the reality on the ground and numbers prove the opposite, as previously presented. When thousands of Palestinians were killed in each of Gaza Strip's offensive and also in the West Bank, the Israeli judicial system stood by and did not investigate into the incidents, unless the crimes were recorded on camera or pressure was applied from international organizations.

PCHR emphasizes that PCHR's lawyers submitted around 569 complaints to the MAG since "Operation Cast Lead" on the Gaza Strip until the last offensive in 2014, but the MAG followed up on only 118 complaints and opened an investigation to 51 complaints only. It should be noted that the investigations did not result in the condemnation of the Israeli perpetrators.

If investigations are opened, they are quickly closed again due to a lack of evidence or due to the conviction that there is no crime and the incident was unintentional. In cases that reach the judiciary, PCHR found that the Israeli judiciary, which has issued

rules against Palestinian civilians for decades, is very merciful with Israeli soldiers and settlers who committed crimes. Additionally, the Israeli media and politicians glorify and praise the criminals. Moreover, the Israeli ministers, especially the Israeli Defense Minister, Lieberman, were not hiding the glorification and praise. These factors directly lead to increasing attacks against Palestinian civilians.

The Israeli judicial system significantly contributes to the escalation of attacks carried out by Israeli forces and settlers against Palestinian civilians. The Israeli judicial system adopts procrastination and negligence when dealing with the crimes committed by Israeli settlers and soldiers against Palestinian civilians. According to Yesh Din Volunteers for Human Rights, of the 1,104 investigation files, 940 files (85%) were closed by the MAG since 2005 without investigating them. All of these complaints were against Israeli settlers, who were accused of assaulting Palestinian civilians. Statistics show that around 95.6% of the complaints related to property and Palestinian farmers' plants were closed due to the dereliction of the competent Israeli authorities. Yesh Din Volunteers for Human Rights also found that the possibility of access of Palestinian civilians to justice in the West Bank before the Israeli judicial system is only 1.9%¹⁷.

On 24 March 2016, the killing of a Palestinian civilian by an Israeli soldier raised public opinion. A video showed the Israeli soldiers directly opening fire at the head of Palestinian civilian, Abed al-Fatah al-Shareef. It should be noted that Abed al-Fatah was wounded lying on the ground. This case reflects the support of Israeli politicians and public opinion in Israel for criminal acts and clearly reveals a realistic image of Israeli soldiers who are killing Palestinians at the military checkpoints, especially in the past 2 years, without being held accountable. Following the incident, Amnesty International demanded accountability for the Israeli soldier and ending the Israeli immunity. Although the soldier was referred to trial and accused of killing the Palestinian civilian, the Israeli media and politicians, including the Israeli Defense Minister, are still putting pressure on the Israeli judiciary to consider that this crime was committed accidentally. Furthermore, they describe the criminal as a hero who killed a wounded lying on the ground. This is considered as a direct encouragement of Israeli soldiers to commit more crimes and promotes committing similar crimes, which may end up not being revealed without being documented by cameras.

The numbers of bullets, which are fired by Israeli forces at Palestinian girls' bodies, under the pretext of holding a knife, reveal the criminal nature of Israeli forces and judicial system that immunizes them from accountability. Most videos leaked show the moment of opening fire at Palestinian civilians, including children. It should be noted that the Palestinian civilians did not pose any threat to the Israeli soldiers. Additionally, the Palestinian civilians were surrounded by a large number of soldiers, which made it is easy to control them. In other cases, the Israeli soldiers heavily opened fire at Palestinian civilians, who were accused of carrying out stabbing attacks, while they were lying on the ground. This confirms that the Israeli forces are deliberately killing the Palestinian civilians. PCHR,

17. Yesh Din's «datasheet about damaging olive trees, October 2015, applying the law on Israeli civilians who attack Palestinian civilians and their property in the West Bank». (2015) <<http://www.yesh-din.org/ar/>> Amnesty International, «Israel/OPT: Suspected extrajudicial execution of Palestinian caught on video», published 24 March 2016, <<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/03/israel-suspected-extrajudicial-execution-of-palestinian-caught-on-video/>>, accessed in 4 December 2016

along with Palestinian, Israeli and international human rights organizations, condemn these allegations and call for an ending to and investigation into them. Meanwhile, the Israeli judicial system ignored all demands that called for opening serious investigations into these incidents.

Human Rights Watch confirmed PCHR's findings in a statement entitled "Israeli Officials support opening fire with intent to kill". The statement included that "the calls by officials – and the apparent conduct of some soldiers and police – deviate from *both international standards and the Israeli rules of engagement*. *With some notable exceptions, senior Israeli officials, including those who command security officers, have in some cases called for excessive use of force and in other cases failed to condemn such calls by others.*"¹⁸



Traces of damage in a Palestinian institution

18. Amnesty International, Public Statement, «Israel/OPT: Evidence indicates West Bank killing was extrajudicial Execution», September 2015; B'Tselem, «Human Rights Organizations in Israel: Politicians' calls to police and soldiers to shoot rather than arrest endorse the killing of Palestinians», 14 October 2015; Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Press Releases, «Israeli Forces Continue to Kill Palestinians on Grounds of Alleged Stabbing Attempts», 12 October 2015 Human Rights Watch Organization « Israeli Officials support Opening Fire with Intent to kill» <<https://www.hrw.org/ar/news/2017/01/02/297487>>.



Section (2):

**Palestinian Violations
of Human Rights and
Obstacles to
Democratic Reform**

Violations

of the Right to Life and Attacks on Personal Security

In 2016, more violations of the right to life and personal security due to the misuse of weapons as well as violations of the rule of the law in the oPt were reported. During this year, the Palestinian territory witnessed an escalation of killing incidents, family disputes, murdering due to the misuse of weapons and murdering women on various grounds, two of whom on grounds of family honor. Moreover, many Palestinian civilians were killed by PSS, who used excessive force against the civilians.

PCHR documented the death of 50 persons, including 5 children and 6 women while (63) others were wounded. All of them were related to the misuse of weapons and constitute violations of the rule of the law in the oPt. Among the total numbers of victims, 27 were in the Gaza Strip, including 5 children and 3 women, while 22 others were in the West Bank, including 3 women. Violations of the right to life and personal security were perpetrated in the following contexts: using weapons in personal and family disputes (26); misusing and illegal use of weapons (11), killing crimes by the excessive force used by the PPS (10) and killings on grounds of family honor (2). Moreover, a civilian was killed in an individual incident related to Palestinian armed groups' activities in the Gaza Strip.

Using Weapons in Personal and Family Disputes

In 2016, 26 persons, including 14 in the Gaza Strip and 12 in the West Bank, were killed due to the use of weapons in personal and family disputes. The victims included a child and 5 women. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On Tuesday, 08 March 2016, *Yehia Zakaria Abdul Raheem al-Salman (47)* from old 'Askar refugee camp, northeast of Nablus, was admitted to Rafidiya Hospital in the city, as he was hit with over 10 live bullets to the lower legs by unknown persons.
2. On 07 May 2016, *Faisal Mohammed Zaidat (53)* from Bani Na'em village, east of Hebron, was hit with a live bullet fired by a member of the same family on grounds of a dispute that developed to using firearms.
3. On 29 June 2016 and only minutes after Iftar time, the dispute between the families of Qabha and al-'Amarnah that erupted on Tuesday, 28 June 2016, renewed in al-Sha'ra area in Ya'bud village in Jenin. The dispute developed into a clash with weapons, sharp tools and stones. As a result, 3 civilians were killed and identified as *Muhanned Hamzah Rashid Qabha (35)*, who was hit with two bullets to the chest; *Mahmoud Ahmed Rayhan Qabha (52)*, who was hit with a bullet to the chest; and *Ahmed Hussein Qabha (24)*, who was hit with 3 bullets to the chest and taken to the hospital but later succumbed to his wounds.
4. On Monday, 29 August 2016, *Mohammed Jamal Ibrahim al-Najjar (24)*, from Jabalia, arrived dead at the Indonesian Hospital in Jabalia after being hit with a bullet that entered and exited from his neck.
5. On 22 October 2016, gunmen opened fire at *Tariq Ali al-'Awawdah (48)* from al-Bureij refugee camp while walking in al-Zawayda village in the central Gaza Strip, on grounds of family honor. As a result, al-'Awawdah was hit with several bullets to the head and lower limbs and fell to the ground.
6. On 06 November 2016, *Abdul Rahman Ra'ed Abu al-Khair (9)* sustained a bullet wound to the back during a family dispute in which firearms were used as the boy was playing around his family house in al-Shati' refugee camp, west of Gaza City.

Illegal Use of Weapons

During this year, 11 civilians were killed; 10 in the Gaza Strip and one person in the West Bank. Among the victims were 2 children and a woman, killed due to the illegal use of weapons in the oPt. The most prominent cases were as follows:

1. On 24 January 2016, a young woman (18) was killed in her house in Gaza City when she mishandled a weapon and a bullet was accidentally unleashed.
2. On 30 January 2016, *Oday Shehda Matar Taha (17)*, from Beit Lahia village, was hit with two live bullets mistakenly unleashed from a firearm belonging to his brother, who is a Palestinian police officer, while he was cleaning his firearm in the family house.
3. On 15 April 2016, two members of an armed group fired two live bullets from a Kalashnikov to warn 3 civilians, one of whom was carrying a hunting rifle, when the civilians entered the Mujahideen Brigades training site, northwest of Rafah. One of the bullets hit a rock and then ricocheted towards the face of *Abdul Hamid Suliaman Kuhail (19)* from Gaza City, who was carrying the hunting rifle. Kuhail died following the incident.

Killing Crimes Committed by Palestinian Security Services

In 2016, 10 persons were killed by the excessive force used by the security services. Three civilians, including a child from the Gaza Strip, were killed during law enforcement campaigns. Seven others, including 3 security officers, 3 armed men and a woman, were killed during clashes between Palestinian security services and Palestinian armed men.

1. On 07 June 2016, *Adel Nasser Jaradat (21)*, from Silet al-Harethiya village, northwest of Jenin, was killed by gunfire from Palestinian security services while they were conducting a security operation in the village, during which they used firearms.
2. On 29 June 2016, unknown gunmen opened fire at the Preventive Security officer, Fadi Jamal al-Shubeiri, in al-Dahiyah neighborhood, southeast of Nablus, and fled. As a result of the shooting, wife of al-Shubeiri, *Bayan al-Qouqa (20)*, was hit with a bullet to the back. Security officers rushed to the scene and surrounded the targeted house. When civilians and security officers gathered in the vicinity of the house, wanted gunmen opened fire at them and fled. As a result, four persons were wounded, including 2 security officers. All of them were then taken to Rafidia Hospital in Nablus, where the two security officers were later announced dead. The security officers were identified as *Anan Mustafa al-Tabouq (31)*, a General Intelligence Sergeant from Nablus, who was hit with two bullets to the abdomen, and *Oday Ashraf al-Seifi (25)*, a National Security First Sergeant from Tal village, south of Nablus, who was hit with a bullet to the neck.
3. On 18 August 2016, two Palestinian security forces identified as *Shalabi Bani Shamsah (27)*, a Special Police officer, and Mahmoud Tarayrah (27), a National Security officer, were killed during clashes between Palestinian security services and unknown gunmen in Nablus. Moreover, several civilians sustained various wounds.

4. On 18 August 2016, Palestinian security forces called for backup to arrest wanted persons accused of killing two security officers in a clash erupted in the city only hours earlier. The security forces surrounded al-'Aqbah neighborhood in the Old City and clashed with gunmen. As a result, two persons, who were claimed by the security services to be wanted to justice, were killed while another person was wounded and later arrested from the hospital. The killed persons were identified as *Khaled al-Aghnar (22)* and *Fares Halawah (24)*. The clash, which continued until 04:00, resulted in the injury of a security officer and burning al-Khayat divan, which is considered as an archeological site in the Old City.
5. On 16 November 2016, *Hilda Bassam al-Osta (38)* was killed due to a bullet that penetrated a window of her house in Nablus during clashes between gunmen and Palestinian Security Services. The bullet hit the woman in the chest, due to which she died even before she was taken to hospital. Moreover, five security officers were wounded during the clashes.
6. On 13 December 2016, *Mohammed Hasan Mahmoud al-Toum (15)*, from the new refugee camp west of al-Nusairat, was killed by a bullet to the chest. The boy was among a crowd that gathered after the Anti-Narcotics Police had stopped a car and arrested its passengers.

Killings among Women

In 2016, PCHR documented the murder of 6 women during incidents of mishandling weapons in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Two of them were on grounds of "family honour". PCHR is gravely concerned about the recurrence of such crimes and calls upon the Palestinian authorities to take more measures to put an end to these crimes. It should be mentioned that 2011 witnessed a remarkable development in the mechanisms of stopping violence in the local community, especially murders on grounds of the so-called "family honour". On 15 May 2011, President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decision that has the power of the law to abolish the lenient sentences issued against the perpetrators of these crimes. PCHR hoped that the decision would signify a step forward in confronting these crimes, whose perpetrators enjoyed impunity due to the application of lenient sentences that did not exceed three years. These lenient sentences contributed to the increase of these crimes in the Palestinian society in recent decades, undermining the rule of law. In 2016, these crimes were as follows:

1. On 22 August 2016, (H. M. GH) 28, from al-Shati' refugee camp, west of Gaza City, was shot dead by her brother on the ground of the so-called "family honor".
2. On 30 December 2016, (H. A. N) 24, from Jabalia refugee camp, was strangled by a rope inside an apartment in al-Sudaniyia area, west of Jabalia, by her siblings. Lieutenant Colonel Ayman al-Batniji, spokesperson of the police in Gaza City, said that the incident was on ground of so-called «family honor» and the police immediately went to the scene and opened an investigation. Moreover, the police detained 3 of the victim's siblings.

Violations

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

In 2016, the illegal arrests and practice of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in interrogation and detention centers of the security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have continued. Dozens were subject to torture and maltreatment cases, committed by the security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, although Palestinian law criminalizes torture and Palestine acceded to the ICC in 2014. PCHR also documented practices of torture and degrading treatment excessively committed particularly in the criminal investigation departments. In addition, many prisoners were subject to torture on political or security grounds. It should be mentioned that there is no evidence or indicators pointing out that the authorities in the Gaza Strip and West Bank would have started to take serious measures to stop this practice, in spite of the officials' statements about monitoring these acts and their attempts to put an end to them and hold those responsible accountable.

Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

In 2016, PCHR and other Palestinian human rights organizations received many statements and complaints from civilians who claimed that they have faced torture while being detained or interrogated by the security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Most complaints documented by PCHR were about persons who were exposed to interrogation on criminal grounds in the criminal investigation departments. Moreover, PCHR received other statements claiming torture on political and security grounds. Various forms of torture were used in the detention centers belonging to the police and security services, including different forms of shackling (shabeh), sleep deprivation, death threats and other forms of psychological torture.¹⁹ In addition, the detainees were placed under highly degrading conditions or in narrow and poorly ventilated cells, which is considered a violation of the prisoner's minimum human rights.

Gaza Strip

PCHR documented many cases in which complainants stated that persons were subject to torture while interrogation and investigation in the security services offices, especially by the criminal investigation police. In addition, PCHR documented other cases that constituted flagrant forms of torture against detainees. (M.A.A) (29), who is a journalist at al-Monitor, told PCHR that he was arrested on 01 September 2016 by the Internal Security and subjected to torture. During the investigation, his hands were shackled and hanged to the room ceiling while he was forced to reveal the source of a document he posted on Facebook. According to another detainee, on 11 June 2016, (M. M. Gh.) was arrested by the General Investigation Services (GIS) on robbery grounds and was then tortured. He said that he was hit with a water hose on his entire body and threatened to death. Moreover, on 28 February, a person stated that he, along with 2 relatives, was hit on his bare feet (Falaka) in a police station in Rafah on grounds of a dispute with a police officer. As a result, (M. 'A. B.) sustained

19. During PCHR's follow-up of the torture crimes committed by security services in the PA controlled areas, PCHR's fieldworkers face difficulties in convincing victims to testify as they request not to publish their names, in fear of being threatened by the security services in case any human rights organization reveal their names.

bruises on both feet, while (M. J. B.) sustained a fracture on his left foot and bruises throughout his body.

West Bank

PCHR received many complaints and testimonies from civilians who claimed that they were subjected to torture in detention centers administered by security services, especially in the GIS and Preventive Security Services (PSS) offices. The cases of torture were not only limited to political activists, but included those arrested on criminal

grounds as well. In his testimony to PCHR's field-worker, (B. H. F) (20), member of the Birzeit Student Union from Ramallah, was arrested by PSS officers on 23 August and interrogated while being subject to torture and shackling. Furthermore, on 25 September, (M. M. S.), a university student, said he was arrested and tortured in the GIS office for 19 days, including being shackled in different forms. In addition, (T. A. Q.) (16) was arrested when he was on his way back home in Jenin, on 14 October. He was tortured and severely beaten on his entire body, causing him pain in his abdomen and head in addition to a hole in his eardrum.

Arrests and Summonses on Political Grounds

In 2016, security services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank intensified campaigns of repeated summonses and detentions of political rivals, often under the pretext of security reasons. Such campaigns often failed to follow legal procedures for arrests as regulated in the Palestinian law and international human rights law. In spite of the decision issued by the Palestinian High Court of Justice on 20 February 1999, which considered political detention illegal and demanded all executive authorities to respect the court's decision and stop the exercise of illegal political detention, detainees are still exposed to torture under conditions that violate their human dignity.

Gaza Strip

Dozens of Fatah activists and former members of the PA security services were arrested for different periods and were often accused of riot acts and collaborating with Ramallah. Most of them were subject to inhuman and cruel treatment. Moreover, PCHR documented dozens of Salafi persons and persons affiliated with "Sabereen Movement", which is mainly active in northern Gaza, who were illegally arrested. A number of them complained that they were subject to maltreatment in detention centers.

West Bank

Security services in the West Bank, mainly GIS, PSS and Military Interrogation Service, continued to illegally arrest and summon activists from Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and other Islamic movements. In most cases, these persons were arbitrarily arrested on political grounds. As a result, some of them were arrested during pending investigations while others were brought before military courts although they are civilians. In addition, dozens of civilians were illegally arrested due to their student's and trade union activities. PCHR also documented a number of cases in which the security services refused applying the court decisions to release prisoners or delayed releasing them.

Deaths in Prisons and Detention Centers

During the reporting period, 2 Palestinians died inside prisons and detention facilities of the Palestinian security services; one of them was in the West Bank and another one in the Gaza Strip. Available information refers to failure and negligence by official bodies to provide necessary medical care for the prisoner who died in the Criminal Investigation office in Deir al-Balah and negligence of the prisoner's disease, which must have been discovered in the first examination upon arrival at the prison. The other detainee was killed immediately after being arrested in al-Jneid Prison in Nablus and attacked by dozens of security officers. PCHR hereby reiterates its demand to investigate the circumstances of deaths of both detainees and to publish the results to the public.

1. On 17 February 2016, the family of Ashraf Salem Eid (40) was informed of Ashraf's death after only 24 hours of being detained in Deir al-Balah police station on grounds of the murder of his uncle, Nawaf Selmi Eid, on the previous day, inside his apartment in al-Zawayda area in the central Gaza Strip. The Chief of the Central Gaza Strip Police told PCHR's fieldworker that Eid was suffering from diabetes and sustained a circulatory collapse while being detained in the facility. Therefore, he was transported by an ambulance to al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, but died on his way to the hospital. The victim's family denied that Ashraf was suffering from diabetes, they refused to receive and anatomize the corpse unless by an unbiased doctor. The family received and buried his body two days after his death.
2. Palestinian Security officers killed Ahmed 'Ezzat Halawah (50) in al-Jneid Prison after beating him to death. According to PCHR's follow-up, on 23 August 2016, a special unit of security services arrested Halawah after surrounding his house in new Nablus neighborhood on grounds of being involved in the killing of two Palestinian security officers in Nablus a few days before. The same unit took Halawah to al-Jneid Prison in Nablus. According to Akram al-Rojoub, Governor of Nablus, when Halawah arrived at the prison, he argued with security officers, who then beat him to death despite attempts by other security officers to rescue him.

The security officers claimed that Halawah was behind the killing of the two security officers in Nablus who were trying to arrest wanted persons, on 18 August 2016. On 19 August 2016, the security services killed two civilians suspected of killing the two security officers during an armed clash.

Continued

Disruption of the Legislature

This year revealed the executive authority's clear interference into the legislative authority, as on 12 December 2016, Hassan al-'Oari, Legal Advisor to the Palestinian President, emphasized the Palestinian President's decision to lift immunity of five PLC members from the Fatah Parliamentary Bloc. This step came after an advisory opinion was issued by the Constitutional Court on 06 November 2016, where the Court upheld the Palestinian President's right to issue a presidential decree to lift immunity of PLC members according to his powers ensured in Article 43 of the Palestinian Basic Law.

The PA has lost its political legitimacy following the disruption of the constitutional right to legislative and presidential elections in 2010. There have been legal merits and justifications for the Palestinian President and PLC to continue to practice their duties after their term ended. However, this situation has reflected a serious violation of civilians' right to have authorities representing their real orientations, especially after taking into account that the electoral bloc decisively changed during the ten years since the last elections. This situation also violates PA's obligations under Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which PA acceded in 2014. According to this Covenant, each citizen has the right to freely choose their representatives in genuine periodic elections.

In light of the division and resulting disruption of the PLC, legislation chaos continued in 2016. The Change and Reform Bloc in Gaza consistently continued to unlawfully issue legislations on behalf of the PLC, only applicable in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian President also continues for the tenth consecutive year to combine the legislative and executive authorities and issue legislations only applicable in the West Bank.

The Israeli authorities continued to impose arbitrary measures against the PLC members, including arbitrary detention for different detention periods, mainly without any charges or trial. Those figures and arbitrary measures, such as banning the Change and Reform Bloc in Jerusalem and arresting 50 PLC members in the last ten years for different periods, reflect the reality of the Israeli policy aiming at disrupting the legislative authority in the PA to justify Israeli claims that Palestinians were not yet ready to govern themselves.

Both the occupation and Palestinian division resulted in the absence of the PLC, which is the main legislating tool, to monitor the executive authority and its work and, most importantly, to express people's authority as stipulated in the Basic Law. As a result, all life aspects of Palestinians were negatively affected, especially their rights, freedoms and services. It contributes to the deteriorating human rights situation, especially in light of the growing state of polarization within the Palestinian society, increasing political bickering and continuation of malpractices.

Hopes were pinned that signing the reconciliation agreement in April 2014 would pave the way for holding elections and the return of constitutional life within the PA. However, these hopes were gone with the wind in light of the negative developments during the last two years as the process of ending the division stood still. The political behaviour of the two parties to the division reflects a state of complete denial of law and constitution, which they only employ to legitimize their actions.

It should be mentioned that the current PLC, elected in 2006, was disrupted only a few months after being elected due to the political conflict between the two major blocs in the PLC, Fatah Parliamentary Bloc and the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform Bloc, which led to a bloody conflict. The PLC was fully disrupted following the division in the PA in June 2007, which resulted in establishing two authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Despite the disruption, the Change and Reform Bloc held sessions on behalf of the PLC in Gaza and issued laws and decisions on behalf of the PLC. Moreover, the Palestinian President issued presidential decrees according to Article (43)

of the Palestinian Basic Law under the pretext of the absence of the role of the PLC. PCHR took a clear position at the time and expressed its reservation regarding all legislations issued in light of the division. PCHR also called upon the Change and Reform Bloc to stop issuing laws on behalf of the PLC and the Palestinian President to strictly comply with the principle of necessity. This chaos contributed to increasing the fragmentation of the Palestinian law and complicating the rule of law reality in the PA. It should be mentioned that the reconciliation agreement did neither include nor mention how to deal with these laws and its consequences during the division.

Israeli Arbitrary Practices against PLC Members

Until the end of 2016, Israeli forces continued to detain 6 PLC members. Both, Ahmed Sa'adat and Marwan al-Barghuthi are serving their life sentences in Israeli prisons, while 4 other PLC members are detained; 3 of whom are administratively detained. In 2016, Israeli forces arrested 6 PLC members but only released 2 of them before the end of the year. The Israeli authorities released 3 PLC members; two of whom were arrested for 6 months in the reporting year namely 'Abdel Jaber Foqahaa' and Hatem Qafishah. The third PLC member, Khaledah Jarrar, was released after serving her imprisonment sentence. Khaledah Jarrar was arrested in 2015.

The Israeli authorities renewed the administrative detention of Hasan Yousef, who was arrested on 20 October 2015 in his house in Beitounia. It should be mentioned that Yousef was arrested several times before. The Israeli authorities also administratively detained Mohammed Jamal al-Natsheh for 6 months for the eighth time. It should be mentioned that al-Natsheh has been under arrest in the Israeli prisons since 27 March 2013. On 28 January 2016, the Israeli forces also arrested Jerusalemite deported PLC member, Mohammed Abu Teir. On 13 December 2016, the Israeli 'Ofer Military Court issued a 17-month sentence of actual imprisonment, a fine of NIS 8,000 and 30-month suspended sentence against Abu Teir. This came after Abu Teir was administratively detained for 11 months. On 28 November 2016, PLC member 'Azzam Salhab was arrested and subject to administrative detention.

On 01 June 2016, the Israeli authorities released Khaledah Jarrar after she had served her sentence. On 06 December 2015, the Israeli court had issued a decision to imprison her for 15-months, in addition to a suspended sentence of 12 months within a five-year period and a fine of NIS 10,000. Moreover, the Military Court accused her of being

member of an outlaw movement and of incitement against Israel in addition to participating in activities against Israel; one of which took place in 2009. This revealed that the Court's motives were political and on grounds of her political career and peaceful struggle.

Israeli forces also released 2 other PLC members who were under administrative detention without any charge or trial. Those members were identified as Hatem Qfifshah, who was arrested by Israeli forces on 24 January 2016 and released on 03 July 2016, and 'Abdel Jaber Foqahaa', who was arrested by Israeli forces on 17 May 2016 and released on 15 November 2016.

It should be noted that the Israeli authorities included the Hamas-affiliated Change and Reform Bloc in their list of terrorist organizations, on 02 December 2012. In July 2012, the Israeli military commander issued a decision that the Islamist parliamentary bloc would be considered as "a banned union". The decision made reference to Article 84 (1) (b) of the Defence Regulations (State of Emergency), which was issued in 1945. The intention of the July decision was to legalize Israel's systematic oppression of PLC members, since the Israeli au-

thorities refused to deal with the results of the PLC elections in 2006, when the Change and Reform Bloc won the overwhelming majority in the PLC.

Table of PLC Members still arrested or released in 2016

#	Name	Date	Release Date
1	Marwan Barghouthi	04/2002 /15	(Still arrested (sentenced to 26 life sentences
2	Ahmad Sa'adat	14/04/2006	(Still arrested(sentenced to 30 years
3	Hassan Yusuf	20/10/2015	Still arrested
4	Mohammed al-Natsheh	29/09/2016	Still arrested
5	Mohammed Abu Tair	28/01/2016	(Still arrested (sentenced to 17 months
6	Azzam Salhab	28/02/2016	Still arrested
7	Hatem Qafishah	24/01/2016	03/07/2016
8	'Abdul Jaber Foqaha	17/01/2016	15/11/2016
9	Khalida Jarrar	02/04/2015	01/06/2016

Significant Developments in the Gaza Strip

In 2016, the Change and Reform Bloc assumed duties that are within the inherent jurisdiction of the Palestinian President and the executive authority in addition to issuing legislations on behalf of the PLC. PCHR warns of attempts to pass the bill of the governmental administrative committee. This bill is being discussed by the Change and Reform Bloc to form a governmental administrative committee comprised of ministers from the Isma'il Haniyah government that will assume functions equivalent to the functions of the government in Gaza. Putting forward this bill abuses the powers of the National Unity Government formed in June 2014 and the executive authority. Moreover, this bill violates the principle of separation of powers, ensured in the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law.

In the same context, on 25 May 2016 the Change and Reform Bloc took a decision to “consider the final death sentences, which were issued according to fair trial standards and exhausted all challenge mechanisms, as ratified and enforceable”. This step was taken to pave the way for applying a number of death sentences without the Palestinian President’s ratification. As a result, 3 death sentences were actually applied following this decision, which denies the Palestinian Basic Law, mainly Article (109). This article considers the ratification of death sentences as an exclusive right of the President and not the PLC or a parliamentary bloc.

After months of abstaining from convening following the al-Shati’ agreement (the Palestinian Recon-

ciliation Agreement in April 2014), the Change and Reform Bloc reconvened on behalf of the PLC in Gaza. This came in light of the decline in the reconciliation process due to disagreements over implementation mechanisms and other issues, particularly the salaries of employees appointed by the former Gaza government. Although the Gaza government resigned, the ministries are still working independently from the Unity Government. These ministries usually depend on decisions issued by the Change and Reform Bloc on behalf of the PLC, in an attempt to legitimize their unlawful actions. It should be mentioned that the Change and Reform Bloc issued 3 laws in 2016 and still discusses 4 others.

Significant developments in the West Bank

On 19 December 2016, Palestinian police officers dispersed a sit-in organized by 4 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, who resorted to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) following the Palestinian President's decision to lift their immunity due to accusations of corruption, arms trade and defamation. On 13 December 2016, the Palestinian President issued a decision to lift immunity of five PLC members from Fatah Parliamentary Bloc, identified as Mohammed Dahlan, Shami al-Shami, Najat Abu Baker, Naser Jom'aah and Jamal al-Tirawi. The Constitutional Court, which was formed by the Palestinian President on 03 April 2016, upheld the Palestinian President's right to issue a presidential decree to lift immunity of PLC members. On 06 November 2016, the Court issued a legal opinion in the form of a judicial decision upholding that right. Despite PCHR's belief that immunity should not be an obstacle to achieving justice and fighting corruption, the law limits the power to lift the immunity of PLC members to the PLC itself, according to Article 53 of the PBL and Articles 95 and 96 of the PLC Executive Regulations.

The Court should have maintained its right to lift immunity in cases of PLC's absence or should have required its approval on President's decisions to lift immunity instead of devoting more absolute powers to the Palestinian President. This raises further doubts about the pressures of the executive authority on the Court. This decision puts PLC members in a weak position before the executive authority, especially in the absence of the PLC. This decision also came to undermine PLC members' individual role in the control over the executive authority.

