

# Palestine Chronology

## 2000

### January:

**Jan. 2:** The first non-Arab passenger flight into Gaza arrives with 125 Russian tourists and trade delegates aboard. The Russian airline will operate one flight every two weeks from Moscow to Gaza.  
- The PA says it wants Israel to pay compensation for the damage it has done to the Palestinian environment over past years.

**Jan. 3:** Israelis, Palestinians reach an agreement to carry out the delayed transfer of another 5% of West Bank territory to the PA within 48 hours and 6.1% more by 20th Jan. The transfer was originally due on 15 Nov. 1999.

- Israeli settlers uproot 500 guava saplings hours after they are planted in Al-Mawasi near Khan Younis.  
- At a rally Jewish settlers from the Golan and the West Bank agree on the anti-withdrawal slogan 'Evacuation of communities splits the people.'

- PM Barak names full normalization, demilitarizing the Golan and securing water resources as his conditions for peace with Syria.

- Pres. Arafat orders the release of the banker Issam Abu Issa, the former Gen.-Dir. of the Palestine International Bank, and his brother Issa, after it has been agreed that a neutral auditing company review the bank accounts and discuss the findings with a committee formed by Pres. Arafat.

- An attack by the Lebanese army on some 'fundamentalist' villages in north Lebanon leaves 21 people dead.

- Sectarian confrontations in Egypt leave 20 people dead and 45 injured, as well as many stores destroyed.

- PA police restore calm after armed men from Amari RC march through Ramallah while youths burn tires, demanding the release of a prisoner serving a life sentence for killing a Palestinian from Ramallah five years ago.

**Jan. 4:** A halachic ruling issued by prominent rabbis declares the Golan Heights a part of the Land of Israel and "forbid[s] dismantling communities in the Land of Israel."

- Israeli extremist group, 'Friends of Baruch Goldstein' desecrate the tomb of Sheikh Izz Eddin Al-Qassam near Haifa.

- The Lebanese army kills a Palestinian who attacks the Russian Embassy to become a martyr for the cause of Chechnya; the Palestinian leadership condemns the attack.

- Sheikh Tantawi of Al-Azhar makes his first visit to Gaza.

Jan. 5: PA Presidential Sec. Tayeb Abdul Rahim states that this year the independent Palestinian state will be established on all lands occupied in 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital.

- In Bethlehem, Pres. Arafat receives Romanian Pres. Emil Konstantensco.

**Jan. 5-6:** As part of stage two of the Sharm Esh-Sheikh redeployments, Israel transfers 2% of the West Bank from Area B to Area A status, and 3% from Area C to Area B.

**Jan. 6:** The last two signatories of the 'Petition of the 20', Ahmed Shaker Dudin and Abdel Sattar Qassem, are released from prison where they have been held since 28/29 Nov. 1999.

- Pres. Arafat receives former Russian Pres. Boris Yeltsin in Bethlehem.

**Jan. 7:** Eid Al-Fitr starts in Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Jordan; in Egypt tomorrow.

**Jan. 9:** Talking to reporters in Gaza, Pres. Arafat says the Palestinian people are determined to declare the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds Ash-Sharif as its capital in the first year of the third millennium.

- London's Sunday Times reports that the Mossad has managed to get a urine sample of Syrian Pres. Assad that suggests that his health is deteriorating.

**Jan. 10:** An official final status talks session is held in Ramallah.

- Some 100,000 to 250,000 Israelis demonstrate at Tel Aviv's Rabin Square against a possible withdrawal from the Golan.

**Jan. 11:** Negotiators Sa'eb Erekat and Oded Eran meet in Jerusalem to discuss implementation of interim phase commitments.