Lifting immunity of PLC member Abu Baker and summoning her to refer to the prosecution, on 20 December 2016, represent a dangerous precedent, as she was accused of defaming a minister, whom Abu Baker previously accused of corruption - without naming him. This incident took place even though one of the main reasons behind granting immunity to the PLC members is to enable them to bring charges against ministers. It is not reasonable to lift immunity of a PLC member and hold him/her accountable for only bringing charges against a minister.

In the same context, on 14 December 2016, the Palestinian Corruption Crime Tribunal issued a sentence in absentia against PLC member Mohammed Dahlan to 3-year imprisonment and returning US\$ 16 million to the PA treasury. The Court convicted Dahlan of embezzling this amount of money after he held the position as the Security Affairs Coordinator in the Palestinian President's office. It should be mentioned that Dahlan is one of the most prominent political rivals of the Palestinian President and in April 2015 the Corruption Tribu-

nal dismissed a case filed against him due to his parliamentary immunity. At that time, the Tribunal stated that his immunity can only be lifted by the PLC. However, following the Constitutional Court's advisory opinion, the sentence was appealed and the Tribunal issued its sentence.

The Palestinian President Continued to Issue Legislations without Complying with the Principle of Necessity

The Palestinian President continued to issue presidential decrees without complying with the principle of necessity according to Article (43) of the Palestinian Basic Law, giving the President the power to issue presidential decrees. The Social Security Law was one of the most important decrees issued by the Palestinian President. This law sparked protests organized by the CBOs, as it embeds injustice for the NGOs' employees. This clearly highlights troubles resulting from the PLC's absence, a state of legislative confusion and society's lacking of a body expressing their interests.

The Palestinian President has issued dozens of legislations since the division, in most of which he did not comply with the principle of necessity. It should be mentioned that in 2016 the Palestinian President issued 24 decrees that have the power of law, adding up to a total number of 149 decrees which have the power of law issued since the division. Thus, when following up the number of legislations issued by the President with the power of law, we find that the Palestinian President practices the power to legislate not as an exception in the case of extreme necessity stipulated in Article 43 of the PBL but as a full legislative power.

Erosion

of the Judicial Authority

2016 revealed serious developments initiated by the executive authority aimed at exercising further control over the judicial system and undermining the independence of the judicial authority. These developments increased the serious conditions of the Palestinian judiciary as it has been facing political bickering since the PA's 2007 division. The overthrowing of the Chief Justice is the most prominent manifestation of the critical threat posed to the judiciary in 2016 and a clear indicator for the non-existence of the separation of powers in the PA. Therefore, the Palestinian President dominates not only the executive and legislative powers, while issuing ordinances under the pretext of the absence of the PLC, but he also controls the judiciary.

The manner in which the Chief Justice was deposed raises critical concerns for PCHR, as it may pave the way for more control over the judicial authority when all those in the judiciary who reject the executive authority's interference are being deterred. PCHR emphasizes that the mission of reuniting the judiciary should be given top priority when discussing ending the Palestinian division. PCHR also stresses that the independence of the judiciary is a constitutional and legal obligation, especially under Article 97 of the 2003 Basic Law, which emphasizes "*the judiciary is independent*" in addition to Article 2, emphasizing the principle of the separation of powers. An independent judiciary is considered a community need, a basic tool of oversight within the democratic system and an important guarantee of civil peace. PCHR also underlines that ignoring or delaying the issue of reuniting the judiciary is considered a denial of both justice and the rule of law and poses a real threat to security and tranquillity in the society.

The division in the Palestinian judicial authority has entered its tenth year without any practical steps being taken to reunite the powers and end the division. The executive authority continued to obstruct implementing some judicial rulings in a flagrant violation of Palestinian law, especially the 2003 Basic Law. Although the unity government was formed in June 2014, no serious efforts have been made to end the division in the PA and the judiciary system in particular. Despite the importance of reuniting the judiciary system and stressing its priority, it is still marginalized in the political efforts to end the division in the PA.

The Palestinian judiciary is subject to political bickering that affects its work, the independence of its decisions and confidence in them. The judiciary also lacks a proper environment that ensures its independence, especially in light of the division. The judiciary in the Gaza Strip has been entirely independent from the one in the West Bank, while both suffer from the interference of the executive authority. Following, is the status of the Palestinian judiciary in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

West Bank:

In 2016, the most prominent incidents were the overthrowing of Chief Justice and the forming of the Constitutional Court. Chief of Supreme Court, Chancellor Sami Sarsour, who was assigned as Chief Justice on 20 January 2016 with a Presidential decree received verbal criticism from a prominent Fatah leader, Tawfiq al-Tairawi, regarding his performance, which led to an exchange of accusations between them. A few weeks later, it was announced that the Palestinian President had approved

the resignation of Mr. Sarsour as Chief Justice. In a shocking testimony to ICHR, Mr. Sarsour revealed that he had signed his resignation before taking the oath for his appointment on 20 January 2016. PCHR believes that Mr. Sarsour's confession and his resignation prior to assuming his duty in a senior position within the judicial authority gives reasons for significant concern. This incident raises legitimate questions regarding other interferences that have taken or are to take place due to actions by influential persons in the executive authority, with the aim to seize control over the judiciary.

In the same context, the Palestinian President's decision on 03 April 2016 to form the first Palestinian Constitutional Court raises concerns about the aim of forming such a court at a time of internal splits and disputes within the Fatah movement. PCHR considers the formation of the court to be part of a systematic policy to restrict the role of the judiciary and seize control not only over enacting laws, but also on their interpretation. PCHR asserts that national reconciliation is a prerequisite for the formation of a constitutional court that protects the rule of law. Moreover, the court did not complete the legal procedures of its formation, which raises questions about its legitimacy and validity in practicing its responsibilities, in addition to the validity of its rulings. The interference in the judicial structure by the executive authority has a significantly negative impact on the credibility of the judicial system and its role in settling disputes and achieving stability for all parties of conflicts. This was obvious after an advisory opinion issued by the Palestinian Constitutional Court on 06 November 2016, which gave the President the right to lift the immunity of PLC members. The debate raised over that decision reflects how fragile the judicial system's credibility has become in the eyes of the Palestinian community, bearing in mind the above-mentioned incident.

PCHR believes that PLC members should adhere to the law and their immunity should not hinder the combatting of corruption and serving justice in general. However, the PLC Executive Regulations confine the power to lift the immunity of PLC members to the PLC itself, as stated in its articles 95 and 96 and article 53 of the Basic Law. There is a state of limbo concerning lifting the immunity of PLC members as the PLC deliberately acted obstructively in the wake of the Palestinian internal division. However, PCHR believes that giving

the President the exclusive right to lift immunity through the use of the court in order to bridge that gap is raising significant concerns. PCHR believes that the court should have maintained the exclusive mandate to lift immunity or stipulate conditions for its approval instead of giving the President more absolute powers. This decision raises concerns over the pressure exerted by the executive authority over the court. PCHR's position, which it announced in a position paper on 08 November 2016, turned out to be accurate after the Palestinian President misused his authority to lift the immunity of five PLC members, on 13 December 2016. The accusations encompassed corruption, arms trade and defamation, while the PLC members and others emphasized that the lift of immunity was due to political conflicts within the Fatah Movement.

Moreover, the decision issued by the High Court in Ramallah, on 03 October 2016, to cancel the local council elections in the Gaza Strip and to have elections in the West Bank only, elevated concerns over the independence of the judiciary even further. Regardless of the background of that decision and PCHR's reservation over it, what is more significant is the negative image of the judicial system in the eyes of the public, reflected in public reactions to the decision. The judicial representatives should ask themselves to what extent the Palestinian judiciary is still a home of truth that promotes safety and stability, or whether it turned into a place of scepticism and concern. They should contemplate the effects of the executive authority's interferences on their credibility.

Indeed, discussing judicial decisions requires profound vigilance and respect; however, this respect should be preceded by the presence of an independent judicial body. In light of the resignation of the Chief Justice, the independence of the judicial authority no longer exists. The Higher Judicial Council and all judicial bodies should work now more than ever to restore society's respect and trust.

On 24 January 2016, the Palestinian President issued a Presidential decree no. 27 to hire Chancellor Ahmed al-Barrak as Acting Attorney General for 3 months, after former Attorney General, Abdul Ghani al-Oweiri, acquired the position of a High Court Judge. On 04 April 2014, the Palestinian President issued a Presidential decree no. 60

to assign Chancellor Ahmed al-Barrak as Attorney General, according to the Higher Judicial Council's recommendation on 03 April 2016. Chancellor al-Barrak took the oath for his appointment on 05 April 2016.

Procrastination or refraining from implementing provisions is part of the Palestinian executive authority's interferences, as dozens of cases annually document. Several cases were documented where the security services, particularly PSS and GIS in the West Bank, suspended or delayed the implementation of judicial rulings, kept persons in detention even after the court acquits or releases them on bail in addition to refraining from returning dismissed persons back to work and reopening institutions after illegally closing them.

Gaza Strip:

Ramallah High Court issued a decision on 03 October 2016 upholding the application of the Council of Ministers' decision to hold elections in the West Bank but not in the Gaza Strip "because of the current judicial situation", pointing to the unlawfulness of the Gaza Strip courts that were formed in violation of the law. This decision raised many arguments due to the non-application of the *de facto* institutional theory, according to which the Gaza Strip courts are able to exercise their duties until the end of the Palestinian split in order to re-unite and rehabilitate the Palestinian judiciary. Until then, the court's decisions can be reviewed according to logical standards and conditions that can be agreed on by both parties of the split, as part of the transition. The High Court's decision threatens the legal status and procedures in the Gaza Strip and makes the acquired rights of citizens unstable. This situation puts responsibility on all parties to put an end to the on-going split and to put the unity of the judiciary as a top priority.

The judiciary continued its work for the 10th year without having a legal status in accordance with the Palestinian law due to political bickering that affects its work, the independence of its decisions and confidence in them. Following the di-

vision, the Higher Judicial Council, formed by the former government in the Gaza Strip, supervises the judiciary, in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law. Accordingly, the judiciary works in complete dependence of its counterpart in the West Bank. This Council practices all the administrative duties, including assigning and transferring judges and issuing orders and administrative decisions related to the judiciary's work. The division in the judiciary threatens the financial transactions between the West Bank and Gaza Strip in addition to civilians' interests that are divided between the two parties.

It should be mentioned that despite PCHR's calls upon all the concerned parties to leave the judiciary aside from their arguments, it is considered an important reference in light of the existing conflicts and a source of stability and tranquillity for society. However, the work of the judiciary in Gaza was stopped in November 2007 by the Supreme Judicial Council due to direct attacks on the courts and interference in its work. As a result, the judges suspended their work in the judiciary, and the former Gaza government unconstitutionally appointed new judges. Therefore, the courts immediately returned to practice their duties but with a new cadre that was illegally appointed. Hence, there are now two separate judicial systems in the PA controlled areas; one in the West Bank and the other one in the Gaza Strip.

Although human rights organizations boycotted the judicial system formed in Gaza, as they considered it unconstitutional, they returned to deal with the judiciary in 2011 under the pressure of protecting the rights and liberties from the executive authority's abuse, thereby accepting it as a *de facto* authority. In April 2012, PCHR filed a petition challenging the constitutionality of the ministerial amendment made to the Executive Bill of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law. Moreover, PCHR filed a petition in May 2013 to appeal against the prevention of two staff members from travelling to the West Bank via Beit Hanoun "Erez" crossing. Both petitions were rejected by the court. Thus, PCHR became certain about the fragility of the judiciary formed in Gaza.

Obstruction of General and Local Elections

Expectations to bring life to the democratic process in the PA during 2016 were reduced after the Palestinian Minister Council of the National Unity Government decided to defer the elections, which were supposed to be held on 08 October 2016, for 4 months in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. PCHR hopes that the elections will be held in all local councils during 2017 as it must be an introduction for holding general elections and rehabilitate the Palestinian Authority's institutions in addition to ending the split.

It should be noted that the democratic process in Palestine was disrupted due to the split in 2007. In addition, the legislative and presidential elections that were scheduled for 2010 have not been held yet. Moreover, the local council elections have not been held in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since 2005, with the exception of elections in the West Bank in 2012. In addition, the PLC was entirely obstructed and the municipalities in the Gaza Strip were administrated by non-elected councils. While there are elected municipalities in the West Bank, the elections themselves were not held in a conducive atmosphere as Hamas Movement, representing the vast bloc in the local council elections of 2005, boycotted them.

On 03 May 2016, the Palestinian Unity Government's Council of Ministers issued a decision to hold elections of the local councils (municipalities) on their due date, 08 October 2016. PCHR welcomed this step and hoped for impartial circumstances, necessary for holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to achieve the elections' ultimate aim, which is electing representatives of the people's will to guarantee offering public services with more efficiency and impartiality. PCHR believes that holding elections requires coordination between the two parties to the division, starting from ensuring civil and political freedoms and giving enough time to all parties to restore their social and political activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to run the elections according to the principle of equal opportunities.

Following the Council of Ministers' decision, the CEC declared its technical readiness for the elections. On 23 June 2016, CEC approved the elections' timeline that scheduled the start date, including the candidates' registration, publishing and objection between 23-27 July 2016, while the candidacy period was scheduled to be between 18 and 27 August 2016. The election campaigns were scheduled from 24 September 2016 until 06 October 2016, whereas voting was to be held on 08 October 2016, followed by the announcement of the preliminary results the day after.

Most political parties, including Fatah and Hamas Movement, participated in the electoral process and announced their lists of candidates in a well-going process. After the nomination and challenges upheld due process, the electoral process went into another phase with the High Court cancelling the electoral lists of Fateh Movement, most of which were in Gaza, on grounds of appeals against a number of the lists' candidates. CEC cancelled 5 electoral lists in the local councils of Beit Hanoun, Um al-Nasser, al-Zahra' and al-Nusairat in the Gaza Strip and Yatta in the West Bank following the CEC's approval of objections presented against some candidates on these lists. PCHR stresses that CEC's decision violates the spirit of the Local Council Elections' Law no. 10/2005 and its Amendments. It further contradicts the aim of the electoral process that is based on identifying the voters' real will and choice of representatives, which would not be accomplished with the cancellation of electoral

lists that may include a high number of voters. As a response, lawyers submitted a lawsuit before the Ramallah High Court of Justice, in which they demanded to cancel the elections due to not holding them in Jerusalem in addition to the approval that Gaza courts consider the electoral appeals. On 08 September 2016, Ramallah's High Court of Justice issued a temporary decision to temporarily suspend holding the local council elections that were scheduled for 08 October.

On 03 October 2016, the High Court of Justice in Ramallah issued a decision to uphold the application of the Council of Ministers' decision to hold elections in the West Bank but not in the Gaza Strip *"because of the current judicial situation"*, pointing to the unlawfulness of the Gaza Strip courts that were formed in violation of the law. This decision was followed by a recommendation from the CEC to defer the elections for 6 months *"during which, the internal situation should be reformed and the relevant laws should be tackled to serve the higher interest of the Palestinian people"*. On 04 October 2016, the Council of Ministers decided to defer the elections for 4 months, seemingly in response to the aforementioned recommendation.

In view of the above, PCHR welcomes the Council of Ministers' decision to defer the elections until the circumstances are convenient for the Gaza Strip's participation. PCHR believes that holding the elections simultaneously in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is important to put an end to the Palestinian division and confront the Israeli schemes aiming at isolating the Gaza Strip and deepening the split that will make the establishment of a Palestinian State impossible.

PCHR stresses that political participation is a basic human right, a cornerstone of a democratic system for promoting the rule of law and respecting civilians' rights and dignity. Moreover, it allows civilians to express their point of view in general issues concerning public affairs. Democratic and impartial elections represent a form of political participation and an essential and fundamental aspect for establishing a democratic governance based on voters' will and granting the existing system's legal validity. Furthermore, democratic elections have to be held periodically and systemically in the frame of the law.

Violation of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

In 2016, violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression continued in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in light of the Palestinian division, which entered its tenth²⁰ year. Both parties to the political split misused the existing laws to undermine the freedom of opinion and expression and deny the right to information access. The most prominent methods that were used to undermine the freedom of opinion and expression were repeated summonses, custody pending further investigation and the cruel and inhuman treatment that would lead to torture. Social media was the most prominent target, as authorities worked on undermining the freedom of opinion and expression on it. They chased Facebook activists on grounds of expressing their political opinions and criticizing public authorities. In terms of freedom of belief, the law enforcement officials in the Gaza Strip committed assaults to the freedom of expression, during which serious accusations of sectarianism occurred.

During this year, Jenin's Mayor forced a writer to burn his books because it discussed the families' origin in his village in a way that was considered not acceptable by the village residents. These cases violate the freedom of opinion and expression. Such incidents create an atmosphere of self-censorship for journalists, writers and people with different opinion and believe to avoid raising an issue that might subject them to persecution by public au-

thorities or attacks committed by civilians.

During 2016, flagrant interferences with the work of syndicates happened. A number of teachers were subject to attacks, while some of them were arrested on grounds of demanding their syndicate rights, including their right to have a syndicate representing them. They believe that the existing syndicate is supporting the authority and not the teachers' interests.

20. For more information, review PCHR's report on 03 May 2016.

Those activists of teachers under the name of “Teachers’ Protest” convinced most of the teachers to strike for weeks until their demands are achieved, including the right to have a syndicate representing them. The Palestinian Authority in Ramallah used several arbitrary security procedures against teachers, such as beating and arresting them, repeated summoning for investigations in addition to threats on grounds of this activity. However, teachers are still attempting to obtain their right to a proper syndicate, as they accuse the current syndicate of not representing them. The latest interference took place on 01 November 2016, when the Minister of Education decided to ban the “Teachers’ Protest” from practicing any syndicate work in educational institutions. PCHR stresses that syndicate work is an issue related to teachers only and that the authority should not interfere in it. PCHR also considers that teachers alone are responsible for choosing their representatives and ought to find solutions for this issue, but if they violate the law the authority should interfere according to legal standards. The freedom of access to information, which is considered the cornerstone of freedom of expression and opinion, is still not protected by a law. As long as the freedom of access to information, which is the basis of forming an opinion, is not available, the opinion itself will be insufficient. The Palestinian legal system needs a law to protect the freedom of access to information. With regards to PCHR’s follow-up and the obstacles faced while obtaining access to information, PCHR highlights that the absence of this right and its means negatively reflects on institutions’ work and capacity to accomplish its work, including the capability to contribute to the follow-up as well as to enhance and complete the governmental performance.

PCHR stresses that the right to freedom of opinion and expression, religion, thought and creation are essential for any state’s independence and the suppression of these freedoms will lead to disorders. PCHR emphasizes that ideological and cultural diversity will enrich the culture and that launching cultural freedoms, especially the freedom of research and writing, are indispensable for the development of any society. PCHR also stresses that the PA should follow its commitments and respect the freedom of opinion and expression, as it acceded to the ICCPR in 2014 and as stipulated in the 2003 Palestinian Basic Law.

Gaza Strip

Deterioration of the right to freedom of opinion and

expression in the Gaza Strip continued in addition to other violations, including the misuse of power against journalists and opinion makers, amounting to torture. PCHR documented the first murder case in the Gaza Strip on grounds of belief and opinion of expression, which reflects the disregard for the freedom of belief and opinion. This negatively affects the social space given for others in a society and obliges journalists and opinion makers to not to exceed the so-called “society taboos”.

In 2016, more restrictions were taken on the right to freedom of access to information in the Gaza Strip, as the Director of Public Relations and Media in the Public Administration of Gaza Hospitals issued an undated statement in an official paper from the Ministry of Health to the public branches in hospitals saying:

“We inform you about the following: do not to deal with media institutions with regards to following subjects and contact the Department of Media and Public Relations at the General Administration of Hospitals: 1- suicide; 2- medical errors; 3- Tramadol; 4- spies (confidential files); 5- information about finance and hospital activities; 6- information about the personnel’s work and structure; and 7- killings. International institutions should refer to the Public Administration for International Cooperation as you ought not to deal directly with them. Journalist Mohammed ‘Othman is banned from entering the hospital of the Ministry of Health.”

The following are the most significant violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression documented by PCHR in the Gaza Strip during the reported period:

- On 01 October 2016, Ehab Fafous, journalist at ‘Okaz Newspaper in Gaza, was arrested by the Palestinian police in Gaza. He told PCHR’s fieldworker that he was subjected to a degrading treatment on grounds of publishing a press report about corruption, in which he criticized the contract system of streets’ development.
- On 18 September 2016, ISS officers, dressed like civilians, arrested *al-Sheikh Mahmoud Abdul ‘Aziz Joudah (57)* on grounds of posting a video of him talking about “al-Sahaba” and criticizing some historic religious figures.
- On 01 September 2016, civilian Mohammed Ahmed ‘Othman told PCHR’s fieldworkers that he was arrested from his house in Gaza and

was tortured by the ISS on grounds of posting a (non-confidential) document from the Council of Ministers' Department on his Facebook page.

- On 07 April 2016, journalist Ayman Ghazi al-'Aloul told PCHR's fieldworker that he received a summons from the Magistrate Court in Gaza to refer to them on 12 April 2016 under the charge of misusing the means of technology. On 03 January, officers from the ISS came to al-'Aloul's house, arrested him and took him to the ISS's office, where he was subjected to torture on grounds of expressing his opinion on social media.
- On 03 January 2016, *Ramzi Sobhi Herzallah (27)*, who works in a currency exchange shop, told PCHR's fieldworker that officers of the ISS in Gaza arrested him and took him to their office in Qaser al-Hakem area. They accused him of collaborating with Ramallah and Egypt. Ramzi was subjected to torture on grounds of expressing his opinion on social media.
- On 14 to 24 January 2016, a civilian from Khan Yunis told PCHR's fieldworker that he was summoned by the ISS in Khan Yunis 3 times on grounds of posts on his Facebook page. The civilian was released during the last time, after he orally pledged not to criticize the authority in the Gaza Strip again.

West Bank

Attacks of journalists and opinion makers continued in the West Bank, in addition to the arbitrary use of law in order to limit freedoms. PCHR documented a number of cases, including physical attacks, arbitrary arrests and repeated summoning of journalists and opinion makers. In an unprecedented step reflecting the reality of the right to think and creativity, as a manifestation of the freedom of opinion and expression, the authorities decided to confiscate a book and burn it. The book writer underwent severe hardship because of the book content, which discussed the origin of Faqqu'a village in Jenin and was deemed unacceptable by the families of the village. The writer was accused of causing tensions in the relations with Jordan.

The following are the most significant violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, documented by PCHR during the reporting period in the West Bank:

- On 25 June 2016, *'Amer Abdul Halim Abu 'Ara-*

fah, journalist at Shehab News Agency in the West Bank, told PCHR's fieldworker that he was arrested by the PSS while practicing his job at Nablus market.

- On 27 July 2016, Mohammed *Farid Abu Khabisa*, journalist at Shasha News and Anadolu Agency, told PCHR's fieldworker that he was arrested by the PSS in Ramallah on grounds of publishing data about the budget of Wafa News Agency, in which the authority claimed that he had exaggerated it.
- On 15 June 2016, *Jihad Qasem*, journalist at Watan TV channel, told PCHR's fieldworker that he was beaten by police officers in Qalandiya refugee camp while covering a crackdown in the camp.
- On 16 September 2016, *Mojahid Mohammed al-Sa'adi*, journalist in Palestine Today Channel, told PCHR's fieldworker that he was beaten and arrested by PSS officers in Jenin due to covering a protest organized by Islamic Jihad Movement in solidarity with prisoners on hunger strike in the Israeli jails.
- On 13 October 2016, *Nedal Mahmoud Ashmer*, a photographer at Ramsat Media Agency, told PCHR's fieldworker that he was arrested by PSS in Hebron. He was interrogated and appeared before the Attorney General on charges of slandering prominent figures due to his posts on his Facebook page.
- On 04 February 2016, Nablus Magistrate Court issued a decision to extend the detention of *Abdul Satar Qasem (67)*, a lecturer at al-Najah National University, for 15 more days pending investigation. This decision was issued after the Attorney General accused Qasem of slandering prominent figures and inciting sectarian feuds in his interview with a TV channel.

On 08 January 2016, Salim Yunis Suwaidan, editor of Nablus TV channel, told PCHR's fieldworker that the PSS detained him when he appeared before the Attorney General. He was accused of slandering public authorities, publishing false news and agitating violence and hatred. He was brought to trial due to publishing documents about the PSS investigation regarding a wounded civilian before his arrest by the Israeli forces.

The year 2016 witnessed continued restrictions imposed on the right to peaceful assembly by the two governments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including legal restrictions and practical measures to ban civilians from enjoying this right, such as banning peaceful meetings and dispersing them by force as well as attacking and threatening participants. These official restrictions exceeded to affect private meetings, such as seminars, parties or conferences held in closed places, which do not fall under the umbrella of Public Meetings' Law No. 12 of 1998, do not require notifying the police or the governor, and are guaranteed to be held without the intervention of the police through the Palestinian Basic Law.

The restrictions imposed on the right to peaceful assembly resulted in a general decline in using this right in the PA controlled areas as a tool of expression, peaceful protest or seeking to influence public policies. This particularly applies to demonstrations and sit-ins, which do not serve certain trends or are against the ruling authority either in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. In most cases, public meetings, particularly protests, were violated either by being prevented, forcibly dispersed or subjected to attacks, summonses and even arrests of participants.

Gaza Strip

PCHR documented the dispersal of peaceful assemblies in several areas, as follows:

1. The security services in the Gaza Strip prevented a group of public figures from holding a first founding conference titled "Patriots to End the Palestinian Split and Recover National Unity" that was scheduled for 09 April 2016, in the PRCS hall in Gaza, even though they had obtained a written permit from the Director-General of the police in Gaza. Mr. Jamil al-Majdalawi, a PLC member and one of the organizers of the conference stated to PCHR's fieldworker: "On 07 April 2016, the conference preparatory committee has received a phone call from a security officer, who verbally informed the committee about cancelling the written approval that was previously given to them to hold the conference. Moreover, the officer threatened that they would use all means available to ban the conference."
2. On 10 August 2016, officers of the security service dispersed a meeting held by the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW) in al-Salam Restaurant "Abu Hasirah" in al-Menaa' intersection, west of Gaza City. The restaurant administration received an order from the security service to inform the participants in the meeting to evacuate the place immediately, so the manager informed Mrs. Amal Hamad, Coordinator of the GUPW, to do so. Mona Abu Sha'ban, Director of the GUPW office in Gaza, told PCHR's fieldworker that the participants were about 100 working women from all branches of the union. She also said that preparing for local council elections was the first on the list to be discussed in the meeting. Mona Abu Sha'ban added that they were surprised when the Manger of the abovementioned restaurant informed them at about 12:45 to immediately evacuate the place following a security service order. Therefore, they evacuated the place.

West Bank

During the reporting period, PCHR documented that the Palestinian security services dispersed peaceful assemblies held in many areas in the West Bank:

1. On 22 August 2016, police officers attacked activists protesting in front of the UN's headquarter in 'Ein Munjed in Ramallah, in solidarity with detainee Bilal Kayed who was on a hunger strike. Altercations erupted between the policemen and a number of participants. As a result, the policemen detained 2 participants, beat and insulted them, but released them after a few hours. *Ghassan Husam Karaha (26)* told PCHR's fieldworker: "Officers of the security service took us to a guards' room in the UN office. We were subjected to physical search as well as beating by batons and the officers verbally insulted us. After 10 minutes, the officers took us to the police office in 'Ein Munjed. They then ordered us to turn our faces to the wall and raise our hands up. After that, they beat us by hands and sticks for half an hour."
2. On 04 October 2016, security services dispersed a peaceful protest in Ramallah, which was organized by "Youth Movement", and beat a number of participants. Dozens of Palestinian civilians gathered at al-Sa'ah intersection in the center of Ramallah to organize a peaceful protest upon an invitation launched by the "Youth Movement" in memory of the victims and in protest against the Palestinian President's participation in the funeral of the

former Israeli President Shimon Peres in occupied Jerusalem on Friday, 30 September 2016. Among the wounded persons was *Mohanned Karaja (32)*, lawyer at al-Dameer Association for Human Rights. He sustained a wound below his left eye and bruises throughout his body when the officers tore up his suit.

At the same time, the governing authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip allowed organizing dozens of peaceful assemblies, particularly protests, which serve their beliefs and interests, each in its controlled area. They also encouraged these assemblies and made all efforts to establish them with ease, including providing protection for the participants and organizing the traffic.

In the Gaza Strip, PCHR documented the organization of many peaceful assemblies in protest against Israeli activities, most of which were called for by Hamas Movement, which is controlling the Gaza Strip without restrictions. In some cases, other assemblies and protests organized by other political parties or civil society organizations regarding specific issues did not face any hindrances and were tolerated by the security services.

With regards to the West Bank, there was an obvious tolerance for the peaceful assemblies of activists or institutions that serve the interests of the authority. Most of these assemblies were organized by Fatah Movement, which controls the West Bank. Furthermore, other peaceful assemblies that met the objectives and orientations of the authority were allowed to be held.

Violation of the Right to Form Associations

The restrictions imposed by the PA on the civil society in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued throughout 2016. The Unity Government's Council of Ministers imposed new restrictions on associations' finance, which undermine their work and create a weak civil society in the face of the political powerful. Furthermore, ministries, such as the Ministry of Interior, and security services in the Gaza Strip continued targeting associations through arbitrary search procedures, encroaching the associations' independence and interfering in their affairs by issuing a series of regulations and decisions.

The authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip used the division as a basic motive to impose restrictions on associations. The formation of the National Unity Government in 2014, which did not seize control over the Gaza Strip, did not change the reality of the right to form associations. Nonetheless, the parties to the division continued their attempts to seize control over civil society, in light of the formation of the National Unity Government and the internal conflicts plaguing Fatah Movement. Civil society organizations were subjected to several security campaigns and arbitrary measures following the division, such as the closing a number of associations, seizing control over others and imposing decisions and rules on associations, which made them either dependent on the authority or struggle to gain their independence.

Throughout 2016, the goal of the National Unity Government to seize control over associations has become more obvious. This was made clear through several statements made by the Prime Minister and through governmental decisions. These decisions and statements focused on imposing strict control over associations instead of building cooperation with them that would positively affect the civilians and the type of services offered by the two parties. This approach constitutes an assault on associations and interference in their affairs, a situation that has worsened following the 2007 internal division of the PA.

This year witnessed an enhanced monitoring of the associations' sources of funds, which undermines their freedoms, while their activities were controlled through a regulation issued by the Unity Government's Council of Ministers. This interference is considered a violation of international standards, which require respecting the associations' right to privacy and practicing their activities in addition to receiving funds. These arbitrary monitoring measures also violate the related domestic laws, especially the Executive Bill of the Associations' Law, which stipulates in Article 46, paragraph (3): *"There is no right for any official body to interfere with the associations' meetings, elections and activities or influence them."* There is no doubt, that monitoring the funds and identifying the destination of expenses are the most significant means of seizing control over associations and undermining their independence.

The associations' departments in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip are still imposing restrictions on forming a board of directors. In the Gaza Strip, the decision to prevent employees "who were temporarily suspended from their work" from the membership of associations' administration is still applied, despite the abolishment of the decision by former Prime Minister, Ismail Haniyeh, in 2014. The authorities interfered in selecting the names of the board of directors during the registration. Moreover,

the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah has to approve the board of directors before it is able to conduct financial transactions on behalf of the association.

PCHR called upon the parties to the division to immediately take all efforts to unify the legal system related to freedoms, particularly the right to form associations. Moreover, PCHR called for the abolition of all decisions issued against associations under the division and the necessity to review all legislations related to the right to form associations, especially those issued under the division. During 2016, no progress concerning respecting the right to form associations was made. Following is a brief description about the right to form associations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 2016:

West Bank

The National Unity Government tightened restrictions on non-profit companies through Palestinian Council of Ministers' regulation No. 15/99/17/M.W/R.H, which authorizes the council to grant approvals for non-profit organizations to receive donations, funds, charities and scholarships. This decision is one of many restrictions imposed by the government on associations in an attempt to seize control over its decisions and undermine its independence. The decision came after civil society objected the Unity Government's Council of Ministers' decision to approve the amended system of the Non-Profit Companies Regulation No. 3 of 2010, which imposed serious restrictions on the work of non-profit companies and their independence, particularly on receiving funds. Rather than responding to civil society, who had sent a letter to the Head of the Ministers' Council, the Council of Ministers issued a mechanism to apply the abovementioned decision in order to impose restrictions on the associations' right to receive funds.

In 2016, the Palestinian Prime Minister issued a regulation No. (30/17/R.W/R.H), according to which a governmental committee was formed to coordinate with and contact representatives of civil society, who were assigned by NGO's Action Coordination Council in Palestine on 14 July 2016. The NGO's Action Coordination Council selected the names of officials of prominent civil society organizations in the West Bank to be included in the committee of "Communication and Partnership with the Government" for the Council of Ministers. According to PCHR's follow-up, these committees did not contribute to promoting the work of associations or its independence. To the contrary, they held a formal meeting once and their duties were limited to addressing public recommendations concerning the importance of collaborations. PCHR states that if the Council of Ministers was truly concerned about collaboration and communication with civil society organizations, they should abolish or amend the issued decisions, which were a flagrant interference in the work of associations and undermine its independence. The Council of Ministers should also put an end to the Ministry of Interior's practices against the organizations, if the collaboration matter should be considered credible.

The government in Ramallah imposed an indirect restriction on the associations' right to independence in its internal affairs by forcing associations to obtain approval for the new board of directors from the Ministry of Interior, in order to enable the board of directors to conduct bank transactions. Without approval by the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah, the banks will not deal with the new board. This arbitrary and unjustified procedure makes the continuation of the associations' work dependent on the approval of the Ministry of Interior of the newly elected board of directors. However, this procedure has no base in the Palestinian Law as it clearly violates the international standards binding the Palestinian Authority.

It should be noted, that during the internal split the Palestinian President has issued 2 laws related to the right to form associations. The first law was law No. 6/2008, which stipulates amending the Companies Act that allows setting up non-profit companies; and the second law No. 6/2011, which stipulates amending the Charitable Associations and Community Organizations Law, due to which the association funds can be transferred to the PA's treasury. In addition, there was decree No. 11/2012, which stipulates re-establishing the NGOs Affairs' Authority. PCHR considered this decree as a reproduction of an old authority that proved its failure in the past and is aiming to seize control over civil society and its funding sources. The former Council of Ministers issued 2 decisions related to the right to form associations in Ramallah. The first decision was No. 3/2010 regarding the law of non-profit companies. This decision was disappointing in its content because it did not respect the right to form non-profit companies in addition to giving arbitrary powers to the Ministry of Economy to follow up and dissolve non-profit companies. The Council of Ministers' second decision no.8/2007 was with regard to associations and NGOs that practice illegal activities.

Gaza Strip

Restrictions imposed on civil society continued in the Gaza Strip through promoting a case of self-commitment for associations to abstain from activities that could bother the authorities. The most prominent attack on the right to form associations in 2016 was closing Al-Bakeyat El-Salehat Society in Gaza. In addition, international organizations were targeted and put under pressure and Ra'afat al-Ashqar, Director of Public Affairs in the Ministry of Interior, attacked associations and accused them of corruption, nepotism and embezzlement. Following these incidents were a long series of procedures and regulations that were respectively issued, restricting the work of associations in the Gaza Strip. They also granted the authority almost absolute powers over associations and enables it to close any association or organization.

The most prominent attack against international organizations was the Ministry of Interior's attempt to force the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to reveal private information of the Council regarding the beneficiaries of its services, which would affect the privacy of the beneficiaries. The request was refused by the NRC, which led the Ministry of Interior to closing the Council for a few days. Moreover, international organizations were subjected to harassments by the Ministry of Interior, even though they usually resort to friendly solutions by offering concessions regarding their work.

Throughout the year, the Monetary Authority's interference in associations' work and their right of existence increased, as more restrictions were imposed by the PA in Ramallah against associations in the Gaza Strip, especially those affiliated with Hamas Movement. Following these restrictions, banks in the Gaza Strip refused associations founded since 2007, with minor exceptions, to open a bank account. In addition, they imposed various restrictions on accepting money transfers for public associations in the Gaza Strip. Most of the banks received orders from the Monetary Authority not to deal with any board of council that is not approved by the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah. Moreover, the banks can verbally reject the opening of bank accounts of associations without any justification. With the absence of an official paper that proves the bank's refusal, it will be more difficult for the associations to resort to higher official bodies or the judiciary.

The statements of officials in the Associations' Department reveal their suspicion when dealing with associations, how they impose audit procedures and hint at corruption particularly with regards to those who object this arbitrary monitoring. Among the imposed restrictions was a statement of the Ministry of Interior to ban any activity related to gathering information through surveys or conducting studies unless they were approved by the abovementioned Ministry. Moreover, the Ministry of Interior is constantly auditing the associations' files without legal justification. In March, according to the Ministry's website, they audited 26 association and subjected 7 others to search²¹. These numbers reflect the security mentality of the Ministry of Interior when dealing with associations.

It should be mentioned that the Change and Reform Bloc, which issues decisions without legal basis on behalf of the PLC, issued 3 laws related to the work of associations and syndicates since the division. These laws are only applied in the Gaza Strip and encompass Companies Law No. 7/2012, which neglects the right to form non-profit companies, Youth Law No. 2/2011 and Syndicate Law No. 2/2013. Moreover, the former Council of Ministers in Gaza issued 8 decisions with regulations related to the right to form associations. All these decisions were aimed at seizing more control over the associations and undermining their independence. It should be noted, that all of these decisions violate the Associations' Law and the relevant international standards. The most prominent decision was the amendment made by the former Council of Ministers in Gaza on the Executive Bill of the Associations' Law. The amendment gave powers to the Ministry of Interior, equivalent to the powers of the responsible ministry, which constitutes a violation of the law.

21. Palestinian Interior Ministry in Gaza, " Financial Monitoring and auditing of Associations.. Important Milestone to evacuate National Development" latest news, <, 2016 April 11: <http://www.moi.gov.ps/news/104598>>/



**PART (2):
PCHR Activities 2016**

Introduction

In light of the continued deterioration of human rights situation and international humanitarian law as explained in this report's first section, PCHR continued its struggle to defend human rights in the oPt. In 2016, PCHR's work focused on prosecuting the Israeli criminals, particularly through communicating with the ICC and other international mechanisms. PCHR monitored and documented the Israeli forces' crimes and arbitrary practices against civilians. These efforts coincide with other efforts at the internal level to promote democracy and human rights, which face tough challenges in light of the Palestinian division.

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

Strategic Priorities:

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

The way to achieve these strategic priorities is long in light of an unprecedented Israeli colonial occupation; a Palestinian authority that does not have control over the Palestinian land and resources and has suffered from an internal division for 10 years; and the consequent facts threatening the whole Palestinian national project. Despite all challenges, PCHR is headstrong about promoting human rights in the oPt, being armed first with its belief in human rights and the just cause of the Palestinian people and second with legitimate demands of freedom and independence ensured under the international law. PCHR has invested its accumulated experience throughout 20 years and employed all available law tools to achieve justice and maintain the Palestinian people's dignity.



Meeting of PCHR's Board of Directors

Outcomes:

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

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



Meeting of PCHR's Program Committee

The following section of the report presents in detail PCHR's efforts exerted throughout 2016 at the international and national levels and how PCHR effectively and efficiently employed law and advocacy in serving its strategic priorities and relevant outcomes. Moreover, the indicators will be shown in detail as well within a logical framework designed in light of the new strategy.

Outcome (1)

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

In 2016, PCHR's efforts and interventions in cooperation with its national and international partners contributed to challenging the climate of impunity for Israeli perpetrators of human rights and international humanitarian law violations in the oPt and to improving access to legal remedies for Palestinian victims. PCHR's interventions included this year: legal aid provided to Palestinian victims of Israeli HR/IHL violations through engagement in the Israeli justice mechanisms; access for Palestinian victims to international litigation through litigation mechanisms; and international and local advocacy efforts to influence the policies of national and international stakeholders urging them to take actions against the Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Indicators

PCHR and its partners achieved the following outcomes:

- » The ICC Public Prosecutor's preliminary investigations opened on 16 January 2015 continued into the commission of Israeli crimes in the oPt since June 2014. In light of this, PCHR and its partners presented 3 submissions to the ICC Prosecutor. Those submissions addressed the crimes committed by Israeli forces during the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip; a special file on the Black Friday Massacre in Rafah; and the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip that is considered as a crime of persecution and classified as well as crime against humanity according to the Roma Statute. PCHR awaits the ICC's decision to open an investigation into those crimes in 2017.
- » On 23 December 2016, the UN Security Council issued Resolution no. (2334) to condemn the crime of settlements and reassure that the international community does not recognize any demographic changes to the 4 June 1967 lines. The Resolution also calls for distinguishing between the State of Israel and settlements established on the Palestinian lands of the West Bank. PCHR considers this as an important step and solid foundation if the international community commits to it.
- » On 18 October 2016, UNESCO issues a decision, emphasizing that al-Aqsa Mosque is an Islamic heritage and condemning the Israeli excavations and works beneath al-Aqsa Mosque and the Israeli arbitrary measures against the freedom of worship, Muslims' access to the Mosque, and Israeli settlers' repeated raids of the Mosque. The decision also condemns Israel's attempts to alter the historic status quo of the City through establishing temples and buildings.
- » During its 31st session, the UN Human Rights Council condemns the Israeli crimes and practices and reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. This decision also condemns the forcible deportation of Palestinian civilians and continued attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian ci-

vilians and their property. The decisions also denounces the Israeli obstacles to the freedom of movement of commodities and persons and other obstacles imposed by the Israeli authorities in the way of Palestinian development and even hindering the entry of humanitarian aid.

- » In July 2016, Scotland Yard's War Crimes Unit issued a subpoena against the Israeli former Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni, during her visit to the United Kingdom on ground of being involved in crimies committed against Palestinians in 2008-2009. The subpoena was issued upon a lawsuit filed by PCHR against her before the British Judiciary. Livni refused the subpoena, and the British foreign Ministry then stated that Livni was on a "Special Diplomatic Mission", granting her immunity from the war crimes she is accused of.



Meeting of PCHR's Legal Aid Unit

Outputs

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

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

Indicators

- » Legal aid was provided to 2,924 persons in the Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR received 600 positive responses to its legal interventions.

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

The Legal Aid Unit's activities included building legal files and filing complaints, appeals and cases before the Israeli courts. Building legal files requires special efforts from the Unit's lawyers: 1. Obtaining powers of attorney from victims to file a complaint on their behalf and a request to open a criminal investigation into the crime; 2. Visiting the crime scene to identify the circumstances and collect as much evidence as possible; 3. Obtaining affidavits from eyewitnesses; 4. Taking photos of the scene and drawing sketches in addition to identifying the location via Google Earth; 5. Collecting shrapnel from the crime scene to identify the weapon and keep it in physical evidence bags with a serial number until the bags are delivered to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) in the Palestinian Ministry of Interior, as PCHR lawyer should be informed about the whole process; 6. Obtaining technical reports from the EOD explaining the weapon used in the crime; 7. Obtaining documents and identification papers related to the nature of the crime (including medical reports and death certificates to identify the number of killed and wounded persons); and 8. Obtaining documents or statements issued by the Israeli authorities or others related to the crime.

After building the legal files, the Unit worked in two directions: first, filing complaints to request the Israeli MAG to conduct a criminal investigation; second, sending written notifications to the compensation officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense. Those complaints and notifications were followed up by sending reminders to the competent authorities. Appeals were also filed before the Israeli Public Prosecution and the Legal Advisor to the Israeli government on the negative responses received from the Military Prosecution concerning many complaints. Criminal investigations were demanded to be opened and the reasons behind closing investigation files should be clarified by the Military Prosecution. The Unit's lawyers filed some appeals before the Israeli High Court due to the negative responses from the Public Prosecution. The Unit also followed up a number of cases, where investigation was opened by



Hind Radi receives NIS 300,000 in compensation of her husband's death due to medical negligence at St. Joseph Hospital in Jerusalem on 17 August 2016

the Israeli Military Police. All of the aforementioned cases were related to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip in summer 2014. Moreover, the Unit provided more information upon interventions with the military police and coordinated for a number of eyewitnesses accompanying a PCHR lawyer to be interviewed by the Military Police interrogators.

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

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

Indicators

- » 230 persons were provided with legal aid.

1.1.1.1 Building Legal Files

Indicators

- » The number of legal files prepared during the reporting period was 3 on behalf of 6 victims.
- » The number of legal files related to the latest "Protective Edge" offensive and followed up by the Unit amounted to 246 on behalf of 1080 victims.

1.1.1.2 Filing Complaints Demanding Criminal Investigations

Indicators

- » 3 complaints were filed before the MAG
- » The total number of complaints filed before

the MAG related to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip was 247.

- » PCHR has not yet received any response to 214 complaints related to the Israeli latest offensive.
- » The Unit received 36 responses related to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip; including 17 negative responses, 7 responses to initiate investigations; 10 responses requesting further evidence supporting the complaints; and 2 general responses confirming receipt of the complaints and they are referred to the concerned authorities.
- » The Unit still follows up 22 cases, where investigation was opened, before the Israeli Military Police. The follow-up included 15 files provid-

ing additional information and documents, including medical reports, and 7 files regarding coordinating for the eyewitnesses accompanying a PCHR lawyer to be interviewed by the Military Police representatives.

- » The number of cases discussed with the Inquiry Commission of the Israeli General Staff "experts committee" was 122; all of which were related to the latest offensive on the Gaza Strip.
- » The Unit received 4 negative responses from the MAG.

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

Indicators

- » Six notifications were filed on behalf of each of the victims before the compensation officer at the Israeli Ministry of Defense. (2 injuries, 3 killings and destruction of a house)
- » The total number of notifications filed by the Unit relevant to the latest Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip was 1,080 on behalf of the victims (497 notifications related to killings; 442 notifications related to injuries and 141 notifications related to property damages)
- » The Unit received 11 responses from the Legal Advisor to the Security Service - Compensation Officer at the Ministry of Defense; 10 of which confirming receipt of notifications while the last one was negative.

1.1.1.4 Filing Compensation Cases before Israeli Courts

Indicators

- » The number of compensation cases followed up by the Unit before the Israeli courts on behalf of the victims and pending investigation was 22 cases.
- » Seven cases were canceled.
- » Three compensation cases on behalf of Protective Edge victims were filed before the Israeli courts.

1.1.1.5 Appealing on Decisions to Close Criminal Investigations

Indicators

- » The number of appeals filed before the Israeli High Court to open criminal investigations was 6; all of which are related to Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012.
- » The number of appeals filed before the legal advisor concerning closing files related to Operation Pillar of Defense was 12.
- » The number of appeals filed before the legal advisor concerning closing files related to Operation Protective Edge was 10.

1.1.1.6 Providing Legal Consultations to Victims and their Relatives

Indicators

- » The number of consultations provided by the legal aid unit to victims and their relatives was 210.

1.1.2 Legal Aid was Provided to Prisoners in the Israeli Jails

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

Indicators

- » Legal aid was provided to 44 prisoners from the Gaza Strip in the Israeli jails.

1.1.2.1 Representing Prisoners Newly Arrested and Intervening to Release them

Indicators

- » The unit provided 44 Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails with legal aid by assigning a lawyer before the Israeli courts to identify their detention places and legal status.

1.1.2.2 Filing Complaints to the Competent Authorities on Detention Conditions and Sick Prisoners

Indicators

- » Three complaints were filed on behalf of 3 sick prisoners in the Israeli jails before the competent authorities in addition to following up 25 complaints from the previous years.

1.1.2.3 Providing Legal Consultations to Families of Prisoners

Indicators

- » The Unit offered 116 legal consultations to the prisoners' families.

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

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

Indicators

- » The number of persons who received legal aid was 30.
- » The number of responses from the Compensation Office was 5 confirming receipt of notification on confiscation of fishing boats.

1.1.3.1 Filing Complaints

Indicators

- » The number of followed complaints on the attacks against fishermen was 7; (6 confiscation and 1 destruction.)
- » One complaint was filed on behalf of farmers in addition to following up 3 previous complaints.
- » Thirty complaints are still in the follow-up stage.

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

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

Indicators

- » The number of civilians who received legal aid was 1043; 399 of whom managed to travel.

1.1.4.1 Filing Complaints

Indicators

- » The Legal Unit filed 1043 complaints to the Israeli Humanitarian Center at Beit Hanoun (Erez) crossing in addition to sending dozens of reminding letters.
- » The Unit received positive responses to 399 complaints, so the complainants managed to travel, while 451 complaints were rejected.
- » 193 complaints are still pending followed up.

Complaints Relevant to the Freedom of Movement

Complaint	Number of Complaints	Follow-up results		
		Positive	Negative	Pending follow-up
Denying patients access to Israel for treatment	239	104	94	41
Denying patients access to the West Bank for treatment	462	152	214	96
Preventing patients' companions from traveling to the West Bank or Israel for treatment	46	21	18	7
Preventing businessmen from traveling to Israel and the West Bank for business purposes	24	1	19	4
Denying civilians access to the West Bank and Israel to visit or reunite with their families	17	9	4	4
Preventing Jerusalemite ID card holders from entering Gaza, extending their residency or obtaining a permit to Gaza	15	13	2	-
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank to attend meetings or having interviews in embassies	82	33	36	13
Preventing civilians from going to the West Bank and Jerusalem for religious purposes	15	5	6	4
Preventing civilians from traveling abroad	143	61	58	24
Total	1043	399	451	193

1.1.4.2 Providing Legal Consultations

Indicators

- » The number of legal consultations provided by the legal aid unit regarding the freedom of movement was 855.

1.1.5 Legal Aid Provided to Protect the Right to Health

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

positive end to guarantee the right to health. The unit also provided legal consultations related to the right to health.

Indicators

- » The number of patients who received legal aid from the unit was 235. 202 of them managed to travel for treatment.

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

Indicators

- » The number of complaints filed to Medical Referrals Department at the Ministry of Health and Physicians for Human Rights and hospitals in Israel was 235; 202 of which received positive responses and the complainants received the needed medical services.

1.1.5.2 Providing Legal Consultations on the Right to Health

Indicators:

- » The number of legal consultations provided by the unit is 246.

1.1.6 Legal Aid Provided to Restore Dead Bodies Kept in the Israeli Custody

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

Indicators

- » The number of persons provided aid was 16.

1.1.6.1 Filing Complaints

Indicators

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

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

During the reporting period, PCHR continued its pioneering role in utilizing various legal platforms in order to combat impunity. PCHR works on two levels together: a. ICC and b. universal jurisdiction. PCHR exhausted already all local legal means represented by the Israeli judiciary, as Israel is the occupying power that is bound by the international law to investigate suspected violations of human rights and intentional humanitarian law, to bring the perpetrators to justice and offer victims the proper judicial remedy the legal unit has built legal files and exhausted the domestic litigation means via using all legal tools available in the Israeli judicial system and then selecting and building the most important files to be uses at the international justice level in cooperation with strategic partners.

The December 2014 accession of Palestine to the ICC marked a turning point in our legal work to prosecute war criminals before international bodies and end the impunity environment enjoyed by Israel as a legal cover granted by its ally the U.S.A., which failed many attempts to have access to the ICC via the Security Council as in the cases of other intentional crimes considered by the ICC. This was preceded with PCHR and its partners' efforts over the last years to urge the ICC General Prosecutor to initiate an investigation into the situation in the oPt.¹ Regarding this important opportunity, PCHR devoted all its legal resources and international relations and played a pioneering role with the ICC, in partnership with Palestinian human rights organizations.

In 2016, PCHR interventions included: building legal files for international courts, arranging meetings with legal experts and coordinating with partners to identify the cases to be taken before international courts, communicating with the office of the ICC General Prosecutor, submit files to international legal bodies, assist victims and eyewitnesses to appear before international litigation bodies, and follow up cases based on universal jurisdiction.

Indicators

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

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

1.2.1. Building Legal Cases for International Litigation

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

Indicators:

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

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

In 2015, PCHR contacted a lot of international experts in complete coordination with the local and international partners regarding the work of the partner Palestinian organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mizan and al-Dameer) in order to choose and agree on the cases to be submitted to the ICC. PCHR also held meetings with a number of partners to choose the cases to be filed before the national courts or follow up cases already filed according to the universal jurisdiction.

Malaga Experts Conference “4”

On 14 and 15 May 2017, PCHR organized “Malaga 4” conference for legal experts, which is the fourth of its kind. The conference was organized in Malaga in Spain and attended by human rights organizations and legal experts.

The conference aims at promoting networking and developing effective strategies to address the ICC and to discuss the legal submissions presented by human rights organizations to the ICC. Moreover, the conference aims at reviewing all efforts relevant to employing the principle of Universal Jurisdiction to prosecute Israeli war criminals and how these efforts relate to action before the ICC.

The conference was opened by lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Mr. Shawan Jabareen, Director of al-Haq. The discussions reviewed the current strategy of human rights organizations’ work and relationship with the ICC in view of the preliminary investigation initiated by the Prosecutor of the ICC into the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. In addition, the future legal submissions to be prepared by Palestinian human rights organizations and submitted to the ICC were highlighted. The discussions tackled also the principle of Universal Jurisdiction and the efforts exerted in this regard in addition to the stages of future engagement as well.

It should be noted that this conference organized by PCHR in Malaga is the fourth of its kind. PCHR already organized 3 similar conferences in cooperation with international and Palestinian human rights organizations and lawyers in 2006, 2010 and 2013.



PCHR participates in Malaga «4» Conference

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

From 19-22 March 2016, PCHR and its partners met in Jordan with Emeric Roger, Chief of Situation Analysis Section in the ICC Office of the Prosecutor, and the preliminary investigation team in the ICC Public Prosecutor office. Each of Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director; Eyad 'Alami, Director of PCHR's Legal Unit, and Sha'wan Jabarin, Director of al-Haq, along with their legal team participated in the meeting.

Indicators

- » PCHR and its partners carried out one meeting with the ICC Public Prosecutor and her team at the ICC.

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

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

Third legal submission to the ICC Public Prosecutor

On 22 November 2016, Palestinian partner human rights organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mezan and al-Dameer) handed a third legal submission to the ICC Public Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, titled as "Gaza Illegal Closure: Persecution and Other Inhumane Acts Committed against Civilians as a Crime Against Humanity". The organizations called upon the ICC Prosecutor to examine the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip that has deprived 2 million Palestinians of their basic rights for a decade. The closure is considered as persecution and so considered as a crime against humanity according to the Rome Statue. The 145-page legal submission explains the legal foundations and proceedings of this case.

Israeli has imposed the closure on the Gaza Strip since June 2007. As a result the freedom of movement of persons and goods from and into the Gaza Strip mounted to the level of collective punishment. The Gaza Strip, which is an integral part of Palestine, is usually described as the biggest open air prison in the world. The organiza-

tions emphasized that the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip is disproportionate, discriminatory and not justified by any security purposes. Actually, the restrictions currently imposed on the movement of goods and persons were imposed as a punitive and persecutory measure. The four organizations concluded that there is a reasonable basis to classify the persecution crime as a crime against humanity. Presence of a persecution crime requires depriving a group of their fundamental rights by reason of identity. The organizations hereby emphasize that depriving Palestinians of their right to life, personal security, education, work, health, adequate food, water, housing, right to form a family, travel, freedom from discrimination and finally the right to dignity.

The ICC Prosecutor is currently conducting a preliminary examination in the situation of Palestine to decide whether to open an investigation in alleged crimes committed in the State of Palestine. On 01 April 2015, Palestine acceded to the ICC Rome Statute. Thus, the ICC has a universal jurisdiction to consider the crimes committed since 13 June 2014 as the ICC has universal jurisdiction to deal with crimes of collective punishment, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Coinciding with the submission filed to the ICC, the Palestinian human rights organizations prepared an executive summary of the submission and short documentary about the closure impact on the Gaza Strip daily life.



The Palestinian human rights organizations hold a press conference to announce depositing a legal submission to the ICC.

1.2.5 Filing Cases before National Courts within Universal Jurisdiction

PCHR continued its efforts to prosecute the Israeli officials suspected of committing war crimes against Palestinian civilians. The most significant case was when Scotland Yard's War Crimes Unit transmitted a letter to the Israeli Embassy in London inviting Tzipi Livni to a police interview under caution in relation to her role in Israel's 2008-2009 offensive on the Gaza Strip (Operation 'Cast Lead'). At the time of the offensive Livni was Minister for Foreign Affairs and a member of the Security Cabinet. Livni is suspected of having committed war crimes during Operation Cast Lead. In 2009, a British judge issued a warrant for her arrest with regard to those suspected war crimes.

Media reports state that, upon receiving the invitation for interview, senior Israeli officials immediately contacted their British counterparts, in an attempt to classify Livni's visit as a 'Special Mission' involving diplomatic contacts even though Livni holds no official position other than being a member of the Israeli Parliament in the main opposition party bloc. The British Foreign & Commonwealth Office decision to recognize Ms. Livni's visit as a Special Mission is a purported attempt to protect her from arrest and prosecution. The British Government needs to answer for this extraordinary interference with due process on the part of the police and DPP. The granting of Special Mission immunity in this instance is unwarranted, and inappropriate. The Convention on Special Missions states that: 'a "special mission" is a temporary mission, representing the State, which is sent by one State to another State with the consent of the latter for the purpose of /dealing with it on specific questions or of performing in relation to it a specific task'. There was no evidence that Livni's visit satisfied the requirements of the Convention on Special Missions. It was reported that a meeting with Government officials was scheduled only after Scotland Yard's invitation to interview her, which can only have been a calculated interference in due process on the part of the police, organized solely to facilitate the granting of immunity during her visit here.

The inappropriate last minute grant of Special Mission immunity, and Ms. Livni's refusal to cooperate with the police, directly undermine the rule of law. Regrettably, this appears to be part of a broader trend whereby Israeli officials suspected of committing war crimes are granted political cover, in order to shield them from investigation and accountability. The United Kingdom must not become a safe haven where suspected war criminals can escape justice by means of political interference in the legal system. The British people should not allow their legal system to be abused in this manner. As representatives of the victims, our request is simple: apply the law in an independent and impartial manner.

PCHR represents victims of war crimes and other violations of international law. Among other victim's families they act on behalf of Abed Rabbu Ashour Ahmed Al-Ghefari who is a Palestinian policeman. His brother Na'im Ashour Al-Ghefari died with more than 60 other civilian police officers and trainees when the police compound in Gaza City was bombed by Israeli war planes on 27 December 2008 while a graduation ceremony of police cadets was taking place.

Indicators

- » Efforts failed to arrest those suspected of committing war crimes for political reasons.
- » The Israeli authorities continued to impose restrictions on the movement abroad of the Israeli officials suspected of committing war crimes for fear of prosecution.

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

In 2016, PCHR exerted great efforts in the field of advocacy to influence the international and national stakeholders to take effective and serious actions to face the Israeli blatant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the oPt. PCHR's efforts included monitoring, documenting, disseminating and identifying Israeli violations on wide-scale; networking nationally and internationally to develop strategies and set joint advocacy plans, raising awareness and national capacity-building in the field of international humanitarian law and intentional criminal law and pressurizing national and international stakeholders to challenge the Israeli impunity.

PCHR and national and international partners' efforts contributed to making breakthroughs in the Israeli impunity.

Indicators

- » On 23 December 2016, the UN Security Council issued Resolution no. (2334) to condemn the crime of settlements and reassure that the international community does not recognize any demographic changes to the 04 June 1967 lines. The Resolution also calls for distinguishing between the State of Israel and settlements established on the Palestinian lands of the West Bank. PCHR considers this as an important step and solid foundation if the international community commits to it.
- » On 18 October 2016, UNESCO issues a decision, emphasizing that al-Aqsa Mosque is an Islamic heritage and condemning the Israeli excavations and works beneath al-Aqsa Mosque and the Israeli arbitrary measures against the freedom of worship, Muslims' access to the Mosque, and Israeli settlers' repeated raids of the Mosque. The decision also condemns Israel's attempts to alter the historic status quo of the City through establishing temples and buildings.
- » During its 31st session, the UN Human Rights Council condemns the Israeli crimes and practices and reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. This decision also condemns the forcible deportation of Palestinian civilians and continued attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and their property. The decisions also denounces the Israeli obstacles to the freedom of movement of goods and persons and other obstacles imposed by the Israeli authorities in the way of Palestinian development and even hindering the entry of humanitarian aid.