- Israeli authorities say the age of Palestinian singles eligible to get a work permit to enter the Green Line will be reduced from 25 to 21 years.
- Pres. Arafat signs a decree to establish the 'Palestinian Higher Development Council', headed by himself and consisting of Mohammed Zuhdi Nashashibi, Nabil Sha'ath, Maher Masri, Khaled Salam, to promote investment in the PA, to control PA financial matters and become the only body authorized to collect government revenues and transfer them to the PA treasury. Representatives of donor countries and assistance organizations applaud the move.
- In Hebron, Israeli army sets up roadblocks around Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi and prevents many Palestinians from praying.
- Jan. 12:** The official announcement of Pope John Paul II's visit the Holy Land from 20-26 March 2000 is made simultaneously in Rome and Jerusalem.
- Israeli authorities issue 15 military orders to evict Palestinian families living in caves near Sa'ir, Samu', Surif and Yatta in the Hebron area.
- In Aboud near Ramallah, Israeli bulldozers uproot 30 olive trees in order to establish an Israeli military zone.
- Near Nablus, Israeli bulldozers destroy 100 dunums of Yasuf village to make room for a bypass road.
- 61 Israeli MKs sign a draft resolution - initiated by MK Yossi Katz - rejecting the right of return for Palestinian refugees and stipulating that any govt. decision to return any Palestinian refugee requires the support of 80 MKs.
- The Israeli army launches 11 air raids against Hizbullah positions in South Lebanon.
- The Turkish Govt. decides to suspend the execution of the death sentence against Kurdish leader Ocalan.
- Jan. 13:** The Israeli army puts up a military tent on Shallala St. near Bet Hadassah in the center of Hebron.
- Settlers vandalize 600 dunums of fertile land in the village of Jaloud near Nablus and destroy the winter crops.
- The Lebanese army arrests the Fateh officials Ali Mazhour and Taysir Qadouri on a weapons charge but Fateh says the arrests are part of a campaign to weaken Arafat's influence among the refugees in Lebanon.
- Near Nablus, Israeli settlers cut down hundreds of olive trees belonging to Mohammed Abdullah of Deir Ballut in an attempt to seize land to expand the settlement.
- Jan. 14:** Palestinian detainee Lafi Ar-Rajabi, 20, dies while in Israeli custody after being tortured.
- Protected by Israeli troops, settlers from Eli Zahaf, uproot 200 olive trees in Deir Ballout near Salfit.
- Jan. 15:** According to the Annual Report 1999 of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, over 300 political prisoners are detained in PA jails, 250 of these for over one year without any charge or trial.
- The Palestinian Communications Min. cuts the contacts between Palestinian 'Jawwal' mobile phones and Israeli cellular phones due to trade problems between the two sides as Israel refuses to deal with reciprocity.
- Former CG in Jerusalem Edward Abington says he will work as advisor to the PA through a US consulting firm that has signed a \$2.5 million contract with the PA to arrange for Palestinian officials to meet in the US Congress and advise the PA on how to deal with Congress and the Clinton administration.
- Jan. 16:** Israeli authorities announce the confiscation of large parcels of land in the district of Salfit to construct a by-pass road for settlers.
- Israeli authorities seize Hebron's oldest mosque Mashhad Al-Arba'in located near Tel Rumeida settlement for "military purposes."
- Jan. 17:** A bomb explosion at Hadera market injures 26 Israelis; in Beirut, a group calling itself the "Omar Al-Mukhtar Forces" claims responsibility.
- PA police extradites Hisham Fuad Nijem from Nablus to Israel - a youth accused of participating in the murder of a child in Nazareth six months ago; this is the first case where a Palestinian citizen is handed over to the Israeli side.
- Armed settlers vandalize hundreds of beehives in Badhan and Fara'a villages north of Nablus.
- Jan. 19:** The Israeli Higher Court looks into the cases of seven Arab women from inside the Green Line who have had their Israeli citizenship revoked by the Israeli Interior Min. after they married in PA areas.
- Syria holds the Israeli Govt. responsible for obstructing negotiations after it demands, and Israel rejects presenting a written pledge on withdrawal from the Golan.

- On his way to Washington, Pres. Arafat stops in Cairo to discuss with Pres. Mubarak the recent developments in the peace process.

**Jan. 20:** King Abdullah II of Jordan confirms that the Palestinian cause is the core of the Middle East conflict and states that there is no way to establish peace in the region without returning Palestinian rights and establishing the Palestinian State.

- After Israeli researcher Teddy Katz reveals the details of a massacre committed by Israeli troops against the residents of the Palestinian village of Tantura on 22 May 1948, Israeli Arab MKs demand the formation of an inquiry commission.

- Lutfi Rujaby, 20, dies after being tortured by Israeli police in Ariel settlement near Salfit.

- Settlers from Karni Shomron settlement uproot 200 citrus trees in Wadi Qana near Salfit.

- The Israeli Govt. approves ten settlement schemes in the Bethlehem district.

**Jan. 22:** Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Shallah states that it will continue fighting against Israel until Palestinians have regained their rights and lands.

**Jan. 23:** Pres. Arafat visits Tunis to brief Pres. Zein Al-Abeddin Ben Ali on the peace process.

- In an interview with AFP, PLC Speaker Ahmed Qre'i'a accuses Israel of not being serious in the negotiations, saying, "the Israelis are not serious; if they continue in this manner, we will make no progress."

- The Israel army uproot 50 olive trees in Kufr Qaddoum west of Nablus.

**Jan. 24:** In Brussels, Pres. Arafat demands from EU officials a strong EU role in the Middle East and stresses that the Palestinian right to self-determination and a state cannot remain a hostage to the difficulties and stalemates of the peace process.

- Settlers from Dolev poison 80 beehives in Beit Sira near Ramallah, and another 30 two days later.

- PNGO welcomes Pres. Arafat's ratification of the Law for Charitable Societies and NGOs in Palestine.

**Jan. 25:** Returning from a tour of the US, Tunis, Cairo and Brussels, Pres. Arafat says that the year 2000 will be the year of declaring the Palestinian state.

**Jan. 26:** New US Amb. Martin Indyk presents his credentials to Pres. Weizman (he is to be suspended in Sept. for alleged security lapses).

**Jan. 28:** Israeli troops raid the Muslim shrine of Nabi Musa near Jericho.

**Jan. 30:** Palestinian and Israeli negotiators - headed by Yasser Abed Rabbo and Oded Eran - start marathon talks near Jerusalem with the aim of reaching a framework agreement for a final peace treaty under US mediation. Eran presents Israel's security requirements as the basis for the annexation of parts of the WBGS, incl. a security strip in the Jordan Valley, Greater Jerusalem, certain settlements, and a security corridor around settlements.

- As of today, Jawwal cellular phones are operating on the GSM system in Palestine allowing customers to be reached in Jordan, Switzerland, the UK, Norway, France, Turkey, Greece, Australia, Hong Kong and Israel. An agreement between Paltel and the Israeli Orange Company on the operation of Palestinian Jawwal phones inside Israel becomes effective.

- The Palestinian People's Party demands a general referendum to ratify agreements.

**Jan. 31:** Pres. Arafat addresses the World Economic Forum in Davos, presenting the Palestinian perspective on how to develop national independence and support the Palestinian economy.

- In Moscow, multilateral talks resume after a three-year freeze to reactivate the committees on refugees, water, environment, security, armament and economic cooperation. The meeting is attended by a Palestinian delegation, headed by Faisal Husseini, an Israeli delegation, headed by FM David Levy, some other Arab delegations (Syria and Lebanon boycott), an EU delegation and US Sec. of State Albright.

- Three Israeli soldiers are killed in South Lebanon.

## **February:**

**Feb. 1:** Israel presents a final status map to the Palestinians offering 55-60% of the West Bank and calling for annexation of the remaining 40%.

- Public transportation in Ramallah goes on strike as taxi drivers protest a governor's decree that they must collect passengers from a new station in the city center, for the use of which they must pay NIS 304.

**Feb. 2:** In an interview with the Saudi Al-Madina newspaper, Arafat says that when it comes to negotiations Barak and Netanyahu are no different and that the only 'flexibility' of Barak was in speech,

not on the ground.

- Barak's govt. approves redeployment maps focusing on the Hebron area and excluding Abu Dis; the PA says it has not been consulted and will not accept unilateral decisions.