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

PCHR's Fieldwork Unit monitored and documented the Israeli violations in the oPt through its experienced team of fieldworkers spread throughout the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including Jerusalem. PCHR's fieldworkers managed to monitor and document those violations, which significantly escalated throughout the year, through conducting field visits and interviews and collecting testimonies from victims and eyewitnesses in addition to writing field reports.

Indicators

- » 7,215 violations were documented.

1.3.1.1 Conducting field visits

Despite the risks, PCHR's fieldworkers were keen on heading to the scenes in order to identify the nature of violations. They conducted many field visits daily depending on the nature of the incident.

Indicators

- » PCHR fieldworkers carried out 1,453 field visits in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

1.3.1.2 Conducting personal interviews with the victims and/or their families and eyewitnesses

The fieldworker's work requires conducting many interviews regarding one incident to identify the most useful person in providing the information. The eyewitness plays an important role in giving a clear and real conception of the violation, particularly when the fieldworker could not quickly reach the scene that would directly pose a threat to his life.

Indicators

- » PCHR fieldworkers conducted 1,366 interviews

1.3.1.3 Collecting testimonies

PCHR fieldworkers collected testimonies from eyewitnesses and victims.

Indicators

- » 341 testimonies were collected

1.3.1.4 Filling out incident forms

The fieldworkers filled forms already prepared by the Fieldwork Unit for each violation (killing/injury/arrest/property destruction)

Indicators

- » 1,132 incident forms were filled out.

1.3.1.5 Taking photos

Photos of the violations were taken. This is considered as one of the most important mechanisms of documenting violations.

Indicators

- » 346 photos were taken.

1.3.1.6 Collecting documents

These documents collected by fieldworkers included medical reports, property papers, personal pictures, official papers from governmental bodies, maps and sketches.

Indicators

- » 95 documents were collected.

1.3.1.7 Writing field reports

The fieldworkers wrote detailed reports on the violations according to their field visits to the scenes and eyewitnesses' testimonies. These reports also included the fieldworkers' notes and personal evaluation in addition to illustrative photos of the violations.

Indicators

- » 1,702 field reports were written.

1.3.1.8 Feeding database

The Fieldwork Unit fed PCHR's database with all information documented. This included transferring all documented materials via scanner to the database and electronically archiving them so all PCHR's units could benefit from. Moreover, all the data forms are entered, including casualties, arrests and property destruction.

During the reporting period, the Palestinian human rights organizations (PCHR, al-Mezan, al-Haq and al-Dameer) completed the joint documentation of the Israeli violations during the summer 2014 offensive on the Gaza Strip. All the data were entered into a special database that was merged into PCHR's database.

Indicators

- » 1,132 entries fed into the database.
- » 2,138 documents were electronically archived.

1.3.2 PCHR Exposed Israeli Violations

PCHR used many publication forms to make the international and Palestinian stakeholders aware of the Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians and their property. The publications included press releases, weekly reports, annual reports and fact-sheets. PCHR distributed these publications either through hard copies or electronic distribution in addition to publishing them on its official website. PCHR further used Social Media to launch campaigns or disseminate information. PCHR also used media to expose the Israeli violations by holding press conferences and making interviews with media agencies.

1.3.2.1 Issuing press releases

The press release is a fundamental tool to expose the Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Throughout the year, PCHR issued many press releases, which addressed the Israeli violations, especially the willful killings, summary executions, administrative detention and force-feeding, and settlers' attacks.

Indicators

- » 29 press releases on Israeli violations were issued.

1.3.2.2 Issuing weekly reports

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

Indicators

- » 51 weekly reports were issued.

1.3.2.3 Issuing an annual report on the state of human rights - Israeli violations

PCHR's annual report is the most important document published on the state of human rights and international humanitarian law in the oPt. PCHR has been publishing this report since 1997, as it includes a comprehensive documentation of the human rights and international humanitarian law violations throughout the year. There is a full section on the Israeli violations, including recommendations to the international stakeholders. PCHR's Democratic Development Unit (DDU) prepares this report in cooperation with the other units. In 2016, PCHR issued its 19th report covering the period of 01 January to 31 December 2015.

Indicators

- » On 09 June 2016, the report was widely issued both locally and internationally.



Meeting to evaluate PCHR's Weekly Report

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

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

- » A report on violations against fishermen in the Gaza Strip, covering the period from 01 January – 31 November 2016.

Indicators

- » The report was issued on 30 December 2016.

1.3.2.5 Issuing monthly updates on the state of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip

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

Indicators

- » 12 updates were issued.

1.3.2.6 Issuing reports on Israeli violations against media (Silencing the Press)

On 02 May, DDU issued a new report on the Israeli attacks against media in the oPt. The report titled, "Silencing the Press", which is the eighteenth in the series, covered the period between 01 April 2015 and 31 March 2016.

Indicators

- » One report was issued.

1.3.2.7 Issuing factsheets on the Israeli violations in the ARA

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

Gaza Strip coasts. PCHR issued two types of these fact sheets:

- » The Economic, Social and Cultural Unit issued fact sheets shedding light on the Israeli attacks against fishermen in the Gaza Strip, including persons killed or wounded by Israeli forces when opening fire at the fishermen sailing in the Gaza Sea, arrested fishermen, confiscation of fishing boats and destruction of fishing equipment.
- » The Fieldwork Unit issued factsheets on the Israeli attacks in the ARA, including these attacks and their results.
- » Indicators
- » 2 factsheets on Israeli attacks on fishermen were issued.
- » 12 factsheets on Israeli attacks in ARA were issued as well.

1.3.2.8 Availing stakeholders with information through PCHR's website

PCHR depends on the communication technology as an important means to disseminate information on the human rights situation in the oPt and facilitate communication between peoples and countries. Since establishing its website (www.pchrgaza.org), PCHR feeds it with all its publications, including press releases, reports, papers and other materials, in both Arabic and English languages. PCHR also depends on an international mailing list to which its publications are sent as the number of those receiving PCHR's publications via email reached 10,000. Moreover, PCHR publishes its publications on its Facebook page and Twitter account.

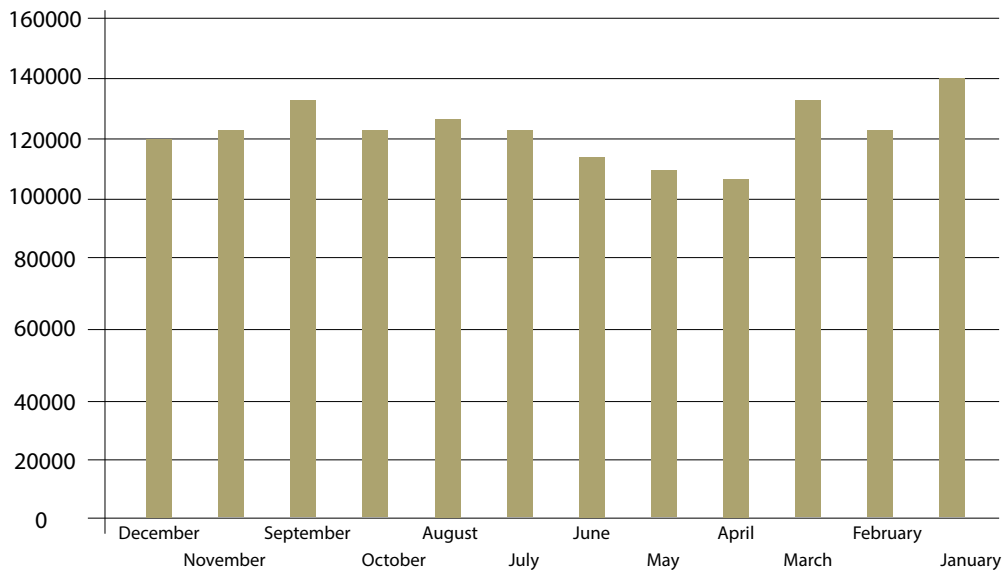
Indicators

- » The number of website visits reached 1,492,384 in 2016; an average of 124,365 monthly visits and 4,145 daily visits.
- » PCHR recorded an increase of 7% in the number of website visits in 2016 when comparing with 2015.
- » PCHR currently has 37,400 Facebook followers.
- » PCHR has 10,600 twitter followers.

PCHR's Website Visits in 2016

Month	Number of visits	Access to information	Month	Number of visits	Access to information
January	143,385	2,995,108	July	124,973	1,769,628
February	122,450	2,451,882	August	127,344	1,810,464
March	133,108	2,335,744	September	125,403	3,022,479
April	106,961	2,227,374	October	129,821	2,030,357
May	115,994	2,202,774	November	123,140	2,030,357
June	118,022	2,143,936	December	121,783	2,142,388
Total	1,492,384		Total	25,931,591	

Diagram of PCHR's Website Visits in 2016



1.3.2.9 Disseminating publications

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

Indicators

- » PCHR printed and distributed 24,290 copies of its publications.
- » Electronic copies were sent to 9,000 emails on PCHR's mailing list, locally and internationally.

1.3.2.10 Producing Audio-Visual Materials to Expose Violations

- » On 04 October, PCHR launched a documentary titled as "PCHR: 20 Years of Experience" documenting PCHR's history during the past 20 years since its establishment in 1995. The documentary also reviews PCHR's most promi-

nent phases and explains its struggle in protecting human rights in the oPt.

- » On 23 November, PCHR published a short documentary illustrating the impact of ongoing closure on the Gaza Strip on the daily life of Palestinian civilians. The documentary by PCHR was jointly issued on behalf of all the partner organizations (PCHR, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, and Al-Haq, and Addameer.
- » PCHR's Democratic Development Unit (DDU) issued a poster on the administrative detention during activities in solidarity with administrative detainee and hunger striker, Mohamed al-Qeeq.
- » PCHR published a number of others posters.

Indicators

- » Two films were published.
- » Two posters were issued.

1.3.2.11 Organizing social media campaigns (Facebook and twitter)

In 2016, PCHR worked on promoting the use of social media to reach the largest possible audience at both international and local levels.

“No to Silencing the Press” Campaign

On World Press Freedom Day, 02 May 2015, PCHR launched a media campaign titled as “Press Day” on social media (Twitter and Facebook). PCHR was able to gather all journalists, bloggers and activists to tweet about the freedom of press for two hours in Lighthouse Restaurant hall in Gaza. The campaign aimed at exposing the Israeli and Palestinian flagrant violations against journalists, opinion-makers and bloggers in an attempt to silence the press and bury the truth. Thus, the campaign highlighted PCHR’s recommendations in this regard.

Around 120 bloggers from the Gaza Strip and abroad participated in the campaign organized by PCHR in cooperation with the Social Media Café of al-Ameen Media Network. From around 10:00 to 14:00 on 02 May, seventy of them participated as a focus group and published their tweets and posts in the meeting hall of al-Salam Restaurant in Gaza. In both Arabic and English languages, they addressed the information, statistics and recommendations in the two reports published by PCHR on this occasion that were as follows:

- » Silencing the Press report, which is the 18th of its kind. The report covering the period from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 addresses the Israeli violations against journalists working in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt); and
- » A report on the Violations of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression in the PA, which is the 14th of its kind. The report covering the period from 01 April 2015 to 01 April 2016 tackles the most prominent violations against journalists and opinion makers in the Palestinian Authority (PA).

The Campaign received local and regional media coverage and attention from bloggers in many Arab countries who used the two hashtags #إخراس_الصحافة and #SilencePress to blog about the violations against journalists in their countries. Many satellite channels also find these hashtags as a platform suitable for exposing the violations and harassments against journalists working for example in Al-Jazeera Mubasher and Palestine Today in addition to many other local agencies.

Millions throughout the world followed the campaign on Twitter and Facebook. In two days only, the number of followers on Twitter reached more than 3 million while the number of followers on Facebook reached tens of thousands. The hashtags became trending through posting photos and videos.



Silencing the press activity held by the DDU on the World Press Freedom Day on 03 May

Indicators

- » The number of tweets posted within the PCHR's campaign for two hours resulted in a qualitative leap in the nature of activists' interaction with the two hashtags launched by PCHR "#Press Day" and "#يوم الصحافة". Millions throughout the world followed the campaign on Twitter and Facebook. In two days only, the number of followers on Twitter reached more than 3 million while the number of followers on Facebook reached tens of thousands. The hashtags became trending ones through posting photos and videos.

1.3.2.12 Conducting Press Conferences

- » Palestinian human rights organizations (Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Al-Haq and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and Aldameer) held today, 22 November 2016, a press conference to announce presenting the third legal submission to the International Criminal Court (ICC) titled as "Gaza Illegal Closure: Persecution and Other Inhumane Acts Committed against Civilians as a Crime Against Humanity". The conference was held in PCHR's head office based in Gaza City and was attended by a large number of journalists.
- » Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Issam Younis, Director of Al Mezan, delivered speeches during the conference while Shawan Jabareen, Director of Al-Haq, held a meeting in the Hague with Prosecutor of the ICC, Ms Fa-

tu Bensouda, to deliver the legal submission on behalf of the Palestinian human rights organizations. It should be noted this is the third legal submission of its kind to the ICC by the Palestinian human rights organizations.

- » on 14 August 2016, the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) held a conference in Ramallah on the Israeli threats against the Palestinian human rights organizations.

1.3.2.13 Conducting Media Interviews

Media is an effective tool to transfer information to the national and intentional opinion and to raise awareness on human rights and advocacy for change. In 2016, PCHR's Director and staff members were active with media and held many interviews with visual, audible and printed media. Those interviews included interventions in news programs to comment on certain incidents and developments and thematic interviews with PCHR's Director or staff members.²

Indicators

- » 136 media interviews with local and international media were conducted; an increase of 31% over 2015.
- » The interviews included (23 newspaper and magazines, 43 radio stations, 47 TV stations and 3 websites), noting that more than one interview was conducted with the same media outlet.

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

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

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

In 2016, PCHR organized and participated in many coordination meetings with national and intentional partners. Those meetings were held abroad, including Britain, Ireland, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Finland, Lebanon and Egypt. Most of those meetings were sponsored by international partners, including

FIDH, EMHRN, Open Society Foundations, Trócaire, Christian Aid and others. PCHR's Director and staff members electronically participated in many of those meetings due to the ban imposed on traveling. Moreover, many meetings were held in Palestine, including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, in the framework of the partner organizations (PCHR, al-Haq, al-Mezan and al-Dameer); PHROC; Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secre-

2. Appendix (9): media interviews with PCHR's staff in 2016.

tariat; PNGO and dozens of national organizations and initiatives at different levels.

Indicators

- » PCHR participated in 86 meetings.

1.3.3.2 Issuing joint publications/petitions

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

Indicators

- » 35 joint petitions and publications on Israeli violations were issued.

1.3.3.3 Preparing joint submissions to UN bodies

No joint submissions were filed in 2016.

1.3.3.4 Organizing/participating in joint activities

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

Indicators

- » PCHR held 15 meetings.
- » PCHR participated in 20 events organized by partners.

1.3.3.5 Participating in national and international human rights coalitions

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

In 2016, PCHR continued to work with these coalitions and attend their meetings and activities in addition to activities conducted by PCHR at the international level in cooperation with some of these coalitions.

- » Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, participated in the ILAC's meetings in its head office in Stockholm in Sweden, noting that he is an elected member of the ILAC Executive Committee and PCHR is an elected Board member of ILAC. The meetings were as follows:

- On 25 January 2016, participating in the Executive Committee Meeting via Skype from Gaza.
- On 26 May 2016, participating in the Executive Committee meetings and the annual meeting of the General Assembly in Stockholm.
- On 22 November 2016: participating in the Board of Directors Meeting via Skype from Gaza.

- » Hamdi Shaqura, Deputy Director for Program Affairs, participated in the EMHRN activities, noting the he is an elected Member in its Executive Committee and representing PCHR in the Working Group on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians (PIP) in the EMHRN. Due to the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, Shaqura was not able to participate in two consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee. Shaqura also could not travel to participate in the half-annual meeting of the PIP Working Group and an intentional workshop on European Approaches for Advocacy related to Accountability and Access to Justice. Those activities were held in Brussels in Belgium from 16-19 November 2016. He participated in one of those sessions via Skype from Gaza.

- » **PHROC** is a coordinating body that includes 12 Palestinian human rights organizations in the oPt. In 2016, PCHR participated in the coordination meetings held by the council, contributed to unifying the visions in addition to conducting many joint initiatives, including holding joint meetings with national and international stakeholders, conveying messages, issuing position papers and joint press releases about human rights violations, including Israeli violations.

- » **Amal Coalition:** the coalition includes 12

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

Indicators

- » The number of meetings in which PCHR participated was 20.

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

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

Indicators

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

1.3.4.1 The International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition

The Moot Court competition aims at developing lawyers' legal skills to plead before the ICC and raising their awareness of international law, especially international criminal law. However, PCHR did not receive the funding needed for carrying out this competition in 2016.



Barcelona Tour

1.3.4.2 Training and coaching fresh law graduates in the Gaza Strip

As part of PCHR's efforts to build capacities of the new lawyers to challenge human rights violations and be armed them with international humanitarian law and international criminal law, the Legal Aid Unit started a training program for the law graduates in the Gaza Strip. In 2016, the Unit continued to train 6 graduates who were selected from the groups that participated in the Moot Court Competition organized by PCHR in 2015.

Indicators

- » 6 lawyers finished the training period.
- » The trainee lawyers received 23 lectures on how to build legal files, legal terms in English

and other fields of the international law and international criminal law.

- » The trainee lawyers received a 12-hour advanced course on IHL organized by the ICRC in Gaza.
- » They received a 48-hour advanced course on the mechanisms of documenting the crimes of torture. The course was organized by al-Mezan Center for Human Rights.
- » They received a professional diploma in Hebrew language.
- » They received advanced English courses.

1.3.4.3 Conducting awareness sessions on IHL and ICC

The Training Unit in cooperation with the Legal Aid

Unit held awareness sessions on IHL and ICC, targeting NGO activists, youth initiatives, university students and politicians. The sessions were held in coordination with civil society organizations, youth groups and faculties of law in the Palestinian Universities in the Gaza Strip.

Indicators³

- » 303 persons attended the sessions; 57% of whom were females.

- » The number of sessions was 13.
- » The unit coordinated with 13 organizations, including 3 youth groups.

1.3.4.4 Producing audio-visual materials

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit produced a documentary film on the Moot Court project and published it to raise awareness.

Indicators

- » One film was produced.

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

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

1.3.5.1 Implementing/participating in advocacy missions and international meetings

The closure and collective punishment policy imposed by Israeli forces on the Gaza Strip in addition to the closure of Rafah International Border Crossing continue to dramatically affect PCHR staff members' ability to travel to participate in international events. Israeli forces also continue to ban PCHR's Director, Raji Sourani, from traveling to the West Bank, Israel or abroad via Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing. Only in exceptional cases, PCHR's Director and staff members managed to leave the Gaza Strip and engage in advocacy activities due to efforts exerted by international and national partners.

International Advocacy Mission in the USA

Over 2 weeks in April 2016, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, and Shawan Jabarin, Director of al-Haq, conducted a tour to the USA, giving the American people a rare opportunity to learn about the human rights situation in the oPt. The Constitutional Center for Human Rights (CCR) stated that inviting Sourani and Shawan to the U.S.A audiences is part of "its long-standing support for and solidarity with the Palestinian human rights struggle and efforts exerted to challenge the impunity granted to the Israeli government's violations of the international law concerning the illegal occupation of Palestine and American complicity with the occupation." Sourani and Jabarin talked in a series of public activities in New York, Boston and Washington D.C. They were interviewed by international journalists and hosted in an interactive webinar with student groups across the country. They also met with numerous missions to the United Nations, U.N. officials and John Lewis, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. CCR in New York coordinated this tour, which was implemented and funded by Bertha Foundation, but also received support from many human rights organizations. It should be mentioned that CCR is a partner organization to PCHR and al-Haq. Sourani and Shawan prominently talked in the following platforms:

3. Appendix (1): table of the awareness sessions and number of participants.

- » On 11 April, CCR organized in cooperation with Students for Justice in Palestine at the Law School in the City University of New York a special meeting that included each of Raji, Shawan and Vince Warren, CCR Executive Director. The meeting discussed the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and ongoing efforts to protect basic human rights and struggles for accountability for widespread violations, including heading to the International Criminal Court.



Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, delivers a lecture in the USA

- » On 12 April, a special evening was organized at the Law School in the University of New York with the award-winning journalist Amira Hass. The event was moderated by Jamil Dakkour, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Human Rights Program (HRP).
- » On 13 April, CCR organized a special evening with Raji and Shawan about the situation in the oPt, especially the illegal and inhumane closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and situation in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem. During the event, Rashid Khalidi, a Columbia University scholar, addressed the role of the U.S. policy towards Israel and Palestine. The panel was moderated by CCR Board Chair and Columbia Law School Professor Katherine Franke. The event was co-sponsored by PCHR, al-Haq, International Committee of the American Bar Association and Code Pink.
- » On 14 April, Harvard University hosted Raji and Shawan in a special meeting moderated by Dr. Sarah Roy, Senior Research Scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Carr Center for Human Rights and the Middle East Forum, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and CCR.
- » On 17 April, another meeting with Raji and Shawan moderated by Phyllis Bennis, Expert in the Middle East Affairs from the Institute for Policy Studies, and presented by Katherine Gallagher from the CCR, to be held in Washington D. C. The meeting was sponsored by the Institute for Policy Studies, CCR, and Busboys and Poets and co-sponsored by US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, Code Pink, American Friends Service Committee, the Palestine Center, Peace Action, US Palestinian Community Network, Sabeel DC Metro, Jewish Voice for Peace – DC Metro, Washington Peace Center, Arab Studies Institute, Amnesty International USA, and US Palestinian Community Network (USPCN).
- » On 20 April, Raji and Shawan will participate in a special meeting at the American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) about protecting basic human rights and struggles for accountability for widespread violations, including before the International Criminal Court. They will be joined by CCR Deputy Legal Director Maria LaHood, who will discuss efforts to silence advocates for Palestinian rights in the United States. The discussion will be moderated by Deena Hurwitz, Interim Director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic at AUWCL.
- » Raji and Shawan held another meeting in New American Foundation, addressing the opportunities and challenges Palestinians may face on the international level.

Advocacy Mission to Barcelona- Spain

Between 08-13 May 2016 and upon an invitation by SodePaz, a partner to PCHR, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, visited Barcelona in Spain. Sourani held a series of meetings with the partner organization, Members of the Committees in Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Bar Association, Members of the Barcelona Municipality and Members of the Palestinian Community in Spain. He also held meetings with the Foreign Action Committee of the Catalan Parliament and similar meetings with media representatives. In commemoration of the Nakba, Sourani participated in a rally in Barcelona University and addressed the human rights situation in the oPt.



Lecture delivered by Raji Sourani in Barcelona – Spain

Advocacy Mission to Sweden

Between 16 and 22 May 2016 and upon an invitation from the Right to Livelihood Award (RLA), Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, visited Stockholm in Sweden. Sourani held a series of meetings and attended many events, including meetings in Sida – the Swedish International Development Cooperation. Sourani also delivered a speech in the Swedish Institute for International Affairs and sponsored by PCHR's Swedish partners (KTK, RLA and ILAC.) RLA held a dinner honoring Sourani, winner of RLA in 2014, in participation of elite of international human rights figures, intellectuals and writers in addition to representatives of the Sweden Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sourani also held meetings with the Sweden Ministry of Foreign Affairs, addressing the situation in the oPt and what can Sweden do to solve it.



Lecture delivered by Raji Sourani in Stockholm - Sweden

1.3.5.2 Organizing/participating in international conferences and workshops

PCHR's Director and some members participated in a number of international conferences and workshops, addressing the Israeli human rights violations. It should be noted some meetings were held electronically from the Gaza Strip because of the closure and Israeli restrictions on the freedom of movement.

- » On 03 January 2016, PCHR's Director and staff members participated in a meeting with a group of students from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania in the US. The meeting was electronically held from Gaza and hosted by Jawwal Company. It addressed the human rights situation and closure imposed on the Gaza Strip. The meeting was facilitated by Siraj Center for Holy Land Studies in Beit Sahour.
- » On 04 January 2016, PCHR's Director and staff members participated in a second meeting with a group of students from Boston College in Massachusetts in the US. The meeting was electronically held from Gaza and hosted by Jawwal Company. The meeting was facilitated by Siraj Center for Holy Land Studies in Beit Sahour.



Raji Sourani during a lecture at the Swedish Right Livelihood Award Foundation

- » On 31 October 2016, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, spoke via Skype from Gaza in an international interactive seminar organized by RLA, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and World Council of Churches (WCC). The seminar was attended by laureates of RLA from all over the world and held in Geneva in Switzerland. The seminar was titled as "Fostering Solidarity for Human Rights, Peace and Justice."
- » On 16 November 2016, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, spoke via Skype from Gaza in an interactive meeting organized by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. The meeting included Postgraduate Students in the academy.
- » On 26 November 2016, PCHR participated in the meeting organized by Friends of Canadians on the situation in the Gaza Strip, including the human rights situation with the participation of hundreds in Canada. Each of Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, Suheilah Tarazi, Director of the Anglican-run Al Ahli Arab Hospital in

Gaza, and Dr. Sami Yousif, Director of Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA).

Indicators

- » The number of participations was 5.

1.3.5.3 Organizing/participating in national conferences and workshops

PCHR organized a number of meetings and workshops shedding light on the Israeli violations against human rights and the international humanitarian law. Furthermore, PCHR participated in other activities that were organized by CBOs and stakeholders. These activities constituted a fundamental part of PCHR networking efforts with human rights organizations, CBOs and stakeholders to develop unified advocacy strategies in order to pressurize international duty bearers and demand them to put an end to Israel's impunity. Following are the main prominent activities, which were organized or attended by PCHR:

An Event Organized in Solidarity with administrative detainee and Mohammed al-Qeeq

On 03 February 2016, PCHR organized an activity in solidarity with journalist Mohammed al-Qeeq, the administrative detainee on hunger strike, at the Commodore Hotel in Gaza City. The activity was held while al-Qeeq has been enduring his open hunger strike for 70 consecutive days and the resultant health deterioration amidst Israeli relentless attempts to force-feed him again. The activity was opened by Dr. Riyadh al-Za'noun, Chairman of PCHR's Board of Directors. Each of Yasser Saleh, representative of the Prisoners' Committee of Islamic and National Factions, Emad al-Efranj, Director of the Palestinian Journalists' Forum, lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, and Fayhaa Shalash, al-Qeeq's wife, spoke during the activity.



PCHR organizes an activity in solidarity with Mohammed al-Qeeq, a detainee on a hunger strike, in cooperation with the Prisoners' Committee of the Islamic and National Factions

National Events in Which PCHR's Staff Members Participated as Speakers

- » On 19 and 20 April 2016, Hamdi Shaqura, Deputy Director for Program Affairs, participated in the 6th Conference of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCMHP) and facilitated a session titled as "Mental Health and Human Rights Violations. The conference was held in al-Mashtal Hotel in Gaza.
- » On 06 January 2016, during a panel discussion organized by the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR), lawyer Ibrahim Sourani had an intervention on the legal status and resorting to the Israeli Judiciary in addition to opportunities of access to justice before the ICC. The panel discussion was titled as "Compensation for the Child Victims of 2014 Offensive."
- » On 02 November 2016, Raji Sourani, Director of PCHR, participated in a seminar organized by the Center for Development and Political Studies in its head office in Gaza. During the seminar which was on the UNESCO's Resolution on al-Aqsa Mosque, Sourani presented a working paper on the legal aspects of the resolution.
- » On 27 November 2016, during a wide-spread meeting organized by Women's Health Society in Gaza Seaport, Khalil Shaheen had an intervention titled as "Breast Cancer Patients' right to health in the Gaza Strip: Freedom of Movement."
- » On 01 December 2016, during a meeting organized by the Arab Center for Agricultural Development in Gaza, Prof. Fadel Muzeini presented a paper on the closure impact on the economic situation and agricultural sector. The Meeting was titled as "Role of International Community in Developing the Agricultural Sector and Supporting the National Economy."

Indicators

- » PCHR organized one national event on the Israeli violations.
- » The number of PCHR staff members' participations with working papers in local events was 5.

1.3.5.4 Holding Meetings with International Diplomats and Delegations

Director and members of PCHR held meetings with international diplomats and delegations visiting the oPt. Following are the most prominent meetings in 2016:

- » On 14 January 2016, PCHR received a delegation from the World Health Organization (WHO) comprised of Dr. Gerald Rockenschaub, Head of WHO office; Dr. Corinna Reinicke, Public Health Consultant, and Dr. Mohammad Yaghi, National Officer.
- » On 24-29 January 2016, PCHR received a delegation from al-Quds - Malaga Association, one of PCHR's main partners in Spain. The delegation is consisted of Christina Ruiz, Founder and Honorary President of al-Quds Association; Javier Díaz Muriana, the International Cooperation Manager and Advocacy; Gabriel Ruiz Enciso, Head of the Cooperation and Development Programs Unit; and Ms. Catherine Germain, a volunteer and official translator. The members of the delegation held a meeting with PCHR's Director along with PCHR's Board of Directors; Deputy Directors and Units' Directors. The delegation had field visits around the Gaza Strip and met victims of the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip. They then met with national figures, intellectuals and civil society organizations.
- » On 27 January 2016, PCHR's Director met with 18 Members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in the Norwegian Parliament.
- » On 27 January 2016, PCHR held a meeting with Nathan Stock, Field Office Director of Carter Center in Ramallah and Jerusalem; and Tahseen 'Alawnah, Programs Director of Carter Center.
- » On 28 January 2016, the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat organized a meeting attended by members of PHROC and International Representative Offices to the PA. The meeting was held in Al-Haq office in Ramallah and PCHR's office in Gaza through Skype.
- » On 29 January 2016, PCHR attended a consultative meeting organized by the EU in cooperation with the Civil Society in al-Mashtal Hotel in Gaza to discuss the priorities in the field of human rights and rule of law before meeting with Palestine Subcommittee on the European Neighborhood Policy.
- » On 02 February 2016, PCHR participated in an activity organized by the OCHA in Roots Hotel in Gaza City, titled as "Closing Ceremony for Re-registration and Revaluation of the Forcibly Displaced Persons' Conditions".
- » On 03 February 2016, PCHR attended a consultative meeting organized by the Welfare Association in order to develop "Palestine Achievement" Program adopted by the association. The meeting was held in the head office of Welfare Association in Gaza and Ramallah via Skype.
- » On 15 February 2016, PCHR attended a meeting which included the human rights organizations and Mr. Ralph Tarraf, EU Representative in Jerusalem.
- » On 15 February 2016, PCHR attended a meeting organized by SAWASYA Joint Program (UNDP/UN Women) in al-Deera Hotel in Gaza. The meeting included representatives of the donors to SAWASYA and partners in Gaza.
- » On 21 February, PCHR held a meeting with Anne-Sophie Simpere, Advocacy Coordinator at MDM Office in Jerusalem, about Working on the ARA and opportunities for cooperation in international advocacy.
- » ON 29 February 2016, PCHR attended a meeting organized by Mr. Ralph Tarraf, EU Representative, to discuss the political priorities in the field of human rights and rule of law in addition to media and culture in al-Mashtal Hotel in Gaza.
- » On 30 March, PCHR attended a meeting that included Hervé Magro, the French Consul General and representatives of human rights and civil society organizations in al-Deera Hotel in Gaza.
- » On 03 April 2016, PCHR received activists from French organizations in solidarity with Palestine: Sara Katz from the International Solidarity Movement- France, Annie Vera Luicette and Veronique Hollebecque from Evry Palestine Association.
- » On 04 April 2016, PCHR attended a meeting with Fernando Gentilini, European Envoy for the Peace Process, representatives of human rights and civil society organizations and business sector. The meeting was held in al-Deerah Hotel in Gaza.
- » On 06 April 2016, PCHR held a meeting with human rights organizations and representatives of the UK Aid and UNDP.
- » On 16 April 2016, PCHR participated in a fare-

well party for Segolene Adam, Deputy Director of Cooperation in the Swiss Cooperation Office-Jerusalem, with the participation of the Swiss Representative to the PA.

- » On 18 April 2016, PCHR received Ashraf Suliman, the South African Representative to the PA in his first visit to the Gaza Strip.
- » On 10 May 2016, PCHR received Mr. Luigi Mattiolo, Italian Consulate General in Jerusalem.
- » On 16 May 2016, PCHR received Laura Davis, Consultant of Justice and Peace-building, to evaluate the available opportunities to work on accountability with the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).
- » On 16 May 2016, PCHR received Nathan Stock, Field Office Director of Carter Center in Jerusalem.
- » On 16 May 2016, PCHR received Anders Freiburg, Danish Representative to the PA and his Deputy Malene Bqgesvang.
- » On 18 May 2016, PCHR participated in a meeting for the human rights and civil society organizations along with Marcia Pius, Australian Representative to the PA and Amy Williams, Policy Officer in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The meeting was held in Press House - Palestine in Gaza.
- » On 18 May 2016, PCHR participated in a meeting organized by the EU Office with the civil society organizations on the 2016 annual work programme in al- Mashtal Hotel.
- » On 25 May 2016, PCHR held a meeting with Gael Lioblaud, Head of a delegation from the Premiere Urgence Internationale.
- » On 25 May 2016, Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, met with Donna Baranski-Walker, Executive Director of "Brighten the Future of Gaza's Children" campaign in the USA. The meeting was about the impact of the Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip as Shaheen reviewed the Unit's activities within the "Lightening Gaza" Campaign to decrease the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip.
- » On 18 June 2016, PCHR received Prikko-Liisa Kystila, Head of the Representative Office of Finland to the PA and Nida Dalmantaite, Representative of Lithuania to the PA.
- » On 26 June 2016, PCHR attended a meeting for the human rights organizations and Paul Garnier, the Swiss Representative to the PA. The meeting was held in the office of Pal-Think for Strategic Studies in Gaza.



PCHR receives the Ambassador of South Africa to the PA



PCHR receives the Ambassador of Denmark



PCHR receives Finland and Lithuania Ambassadors to the PA

- » On 27 June 2016, PCHR received a delegation headed by Chris Ejkemans, the Regional Director of Oxfam International.
- » On 03 August 2016, PCHR received and attended a meeting with Martina Feeny, Head of Permanent Mission of Ireland to the PA.
- » On 16 August 2016, PCHR attended a meeting with Marisa Consolata Kemper, the UN Joint Programme Manager, Justice and Security for the Palestinian People.
- » On 22 August 2016, PCHR received Peter Mollema, Head of the Netherlands Representative office to the PA and his Deputy, Murtize Verheijden.
- » On 23 August 2016, PCHE had a meeting with Mr. Finn Erik Thoresen, Chairman of Norwegian People's Aid and a delegation of the organization in PNGO's office.
- » On 24 August 2016, PCHR received Hans Josefsson, Secretary General of Swedish Social Democratic Party (SAP).
- » On 07 September 2016, Khalil Shaheen, Director of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit, attended a meeting with a delegation from UNICEF and its Regional Director for Humanitarian Affairs at the UNICEF office in Gaza.
- » On 19 September 2016, PCHR attended a meeting with a delegation from Human Rights Watch comprised of Sarah Leah Whitson, Executive Director of the Middle East and North Africa Division, and her Deputy Eric Goldstein.
- » On 22 September 2016, PCHR attended a meeting with UNICEF about grave violations against children during times of armed conflict. The meeting was held in UNICEF's office in Gaza.
- » On 20 September 2016, PCHR held a meeting with representatives of the human rights and civil society organizations and a delegation from Human Rights Watch.
- » On 20 September 2016, PCHR attended a meeting organized by SDC along with its partners in the "Rule of Law" Program. The meeting was held in UNRWA's office in Gaza.
- » On 26 September 2016, PCHR attended a meeting with delegations from the UN office, Spanish Cooperation Program and civil society organizations in al-Mashtal Hotel.
- » On 28 September 2016, PCHR received Katleen Maes, Head of the OCHA office in Gaza.
- » On 04 October 2016, PCHR met with Peter Noorlander, Director of the Bertha Justice Initiative, through Skype.
- » On 05 October 2016, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Direc-



PCHR receives Representative of the Netherlands to the PA



PCHR receives a delegation from HRW

- tor, participated in a work dinner with Marisa Consolata Kemper, UN Joint Programme Manager at UNDP Program and the teamwork.
- » On 11 October 2106, PCHR attended a meeting organized by its partner SAWASIYA with other civil society organizations about the accountability and advocacy cases. The meeting was held in the UN office in Gaza.
- » On 13 October 2016, PCHR received a delegation from the Norwegian Representative Office to the PA comprised of Tor Erik Gjerde, Head of Developmental Co-operation, and Hans Oseas Langaker, Second Secretary and Political Affairs Official.
- » On 19 October 2016, PCHR attended a meeting organized by United Nations Country Team about the 2018-2022 strategic plan in al-Mashtal Hotel.
- » On 19 October 2016, PCHR participated in a workshop organized by Carter Center about the future of the Palestinian – Israeli conflict in



PCHR receives a delegation from the Representative Office of Norway on 13 October

al-Mathaf Hotel.

- » On 19 October 2016, PCHR participated in the annual reception for the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) in Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children, Gaza.
- » On 23 October 2016, PCHR participated in a meeting upon an invitation from SAWASIYA and partner organizations on the next working strategy of the SAWASIYa Program to form concepts on the priorities of human rights organizations in the next stage.
- » On 31 October 2016, PCHR attended a meeting with partners of Christian Aid organization and Frances Guy, head of Middle East region. The meeting was held in Marna House Hotel in Gaza.
- » On 31 October 2016, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, held a meeting with the Swedish Ambassador about the human rights organizations' demands from Europe within the French initiative and preparations to hold the Paris Peace Conference.
- » On 01 November 2016, PCHR attended a meeting organized by representatives of the human rights organization and Helen Storm, Danish Deputy Representative to the PA. The meeting was held in the Pal-Think's head office in Gaza.
- » On 06 November 2016, PCHR participated in a meeting organized by the SDC partners, the partner organizations, and Manuel Sager, Director of SDC during his visit to Gaza. The meeting was held at the SDC's office in Gaza.
- » On 10 November 2016, PCHR received Chris Burnett-Cargil, the new Director for AIDA.
- » On 15 November 2016, PCHR attended a meeting comprised of Robert Piper, UN Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory along with UN representatives, International humanitarian organizations and representatives of the Palestinian civil society organizations. The meeting discussed the Israeli escalation of imposing restrictions on the freedom of movement and its impact on the humanitarian work.
- » On 15 November 2016, PCHR participated in a second meeting with Robert Piper and representatives of the human rights organizations about the human rights situation. The meeting was held in OHCHR.
- » On 18 November 2016, PCHR participated in a panel discussion upon an invitation from The High Commissioner for Human Rights Office; Diakonia (Sources of International Humanitarian Law); and NRC under the title of "The obligation of a third-party State to violations under international law and Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions." The panel discussion was held in the Ambassador Hotel in Jerusalem, and PCHR's members participated via Skype.
- » On 21 November 2016, PCHR received a delegation from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation comprised of Naiara Imedio, Project Manager and Jesus Tome, Program Manager.
- » On 23 November 2016, Hamdi Shaqoura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, participated in a meeting held by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency in its office in Gaza about the Agency's program in the local government sector and mechanisms to involve civil society.
- » On 29 November 2016, PCHR participated in the UNDAF Framework about the strategic priorities for the coming stage in the OCHA office in Gaza.
- » On 30 November 2016, PCHR received a diplomatic delegation comprised of Charlotte Wood, HM Consul (political) in the British Consulate-General in Jerusalem; Pete Anderson, from the British Embassy in Tel Aviv; Jessica Hand, from FCO in London; Eleanor Spizewski, from FCO in London; Edward Bell, from the Department for International Trade in London; and Steven Fisher, from FCO in London.
- » On 30 November 2016, PCHR received a del-

egation from Misereore organization, which is PCHR's partner organization. The delegation included Leonie Craes, Desk Officer at the Africa and Middle East Department and Hughlene Fortune, Finance Officer.

- » On 30 November 2016, PCHR received a delegation from the Catalan Development Cooperation Agency (ACCD), which is also PCHR's partner organization.
- » On 01 December 2016, PCHR received a delegation from the Irish "Trócaire" organization comprised of Niall O' Keeffe, Head of Region for Asia and Middle East, and Eoin Hamill, the Programme Officer in the oPt and Israel. PCHR has distinctive and historical links with Trócaire, which is PCHR's partner organization and considered as one of the greatest Irish organizations.
- » On 03 December 2016, PCHR attended a meeting with William Bell, Advocacy Middle East at Christian Aid.
- » On 07 December 2016, PCHR attended a meeting organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Roots Hotel at a farewell ceremony for Mamadou Sow, former Head of ICRC in Gaza and meeting the new Head of ICRC, Gilan Dawfurth.
- » On 13 December 2016, PCHR attended a meeting with Hilde Haraldstad, Norwegian Representative to the PA, Hans Oseas Langaker, the Embassy Secretary and representatives of the human rights organizations. The meeting was attended by Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, Mrs. Hala Al Qishawi, Al Dameer's Executive director and Jameel Sarhan, Director of the Palestinian Independent Commission of Human Rights (ICHR) in the Gaza Strip.
- » On 14 December 2016, PCHR participate in a meeting held by the AIDA, a coordinating body of international development organiza-



PCHR receives a delegation from Misereore

tions in Palestine. The meeting was held in the AIDA's office and dedicated for discussing the advocacy cases after 50 years of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land. The meeting was attended by Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director and Hamdi Shaqoura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs.

Indicators

- » The number of meetings held by PCHR with international diplomats and delegations was 75.

1.3.5.5 Organizing field tours for visiting international diplomats and delegations

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

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

Date	Visiting Delegation	Remarks
05 May 2016	Delegation of Irish journalists	Field visit to make a documentary on the conditions in the Gaza Strip
June 2016 08	Delegation from French solidarity organizations	
03 August 2016	Irish Aid	The delegation is comprised of Emile Makhoul, Programme Advisor at Representative Office of Ireland to the PA; Martina Feeny, Deputy Head of Mission at Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE, and Deirdre Bourke
19 September 2016	Trócaire	The delegation comprised of Fintan Maher, Director of Public Engagement; and Selina Donnelly, Policy Officer, Eoin Hamil, Program Officer in Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel
24-29 November 2016	Al-Quds Association for Solidarity with People in Arab Countries	The delegation is comprised of Christina Ruiz, Founder and Honorary President, Javier Díaz Muriana, the International Cooperation Manager and Advocacy; Gabriel Ruiz Enciso, Head of the Cooperation and Development Programs Unit and Ms. Catherine Germain, a volunteer and official translator. The delegation also held meetings with PCHR, had field visits around the Gaza Strip and met victims of the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and then met with national figures, intellectuals and civil society organizations
30 November 2016	delegation from Misereore organization	The delegation included Leonie Craes, Desk Officer at the Africa and Middle East Department and Hughlene Fortune, Finance Officer

Indicators

- » The number of field tours organized by PCHR for visiting international diplomats and delegations reached 6.

1.3.5.6 Sending letters and petitions to international duty bearers

PCHR jointly sent letters and petitions to international duty bearers through the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC).

Indicators

- » PCHR sent 5 letters to the UN organizations and International figures.

1.3.6 PCHR Used UN Human Rights Mechanisms to Encourage Actions against Israeli Impunity

PCHR used a number of UN mechanisms in the context of confronting the Israeli impunity. These mechanisms included testifying before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices, using the UN special procedure, submitting oral and written interventions to the UN bodies, holding meetings with the OHCHR and special rapporteurs and participating in and contributing to UN working groups and agencies in the oPt.

1.3.6.1 Participation in the Conference of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

On 19- 20 May 2016, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director participated in a meeting held by the committee in Stockholm, Sweden. Sourani reviewed the challenges and restrictions facing the implementation of the UN sustainable development goals in Palestine under the Israeli occupation. Sourani was one of the speakers at the closing session of the conference. He also met with Riyad Mansour, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the UN.

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

Eyad Alami, Director of PCHR's Legal Aid Unit, testified before the UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the oPt. The committee convened in Amman from 02-05 May 2016, because the Israeli authorities denied the committee access to the oPt. Alami displayed the Israeli violations committed during the period covered in the investigations, pointing to the ongoing deterioration of human rights and the international humanitarian law.

Indicators

- » The testimony was given before the UN committee through Skype on 04 May 2016.

1.3.6.3 Submitting complaints and communications to UN special procedure⁴

PCHR submitted a number of submissions prepared by the Legal Aid Unit to the Special Rap-

porteur on Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Indicators

- » The number of submissions was 7, 2 of which were sent to the Special Rapporteur regarding the detainee Mohammed al-Qeeq, who started his open hunger strike against conditions of his inhumane detention by the Israeli forces. Two other submissions were sent to UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. One submission was sent to the office of the OHCHR in Geneva. The last one was sent to other human rights organizations in order to release the detainee al-Qeeq due to the deterioration of his health condition.

1.3.6.4 Submitting oral and written interventions to the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies

No interventions were submitted in 2016.

1.3.6.5 Holding meetings with the OHCHR and special rapporteurs

PCHR held meetings with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and members of his Office, in addition to meetings with the Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territory.

- » 12 January 2016, PCHR held a meeting with Stephanie Case, Head of Gaza sub office / Protection Cluster Coordination Officer at OHCHR, Dr. Tariq al-Hanafi and Sa'ed al-Madhoun, Human Rights Officer at OCHR in the PCHR's office in Gaza.
- » On 02 March 2016, PCHR participate in a meeting for the human rights and humanitarian organizations called for by the OHCHR Officer in Gaza to discuss advocacy mechanisms about

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

restricted access areas

- » On 26 June 2016, PCHR held a meeting with James Heenan, Head of the OHCHR Office in the oPt and representatives of human rights organizations about the right to association.
- » On 14 July 2016, Hamdi Shaqoura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Program Affairs, attended a meeting with Michael Lynk, UN Special Rapporteur in the oPt via Skype.
- » On 09 August 2016, PCHR attended a meeting with Paula Simas Magalhães, Human Rights Officer at OHCHR.
- » On 27 September 2016, PCHR attended a



PCHR receives Head of OHCHR

meeting with James Heenan, Head of the OHCHR Office in the oPt.

- » On 03 November 2016, PCHR attended a meeting with Paula Simas Magalhães, Human Rights Officer at United Nations OHCHR.
- » On 05 December 2016, Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director attended a meeting with Michael Lynk, the UN Special Rapporteur in the oPt via Skype.

Indicators

- » Number of meetings: 8

1.3.6.6 Participating in and contributing to UN working groups and agencies in the oPt

PCHR participated in and contributed to a number of UN working groups and agencies in the oPt. This included participation of lawyers from PCHR's Legal Aid Unit in periodic meetings of the Protection Cluster Working Group (PCWG) held by the OHCHR to discuss the Israeli violations of human rights and means to promote protection. Moreover, the Legal Aid Unit lawyers participated in the Legal Taskforce that regularly gathers the legal services' providers to exchange the legal information and coordinate the legal work. A number of sub-groups were emerged of this gathering in which PCHR participates as follows:

1. Arrest and Detention Working Group;
2. Legal Task Force; and
3. Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism of human rights blatant violations.

Indicators

- » Number of meetings in which PCHR participated: 8 meetings,.

Outcome (2)

PCHR supported democratic transformation, rule of law and human rights protection in the PA

PCHR continued to support the democratic transition, the rule of law and protection of human rights by offering legal assistance to the victims of violations of human rights and to marginalized women in cases relevant to the Family Law and Gender; and pressurizing the duty bearers to respect human rights, the rule of law and democratic transition, including, *inter alia*, documenting and disseminating the violations of human rights, raising awareness on human rights, promoting dialogue and leading discussions on human rights and networking with local and international partners. This was in light of the challenges that hinder PCHR's work and the civil society in general. These challenges are of the division in the PA and the obstruct of the PLC in addition to the judicial division and the political effects in which it was subjected. This situation prevented PCHR from many active methods in order to develop the democratic transformation.

Indicators:

- **Advocacy made by PCHR against certain policies:**

PCHR intervened in 17 Palestinian policies to be in conformity with international standards of human rights. These policies were as follows: application of death penalty, extra-judicial executions, attacks on the freedom of opinion and expression and restricting the freedom of press, violations of the right to form associations, violations of the right to peaceful assembly, issuance of legislations non-constitutionally, lack of the judiciary independence, arbitrary arrests, denial of travel, security chaos, denial of the rights of disabled persons, violations of the right to housing, violations of the right to health, gender-based violence, torture and maltreatment, poor conditions in prisons and detention facilities and hindering the public elections.

- **Policies which PCHR contributed to changing in order to meet the international standards:**

Stopping application of death penalties in the Gaza Strip: although 3 death sentences were implemented, PCHR contributed to stopping the implementation of death sentences. The authorities in Gaza intended to apply 13 death sentences in 2016, but PCHR's intervention through several perspectives and means contributed to ending this violation. It should be noted that application of death sentences stopped in the West Bank since 2001 while the last death penalty applied in the Gaza Strip with the Palestinian President's ratification was in 2005. However, the government in the Gaza Strip continued to apply death sentences even without the ratification of the President during the split period.

2.1 Legal Assistance Offered to Palestinian Victims of Human Rights in the PA

The judiciary is a basic tool to confront the violations of human rights, offer legal assistance and remedy to the victims and prosecute the perpetrators. Nonetheless, the political split directly affected the judiciary as human rights had abstained from addressing the judiciary in Gaza for years in light of the unconstitutional steps taken by the government in Gaza since 2007. PCHR, therefore, resorted to alternative protection mechanisms by contacting different political, security and parliamentary figures to stop certain violations. The continuity of the split without foreseeing any real opportunities to restore the judicial authority, human rights organizations re-considered its position in the past years. PCHR continued addressing the judiciary in the Gaza Strip, particularly the High Court, in public interest cases.

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit continued offering legal assistance in different forms to the victims of human rights violations in the PA. In 2016, legal assistance was given to prisoners in the Palestinian prisons and detention facilities, to victims of the abuse of power, including attacks on the public freedoms, and in cases of suspicion of medical negligence.

Indicators:

The number of civilians provided with legal assistance on grounds of Palestinian violations: 304

2.1.1 Legal Aid Offered to Prisoners in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Facilities

PCHR's Legal Aid Unit received and followed up complaints on arrests of Palestinian civilians by Palestinian security services and obtained powers of attorney to represent the arrested persons before the PA and identify their detention locations. The unit lawyers visited a number of prisoners and checked their detention conditions, including their health conditions. The unit also sent a number of complaints to the competent authorities, including the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General and the General Observer of Security Services.

Indicators

- » The unit offered legal assistance to 27 prisoners detained in prisons and detention facilities in the Gaza Strip.

2.1.1.1 Visiting prisoners to check detention conditions

The lawyers periodically visited the prisons and checked the detention conditions.

Indicators

- » The number of visits paid by PCHR lawyers to prisons and detention facilities is 6. During these visits, 7 prisoners were visited.

2.1.1.2 Filing complaints to the competent authorities against maltreatment in prisons

The Legal Unit filed a number of complaints to the competent authorities, including the Attorney General in Gaza, Ministry of Justice and General Observer of Security Services at the Ministry of Interior and Director General of Reform and Rehabilitation Centers. The complaints were about arresting civilians in violation of law and subjecting them to torture, maltreatment and bad health conditions.

Indicators

- » The number of complaints and letters sent by PCHR: 10. The majority of them were relative to detention of Palestinians in violation of the law, torture and maltreatment.
- » The number of meetings with competent authorities to check the legal status of the detainees: 2

2.1.1.3 Filing cases before courts against illegal detention and torture

No cases were filed in 2016.

2.1.1.4 Providing legal consultations

The Legal Unit provided legal consultations to the prisoners' relatives

Indicators

- » The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit to the prisoners' relatives: 150.

2.1.2 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Misuse of Power

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to Palestinians that were exposed to violations resulting from the misuse of power and attacks on the public freedoms or the general authorities' lack of commitment to the law.

Indicators

- » The number of Palestinian who received legal aid on grounds of the misuse of power or alleged misuse of power: 117.

2.1.2.1 Filing complaints to the Attorney General, ministries and other competent authorities

Complaints were filed on behalf of the victims to the PA's competent authorities.

Indicators

- » The number of complaints filed by the Legal Unit to the competent authorities: 23.
- » The Legal Unit received replies to 6 complaints; 2 replies were positive while the 4 others were negative.

Number of Complaints and to which Authority they were referred

Complaint filed to	Number of complaints	Complaint filed to	Number of complaints
Military medical services	1	Bank of Palestine	1
Egyptian Embassy in Ramallah	1	Ministry of Health	2
Attorney General	3	Ministry of Finance	7
Land Authority	1	Ministry of Interior	1
Ministry of Education	1	Ministry of Housing	1
Total	19		

2.1.2.2 Filing cases before courts

A case was filed before the High Court in Gaza in order to challenge an administrative decision issued by Gaza Municipality against the Medical Relief Society, the result was positive by having a solution and approving it by the court

2.1.2.3 Providing legal consultations

The Legal Unit provided legal aid to victims of the misuse of power.

Indicators

- » The number of consultations provided by the Legal Unit: 79

2.1.3 Legal Aid Provided to Victims of Medical Negligence

The Legal Unit continued to offer its services concerning cases of suspicion of medical negligence by medical service providers.

Indicators

- » The legal aid was offered to 4 Palestinians on grounds of suspicion of medical negligence.

2.1.3.1 Filing complaints to the Ministry of Health and the Attorney General

The Legal Unit received 4 cases of suspicion of medical negligence in 2016.

Indicators

- » Five complaints were sent to the Ministry of Health.

2.1.3.2 Providing legal consultations

The number of legal consultations provided: 15

2.2 PCHR Provided Legal Aid for Marginalized Women on Family Law and Gender Issues

PCHR's Women's Rights Unit continued its work in helping women in having access to justice, especially the marginalized ones, by providing legal aid to them. The Women's Unit represented hundreds of women before the *Shari'a* Courts and obtained court rulings in favor of those women. Moreover, the unit offered hundreds of legal consultations to women. The Women's Unit enhanced its cooperation with the *Shari'a* courts and NGOs to help women in having access to courts. In 2016, the unit focused on promoting cooperation with al-Aman Shelter and Ansar Central Prison for Women through organizing periodic visits (4 to 5 monthly visits) to Beit al-Aman and one visit monthly to Ansar Central prison in order to provide legal services to women there.

Indicators

- » The number of women that received legal aid from the Women's Unit in cases relevant to the Family Law and gender issues: 691.
- » The number of children that benefited from the legal aid offered to women: 387.

2.2.1 Filing Cases before Sharia Courts

The Unit continued receiving women complaints relevant to the Family Law and representing them before Gaza *Shari'a* courts. The Unit offers legal services through a team of *Shari'a* lawyers. The civil law seriously deteriorated throughout the split period that pushed PCHR to abstain from addressing the courts for years but kept working before the *Shari'a* courts. The cases varied in 2016, the most prominent cases included alimony, house furniture, deferred dowry, child custody and seeing children.

To promote the women legal protection and access to justice, the Unit continued to cooperate with the *Shari'a* court. In the context of this cooperation, the *Shari'a* courts refer women, who need legal assistance, to the unit's lawyers to represent them before courts for free.

Moreover, cooperation enhanced with NGOs and women and human rights organizations, as these organizations refer certain cases to PCHR to be followed up. Many cases were referred this year from the Women Health Center in Jabalia and al-Bureij, the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution, the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), the Union of Health Work Committees and Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection.

However, in 2016, one of the biggest obstacles that faced the unit was the number of cases is increasing in the *Shari'a* courts since most courts are considered by a single judge, who consider various cases such as the implementation cases and inheritance transactions in addition to other cases which will extend the litigation before courts and affect the Unit's work and the number of cases that might be filed during the month. Due to which, the Unit is forced to transfer a number of cases for another month.

Indicators

- » The number of cases followed up before the *Shari'a* courts in this year reached 1,146; 1,062 cases was reported in 2016.

- » The number of sentences the unit obtained for the interest of women was 615.
- » The following tables show the cases followed up by the Shari'a courts and outcome:

Diversity of Shari'a Cases Followed up by the Women's Unit in 2016

Type of Case	Number	Type of Case	Number
Alimony	714	House furniture	156
Hosting children	49	Child custody	34
Seeing children	17	Delivery fees	21
Deferred dowry	37	Divorce	66
Child custody fees	31	House rental fees	-
Marriage proof	-	Wife obedience	-
Paternity proof	1	Divorce proof	3
Others	17		
Total	1,146		

Cases Followed up by the Women's Unit before Shari'a Courts in 2016

Cases with rulings	Cases being considered	Cases dismissed for reconciliation	Cases stopped for non-follow-up by the claimant	Total
615	81	361	89	1,146

Table of Number of Cases PCHR Branches received

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Yunis	Total
486	267	309	1062

- » The number of women who benefited from the legal aid offered by the unit reached 691, taking in consideration that more than a case was filed on behalf of one woman. This explains the big number of cases compared to the number of women represented by the unit.
- » The number of cases the unit received during this year is 1062.
- » The number of children who benefited from the legal aid is 387.
- » The number of cases referred by Shari'a courts to the Women's Unit for follow-up: 467.
- » The number of cases referred from those benefiting from the unit services: 427.
- » The number of cases referred from women and community-based organizations: 112.
- » The number of cases referred from lawyers: 55.

2.2.1.1 Intervening in order to implement Sharia courts' rulings

- » The unit legally intervened to implement Shari'a courts' rulings for the interest of poor women. After Shari'a rulings were issued, the unit filed executive cases before the executive bodies of the Shari'a courts to help women obtain their financial rights.

Indicators

- » The number of women who benefited from the application of court rulings: 30.
- » The number of rulings issued by Shari'a courts and implemented upon the intervention of the unit: 49.

Table of the Number of Cases PCHR Branches in Gaza received in 2016

Main Branch/Gaza	Jabalia	Khan Yunis	Total
29	8	12	49

2.2.1.2 Providing Legal Consultations for Women

Legal consultations provided to women are a fundamental pillar of the Women's Unit to enhance women's chances to have access to justice. The unit provided this service in different forms, including receiving women in PCHR's head office in Gaza City and branches in Khan Yunis and Jabalia, phone calls, or awareness-raising meetings organized by the unit.

Indicators:

- » The number of legal consultations provided by the Women's Unit: 660.

2.2.2 Legal Aid Provided for Female Prisoners

The Women's Unit provided legal aid and consultations to female prisoners. The unit female lawyers paid visits to the women's prison in the central prison in Gaza City. The number of female prisoners was about 40.

Indicators

- » The number of female prisoners who received legal aid: 15.

2.2.2.1 Visiting the female prison by lawyers to check detention conditions

In 2016, female lawyers at the Women's Right Unit visited the women's prison to check the detention conditions. In light of the continued cooperation between the Women's Unit and the female prison, the unit increased the number of visits in order to offer the biggest number possible of legal and consultation aid for female prisoners. During this year, they unit provided a training about self-care, well-being and personal security to the inmates and policewomen in prison.

Indicators

- » The number of visits to the women's prison: 6.

2.2.2.2 Providing legal consultations for female prisoners

The lawyers at the Women's Rights Unit provided legal consultations to female prisoners during the visits.

Indicators

- » The number of legal consultations provided: 50. It should be noted some prisoners received legal consultations more than once.



On 10 November, Women's Rights Unit organizes an entertaining day for the female inmates in Gaza.

2.2.3 Legal Aid was Provided for Women in Beit al-Aman (Women Shelter)

The Women's Unit continued cooperating with Beit al-Aman administrated by the Ministry of Social Affairs that gives shelter to the women victims of violence by providing legal services to women there. The Unit is the only one that offers legal aid for Beit al-Aman that gives shelter to 15 - 20 women. The Women's Unit started cooperating with Beit al-Aman since 2012.