- Referring to recent university votes, PLC member and Fateh leader Marwan Bargouthi says the PA is responsible if Fateh losses in elections because of the practices of the security apparatuses for which the public blame Fateh.

**Feb. 2-3:** The PLO Central Council (PCC) convenes in Gaza, presided over by Pres. Arafat, to discuss the declaration of the Palestinian State, the peace process and other issues of national importance. Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP-GC and Sa'iqa boycott the meeting. The concluding statement read by PNC Speaker Salim Zanoun announces that it has been decided to declare the independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds as its capital this year, stressing that this is a natural right of the Palestinian people and the realization of the 1988 Declaration of Independence. Also emphasized is the right of return for Palestinian refugees and that Israeli withdrawal must include all Palestinian territories, incl. Jerusalem.

**Feb. 3:** PA Presidential Sec. Tayeb Abdul Rahim announces that the PA rejects the maps Israel suggested for the final status, which left lands occupied in 1967 in Israeli hands.

- The summit held at Beit Hanoun crossing between Pres. Arafat and PM Barak fails to achieve any progress. Arafat leaves the meeting angry after Barak refuses to discuss the final-status but instead tries to impose the maps envisioned by Israel.

- UN Gen.-Sec. Kofi Anan says that there will be "no peace without improving the social and economic conditions of Palestinians", warning of the potential impact of expanding settlements.

- The PLC passes the draft Law of the Independence of the Judiciary.

**Feb. 4:** Yerushalim reports that settler leaders have organized a meeting of the forum on 'Greater Jerusalem' and sent a letter to Barak, demanding that Israel maintain security control in the Arab villages in and around Jerusalem and not transfer them to the PA.

**Feb. 5:** In Amman, Yasser Abed Rabbo, Saeb Erekat and Mohammed Dahlan meet with Jordanian FM Abdullah Khatib to brief him on the current crisis in the peace process.

**Feb. 6:** The Committee on Displaced Palestinians - PA Min. Nabil Sha'ath, FM Abdullah Khatib, FM Amer Musa and FM David Levy - meets in Cairo to discuss the return of Palestinians who were forced to leave their home during the War of 1967. Israel reportedly accepts the return of 350,000 displaced Palestinians, while the Palestinians demand the return of 850,000.

- In South Lebanon, one Israeli soldier is killed and seven others injured in clashes with Hizbullah.

- During the murder hearing and sentencing of Ibrahim and Nidal Obeiad in Bethlehem court, a mob of relatives and supporters attacks the court and judges, demanding that the sentence be withdrawn. In protest over the assault, the judges and members of the prosecution in the West Bank declare a three-day strike starting the next day.

**Feb. 7:** The PA releases Hamas' Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi, after 21 months of detention in Gaza.

- During the night Israel conducts heavy air raids on Lebanese power stations and Hizbullah sites.

- After Israeli forces brutally raid their family house in Israeli-controlled Zone H1 in Hebron, Fatima Abu Rmeileh, 62, suffers a fatal heart attack.

- PALTEL sales manager Mufid Said Qaffaf says that Jawwal currently has 18,500 subscribers.

- In an interview with Al-Quds, Chief of Palestinian police Ghazi Jabali says that the Palestinian state will be declared not later than August 2000.

- Adviser to Pres. Mubarak, Osama Baz says that Egypt will not allow its NGOs to be transformed into a Trojan Horse for foreign interests.

**Feb. 7-8:** Israel continues its bombing campaign in Lebanon, leaving at least 18 civilians injured.

**Feb. 8:** After destroying power stations in Lebanon, Israel declares a state of emergency in the north and continues air raids on a communications center and Hizbullah posts. The Israeli aggression is internationally condemned. Egypt's FM Musa says Israel has put the peace process "in front of a question mark".

**Feb. 8-12:** The Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land convene in Bethlehem to discuss a common pastoral plan, but also focus on Jerusalem, saying that "Jerusalem has a unique, permanent, doctrinal importance with deep roots for our Christian Arab and Palestinian thinking. It is not possible or acceptable for us to give up our established rights."

**Feb. 9:** Pres. Arafat and several PA officials visit the Court of First Instance in Bethlehem to express support. Afterwards, Chief of the Court Judge Farid Misleh declares the end of the judges' strike.

- The Israeli State Comptroller's report on Shin Bet practices during the Intifada - written in 1995 but kept

secret - is publicized, revealing that interrogators used torture on a scale beyond the 1987 Landau Commission's recommendations.

- The PA Negotiations Dept. reveals the number of settlement tenders since Barak took office to have reached 4,112.

- In an interview with Ad-Dustour King Abdullah II states that he does not have in his lexicon a term called "resettlement" and that the main goal now is the establishment of a Palestinian state.

- The Arab League calls on the international community to pressure Israel to stop its aggression on Lebanon.

**Feb. 10:** The PA joins the call of the UAE's Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan for an Arab summit to discuss the negotiations with Israel and the aggression in Lebanon.

- Responding to Israeli FM Levy's comment on burning Lebanon, Ismat Abdul Majid, Gen.-Sec. of the Arab League, says the Israelis will be the ones that will be burnt and not Lebanon and calls for freezing normalization with Israel.

- In Bethlehem, Pres. Arafat receives the Romanian Pres., officially visiting the Palestinian territories.

- After Jordanian hotels refuse hosting a ceremony marking the establishment of Israel, the Israeli embassy considers filing an official complaint.

**Feb. 13:** Pres. Arafat arrives in Morocco as part of an Arab-European tour aimed at explaining the Palestinian perspective on the current deadlock in the peace talks.

- The Palestinian Central Council passes a resolution that statehood will become a reality by Sept. 2000.

**Feb. 14:** PA Chairman Arafat states that he will declare Palestinian statehood no later than Sept. 2000, with or without Israel's blessings.

- The PA bans entry of Israeli goods into its territory, incl. mineral and soda water, biscuits, chocolate, home appliances, raw and manufactured aluminum and electrical appliances.

- A 5-year old girl is raped in Nablus while she was on her way home from school.

- The Palestinian High Court of Justice orders the release of several Gazans imprisoned by the PA security forces, without due legal process since Feb. 1999.

- At the meeting of the governing board of Beit Al-Mal Al-Quds (Jerusalem Fund) in Morocco, Pres. Arafat calls on Muslims to donate funds to "Save Arab East Jerusalem from cancerous Judaization by Israel."

- Called by the Higher Coordinating Committee of Teachers, a strike begins to protest the PA's dismissal of their demands to increase their teaching salaries that have decreased in recent years by a rate of 30-40%.

**Feb. 15:** PM Barak meets with Atty Gen. Elyakim Rubinstein, Justice Min. Yossi Beilin, and GSS officials to discuss the Atty Gen.'s proposal that the existence of 'extenuating circumstances' can acquit a GSS interrogator from criminal liability as a result of employing torture against a detainee.

- In Rome, Pope John Paul II and PA Chairman Arafat sign a Vatican-PA agreement aiming to ensure the Catholic Church's legal status in the PA territories. Israel is angered by the event as the document relates to the PA as though it were a sovereign state.

- Peace Now reports that it has calculated on the basis of satellite photos that only a small percentage of land (78,786 dunums) seized for Israeli settlement purposes is actually being utilized. The widest unused plots of land are identified in Ma'ale Adumim.

**Feb. 16:** In Amman, Pres. Arafat briefs King Abdullah on developments in the peace process and the PLO-Vatican Agreement. The king reiterates his support for the Palestinian struggle until they regain their legitimate rights on their national soil, including the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds Ash-Sharif as its capital.

- Chief negotiator Saeb Erekat says that Israel tries to evade its commitments to the peace process.

- Egypt's FM Amro Musa blames Israel for the serious deterioration in the peace process and says it should stop to fool all the people all the time.