Indicators

- » The number of women in the shelter who received legal aid from the unit: 20

2.2.3.1 Visiting the shelter to check living conditions

The unit paid periodic visits to Beit al-Aman to check the living conditions, provide legal aid to them and follow up their cases before the *Shari'a* courts sometimes. Moreover, the Unit organized 2 joint visits with the OHCHR to Beit al-Aman in order to document and observe the work mechanisms. Hanan Mater, Director of Women's Rights Unit, and Majeda Shehahda, Researcher at the Women's Unit participated in the visit.

Indicators

- » The number of visits implemented by the unit to Beit al-Aman: 36 visits; 3 visits per month.

2.2.3.2 Representing women in the shelter before *Shari'a* courts

The unit represented women in the shelter before the *Shari'a* courts.

Indicators

- » The unit filed 15 cases on behalf of a number of women from the shelter.

2.2.3.3 Providing legal consultations to women in shelter

The Women's Unit provided legal consultations to women in Beit al-Aman during the visits.

Indicators

- » The number of consultations provided by the Unit: 150

2.3 PCHR Pressured Duty Bearers for the Promotion of Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democratic Transformation

Along with its work in the field of legal protection against the PA violations, PCHR exerted efforts on the level of advocacy and lobbying to change policies relevant to human rights. PCHR addressed several duty bearers for the protection of human rights, the rule of law and democratic transformation. This included observing and documenting violations of human rights, interventions to stop legislations and decisions affecting human rights, revealing violations through dissemination, raising awareness for Palestinians on human rights and democracy, including women rights, capacity-building for human rights defenders, promoting the dialogue and leading discussions about human rights issues, including women rights, networking with partner human rights organizations and CBOs, and holding meetings with Palestinian duty bearers for the respect of human rights.

2.3.1 PCHR Monitored and Documented Human Rights Violations Committed by the PA

PCHR's Fieldwork Unit has documented the PA violations in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip through an experienced team of fieldworkers. In 2016, the violations continued, especially in light of the ongoing split and its impacts on all aspects of life.

Indicators

- » The number of violations documented: 580.

2.3.1.1 Conducting field visits

Fieldworkers head to the scenes to closely observe the nature of attacks in spite of the risks they face. The fieldworkers conducted several field visits based on the nature of the incident.

Indicators

- » The fieldworkers conducted 395 field visits in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

2.3.1.2 Conducting interviews with victims and/or their relatives and with eyewitnesses

Fieldwork requires conducting interviews for the same incident to identify which person is more appropriate for giving a testimony. An eyewitness is considered very important when clarifying the circumstances of the violation, especially when the fieldworker is unable to immediately visit the scene because of life-threatening situations.

Indicators

- » The fieldworkers conducted 380 personal meetings

2.3.1.3 Collecting testimonies

The fieldworkers collected written testimonies from eyewitnesses and victims.

Indicators

- » The number of testimonies collected by fieldworkers: 130.

2.3.1.4 Filling out incident form

The fieldworkers filled out forms prepared by the unit for each type of incidents (killing/ injury/ arrest/ destruction of property) that includes details about all violations.

Indicators

- » The number of forms filled out by the fieldworkers: 330.

2.3.1.5 Taking photos

Photos were taken for the scenes of violations. This is considered an important mechanism when documenting the violations.

Indicators

- » 45 photos were taken.

2.3.1.6 Collecting documents relevant to the violation

The documents collected by fieldworkers included medical reports, documents of property ownership, personal photos, documents from governmental authorities, maps and sketches.

Indicators

- » 47 documents were collected.

2.3.1.7 Writing field reports

The fieldworkers prepared detailed reports about the violations based on their visit to the scenes and testimonies of eyewitnesses. The reports also included remarks about the fieldworkers and their evaluation.

Indicators

- » 225 field reports were prepared.

2.3.1.8 Feeding database

The Fieldwork Unit fed PCHR's database with all information that was documented. They turned all the documented materials to an electronic archive, so other units at PCHE can use it.



a fisherman was wounded after Israeli naval forces opened fire at him.

Indicators

- » The number of inputs in the database is 330.
- » The number of documents electronically archived: 400.

2.3.2 PCHR Monitored General and Local Elections

PCHR supported holding local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in preparation for holding presidential and legislative elections to renew the legitimacy of the PA institutions and end the division that has been ongoing for 10 years. In this regard, PCHR upheld the decision by the Council of Ministers to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 08 October and was ready to monitor the elections. Moreover, PCHR followed up the stages of the electoral process, including voter registration, opening door for nominations, appeals and courts' decisions regarding those appeals and even the decision by the Council of Ministers on 04 October 2016 to delay the elections.

1.3.2.1 Recruiting observers

After receiving the CEC's decision of being accredited as a local monitoring body, PCHR started recruiting dozens of observers, who have previous experience in monitoring the legislative and local elections and received training courses in the field of human rights in PCHR.

Indicators

- » PCHR was able to recruit 350 observers in addition to PCHR's staff.

2.3.2.2. Training observers

PCHR held 9 training courses, each of which continued for 3 days and of 15 training hours. The courses included various subjects: (the principle of elections and electoral systems, laws and regulations governing the electoral process, basics and standards of the monitoring process, code of conduct for election observers, and election monitoring indicators). The number of participants in the courses was 268, including 141 female participants i.e. 53% of the participants.

2.3.2.3. Preparing forms for monitoring

PCHR prepared a special form for its observers to use in monitoring the measures of voting and vote counting, starting from opening door for voting, the voting process, closing the voting doors, vote counting process and announcing the preliminary results. PCHR trained its observers on this form, which was supposed to be distributed on them before the voting date in order to be used as an indicator for the electoral process. PCHR also prepared indicators for monitoring the electoral campaign, including how committed the electoral lists and candidates are to the electoral campaign rules stipulated in law, and how to monitor and report violations.

2.3.2.4. Distributing observers to Polling Centers

PCHR recruited 350 observers in addition to PCHR's

staff, who obtained accreditation cards as observers from the CEC. PCHR started preparations to distribute the observers on the polling centers in all municipalities of the Gaza Strip. However, the measures stopped due to delaying the elections.

2.3.2.5 Issuing updates and position papers on the electoral processes

PCHR issued updates, press releases and position papers from the beginning of the electoral process and until the elections were declared to be delayed.

Indicators

- » PCHR issued: 4 press releases; 2 position papers and 2 electoral bulletins.

2.3.2.6 Issuing reports

No reports were issued about the electoral process due to delaying or cancelling it.

2.3.2.7 Contact with the CEC

PCHR was in constant contact with the CEC about the electoral process from its beginning until the elections were announced to be delayed. PCHR started preparing to monitor the elections by applying to accredit PCHR as a local monitoring body to monitor all stages of the electoral process from the voter registration, opening the nomination door, the electoral campaign, the polling day and announcing the final voting results. Moreover, PCHR submitted applications to accredit the observers by the CEC. The CEC accredited 350 observers, including PCHR's staff.

2.3.2.8 Awareness workshops on elections

PCHR organized 5 raising awareness workshops about the political participation and electoral process in cooperation with the civil society. Those workshops were attended by 100 participants.



Lecture on local elections on 18 August

2.3.3 PCHR Monitored Legislations to Ensure Adherence with International Human Rights Standards

The internal division in the PA since 2007 resulted in obstructing the role of the Palestinian legislative tools. Hamas parliamentary bloc held sessions on behalf of the PLC in Gaza since 2007 while other parliamentary blocs boycotted it. Hamas bloc started since then issuing and applying legislations in the Gaza Strip. The President used Article 34 of the Basic Palestinian Law to fully replace the legislative power. Therefore, dozens of decisions were issued and applied in the West Bank; many of them do not fall within the principle of necessity. Moreover, the Constitutional Court gave the president the authority to lift immunity of PLC Members. Throughout the 10 past years, the PA witnessed a legislative split too. This became worse when the 2 parties to the split issued many governmental decisions and applied them each party in its area.

PCHR followed up all serious developments relevant to the Palestinian legal system and confronted them via a series of interventions with the stakeholders, calling for stopping legislations during the split and restoring the status of the legislative authority represented by the PLC. In cooperation with partner human rights organizations and CBOs, PCHR intervened to stop the presidential and governmental legislations and decisions that limit the public freedoms and civil society and violate human rights.

Indicators

- » PCHR contributed to stop issuing and amending the Social Security Law.
- » The annual report included a full part of the legislative developments in the PA.

2.3.4 PCHR Exposed Human Rights Violations Committed by the PA

PCHR did so via the issuance of press releases and field updates relevant to the security chaos incidents. In addition, PCHR issued an annual report and other thematic reports addressing violations of rights like the right to the freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

Indicators

- » There is detailed information related to the PA violations available on PCHR's website.

2.3.4.1 Issuing press releases on Palestinian violations

The press release is one of PCHR's most important tools to expose the violations of human rights, advocacy and pressurizing the stakeholders in order to stop these violations and prosecute the perpetrators. PCHR's press releases varied in 2016 in addressing violations of the right to freedom of expression, right to peaceful assembly, death penalty, arbitrary detention, right to education, right to health, and electricity crisis.

Indicators

- » The number of press releases issued by PCHR on the PA violations: 27.

2.3.4.2 Issuing updates on security chaos

The DDU prepared updates on the state of security chaos in the PA, focusing on attacks carried out by persons or groups against persons or property or resulting from mishandling weapons.

Indicators

- » PCHR issued 24 field updates in 2015.

2.3.4.3 Issuing periodic thematic reports

PCHR issued in 2016 a number of periodic thematic reports shedding light on the PA violations of human rights. The reports addressed the themes relevant to the right of the freedom of expression, torture and the right to peaceful assembly.

- » PCHR issued a report prepared by the DDU on “Violations of the Freedom of Opinion and Expression in the PA” covering the period from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. The report, which was published on 02 May 2016, is one of a series of periodic reports prepared by the unit about the freedom of expression.
- » PCHR issued a report prepared by the DDU also on “Torture in Palestinian Prisons and Detention Facilities” covering the period from July 2015 to October 2016. The report, which was issued on 31 December 2016, is one of a series of periodic reports prepared by PCHR to address torture and maltreatment to which prisoners in the PA prisons are subjected in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- » PCHR issued a report prepared by the DDU on “The Right to Peaceful Assembly in the PA” cov-

ering the period from November 2015 to October 2016. The report, which was issued on 29 December 2016, is also one of a series of reports that have been issued by PCHR since 1998.

Indicators

- » The number of thematic reports issued by PCHR in 2016 about the PA violations is 3.

2.3.4.4 Issuing annual report on the human rights situation - Palestinian violations

The annual report is the most important and prominent document issued by PCHR since 1997 addressing the situation of human rights and the international humanitarian law in the oPt. The report comprehensively covers the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law for a year. It also includes the Palestinian violations of human rights and recommendations to decision makers and stakeholders. The DDU supervise the preparation of the report in cooperation with the other units. It should be noted that this is the 19th annual report covering 01 January – 31 December 2015.

Indicators

- » The annual report was issued on 09 June 2016. It was widely and electronically published.

2.3.5 PCHR Raised Awareness of the Palestinian Community on Human Rights and Democracy, Including Women Rights and Gender-based Violence

PCHR provided various interventions throughout the year to raise awareness of Palestinians on human rights and encourage them to claim and protect them. PCHR's Training Unit led this activity through holding training courses on human rights and democracy for various target groups. The unit also held special awareness sessions on certain topics relevant to human rights.

Women had a great focus in raising awareness. In addition to women's participation and addressing women rights in the Training Unit programs, raising awareness for both women and men was a basic element for the Women's Rights Unit, as the latter held special raising awareness sessions for women and men. The legal awareness program at the Women's Unit focused on the Family Law, women rights, confronting gender-based violence and gender issues.

The DDU dedicated big part of its efforts to raising awareness on democracy through sessions addressing the basic rights necessary for democracy, especially the freedom of expression, the right to form associations, peaceful assembly and political participation. The unit held also special sessions to raise awareness and form a public opinion against death penalty in the PA.

The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit contributed to raising awareness

through holding sessions on these rights, especially the right to health and rights of persons with disabilities.

These activities were implemented in cooperation with the CBOs, grassroots organizations and youth initiatives throughout the Gaza Strip.

Indicators

- » The number of participants in all training and raising awareness sessions was 5,854, including 4,175 women constituting 71.3% of the total number.
- » The number of participating organizations is 158.



Training course targeting the Youth Gathering on 21 December

2.3.5.1 Conducting Training courses on human rights and democracy

The Training Unit continued organizing training courses in human rights and democracy. The courses targeted human rights defenders; members and volunteers in civil society organizations distributed throughout the Gaza Strip; participants in the election monitoring campaign; and Members of youth groups. The trainees received about 20 training hours in a 5-day course on, *inter alia*, the International Bill of Human Rights, Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Universal Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, gender, the Convention on the Rights of the Child; judiciary independence and rule of law, political participation, election monitoring mechanisms, monitoring and documenting mechanisms of human rights violations, and democracy and ways



PCHR's Women's Rights Unit organizes a workshop On Family Law in PCHR's office in Khan Yunis.

to enhance it in the Palestinian society. Trainers from PCHR staff and others of those who already received training at PCHR facilitated the training courses.

The unit implemented its activities in cooperation with Palestinian local organizations, the most prominent of which were the National Society for Rehabilitation, al-Adham Society for Development, Education Development Committee, Bloggers for Human Rights Group, Community Media Center, Social Media Café, and Somow Youth Team

Indicators

- » The unit carried out 14 training courses in which 194 persons participated, 49% of them were women.
- » The training courses covered 230 training hours.

Number of Courses Implemented by the Training Unit in 2016⁵

Number of courses	Course subject and targeted group	Participants	Training hours	Women's participation
2	University students/ human rights concepts, International Bill of Human Rights and the rights of women and child.	56	40	38%
1	Members of National Society for Rehabilitation and Bloggers for Human Rights Group	28	20	64%
1	Human Rights activists and volunteers of the Educational Development Committee	24	20	30%
9	Political participation, election monitoring, Electoral Systems and participants in the Local elections monitoring campaign.	268	135	53%
1	Special Course for young journalists in cooperation with the Community Media Center and Social Media Café	14	15	50%

2.3.5.2 Conducting awareness sessions on human rights and democracy

This activity was organized by each of the Training Unit, DDU and the Economic, Social and Cultural Unit.

The training courses carried out by the Training Unit addressed the following topics: introduction to human rights, Universal Bill of Human Rights, democracy, rights of the child, violence against women, discrimination against women, right to form associations, political participation, role of human rights organizations in monitoring and documenting human rights, rights of works in the Palestinian Law, Citizenship and Community participation and human rights rights. Those activities were carried out in cooperation with CBOs and youth groups active throughout the Gaza Strip.⁶

The DDU carried out also raising awareness sessions; some of which addressed the political participation, freedom of opinion and expression, lawful restrictions imposed on journalism. The biggest part of the meetings held by the unit focused on death penalty.⁷

Furthermore, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit held a number of raising awareness sessions for topics like the right to health and rights of the persons with disabilities.⁸

Indicators

- » The number of persons who participated in raising awareness sessions was 1,840, including 1,083 women i.e. 59% of the total number of participants.
- » The number of raising awareness sessions was 72.
- » The number of organizations and groups throughout the Gaza Strip with which PCHR coordinated was 67.

2.3.5.3 Receiving student delegations from schools

The Training Unit received 45 delegations from the student parliaments in elementary and preparatory schools that visited PCHR. These visits are scheduled before and take one to one hour and a half each offers. During these visits, the trainer presents a brief on PCHR's work and role in addition to the most important human rights issues PCHR work on. At the end of the course, discussions are

5. Appendix (2): detailed information about training courses and partner organizations.

6. Appendix (2) and (3): raising awareness sessions implemented by the Training Unit.

7. Appendix (4): raising awareness sessions organized by the DDU.

8. Appendix (5): raising awareness sessions organized by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit.



Mohammed Abu Hashem, a legal researcher, during a lecture

opened, and all participants' questions regarding human rights are answered.

Indicators

- » The number of students' visits was 45.
- » The number of students among these delegations was 1118, including 635 female students i.e. 57%.⁹



PCHR receives student delegations

2.3.5.4 Conducting awareness sessions on women rights, family law and gender-based violence

The Women's Unit continued to carry out awareness lectures on women rights in the Palestinian community. Although women are mainly targeted in these lectures, the past years witnessed a gradual increase in targeting men too, especially in gender-based violence issues. The lectures were held throughout the Gaza Strip in coordination with NGOs, grassroots organizations, the Ministry of Social Affairs and schools with special focus on the marginalized areas. The topics of lectures varied covering the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, vio-

lence against women, Family Law, impact of war on women, Women's hopes during the year, the right of widows, the right of the child, security and wellbeing...etc.

From 25 November – 10 December, the unit took advantage of the 16-day international campaign against violence against women to raise awareness about violence through lectures.

Indicators

- » The number of female and male attendees of lectures was 2,506, including 2,263 women and girls and 238 men.
- » The number of lectures held by the Women's Unit was 101. They were held in cooperation with 25 organizations and 7 schools.
- » The number of lectures relevant to violence against women during the 16-day international campaign was 4, in which 86 women participated. They were held in coordination with 1 organization and 1 school.



PCHR's Women's Rights Unit organizes a workshop on "Divorce before Consummation: Its Reasons and Effects"

2.3.5.5 Preparing and issuing training and awareness raising materials

In 2016, PCHR prepared and issued a number of training and awareness raising materials relevant to human rights. Those materials were distributed to participants in training courses and awareness raising sessions.

Indicators

- » The Training Unit issued 4 training handbooks in 2016. The handbooks are simple and written in the form of questions and answers. Both trainees and trainers can use them. They cover the basic concepts of human rights and Intentional Bill of Human Rights. They were as follows:

9. Appendix (6): details relevant to the school delegations' visits to PCHR's main office and branches.

1. Guide (1) on basic concepts of human rights.
 2. Guide (2) on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
 3. Guide (3) on the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights.
- » The Training Unit issued a human rights handbook on the child's rights enjoyed by children all over the world. This handbook depends on easily and simply introducing children to their rights via colorful drawings. It also includes basic information on the child's rights.
 - » The unit also issued a leaflet that includes paintings simulating violence against women and ways to combat it in light of International Campaign for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
 - » The Women's Unit issued a guidebook on the

rights of widows.

- » The Women's Unit prepared and issued 6 legal materials on Family Law, Heritage, Family Rights, Principles of Sharia Trials, Palestinian Law of Execution and Lawyer's Code of Ethics.

2.3.5.6 Producing awareness raising audio-visual materials (posters, films)

- » A poster was issued on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 93 December.
- » A poster was prepared by the Women's Unit on violence against women and released on the International Women's Day on 08 March.

Indicators

- » Two posters were released.



International Women's Day Mural on the eighth of March.

2.3.6 PCHR Provided Capacity Building for Human Rights Defenders

PCHR implemented a number of activities relevant to capacity building for human rights defenders. The Training Unit held training courses in human rights, while some courses were given to lawyers in *Shari'a*.

Indicators

- » The number of participants was 131, including 50 women.

2.3.6.1 Conducting training of trainers (TOT) for human rights activists

No TOT courses were held in 2016.

2.3.6.2 Providing training for lawyers and preparing them to pass the Sharia Judiciary licensing examination

The Training Unit and Women's Unit implemented training courses for male and female lawyers throughout the Gaza Strip to help them pass the *Shari'a* Judiciary licensing examination. Each Course was of 30 training hours for 5 days. the training program included family law, matrimonial

law, Principle of Sharia Trials, Endowments (Waqf) Law, Palestinian Executive Law, provisions of inheritance, Mecelle "Civil Code of the Ottoman Empire", and forms of sharia cases. Such training courses were supervised by specialized Sharia judges in addition to Sharia lawyers working in PCHR.

Indicators

- » 4 courses were held and attended by 125 lawyers; 37% of whom were women.
- » The training hours of all courses were 120.

A Table of Training Courses Held by PCHR for Sharia Lawyers in 2016

Number	Targeted Group	Place	Participants	Hours	Period	Female participation
1.	Young lawyers	PCHR's office in Jabalia	29	30	07-11 August 2016	40%
2.	Young lawyers	PCHR's office in Khan Younis	46	30	28 August-01 September 2016	37%
3.	Young lawyers	La Rose Restaurant's training hall	26	30	02-06 October 2016	39%
4.	Young lawyers	La Rose Restaurant's training hall	24	30	09-13 October 2016	33%

2.3.6.3 Training female lawyers to work before Sharia courts

The Women's Unit trained female and male lawyers to convey PCHR's experience to the young generation of lawyers in order to empower them as defenders of women's rights before Sharia courts and to help women have access to justice. In 2016, the Women's Unit continued training 4 female law

graduates with a joint project with Un Women started on 01 November 2015. Their training ended in October 2016. The Training Unit trained a fresh lawyer for 3 months.

Indicators

- » The number of female and male lawyers who were trained at the Women's Unit was 5.

2.3.7 PCHR Promoted Dialogue and Lead Debates on Human Rights Issues, Including Women Rights

This was achieved through holding conferences and workshops on national human rights issues; participating in conferences and workshops held by CBOs and stakeholders; conducting media interviews; implementing radio and TV programs on human rights issues and carrying out electronic campaigns in the issues of human rights.

2.3.7.1 Organizing conferences, workshops and other meetings on human rights issues

PCHR held conferences, workshops and meetings addressing different topics.

PCHR Organizes Panel Discussion on "Mechanisms to Improve Electricity Services and Ending the Aggravating Crisis".

On 27 January 2016, PCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Unit organized a panel discussion on "Mechanisms to Improve Electricity Services and Ending the Aggravating Crisis". The panel discussion aimed at discussing the latest updates relevant to the current aggravating electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip and how a proper mechanism will be found to improve the electricity services and put an end to the electricity crisis. The panel discussion was attended by a group of experts representing the Palestinian Energy Authority, Gaza Power Plant and GEDCo, other electricity experts and technicians, representatives from CBOs and journalists. The first session addressed "Reasons of the aggravating electricity crisis and ways to improve the electricity services". During this, each of Engineer Fathi al-Shaikh Khalil, Deputy Director of the Energy Authority; Engineer Mo'tasem Abu Shahla, a representative from Gaza Power Plant; and Engineer Adel al-Habash, Director of the electric power transmission at the Energy Authority. Meanwhile, the second session tackled "Finding a Proper Mechanism to Improve the Electricity Services". Electricity Experts and technicians and representatives from CBOs participated in this session.

This panel discussion was part of the advocacy campaign "Lighting Gaza" funded by the European Union and carried out by PCHR in coordination with a number of NGOs to pressurize all parties supervising the electricity sector administration to improve the electricity services and put an end to the aggravating crisis.



A Panel discussion on finding mechanisms to improve the electricity services in the Gaza strip.

PCHR Organizes Panel Discussion to Draft Recommendations on “Lightening Gaza” Campaign

On 15 March 2016, as part of “Lightening Gaza” Campaign, the Economic, Social and Cultural Unit at PCHR held a panel discussion to draft recommendations on the Campaign that started in early 2016. This panel, which was the third of its kind, was attended by a group of experts representing the concerned parties supervising the electricity sector, electricity experts, representatives from CBOs and journalists. Mr. Khalil Shaheen, Director the PCHR’s Economic and Social Rights Unit, started the panel discussion, and Engineer Fathi al-Shaikh Khalil, Deputy Director of the Energy Authority and Chairman of GEDCo, spoke about the crisis. Meanwhile, Dr. Fadel al-Muzzaini, a researcher at PCHR’s Economic and Social Rights Unit, reviewed a number of recommendations reached in the various panel discussions and activities held by PCHR within the Campaign. He pointed out that these recommendations will be formulated in a petition to be signed by organizations and public figures from all over the Gaza Strip.



Panel discussion to draft recommendations of the “Lightening Gaza” Campaign on 15 March 2016

PCHR Concludes “Lightening Gaza” Campaign

On 14 April 2016, The Economic, Social and Cultural Unit at PCGR organized a special conference titled, “Conclusion of Lightening Gaza Campaign “. The conference was attended by a group of experts representing the concerned parties supervising the electricity sector, electricity experts, representatives from Civil Society organizations and journalists. During the conference, Mr. Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR’s Economic and Social Rights Unit; Engineer Fathi al-Shaikh Khalil, Deputy Director of the Energy Authority and Chairman of GEDCo; and Dr. Rafiq Malihah, Director of Gaza Power Plant. Dr. Fadel al-Muzzaini, a researcher at PCHR’s Economic and Social Rights Unit, reviewed the stages of “lightening Gaza” campaign and activities conducted by the working group. Al-Muzzaini added that the Campaign petition included a number of important recommendations reached in various panel discussions and activities held by PCHR within the Campaign. The petition received positive reaction from civil society organizations and public figures in the Gaza Strip. Al-Muzzaini calls upon the National Unity government and parties administrating the electricity sector to adopt the petition recommendations to ease the aggravating crisis and improve the power-on hours.



The concluding conference of the «Lightening Gaza Campaign» on 14 April 2016.

Conducting a Campaign titled “No to Silencing the Press”

On 03 May 2015, the World Press Freedom Day, PCHR launched a 2-day blogging campaign titled “No to Silencing the Press” on “Facebook” and “Twitter”. The campaign aimed at unveiling the Israeli crimes committed against journalists and attempts to silencing the press and hiding the truth, as well as PA violations against journalists, opinion makers and bloggers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Moreover, the campaign reviewed PCHR’s recommendations in this regard.

The campaign, organized by PCHR in cooperation with the Social Media Café of al-Ameen Media Network, was launched at 11:00 in the meeting hall at al-Salam Restaurant in Gaza City. Seventy bloggers participated as a focus group and published their tweets and posts on Twitter and Facebook in English and Arabic. Many other bloggers, who were not in the meeting hall either inside or outside the Gaza Strip, participated in the campaign as well. The campaign dealt with reports relevant to the freedom of expression and press, which are titled as:

1. Silencing the Press report, which is the 18th of its kind. The report covering the period from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 addresses the Israeli violations against journalists working in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt); and
2. A report on the Violations of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression in the PA, which is the 14th of its kind. The report covering the period from 01 April 2015 to 01 April 2016 tackles the most prominent violations against journalists and opinion makers in the Palestinian Authority (PA).

The campaign was locally and regionally covered by media and was followed by bloggers from different Arab countries, as they used the 2 hashtags [#إخراس_الصحافة](#) and [#SilencePress](#) to post on violations against the press in their countries. Some satellite channels also published posts about violations and harassments against journalists.

Millions from around the world followed the campaign on Facebook and Twitter, as the number of followers reached over 3 million during the 2-day campaign, while the number of followers on Facebook reached tens of thousands. Moreover, the hashtags were trending in respect to the number of posts, photos and videos published.



Silencing the press activity on the World Press Freedom Day on 03 May

Lecture on “Women’s Rights and GBV”

On 9 July 2016, in cooperation with OHCHR, PCHR’s Women’s Unit organized a lecture titled as, “Women’s rights and GBV” in PCHR’s Khan Younis branch office. Fifteen directors of organizations interested in women and children rights and female family chiefs working in the southern area attended the lecture. Lawyer Hanan Matter, Acting Director of the Women’s Unit, reviewed the Unit’s work and cases handled by the Unit before the Sharia Courts. Matter also addressed the judicial precedents achieved by the Unit for women and never achieved by other organizations working in the same field. She also displayed laws adopted and related to women’s rights issues in the Gaza Strip. The lecture program included 3 interventions. The first one was titled, “OHCHR’s Working Mechanism in Monitoring and Documenting Women’s Violations and Promoting Women’s Rights” presented by Paula Simas Magalhães, Human Rights Officer at United Nations OHCHR-Palestinian Territory, International Affairs. The second was titled, “Human Rights and Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)” presented by Saber al-Nerab. The third was titled, “Cases of Gender-Based Violence, Intervention and Assistance” and presented by Dr. Tariq Mukheimer, Human Rights Officer in OHCHR Gaza office.



No to Silencing the Press» Campaign on the World Press Freedom Day on 02 May

Workshop on Al-Aqsa University Crisis in the Gaza Strip and Solution Mechanisms

On Thursday, 06 October 2016, PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit organized a workshop titled as "Al-Aqsa University Crisis in the Gaza Strip and Solution Mechanisms". The workshop aimed to discuss the developments relating to al-Aqsa University crisis in the Gaza Strip and looking for an appropriate mechanism to end the crisis. The workshop was held in coincidence with the aggravating crisis and its negative impacts on the students, including their right to education. A group of specialists from the Ministry of Higher Education; al-Aqsa administrative and academic staff; educational experts; representatives of CBOs; representatives of political parties and public figures participated in the workshop. Moreover, a number of students from al-Aqsa University and other universities participated in the workshop as well. Dr. Kamal al-Shrafi, Director of al-Aqsa University Board of Trustees, presented a paper titled as "Al-Aqsa University Crisis and the Ministry of Higher Education's Vision". In addition, Dr. Ayman al-Yazouri, Undersecretary of Higher Education Affairs in Gaza, presented a paper on "The Ministry of Higher Education's Vision in Gaza related to al-Aqsa University Crisis". Moreover, Dr. Mohammed al-Emour, Coordinator of the Union of Palestinian Public Universities, gave a presentation on "The Union of Palestinian Public Universities' Vision". Dr. Bassam Abu Hashish, head of the Democratic Coalition of al-Aqsa University Staff, also presented a paper on "Mechanism to Overcome the Crisis". Eventually, Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit, issued a position paper titled, "Al-Aqsa University Crisis in the Gaza Strip"



PCHR's General Assembly discusses PCHR's strategic plan 2015-2019

Workshop on Divorce before Consummation and Seclusion: Its Reasons and Effects

On 01 December 2016, PCHR's Women's Rights Unit organized a workshop titled: "Divorce before Consummation and Seclusion: Its Reasons and Effects" as part of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV Campaign.

Hanan Mater, Director of Women's Rights Unit, welcomed the attendees and then talked about the work of the Women's Unit and its programs in the framework of providing services to women and PCHR's ongoing attempts to do justice to them. She also reviewed PCHR's experience in documenting violations of women's rights in general.

Dr. Sa'ïd Abu al-Jebein, Member of the Palestinian Sharia High Court, addressed divorce, its types and cases where women have the right to request separation before the Sharia courts. He then talked about divorce before consummation and seclusion. He also mentioned the reasons behind divorce, shedding light on the difficult economic and social conditions which Palestinian young men in the Gaza Strip suffer from, in addition to the internal political split.