**Feb. 17:** Thousands of Palestinians march in Nablus demanding the death penalty for Bilal Abdul Rahim Shaqqo who is accused of raping a 5-year old girl in the Old City of Nablus four days ago. He is sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labor.

**Feb. 18:** Dr. Abdel Sattar Qassem is rearrested in Nablus on orders issued by the President and Head of Civil Police. While his lawyers are barred from access, it remains unclear whether he will be charged and if so-with what.

- Pres. Arafat reiterates that this year will see the proclamation of the Palestinian independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

- German Pres. Johannes Rau starts his official visit to Palestine.

- Parliamentary elections are held in Iran. Two days later results show that the reformists win the majority of seats.

**Feb. 19:** Holding talks with German Pres. Rau in Bethlehem, Pres. Arafat states it is clear that the Sharm Esh Sheikh Agreement expires on 13 Sept. 2000, and that Palestinians have the right to declare a state afterwards. Arafat also expresses hope for a more effective role by Germany and the EU in pressuring Israel to honor and implement signed agreements.

- At a seminar held in Gaza on Palestinian-Jordanian relations, Adnan Abu Odeh, advisor to King Abdullah II, says that Jordan and Palestine are a twin born from one womb but fate has chosen to bring a foreign body (Israel) between them.

- The World Council of Churches demands the lifting of the sanctions against Iraq.

- PA police closes down Nawras TV station in Hebron for one week for "incitement" and "endangering Palestinian national interests," referring to the airing of interviews with striking teachers who blamed the PA regime for "impoverishing and humiliating the teachers."

**Feb. 20:** Israeli Min. of Trade and Industry Ran Cohen, says 25% of his budget is spent in West Bank settlements, although settlers comprise only 2.5% of Israel's population.

- YESHA Council says the settler population in the WBGS grew (excl. East Jerusalem) grew by 12.5% in 1999.

- Speaker of the EU Parliament Nicole Fontaine starts her tour to Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Lebanon.

- The PA rejects the final status maps prepared by Israel, incl. dismantling 21 settlements.

- In Lebanon's Ein Al-Hilwe RC hundreds of Palestinians demonstrate against the US support to Israel.

- Pres. Arafat prohibits any reduction of the life sentence with hard labor against child rapist Bilal Shaqqo from Nablus and orders the municipality to take care of the victim child.

- Representatives from Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the PA meet in Tel Aviv to discuss the destiny of Palestinians displaced in 1967.

**Feb. 21:** Yedioth Ahronoth reports that official data from the Construction and Housing Min. reveals that construction is presently starting on 7,120 housing units. In comparison, during former PM Netanyahu's term in office, construction started on only 5,400 housing units. In addition, since assuming office, the Ministry has issued tenders for 3,196 new settler housing units (2,500 of these in the 'Greater Jerusalem' area)

- Under the patronage of Pres. Arafat, the German Pres. Rau sets the cornerstone for the German funded Jenin industrial zone. Rau also inaugurates a waste water treatment plant in Al-Bireh, built by Germany.

- Eight Iranians including an 8-year old child are killed in violence that erupts after the results of the parliamentary elections in Iran are announced.

- The Israeli army raids Qalandia RC and breaks into several houses.

- The first meeting of the Higher Development Council decides to reinforce privatization programs, to transfer the Personnel Dept.'s Salaries Directorate in Gaza to the Finance Min., and to commission Nabil Sha'ath to be in charge of the loans files.

**Feb. 22:** The PA Min. of Education dismisses 23 teachers who took part in the recent strike and transfers others to schools in remote areas. Yet, many teachers continue their strike.

- Israeli forces order the employees of Khan Younis Municipality to stop building a public park in the city, because the site is close to Neve Dekalim settlement.

- US special envoy Dennis Ross meets with Pres. Arafat in Ramallah as part of an attempt to revive stalled talks.

**Feb. 23:** Pres. Arafat discusses with the Pres. of the EU parliament, Nicole Fontaine, the EU role needed to overcome the crisis in the peace process and bilateral relations. Fontaine stresses that the EU has not changed its policy concerning Jerusalem and still considers it an occupied city.