Workshop titled, "Family Law: Obstacles vs. Solutions"

08 December 2016, PCHR's Women's Right Unit at held a workshop titled, "Family Law: Obstacles vs. Solutions" as part of the activities organized by PCHR on the 16-day activism on violence against women in PCHR's branch office in Khan Yunis.

Lawyer Hanan Matter, Director of PCHR's Women's Unit, welcomed the audience and reviewed PCHR's experience in documenting violations against women in general and highlighted that laws have not been just enough to women.

Zeyad Abu al-Hajj, Judge at Bani Suhaila Shari'a Court, addressed the Family Law and its flaws that affect the public interest of the Palestinian families.

Indicators:

- » 8 conferences and workshop were organized.

2.3.7.2 Participating in conferences and workshops organized by civil society and other stakeholders

PCHR has participated in conferences and workshops organized by partner human rights organizations, CBOs and other stakeholders. Representatives from PCHR were invited to a number of meetings as speakers, where they presented papers and interventions. They also participated

in an activity, as they displayed PCHR's position in a number of human rights issues and raised a debate on those issues. Following are the most important participations:

- » On 15 January 2016: Khalil Shaheen, Director of PCHR's Economic and Social Rights Unit, participated in a public meeting entitled: "Civilians and Officials" about the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip. Engineer Fathi al-Shaikh Khalil, Deputy Director of the Energy Authority and Chairman of Gaza Electricity Distribution Corporation (GEDCo), and Mr. Jameel Mezher, the Spokesperson of the PFLP also participated in the meeting through an invitation presented by the Nawar Educational Center of the Society of Culture and Free Thought in Khan Yunis. Moreover, Khalil Shaheen presented an intervention and pointed to the beginning of the "Lighting Gaza" campaign, which was implemented by PCHR. He presented the repercussions of the electricity crisis and suggested a number of recommendations and suggestions to ease its impacts on the life of the Gaza Strip residents and on the work of vital facilities.
- » On 19 January 2016, Magda Shehadah, a researcher at women and children rights Unit, presented a working paper about the latest offensive and its impact on women, during a workshop organized by the Community Voice at the the Women's Activity Center's office in al-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza City.
- » On 08 March 2016, Khalil Shaheen presented a working paper titled, "10 years on the ongoing electricity crisis ... from failure to failure", during a panel discussion organized by the Coalition for Integrity and Transparency (AMAN) titled as "Electricity Crisis in Gaza.. Proposed Solutions" at the PRCS Hall in the Gaza Strip.
- » On 06 April 2016, Lawyer Hanan Matter, Director of PCHR's Women's Unit, and Magda Shehadah, a researcher at the same unit, presented a working paper on "The concept of violence against women" and participated in a workshop titled "Combating Violence against Women" organized by the Community Media Center in Gaza.
- » On 05 June 2016, Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director of PCHR for Program Affairs, participated in a panel discussion titled as "Freedom of Media is the Way to Access to Justice" organized by the Palestinian Institute for Communication and Development (PICD), as part of a project to promote the role of media in supporting justice in the Gaza Strip. The panel discussion was held at the PICD's office, where Shaqoura presented an intervention titled as "Human Rights Review of the Reality of Media Freedom in Palestine".
- » On 21 July 2016, in a seminar organized by the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees in al-Salaam Restaurant in Gaza City, Hamdi Shaqqura participated as a spokesperson about enhancing the participation of women in local elections.
- » On 27 July 2016, Hamdi Shaqqura participated as a spokesperson in a session titled "Guarantees of the widest possible participation of Youth in the Palestinian local elections", was organized by the PICD at its office in Gaza City within a project titled "My right to vote."
- » On 07 August 2016, Majedah Shehadah presented a working paper in a workshop on promoting women's rights organized by the Women's Health Center in Jabalia refugee camp. This workshop targeted a group of fishermen.
- » On 15 August 2016, Majedah Shehadah participated in a workshop on "GBV" held at the UNRWA office in Gaza.
- » On 18 August 2016, Majedah Shehadah participated in a workshop organized by Wifaq Association to discuss women's rights in the Family Law.
- » On 18 August 2016, Hamdi Shaqqura participated in a seminar about the local elections organized by the National Association for Rehabilitation in its office in Gaza City.
- » On 01 September 2016, Majdah Shehadah presented a working paper about the organizations guidebook to work on GBV organized in Gaza City in the NRC.
- » On 12 October 2016, Khalil Shaheen presented an intervention titled as "International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities between Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups and the Comprehensive Human Rights-based Approach" in a conference organized by Edu-

- cade in Gaza City on the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. A large number of representatives of NGOs, workers in this field and representatives of international organizations in the Gaza Strip participated in the conference.
- » On 20 October 2016, Majedah Shehadah presented a working paper about gender justice in a workshop organized by the General Union of Women in Khan Yunis.
 - » On 14 November 2016, Khalil Shaheen presented a working paper entitled “The Reality of Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities” at a conference organized by the Addameer for Human Rights at La Rosa restaurant in Gaza City. A large number of NGOs representatives working in this field and journalists participated in the conference.
 - » On 16 November 2016, Majedah Shehadah presented a working paper on the working mechanism of the 16-day campaign to combat violence against women in a meeting organized by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs at its office in Gaza City.
 - » On 01 December 2016, Khalil Shaheen presented a working paper titled as “The Right to Work and Promote Access for Persons with Disabilities from a Human Rights Perspective” at a conference organized by the Social Development Forum at al-Mathaf Hotel in Gaza City
 - » On 05 December 2016, Khalil Shaheen presented an intervention titled as “The Right of Persons with Disabilities to Participate in Public and Political Life” in a conference organized by the Association of Visually Impaired Graduates League in the office of the Human Development Authority in Gaza City.
 - » On 17 December 2016, Lawyer Khalil al-Wazeer presented a working paper on the human rights organizations’ perspective from murder and punishment, as part of an activity organized by the College of Applied Sciences in Gaza city.
 - » On 20 December 2016, Hamdi Shaqqura participated in the annual PNGO conference “Status of Civil Society in 2016: Civil Society Organizations between disruption and empowerment”. The conference was held in the Roots Hall in Gaza City, where Shaqoura presented a working paper titled as “Civil Society Organizations, repercussions of division and violations of the occupation.”
 - » On 22 December 2016, Hamdi Shaqqura participated in a meeting upon an invitation from the Law Center at Birzeit University to discuss the Center’s project on the harmonization of legislations. The meeting was held in the Center’s office in Gaza City and attended by representatives of human rights organizations, law faculties and Bar Association.

Indicators

- » The number of participations made by PCHR staff members is 21.

2.3.7.3 Participating in media interviews

Director and staff members of PCHR participated in a number of media interviews on local human rights issues.

Indicators

- » The number of media interviews that addressed Palestinian issues and violations: 58.

2.3.7.4 Conducting radio and TV talk shows

PCHR implemented a number of paid radio and TV episodes, which included the rights of women and disabled persons.

Radio and TV Shows implemented by PCHR

Date	Radio/TV	Subject
23 February 2016	Sawt al-Shaab Radio	Women's access to justice
14 March 2016	Al-Kufiyia Radio	The status of Palestinian women in the Family law
08 March 2016	Sawt al-Shaab Radio	The Family law
11 April 2016	Forsan al-Erada Radio	Rights of persons with disabilities
05 June 2016	Sawt al-Shaab Radio	Rights of widowed women
14 August 2016	Alwan Radio	Forcing girls to get married
17 August 2016	Sawt al-Shaab Radio	Violence against woman
30 October 2016	Radio Gaza FM	Ways to support divorced women in Palestinian society
27 November 2016	Radio Gaza FM	Rights of widowed women

Indicators

- » Eight radio episodes were implemented.
- » One TV episode was implemented.

2.3.8 PCHR Cooperated with Partners about National Human Rights Issues, Including Women Rights

PCHR stepped up its efforts with partners about the national human rights issues, including women rights, through participating in the meetings of PHROC; activities of Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Woman; issuing joint statements; participating in joint activities with partners; participating in activities organized by partners; and promoting the ties with partners through the PCHR Alumni.

Indicators

- » During this year, PCHR worked and cooperated with 232 institutions, including human rights organizations; CBOs; grassroots institutions and youth groups.

2.3.8.1 Participating in PHROC meetings

PCHR has participated in meetings organized by PHROC that formed a platform to coordinate the efforts and consolidate the views towards the national human rights issues.

Indicators

- » The total number of meetings held by PHROC was 9.

2.3.8.2 Participating in coordination meetings and activities of Amal Coalition to Combat Violence against Women

The Director of the Women's Rights Unit along with the unit's lawyers has participated in Amal Coalition meetings to Combat Violence against Women, which was held in the Women Affairs Center in 2016. These activities were organized in coincidence with the 16-day of campaign against gender-based violence that was organized on 12 December 2012 by Amal Coalition in Rashad al-Shawa Cultural Center in Gaza City.

Indicators

- » The Women's Rights Unit participated in 10 meetings organized by the Coalition.
- » The coordination efforts between the members resulted in the development of a detailed plan of activities implemented by members within the 16-day campaign against violence.

2.3.8.3 Issuing joint statements

Many joint statements were issued by PCHR and its local partners, addressing national human rights issues.

Indicators

- » Number of joint statements: 26.

2.3.8.4 Participating in joint activities with partners.

During this year, PCHR organized joint activities with local partners. The activities included training, raising awareness and capacity-building programs that were organized by PCHR's units in corporation with NGOs and youth groups throughout the Gaza Strip. Moreover, other joint activities were organized with OHCHR in the Gaza Strip, which dealt with human rights situation in the PA.

Indicators

- » Number of activates held by PCHR in corporation with national partners:163.
- » Number of organizations and groups that worked with PCHR: 326 organizations and groups.

2.3.8.5 Participating in activities organized by partners

PCHR participated in many activities organized by the national partners about national human rights issues. PCHR representatives attended the meetings, conferences and workshops, which were organized by NGOs, other partners and stakeholders; in addition to participating as speakers in seminars. Furthermore, they facilitated conferences and carried out training in programs relevant to partners.

Indicators

- » Number of meetings and seminars in which PCHR's representatives participated as speakers: 21.

2.3.8.6 Engaging trainees in PCHR's Alumni activities.

Over the years, the Training Unit was able to form a large gathering of those who received training

courses in the unit and keep in touch with them within PCHR's Alumni, aiming to engage them in the field of human rights and democracy. The Alumni is an important linkage between PCHR and community. Those involved in the Alumni have the priority when PCHR offers temporary job opportunities, such as monitoring the elections, fieldwork during Israeli operations. PCHR provide the Alumni members with the theory and practice needed for every field. The Training Unit has a detailed and up-to-date database about the trainees.

Indicators

- » Seven persons, who received ToT course, were chosen to give lectures and awareness meetings within the Unit's activities in human rights field.
- » Five persons, who received training in PCHR, volunteered in PCHR to conduct a survey on the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip.
- » participating in PCHR's activities and communicating with it, in which they are informed of everything issued by PCHR
- » Feeding the information base owned by the unit for all persons who received training in the center during the year, Around 512 trainees' files were added to the list. These files contain the following information: name, place of residence, workplace, telephone number, e-mail, if any, participating organization, coordinating organization and the location and date of the training.
- » Around 400 trainees' emails were added to the PCHR's mailing list, in which they were informed of all the activities and reports issued by the PCHR.
- » Ongoing visits by people, who received training in PCHR and their urgency to volunteer at PCHR, in addition to welcoming and guiding them by the unit's director.
- » Hosting members of OCHR's crew as speakers in workshops, lectures and meetings organized by organizations, where trainers work.
- » Attending workshops and conferences organized by PCHR.
- » Reporting violations by phone or by attending to PCHR with the victims.
- » The Unit received many shields and certificates of thanks and appreciation from a number of organizations in recognition of its role in disseminating the human rights culture among its members and volunteers, and its participation in the implementation of joint activities with them.

2.3.9 PCHR Pressurized the Palestinian Duty Bearers to Respect Human Rights

PCHR and its partners used previous interventions as means for advocacy to influence the national duty bearers to respect human rights. Moreover, PCHR held meetings and conducted phone calls with the duty bearers to discuss issues related to human rights. PCHR also sent letters and participated in issuing petitions sent by the partners to the stakeholders.

2.3.9.1 Conducting meetings with duty bearers

PCHR's Director and members held a number of meetings with PA officials, including ministers, PLC members and officials in the Palestinian security services and governmental departments, about human rights issues.

Indicators

- » Number of meetings with Palestinian duty bearers and stakeholders: 12.

2.3.9.2 Sending letters and petitions

On 23/05/2016, PCHR sent a letter to the deputy head of the Hamas political bureau, Ismail Haniyeh, in the light of his statements regarding to applying death sentences by authorities in Gaza. The letter calls for stopping this orientation and stopping the application of new death sentences.

Outcome (3)

PCHR's Organizational Capacities and its Staff Capacities were Improved

During 2016, PCHR promoted its organizational and staff capacities in order to promote its financial and administrative capacity in addition to its staff skills and motivation in a way ensuring the efficient and effective achievement of the strategic goals.

3.1 Expanding the Funding Base of PCHR

PCHR made unremitting efforts in 2016 to widen the funding base and ensure the recruitment of required fund to implement its activities and different programs, including reviewing and updating the funding strategy, promoting the already existing partnerships and searching for new partnerships.

Indicators¹⁰

- » Renewing expired contracts with the already existing partners.
- » Signing contracts with new partners.

1.3.1 Reviewing and Updating the Funding Strategy

PCHR prepared a draft for a new funding strategy (Resources Mobilization Strategy), which will be approved in the coming period. The draft will contribute to clarifying the frameworks and tasks for the staff.

1.3.2 Promoting the already existing partnerships and searching for new partnerships

PCHR promoted the already stable and existing partnerships for years and established new partnerships with new partners like (UNWOMEN). Additionally, PCHR expanded the already existing partnerships to achieve financial stability for the center.

3.2 PCHR's Systems were Developed

3.2.1 Developing PCHR's Administrative and Financial Manuals

- » PCHR completed by 2016 a review of the updated organizational structure of the Center in accordance with the proposals submitted by the consulting company within the meetings of several levels represented by the PCHR's Board of Directors, Deputy Directors and Units' Managers. The new organizational structure is scheduled to be implemented in the first quarter of 2017.

10. The financial report is published in a separate document, which includes all the PCHR's financial statements throughout the year.

- » By the end of 2016, the Center was able to discuss and amend drafts of the Financial Policies and Procedures, Human Resources Manual, and procurement policies and procedures manual provided by the consulting company appointed by the Center to complete these tasks. The final manuals will be approved starting with 2017.

3.2.2 Training of PCHR Relevant Staff on the New Administrative and Financial Manual

It is expected to start training the PCHR's relevant staff in the first quarter of 2017.

3.3 Developing Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) System for PCHR

3.3.1 Preparing Logframe

PCHR's 3-year strategic plan was extended to be 5-year plan adopted by the center for the years 2015-2019



PCHR's General Assembly discussing PCHR's strategic plan 2015-2019

3.3.2 Conducting Baseline Study

PCHR implemented a baseline study for its activities that are related to awareness-raising in human rights, aiming to develop its capacity to follow up, evaluate and measure the impact in the society. PCHR has achieved four stages of this study from 10 April to 14 December in 2015. This study was conducted on 20 persons out of 40, who received trainings at PCHR with 80% of women participation.

Indicators

- » Identifying a baseline for human rights' awareness among PCHR's targeted groups in the society.

3.4 PCHR's Staff Capacities and Motivation Improved

This was achieved by conducting trainings to improve the capacity of the PCHR's staff; assigning members from the PCHR's staff to participate in trainings organized by the partners and by organizing a recreational activity for the staff.

3.4.1 Conducting Trainings to Improve the Abilities of PCHR's Staff

This output is dedicated to developing the capabilities of the Center's staff, in order to improve their performance in the various units of the Center. The directorate included various activities through holding training courses, internal workshops for the Center's staff and participation of the Center's staff in activities organized by international, regional or local organizations.

The activities of this output are based on the vision of the PCHR's administration in selecting the participants and the quality of the activities in accordance with the Capacity Development Plan put by PCHR's administration. PCHR's Training Unit implemented trainings about different topics, including advocacy; monitoring and evaluating; making a baseline study and opinion polls; and using media in solidarity activities. The most prominent training courses were as follows:

1. A training course on Campaigning and Advocacy "C&A" that was attended by 10 members from PCHR's staff. The training was held from 10-11 February 2016 in the Blue Beach Hotel.
2. A workshop on monitoring, evaluating, accounting and learning (MEAL) via Skype that was attended by 16 members from PCHR's staff. The workshop was held from 14-16 March 2016 in the Blue Beach Hotel.
3. A training course on the skills of lobbying, advocacy and campaigning that was attended by 28 members from PCHR's staff and participants in the Lighting Gaza campaign. The course was held in Laterna restaurant on 21/4/2016.
4. PCHR took four days to implement the fifth stage of the opinion poll via phone on the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip.
5. PCHR took 4 days to implement the sixth stage of the opinion poll via phone on the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip, which lasted 4 working days
6. PCHR Finished studying the end line of the EU project dedicated for individuals who participated in training courses organized by PCHR to raise their awareness of human rights and ability to confront human rights violations in accordance with their theoretical knowledge of human rights.
7. PCHR Finished studying the end line of the EU project dedicated for partner organizations and monitored the changes in the latter's work following PCHR's intervention.

Indicators

- » Providing a report that monitors the results of the opinion poll conducted by PCHR on the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip.
- » Providing the results of PCHR's report on the study of the end line of the EU project dedicated for individuals.
- » Providing the results of the PCHR's report on the study of the end line of the EU project dedicated for the partner organizations.

3.4.2 Engaging Members from PCHR's Staff in Training Courses Held by Partners

2016 witnessed the participation of many members from PCHR's staff in capacity building activities conducted by local and international organizations in different fields as follows:

A table of the training courses PCHR's staff participated in during 2016

Training course Period	Subject	Organizer	Venue	Number of Participants	Notes
28 February -02 March 2016	Psychological Disorders: Detection and Referral	Gaza Community Mental Health Program	Gaza	11	Field researchers: Yasser Abdel Ghafour; Mohamed Ghannam; Sabreen Al-Tartour; Youssef Ibrahim; Walid Zaqout; and Woman Unit's crew: Nadwa Badaro; Aya al-Wakeel; Manal Miqat; Samah Ashour and Majdah Shehadah.
09-12 April 2016	Security and well-being	Kvinna -Till-Kvinna	Ramallah	4	Women's Rights Unit members: Mona El-Shawa, Hanan Matar and Ghada Al-Nazli
08-09 May 2016	Writing shadow reports	--	Gaza	1	Field Researcher Yasser Abdel Ghafour
18-19 July 2016	Emergency management / effective humanitarian groups	Maaan Development Center	Gaza	1	Field Researcher Yasser Abdel Ghafour
10 August 2016	Photographing mechanisms via Mobile phone	Al-Haq Institution	Ramallah	2	Field researchers Montasser Jabarin and Emad Hawash
03 September 2016	Convention against Torture and the Istanbul Protocol	Al-Haq Institution	Ramallah	1	Field researchers Montasser Jabarin
23-25 September 2016	Evaluation Tools	Sida Institution	Ramallah	1	Lawyer, Hanan Mater
20-22 October 2016	Evaluation and Measurement Tools	Kvinna Till Kvinna	Gaza	2	Lawyer Nadwa Badaro and researcher Majedah Shehadeh from the Women's Rights Unit
26 October 2016	Gender	Community Media Center	Gaza	1	Researcher Majedah Shehadeh from the Women's Rights Unit
23-25 November 2016	Monitoring mechanisms of economic and social rights	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	Gaza	2	Field researchers Mohammed Ghannam and Yousef Ibrahim

» 20 members, including 11 women, from PCHR's staff participated in courses organized by PCHR's partners.

3.4.3 Conducting Annual Recreational Activity

PCHR organized a recreational activity in cooperation with Kvinna Till Kvinna in Ramallah on the occasion of International Women's Day, in which the members of the unit's staff included: Mona Shawa, Hanan Matar, Majedah Shehadeh and Ghada Al-Nazli.

Indicators

» Four women from PCHR's Woman Unit's staff participated in the recreational activity.

3.5 Promoting Gender in PCHR and its Programs

3.5.1. Implementing Recommendation from Gender Policy and 2012 Evaluation

PCHR continued its work during 2016 by engaging the gender in its policies and programs. During this year, PCHR adopted a special gender policy, which will be applied in the coming years on the level of administration as well as on the programs and activities. During this year, PCHR showed a fair representation of women in many activities, including training courses and awareness sessions. Moreover, PCHR organized activities on women rights, promoted women's testimonies and concentrated on violations of women rights. PCHR was also committed to a balanced employment policy to promote the women role in the center.

3.6 Enhancing Institutional Security and Safety

Indicators:

- » Installing security camera system.
- » Installing fire alarm system.
- » Installing windows safety locks.



Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, meets with the General Director of Chris Burnet

Appendix (1): awareness sessions on the IHL and ICC organized by PCHR's Training Unit in 2016.

Meeting Date	Subject	Partner organization	Hours	Venue	Number of Participants	Female Participation
February 16 2016	IHL	Palestinian Family Association	2.5	Palestinian Family Association Hall	24	62%
31 March 2016	ICC	Consortium of Independent Palestinians	2.5	Independent Personalities Coalition	15	6%
26 April 2016	Displaced persons in IHL	East Gaza Association	2.5	East Gaza Association Office	48	100%
09 June 2016	ICC	Heker al-Jami' Youth Center Association	2.5	Heker al-Jame'a Youth Center- Nusirate Camp	21	85%
15 June 2016	Basic concepts on IHL	Deir Al - Balah Cultural and Social Center	2.5	Deir Al - Balah Cultural and Social Center	22	45%
19 June 2016	IHL and building legal file to be internationally submitted	Human rights activists at Al Azhar University Faculty of Law	2.5	PCHR's Hall- Gaza	16	62%
20 June 2016	establishment of the ICC	Afaaq Jadeeda Association	2.5	Afaaq Jadeeda Association Office- Nusirat Camp	15	100%
14 July 2016	Basic concepts on the ICC	Youth and Environment Association	2.5	Youth and Environment Association- al-Zawidah	28	46%
24 July 2016	Documentation and monitoring violations of human rights and IHL	Youth coalitions working in the field of human rights	2.5	PCHR's Hall	22	59%
October 20 2016	ICC	Collage of Intermediate Studies	2.5	PCHR's office- Gaza	25	24%
23 October 2016	IHL and building legal files on war crimes to be internationally submitted	Human rights activists	2.5	PCHR's office- Gaza	20	50%
08 December 2016	ICC	Faculty of Law at Palestine University	2.5	PCHR's office- Gaza	26	7%
21 December 2016	Basic concepts on the ICC	Al-Anoud Association	2.5	PCHR's office- Gaza	21	48%

Appendix (2): Training courses implemented by PCHR's Training Unit in 2016

.No	Target Group	Place	Participants	Hours	Period	Female Participation
1	Al-Adham Society For Development	Al-Adham - Beit Hanoun	26	20	24-28/01/2016	50%
2	National Rehabilitation Centre for the Persons with Disabilities	Laterna Restaurant - Gaza	28	20	22/2-02/3/2016	64%
3	Educational Development Society	Educational Development Society	24	20	27/4-04/5/2016	30%
4	Monitoring elections campaign	Fiesta Restaurant Hall- Rafah	33	15	04/9-05/9/2016	56%
5	Monitoring elections campaign	PCHR's office- Khan Yunis	23	15	05/9-06/9/2016	57%
6	Monitoring elections campaign	PCHR's office- Khan Yunis	25	15	07/9-08/9/2016	60%
7	Monitoring elections campaign	Montana Hall-al-Buerij refugee camp	37	15	06/9-07/9/2016	56%
8	Monitoring elections campaign	Laterna Restaurant Hall- Gaza	29	15	19/9-20/9/2016	41%
9	Monitoring elections campaign	PCHR's Hall- Jabalia	27	15	20/9-21/9/2016	60%
10	Monitoring elections campaign	Laterna Restaurant in Gaza City	31	15	21-09-22/09/2016	51%
11	Monitoring elections campaign	PCHR's Hall- Jabalia	21	15	26/09-27/09/2016	33%
12	Monitoring elections campaign	Laterna Restaurant Hall- Gaza	42	15	28/09-26/09/2016	57%
13	Community Media Center	Community Media Center Hall-Gaza	14	15	24/10-26/10/2016	50%
14	Somo Youth Team	PCHR's Hall-Gaza	30	20	20/11-23/11/2016	26%

Appendix (3): Raise Awareness Sessions organized by PCHR's Training Unit in 2016

#	Partner organization	Target Group	Subject	Participants	Place	Hours	Period	Female Participation
1	Bader Association for Development and Construction	Volunteers in the association	Right to form associations from an International perspective	24	Bader Association	2	12/01/2016	45%
2	Zakher association for developing Palestinian women	Volunteers, young men and women and immigrants	Rule of human right associations in documenting human rights violations	21	Zakher association	2	14/01/2016	23%
3	Bader Association for Development and Construction	Volunteers in the association	Right to form associations according to the Palestinian Law	24	Bader Association	2	12/01/ 2016	45%

#	Partner organization	Target Group	Subject	Participants	Place	Hours	Period	Female Participation
4	Palestinian Family Association for Development	graduates	Basic concepts in human rights	35	Hall of Palestinian Family Association	2	07/02/2016	65%
5	Youth Cultural Forum Association	graduates	Rule of human rights and youth organizations in promoting the volunteer work	24	Hall of Youth Cultural Forum Association	2	08/02/2016	29%
6	Palestinian Family Association for Development	Women	Violence against women	34	Hall of Palestinian Family Association	2	11/02/2016	100%
7	Media Space for Community Production	Graduates and media workers		16	Al-Mathaf Hotel	2	26/02/2016	65%
8	Hashim Primary School	Parents	Violence against children	21	Hashim Primary School	2	23/03/2106	67%
9	Bureij Secondary School for Girls	Teachers	School violence and mechanisms to reduce it	34	Bureij School	2	03/04/2016	100%
10	Bader Youth Team	Law School Students	Palestinian Labour Law and Workers Rights	41	PCHR's office - Gaza	2	06/04/2016	52%
11	Bader Youth Team	Law School Students	International legitimacy of human rights	41	Laterna Restaurant in Gaza City	2	10/04/2016	52%
12	The head office of Arab College of Applied Sciences	University students	Right to form associations	65	office of Arab College of Applied Sciences	2	09/04/2016	43%
13	Hunan rights activists	Activists	Skills of Pressure and advocacy campaign	28	Laterna Restaurant	2	21/04/2016	39%
14	Haidar Abdul Shafi Medical Center	Civil society activists	Women's participation in Gaza reconstruction fields	36	Haidar Abdul Shafi Medical Center	2	09/05/2016	22%
15	Media Space for Community Production	Activists from various Local Community Institutions	Analyze and reveal local community	15	Larouza Restaurant	2	21-23/05/2016	56%
16	Reyada Association for Social Development	School students	Children's rights	25	Al-Fukhari Municipality	2	19/04/2016	92%



#	Partner organization	Target Group	Subject	Participants	Place	Hours	Period	Female Participation
17	Women's Activities Center	women	Women's rights	28	Women's Activities Center - Deir al-Balah	2	13/06/2016	100%
18	Afaq Jadeeda Association	Women and female students	Violence against women	23	Afaq Jadeeda Association - al-Nuseirat	2	20/06/2016	100%
19	Al - Zana Association for Agriculture and Development	Women and female students	Basic concepts in human rights	25	Al - Zana Association for Agriculture and Development- Khan Yunis	2	23/06/2016	100%
20	Palestinian Family Association for Development	women	Women's rights CEDAW Convention	27	Hall of Palestinian Family Association	2	21/07/2016	100%
21	Youth Coalitions working in the field of human rights	Human rights activists	Documenting human rights violations	22	PCHR's hall-Gaza	2	24/07/2016	59%
22	Human Rights Defenders	University students	International legitimacy of human rights	26	Independent Commission for Human Rights - Gaza	2	31/07/2016	58%
23	Human Rights Defenders	University students	Convention on the Rights of the Child	30	PCHR's hall - Gaza	2	25/07/2016	50%
24	Group of Youth Coalitions	Human rights activists	Political participation according to human-rights based approach	26	PCHR's hall - Gaza	2	31/07/2016	59%
25	Culture and Free Thought Association	Summer camp students	Basic concepts of human rights	18	PCHR's hall-Gaza	2	02/08/2016	45%
26	Human rights activists	Lawyers and researchers	Basic concepts of International legitimacy of human rights	20	PCHR's hall - Gaza	2	23/10/2016	50%
27	Afaq's Women Center	Women	Basic concepts in women's human rights	20	Afaq's Women Center	2	08/11/2016	100%
28	Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association	Women	Women's right in heritage	20	Hall of Heker al-Jame' Youth Center Association	2	09/11/2016	100%
29	Tawasol Center for Youth and Culture	graduates	Right to form associations	25	Hall of Tawasol Center for Youth and Culture	2	10/11/2016	64%
30	Tawasol Center for Youth and Culture	graduates	Right to political participation	25	Hall of Tawasol Center for Youth and Culture	2	17/11/2016	64%