- Israeli FM Levy delivers a particularly violent and threatening Knesset speech threatening to attack Lebanese civilians and specifically children.

- Hundreds of intellectuals, politicians and PLC members sign a new petition calling on the PLO/PA to withdraw from the negotiations and saying that the way to Palestine is the Hizbullah path.

- Over two-thirds of Jordanian MPs demand the implementation of Shari'a Law.

- A study by the Israeli Nature Reserves and National Parks Authority states that sewage from Adam settlement is seriously contaminating the springs that feed into Wadi Qelt, causing a stench and killing animal life.

**Feb. 24:** The Israeli PM office announces that settlement activities in the Golan Heights will continue.

- Pope John Paul II starts his visit to the region, arriving in Egypt.

- In a meeting with PM Barak, French PM Jospin calls for establishing a Palestinian state saying, "The security of Israel requires a Palestinian state that can survive and be a democratic, prosperous and stable state." At a press conference, Jospin later says that France condemns Hizbullah's "terrorist" attacks against Israel.

- Barak defends yesterday's speech by FM Levy-describing it as the 'voice of moderation'.

- The Palestinian Monetary Authority signs an agreement with Portugal's central bank to train Palestinians to operate their own central bank, insure bank deposits and manage a national budget.

- The PA commissions the French-Dutch "European Gaza Development Group" to build Gaza's commercial seaport.

**Feb. 25:** French PM Jospin meets with PLC speaker Qrei'a and Faisal Hussein.

Feb 26: Students stage protests against the French PM Lionel Jospin during his visit to the BZU after Jospin makes provocative statements describing the Lebanese resistance against Israeli occupation in Lebanon as terrorism. The PA orders BZU closed for three days and employs strict measures against students who participated in the attack. The PLC issues a statement condemning the attack.

- Flights to Saudi Arabia for the annual hajj begin to take off from Gaza International Airport (until 2 March).

- Egypt's Pres. Mubarak states that the deadlock in the peace process will lead to 'horrible violence' in the region and that the Palestinian problem is a time bomb that might explode at any time.

**Feb. 27:** Israel seizes 3,000 dunums of agricultural land from Az-Zawiya village near Nablus to expand a nearby stone quarry.

- Arriving in Israel, head of the European Commission Romano Prodi begins his regional visit.

- French Pres. Chirac blames PM Jospin for his recent statements saying they contradict French policies.

- Palestinian figures in the Diaspora launch a worldwide campaign for the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

**Feb. 28:** In Al-Mughayyir village, near Ramallah, Israeli settlers protected by Israeli troops destroy over 700 olive trees.

- The IDF removes 15 Palestinian families, some 100 people, from their homes in caves in the south Hebron region for being too close to Jewish settlements and military camps. They are allowed to return on 29 March following an Israeli High Court ruling.

- Dennis Ross returns to the US having failed to revive talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

- Hebron University student elections results are announced: of the 41 seats, the Islamic Bloc won 19, Fateh 18, the Islamic Group and the Change and Democracy Party 2 each.

**Feb. 29:** PA Police Chief Maj.-Gen. Ghazi Jabali issues orders banning Palestinians from organizing processions, demonstrations or holding public meetings without obtaining approval from the district police commander.

## **March:**

**March 1:** Ha'aretz reports that final approval has been given for the construction of a high tech industrial park on 200 dunums in the Etzion settlement bloc.

**March 1-3:** In Hanoi, the Asian Meeting on the Question of Palestine is held, attended by PLO Exec. Committee member Suleiman An-Najjab. At the end, the 'Hanoi Declaration' is issued, proclaiming a commitment to support the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State.

**March 2:** The last plane with pilgrims aboard leaves Gaza for Saudi Arabia, but Israeli forces have prevented 19 Gazans from leaving.

- Israeli forces storm the village of Taybeh, inside the Green Line, surrounding a house where Hamas members are allegedly preparing bombs. In the exchange of fire, three Palestinians are killed and a fourth is buried under the rubble of the house.