#	Partner organization	Target Group	Subject	Participants	Place	Hours	Period	Female Participation
31	Somo Youth Team	University students	Women's rights in light of CEDAW Convention	30	PCHR's hall	2	22/11/2016	40%
32	Tawasol Center for Youth and Culture	women	CEDAW Convention	21	Hall of Tawasol Center	2	24/11/2106	100%
33	Solidarity Charitable Association	Women	Women's right in light of CEDAW Convention	20	Hall of Solidarity Charitable Association	2	27/11/2016	100%
34	Friends of the Disabled Association	Disabled persons	Right of the disabled persons	30	Hall of Friends of the Disabled Association	2	01/12/2016	73%
35	Tawasol Center for Youth and Culture	Members of the association	International legitimacy of human rights	30	Hall of Tawasol Center	2	01/12/2016	73%
36	Solidarity Charitable Association	University students	International legitimacy of human rights	20	Hall of Solidarity Charitable Association	2	07/12/2016	98%
37	Faculty of Law, University of Palestine	College students	International legitimacy of human rights	26	PCHR's hall - Gaza	2	08/12/2016	7%
38	White Crescent Palestinian Society	women	CEDAW Convention	27	Hall of White Crescent Palestinian Society- Rafah	20	12/12/2015	100%
39	Geras Youth Team	Team members	International Legitimacy of human rights	30	PCHR's hall- Gaza	2	13/12/2016	33%
40	Bader Youth Team	Law School Students	Palestinian Labour Law and Workers Rights	41	PCHR's office - Gaza	2	06/04/2016	52%
41	Al-Anoud Association for Literature and Culture	Members of the association	International legitimacy of human rights	20	PCHR's hall - Gaza	2	14/12/2016	50%
42	White Crescent Palestinian Society	Mothers, children and women	Convention on the Rights of the Child	27	Hall of the White Crescent Palestinian Society	2	19/12/2016	100%
43	Reyada Association for Social Development	Women in Fuhari area	CEDAW Convention	26	Hall of Reyada Association for Social Development	2	20/12/2016	100%
44	Reyada Association for Social Development Medical Center	School students	Basic concepts of Convention on the Rights of the Child	30	Hall of Reyada Association for Social Development	2	22/12/2016	100%



Appendix (4): Raise Awareness lectures conducted by PCHR's Democratic Development Unit in 2016

#	Subject	Partner organization	Place	Participants			Date
				Males	females	Total	
1	Political participation	Roaya Association	Roaya Association - Gaza	8	10	18	16/2/2016
2	Freedom of opinion and expression	Roaya Association	Roaya Association - Gaza	12	4	16	01/03/2016
3	Political participation	Youth group	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	14	7	21	02/03/2016
4	Political participation	Isra University	Isra University- Gaza	26	0	26	21/03/2016
5	Freedom of opinion and expression	Institute for Communication- Birzeit	Institute for Communication - Birzeit- Gaza	9	15	24	10/05/2016
6	Freedom of opinion and expression	Youth and Environment association	Youth and Environment association - al-Zawaidah	12	12	24	15/05/2016
7	Political participation	Rights and Justice Association	Rights and Justice Association - Khan Yunis	9	14	24	16/05/2016
8	Political participation	Earth and Human Center for Researches and Studies	Earth and Human Center for Researches and Studies - Gaza	10	4	14	26/05/2016
9	Freedom of opinion and expression	Rights and Justice Association	Rights and Justice Association – Khan Yunis	12	16	28	29/05/2016
10	Political participation	Al - Zahra Sports Club	Al - Zahra Sports Club - al-Zahrah, south of Gaza city	17	4	21	21/07/2016
11	Democracy and elections	Al - Zahra Sports Club	Al - Zahra Sports Club - al-Zahrah, south of Gaza city	23	0	23	28/07/2016
12	Political participation	Rawasy Palestine for Culture and Art	Rawasy Palestine for Culture and Art - Gaza	7	16	23	08/08/2016
13	Panel discussion on elections	Independent Commission of Human Rights	Independent Commission of Human Rights – al-Naser	5	3	8	11/08/2016
14	Al-Wafa Association for Relief and Development	Al-Wafa Association for Relief and Development	Beit al-Maqdes Center	6	9	15	15/08/2016
15	Political participation	Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network	Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network	10	3	13	16/08/2016
16	Political participation	PCHR	PCHR	7	7	14	18/08/2016
17	Elections and Democracy	Fadel Shanaa Foundation	Fadel Shanaa Foundation	10	7	17	01/09/2016
18	Political participation, life style	Isra University	Isra University	29	1	30	11/10/2016
19	Political participation, life style	Rawasy Palestine for Culture and Art	Rawasy Palestine for Culture and Art	12	22	34	02/11/2016

20	Freedom of opinion and expression	Disabilities Representative Persons Network	Society of Physically Handicapped People	8	12	20	08/11/2016
21	Legitimate restrictions of the freedom of journalistic work	Zone for Media and Training Organization	Zone for Media and Training Organization	3	15	18	23/11/2016
22	Together against death penalty	Life and Hope Association	Beit al-Maqdes Center	13	7	20	25/08/2016
Total				262	188	451	

Appendix (5): awareness sessions implemented by the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Unit

Date	Subject	Number of Female Participants	Number of Male Participants	Total
03/02/2016	The right to Development	16	8	24
04/02/2016	The right to Development	14	4	18
28/04/2016	International Agreement of the right of persons with disabilities	15	5	20
23/05/2016	The universal human rights system	19	8	27
23/05/2016	International Covenants	19	8	27
25/05/2016	International Agreement of the right of persons with disabilities	18	7	25
25/05/2016	Documenting economic and social rights of the disabled persons	18	7	25
Total		119	47	166

Appendix (6): School visits to PCHR in 2016

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
1	Khan Yunis Elementary School for boys	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	12	08/02/2016	1.5
2	El Qarara Preparatory School	Khan Yunis	Basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	20	17/02/2016	1.5
3	Al-Amal al-Jadidah School	Rafah	Basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	20	24/02/2016	1.5
4	Rafah Elementary School for boys	Rafah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	20	03/03/2016	1.5

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
5	Khan Yunis Primary School (H) for Refugees	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	28	10/03/2016	1.5
6	Al - Fakhoura Preparatory School»B» for Boys	Jabalia	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	26 female students	18/03/2016	1.5
7	Al- Khansaa Primary School	Students» Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	36	17/03/2016	1.5
8	Zaytoun Preparatory School»A» for Refugees	Gaza	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	28	17/03/2016	1.5
9	Khan Younis Elementary School for girls	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	11	17/03/2016	1.5
10	Cairo School «B» for Girls	Students» Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	29	16/03/2016	1.5
11	Khawla School For boys and girls	Rafah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office in Gaza City	37	22/03/2016	1.5
12	Al-Amal al-Jadidah School	Rafah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	10	22/03/2016	1.5
13	Al-Quds Elementary School	Jabalia	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	21	23/03/2016	1.5 h
14	El Sherouk Club School	Rafah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	15	23/03/2016	1.5 h
15	Jabalia Elementary School (A) for Girls	Students» Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Gaza	21	23/03/2016	1.5 h
16	Al Bureij Preparatory School (A)	Students» Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Gaza	39	24/03/2016	1.5 h
17	KhanYounis Preparatory School (C) for Boys	Students» Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	23	24/03/2016	1.5 h
18	Tal Al - Sultan Primary School in Rafah for boys and girls	Students» Parliament	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	13	31/03/2016	1.5 h
19	Jabalia Elementary School (a) for Girls	Jabalia	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Jabalia refugee camp	22	28/03/2016	1.5 h
20	«El Madina El Monawara Preparatory School	Rafah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Gaza City	36	04/04/2016	1.5 h

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
21	Abu Taimah Primary Mixed School	Rafah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	17	06/04/2016	1.5 h
22	Media Committee of the Student Parliament of the Girls of Hope School	Rafah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Khan Yunis	4	11/04/2016	1.5 h
23	Al-Bureij Primary Mixed School (e)	Al-Bureij	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	17	17/04/2015	1.5 h
24	Beit Lahia Primary Mixed School	Beit Lahia	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Jabalia	20	17/04/2015	1.5 h
25	Al-Maghazi Preparatory School (A)	Al-Maghazi	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall in Gaza City	35	18/04/2015	1.5 h
26	Al Bureij Joint Primary School (D)	Al- Bureij	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Gaza City	15	18/04/2015	1.5 h
27	Jabalia Elementary Girls School (c)	Gaza	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Jabalia refugee camp	17	20/04/2015	1.5 h
28	Al Remal Preparatory School (B)	Gaza	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Gaza City	19	20/04/2016	1.5h
29	Jeddah Primary Mixed School	Rafah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Gaza City	50	10/11/2016	1.5h
30	Hifa Primary School (A)	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Khan Yunis	11	10/11/2016	1.5h
31	Al-Amal Primary School for boys	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Gaza City	29	14/11/2016	1.5h
32	parliament students of Rafah elementary school	Rafah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's hall-Gaza City	27	17/11/2016	1.5h
33	El Zaitoun Preparatory School (A)	Gaza	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Gaza City	27	24/11/2016	1.5h
34	Khan Yunis Preparatory School (A)	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Gaza City	28	27/11/2016	1.5h
35	Fahmy Al - Jerjawi Elementary School	Gaza	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Gaza City	25	28/11/2016	1.5h

#	School	Targeted Group	Subject	Place	Participants	Date	hours
36	Beit Lahia mixed School	Beit Lahia	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Jabalia	25	27/11/2016	1.5h
37	Ma'an Primary School	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Khan Yunis	26	24/11/2016	1.5h
38	Jabalia Primary School for Refugees	Jabalia	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Jabalia	28	29/11/2016	1.5h
39	Gaza Hashim Elementary School Primary School	Gaza	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Gaza City	30	30/11/2016	1.5h
40	Jabalia Primary School (E)	Jabalia	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Jabalia	20	30/11/2016	1.5h
41	Khan Younis Elementary School	Khan Yunis	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Khan Yunis	57	30/11/2016	1.5h
42	Gaza Elementary School (A)	Gaza	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Gaza City	30	07/12/2016	1.5h
43	Al - Naqoura Secondary School	Ramallah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Ramallah	35	-	1.5h
44	Al - Naqoura Secondary School	Ramallah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Ramallah	30	-	1.5h
45	Turkish School	Ramallah	Brief on PCHR and basic concepts on human rights	PCHR's office-Ramallah	50	-	1.5h

Appendix (7): Legal awareness lectures conducted by PCHR's Women's Rights Unit in 2016

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
11 January 2016	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Qaa al-Qrein	Zamzam Charitable Society	-	22
12 January 2016	Open meeting on women's rights and aspirations for 2016	Beit Lahia	Women's Labor Department	-	35
14 January 2016	Widows' rights in Family Law	Gaza	Department of Social Affairs	-	18
17 January 2016	Women's aspirations for the year	Khan Yunis	Al-Hanin Charitable Society	-	22
18 January 2016	Women's rights	Gaza-al-Daraj neighborhood	Women's Activity Center	-	32
20 January 2016	Women's aspirations for the work agenda in the next year	Gaza	Al-Aman Shelter for Abused Women	-	11
31 January 2016	Women's aspiration for the year	Gaza	Al-Malahi	-	22

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
03 February 2016	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Rafah	Initiators for Change office	12	35
03 February 2016	Child's educational rights	Khan Yunis	Al-Amal Preparatory School	12	12
07 February 2016	Women's aspirations in the year	Khan Younis	Japanese neighborhood	-	18
10 February 2016	Women's rights	Khan Yunis	Women's gathering in al-Sha'out area	-	28
11 February 2016	Women's aspirations for the next year agenda	Khuza'ah	Brilliant Tomorrow Society	8	45
14 February 2016	Women's rights and aspirations for the next year	Deir al-Balah	Women's Activity Center	-	16
18 February 2016	Widows' rights	Al-Nussairat	Women and Community Empowerment Center	-	14
21 February 2016	Women's rights	Qa'a al-Qrein	ZamZam Charitable Society	-	28
03 March 2016	Violence against women	Khan Younis	Khan Younis Preparatory School for Girls (B)	-	16
06 March 2016	Open Meeting on violence against women in the Palestinian Society	Gaza	Beit al-Aman	-	15
07 March 2016	Family Law	Khan Yunis	Khaled Abu Setah Elementary School	16	16
09 March 2016	Women's rights in Sharia Law	Khan Younis	Khan Younis Preparatory School for Girls (A)	-	22
21 March 2016	Women's rights	Rafah	Palestinian Youth Gathering Center	7	24
22 March 2016	Women's rights and aspirations	Khan Yunis	Khan Younis Preparatory School for Girls (B)	9	10
28 March 2016	Family Law	Al-Daraj neighborhood	Women's Activity Center	-	37
30 March 2016	Women's rights between reality and aspirations	Beit Lahia	Women's Labor Department	-	32
03 April 2016	Violence against women	al-Nussairat	Al-Nussairat Preparatory School for Girls	17	18
05 April 2016	Open Meeting on women's rights in international conventions	Khan Younis	Abdullah Abu Setah School for Boys	12	13
07 April 2016	Open meeting on Family Law	Khuza'ah	Brilliant Tomorrow Society	-	27
17 April 2016	Women's rights	Rafah	Palestinian Youth Gathering	9	22
19 April 2016	Family Law	Khan Younis	Japanese neighborhood	-	18
20 April 2016	Widows' rights	Deir al-Balah	Social Affairs Center	-	16
21 April 2016	Women's rights between reality and aspirations	Al-Daraj neighborhood	Women's Activity Center	-	28

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
25 April 2016	Murder on grounds of so-called «family honor»	Qa'a al-Qrein	ZamZam Society	-	24
26 April 2016	Women's Rights in Family Law	Khan Yunis	Abdullah Abu Setah School	30	31
02 May 2016	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Khan Younis	Japanese neighborhood	-	12
04 May 2016	Family Law	Gaza	Hasan Salamah Preparatory School for girls	-	18
10 May 2016	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Deir al-Balah	Hekr al-Jame'a Youth Center	-	66
11 May 2016	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Al-Nusirat	Union of Women's Labor Committees	-	29
16 May 2016	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Al-Daraj neighborhood	Women's Activity Center	-	25
02 June 2016	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Khuza'ah	Al-Walid Society	-	22
14 July 2016	Widows' problems in the Palestinian society	Khan Yunis	Japaense neighborhood	-	16
17 July 2016	Murder on grounds of so-called «family honor»	Gaza	Woman's Struggle Bloc Center	-	22
18 July 2016	Family Law	Khan Yunis	Al-Malahi Women's Gathering	-	25
27 July 2016	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Khuza'ah	Brilliant Tomorrow Society	-	19
21 July 2016	Family Law	Beit Lahia	Women's Labour Department	-	30
24 July 2016	Murder on grounds of so-called «family honor»	Qa'a al-Qrein	ZamZam Society	-	36
25 July 2016	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Gaza	Women's Studies Center	-	45
27 July 2016	Violence against women	Khuza'ah	Brilliant Tomorrow Society	-	19
01 August 2016	Family Law	Gaza	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
02 August 2016	Family Law	Gaza	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
08 August 2016	Violence against Women in the Palestinian society	Gaza	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
09 August 2016	Family Law	Qa'a al-Qrein	ZamZam Society	-	25
10 August 2016	Family Law	Gaza	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
11 August 2016	Violence against women	Deir al-Balah	Women's Activity Center	-	16
14 August 2016	Widows' rights in Family Law	Al-Daraj neighborhood	Women's Activity Center	-	14
18 August 2016	Family Law	Beit Lahia	Women's Labor Department	-	20
21 August 2016	Family Law	Khuza'ah	Brilliant Tomorrow Society	-	19

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
05 September 2016	Family Law	Al-Bureij	Women's Health Center	-	16
06 September 2016	Family Law	Khan Younis	Right and Justice Society	-	32
07 September 2016	Women's Rights	Al-Nussairat	Women's Struggle Bloc	-	17
08 September 2016	Family Law	Qa'a al-Qrein	ZamZam Society	-	34
19 September 2016	Widows' Rights	Rafah	Social Affairs Department	-	32
20 September 2016	Family Law	Khan Younis	Initiators for Change	-	14
08 September 2016	Family Law	Qa'a al-Qrein	ZamZam Society	-	34
19 September 2016	Widows' rights	Rafah	Social Affairs Department	-	32
20 September 2016	Family Law	Khan Younis	Initiators for Change	-	14
25 September 2016	Family Law	Gaza	Najd Society	-	28
26 September 2016	Family Law	Khan Younis	Nabdah Youth Center	6	6
27 September 2016	Women's rights	Gaza	Women's Labour Committees	-	26
10 October 2016	Violence against women in the Palestinian society	Gaza	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
11 October 2016	Family Law	Khuzah-Khan Younis	Brilliant Tomorrow Society	-	17
12 October 2016	Widows' rights	Rafah	Social Affairs Department	-	28
12 October 2016	Family Law	Gaza	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
16 October 2016	Family Law	Khan Younis	Arab Liberation Front office	5	12
17 October 2016	Violence against women	Al-bureij	Women's Helath Center	-	28
17 October 2016	Family Law	Gaza	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
18 October 2016	Women Rights	Khan Yunis	Khuzah Private Kindergarten	-	25
19 October 2016	Women Rights	Gaza	Najd Charitable Society	-	16
20 October 2016	Family Law	Khan Younis	Initiators for Change	-	14
23 October 2016	Women's rights	Khan Younis	Initiators for Change	10	13
24 October 2016	Women's rights	Khan Younis	Right and Justice Society	-	20
25 October 2012	Women's Rights	Deir al-Balah	Deir al-Balah Society for Rehabilitation	6	8

Date	Lecture Title	Region	Place	Number	
				Male	Female
26 October 2016	Family Law	Gaza	Middle East Council of Churches	-	25
31 October 2016	Women's rights	Rafah	National Society for Democracy and Law	-	18
07 November 2016	Violence against Women	Khan Younis	Nabdah Youth Center	7	10
13 November 2016	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	Khan Younis	Haifa Perperatory School	-	35
14 November 2016	Family Law	Al-Bureij	Women's Health Center	-	25
16 November 2016	Family Law	Deir al-Balah	Deir al-Balah Society for Rehabilitation	-	28
20 November 2016	Violence against Women	Rafah	National Society for Democracy and Law	12	32
21 November 2016	Violence against Women	Qa'a al-Qrein	ZamZam Society	-	25
24 November 2016	Violence against Women in the Palestinian society	Gaza	Al-Aman Shelter	-	16
28 November 2016	Violence against Women	Qa'a al-Qrein	ZamZam Society	-	25
29 November 2016	Women's Rights	Khan Younis	Social Affairs Department	-	16
30 November 2016	Women's Rights	Khan Younis	Khan Younis Elementary School for Female Refugees	-	26
06 December 2016	Domestic violence	Khan Younis	In coordination with UNRWA, the camp committee's office	-	19
15 December 2016	Murder on grounds of so-called «family honor»	Al-Maghazi	Women's Activity Center	-	25
18 December 2016	Women's Rights Convention	Khan Yunis	Al-Hanin Charitable Society	-	12
18 December 2016	Family Law	Khan Yunis	Arab Liberation Front's office	5	18
20 December 2016	Violence against Women in the Palestinian society	Khan Yunis	The camp committee's office	42	-
21 December 2016	Violence against Women in the Palestinian society	Al-Daraj	Women's Activity Center	-	23
28 December 2016	Women's rights	Gaza City	Najd Charitable Society	-	18
29 December 2016	Family Law	Gaza	Al-Aman Shelter	-	25
Total				2506	

Appendix (8): Training Courses implemented by PCHR On Local Elections

#	Target Group	Place	Number of Participants	Hours	Period	Female Participation
1	Al-Adham Society for Development	Al-Adham Society-Beit Hanoun	26	20	24-28 January 2016	50%
2	National Society for Rehabilitation	Laterna Restaurant - Gaza	28	20	22 February-02 March 2016	64%
3	Education Development Society	Education Development Society	24	20	27 April-04 May 2016	30%
4	Local Elections Monitoring Campaign	Fiesta Restaurant	33	15	04-05 September 2016	56%
5	Local Elections Monitoring Campaign	PCHR's office in Khan Younis	23	15	05-06 September 2016	57%
6	Local Elections Monitoring Campaign	PCHR's office in Khan Younis	25	15	07-08 September 2016	60%
7	Local Elections Monitoring Campaign	Montana Hall- al-Bureij	37	15	06-07 September 2016	56%
8	Local Elections Monitoring Campaign	Laterna Restaurant in Gaza	29	15	19-20 September 2016	41%
9	Local Elections Monitoring Campaign	PCHR's Office in Jabalia	27	15	20-21 September 2016	60%
10	Local Elections Monitoring Campaign	Laterna Restaurant in Gaza	31	15	21-22 September 2016	51%
11	Local Elections Monitoring Campaign	PCHR's Office in Jabalia	21	15	26-27 September 2016	33%
12	Local Elections Monitoring Campaign	Laterna Restaurant in Gaza	42	15	28-29 September 2016	57%
13	Community Media Center	Community Media Center in Gaza	14	15	24-26 October 2016	50%
14	Somow Youth Team	PCHR's Head office	30	20	20-23 November 2016	26%

Table (9): PCHR's Interviews with international, Arab and local media in 2016

#	Date	Media	Subject
1.	03/01/2016	Palestine Newspaper	Arrest and trial of those who killed Dawabshah family
2.	05/01/2016	Al-Arabi al-Jadid Newspaper	International law's position from digging a waterway adjacent to Philadelphia line
3.	08/01/2016	Al-Kofiyah Channel	The need for autopsying the bodies of killed victims
4.	09/01/2016	Palestine Today	Excessive use of force against Palestinians
5.	17/01/2016	Al-Watan Voice Radio	Deterioration of the economic situation in the Gaza Strip
6.	19/01/2016	Al-Quds Radio	Kennett's approval on a law to search Palestinians
7.	19/01/2016	Alwan Radio	Youth's role in Gaza reconstruction
8.	20/01/2016	Documentary by a journalist	Security Chaos in Gaza
9.	21/01/2016	IMEU	Interview with Jihad Saftawi
10.	23/01/2016	Hona al-Quds TV	Legal and informative aspects of the mass rising
11.	25/01/2016	Al-Quds TV	10 years on the Gaza closure
12.	27/01/2016	Ma'an News Agency	The Electricity Crisis in Gaza
13.	27/01/2016	Palestine Today TV	The Electricity Crisis in Gaza
14.	27/01/2016	Al-Kitab TV	The Electricity Crisis in Gaza
15.	28/01/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Escalation of Israeli crimes
16.	03/02/2016	Al-Arabi al-Jadeed	Violations of press freedoms by the Israeli forces and PA
17.	09/02/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Policy of House Demolitions
18.	12/02/2016	Al-Quds TV	UN Special Rapporteur's Report on the excessive use of force
19.	17/02/2016	Al-Risalah Newspaper	Summary executions
20.	21/02/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Journalist and Prisoner Mohammed al-Qeeq
21.	21/02/2016	Alwan TV	Closure Imposed on the Gaza Strip
22.	22/02/2016	Al-Jazeera English Channel	Human rights violations
23.	22/02/2016	Al-Kofiyah Channel	PCHR's position from the teachers' strike and PA's measures against them
24.	23/02/2016	Alwan Radio	Youth role in Community participation (Gaza reconstruction)
25.	23/02/2016	Al-Sha'ab Radio	Women's access to justice
26.	03/03/2016	Al-Ayyam Newspaper	Position from issuing new legislations in light of the division
27.	06/03/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Palestinian child prisoners and what they are exposed to in the Israeli jails.
28.	06/03/2016	Al-Kofiyah Radio	Aggravating Electricity Crisis in the Gaza Strip and its impact on civilians' daily life
29.	08/03/2016	Al-Sha'ab Radio	Family Law
30.	13/03/2016	Palestine TV	An Israeli Rabbi's fatwa to kill Palestinians everywhere
31.	14/03/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Palestinian Women's status in the Family Law
32.	15/03/2016	Palestine TV	Israeli forces deliberately target children in protests
33.	15/03/2016	Palestine TV	The Electricity Crisis in the Gaza Strip
34.	16/03/2016	Al-Kitab TV	Israeli restrictions on the entry of construction materials into the Gaza Strip
35.	17/03/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Israeli authorities ban Elderly Palestinians from the Gaza Strip from performing prayers in al-Aqsa Mosque
36.	20/03/2016	Al-Watan Voice Radio	Gaza closure and Preventing civilians from traveling
37.	20/03/2016	Palestine TV	An Israeli bill to legalize death penalty against Palestinian prisoners
38.	21/03/2016	Palestine Today	Burning Dawabsheh Family alive in Duma village and the house of the only eyewitness on this crime
39.	22/03/2016	Al Hayat Newspaper	Collective punishment

#	Date	Media	Subject
40.	23/03/2016	Al-Hal Newspaper	A draft law against electronic crimes
41.	23/03/2016	Al-Kofiyah Channel	The policy of Deporting Jerusalemites to Area C in the West Bank
42.	27/03/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Solitary Confinement against prisoners in the Israeli jails
43.	28/03/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Arrest of traders at Beit Hanoun «Erez» Crossing
44.	29/03/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Aggravating Electricity Crisis and its impact on Civilians' daily life
45.	02/04/2016	Al-Hayah al-Jadida Newspaper	Youth political participation within a reportage
46.	03/04/2016	Al-Quds TV website	Implications of the autopsy report of «Abdel Fatah al-Sharif
47.	04/04/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	House demolitions in Jerusalem
48.	04/04/2016	Tariq al-Mahabeh Radio	Implications of the autopsy report of «Abdel Fatah al-Sharif
49.	05/04/2016	Al-Estqlal Newspaper	Israeli violations against Palestinian children
50.	05/04/2016	Al-Sha'ab Radio	The concept and Reality of human Rights and the role CBOs in promoting human rights
51.	06/04/2016	Al-Watan Voice Radio	Childhood Reality in Palestine
52.	09/04/2016	Al-Hayah Newspaper	Legal adaptation of the permits paid in order to travel via Rafah Crossing
53.	11/04/2016	Al-Quds TV	Commenting on a report on torture against children
54.	19/04/2016	The Ministry of Labor and al-Fokhari Municipality	An informative episode on rights of Palestinian child and reality of child labor
55.	19/04/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Ongoing Israeli closure on the Gaza Strip and delay in the Gaza reconstruction process
56.	20/04/2016	Al-Watan voice Radio	The situation at Gaza Strip Crossings in light of the Israeli closure
57.	24/04/2016	Hokkaido Japanese Newspaper	The Israeli closure imposed on the Gaza Strip for the 9 th consecutive year
58.	27/04/2016	Asdaa Website	Torture against Children
59.	09/05/2016	Palestine TV	Nativity Church deportees
60.	22/05/2016	Al-Watan Voice Radio	Israeli violations against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Sea
61.	24/05/2016	Palestine TV	The economic, social and cultural situation in the Gaza Strip
62.	25/05/2016	Al-Monitor Newspaper	Arrest on grounds of publishing on Social Media
63.	31/05/2016	Palestine TV	Implementing death penalty in the Gaza Strip today morning
64.	05/06/2016	Al-Sha'ab Voice Radio	Widows' rights
65.	10/06/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Intisar Harshah killed at «Inab checkpoint
66.	12/06/2016	Angham Radio	
67.	11/06/2016	Al-Sha'ab Radio	Death Penalty in the Palestinian Law
68.	08/07/2016	Al-Karamah magazine	Israeli violations against fishermen
69.	23/07/2016	Al-Manarah Media Production Company	Legal status of the arrest of Palestinian fishermen
70.	04/08/2016	Al-Rowad Newspaper	Freedom of Press and Media
71.	09/08/2016	Youth Media Center	Legal Status of Palestinian Prisoners
72.	14/08/2016	Alwan Radio	Forcing Girls to get married
73.	17/08/2016	Al-Sha'ab Radio	Violence against women
74.	23/08/2016	Quds News Network	In a security chaos incident, Abu Halawah was killed in Nablus
75.	24/08/2016	Al-Aqsa Radio	Latest Nablus incidents (security chaos)
76.	28/08/2016	Spain TV	The offensive
77.	28/08/2016	Press TV	International criminal accountability
78.	31/08/2016	Palestine TV	Settlement activity

#	Date	Media	Subject
79.	07/09/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Aggravating electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip
80.	18/09/2016	Ajyal Radio	Nablus incidents (Security Chaos)
81.	18/09/2016	Al-Watan Voice Radio	Deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and high rates of unemployment and poverty in the Gaza Strip
82.	19/09/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	Deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip due to the closure policy and closure of the crossings in the Gaza Strip
83.	20/09/2016	Kuwait TV	Targeting civilians in border areas
84.	22/09/2016	Watan Radio	Local elections and decision to appeal the decision of holding elections
85.	27/09/2016	Raya FM	Human rights violations
86.	29/09/2016	Arab 21 website	Freedom of movement and patients banned from traveling
87.	03/10/2016	Raya FM	The court's decision on elections
88.	11/10/2016	Anadolu Turkish Agency	Freedom of movement and patients banned from traveling
89.	12/10/2016	Raya FM	Death Penalty
90.	15/10/2016	Al-Masirah TV	An ICC delegation's visit to the oPt
91.	15/10/2016	Palestine Newspaper	Attacks against Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza Sea
92.	17/10/2016	Al-Azhar Radio	Media freedoms and rights
93.	19/10/2016	Al-Ain Newspaper	The increasing rates of unemployment and poverty in the Gaza Strip
94.	20/10/2016	Al-Jazeera Channel	Humanitarian Situation
95.	24/10/2016	Al-Kitab TV	Tightening the Gaza Closure
96.	30/10/2016	Gaza FM	How to support divorced women in the Palestinian society
97.	03/11/2016	Palestine Today	Maxen Abu al-Qare'a killed at the intersection of "Ofra" settlement
98.	03/11/2016	Al-Monitor Agency	Death Penalty in the Palestinian Law
99.	09/11/2016	Al-Quds TV	PCHR's weekly report
100.	10/11/2016	ART TV	Black Friday in Rafah
101.	18/11/2016	Al-Risalah Newspaper	Palestinian Child's Rights under the Occupation
102.	27/11/2016	Gaza FM	Widows' rights
103.	30/11/2016	Alwan Radio	Justice, rule of law and the role of social media in raising awareness of human rights
104.	05/12/2016	Gaza FM	Human Rights Situation in the Gaza Strip
105.	13/12/2016	Palestine TV	The Israeli Attorney General's report to hide evidence in the murder scenes
106.	13/12/2016	Palestine Today	The Israeli Attorney General's report to hide evidence in the murder scenes
107.	17/12/2016	Al-Kofiyah TV	The already limited categories allowed to travel from the Gaza Strip via Beit Hanoun Crossing declined.
108.	17/12/2016	Al-Ghad TV	Israeli obstacles regarding issuance of permits for patients referred from Gaza for treatment
109.	19/12/2016	Al-Quds Radio	Israeli obstacles regarding issuance of permits for patients referred from Gaza for treatment
110.	29/12/2016	Watan Radio	Resolution 2334