**March 4:** The PA announces that the 13 Sept. deadline for a permanent peace deal with Israel was final and non-negotiable because the Palestinian Central Council has decided that the state will be declared no later than that date.

**March 5:** About 100 Palestinian students begin a hunger strike in support of BZU students who were arrested by PA police after violent protests against French PM Jospin a week earlier.

- The PA police respond by releasing all the BZU students in their custody, thus ending a week of protest.

**March 7:** Israeli Min. of Education Yossi Sarid's proposal to include Palestinian poets like Mahmoud Darwish on the Israeli high school reading list sparks controversy in Israel.

- PA Min. of Social Affairs Intisar Al-Wazir submits her resignation in protest of a budgetary cut in the funds for the needy; Pres. Arafat rejects her resignation and is said to reconsider her demands.

**March 8:** The Israeli High Court of Justice rules that Arabs can move into the Jewish town of Katzir on the grounds that Israel cannot discriminate between Jews and Arabs in most issues of land allocation. Katzir had previously denied the family of Adel Qadan the right to buy a home within the town.

- Israel's parole board decides to release settler Yoram Skolnik serving a life sentence for killing a Palestinian farmer in 1993 whose hands were bound. The Supreme Court later rejects the decision and orders him to remain in jail.

- In a press interview, Turkish Pres. Suleiman Demirel says that the PA, Jordan and Israel are preparing a joint project to purchase water from Turkey.

**March 11:** The Arab League FMs meeting in Beirut issue a concluding statement calling on Arab countries to freeze normalization with Israel in response to Israel's raids on Lebanon and to reconsider participating in multilateral talks with Israel.

- In Ramallah, Palestinian intellectuals and journalists in coordination with An-Nasr TV and Al-Manara radio station launch the 'One Million Candles' solidarity campaign with Lebanon, as part of which a delegation will travel to Beirut to light candles at the end of the month.

**March 13:** Lebanese Shi'i leader Mustafa Dirani files a lawsuit against the Israeli Government claiming that he was raped and tortured during interrogations.

**March 14:** Israel and the PA agree on maps detailing an upcoming Israeli redeployment from 6.1% of the West Bank.

**March 15:** The Israeli cabinet approves the map of the 6.1% of West Bank land to be transferred to full Palestinian control (Area A). The area -(5.1% is currently Area B, 1% Area C)- includes: Salfit village, Halhoul, the southern Mount Hebron villages (incl. Dura and Yatta), Bani Na'im, the Bethlehem district villages of Ubeidia, Dar Salah and Ash-Shawawra, Beitunia, and some villages in the Jenin district. After the transfer 18.2% of the West Bank will be Area A, and 24,7% Area B.

**March 16:** Rabbi Menachem Fruman, leading a delegation of settlers and religious Jews, meets with Pres. Arafat on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha to deliver a message of peace and harmony between the two religious communities.

**March 19:** The Israeli cabinet approves the third and last stage of Israeli redeployments in the West Bank during the interim period: transfer of 5.1% of Area B and 1% of Area C to full Palestinian control (Area A).

**March 20:** Israeli soldiers shoot and kill Halima Abdel Aziz Al-Aloul (Al-Sharuf), 45, mother of 12, near an army checkpoint in the Hebron district when her husband turns the car back realizing that he does not have his car papers.

- Pope John Paul II arrives in Amman.

**March 21:** Israel transfers 6.1% of the West Bank to the PA as part of the final stage of the second further redeployment.

- Final status talks resume in Washington, DC.

**March 22:** Visiting Bethlehem, Pope John Paul II states. "No one can ignore how much the Palestinian people have had to suffer in recent decades" and that they "have the natural right to a homeland and the right to live in peace and tranquility with other peoples of this area."

- Over 55 residents and several policemen are injured when Palestinian police storm Dheisheh RC prior to the Pope's visit after a trivial traffic-related argument triggers a fight between police and residents. After the visit, police return, beat camp residents and raid houses, infuriating the residents.

- The Internet Corp. for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which regulates Net addresses, has granted the PA its own two-letter suffix for "online real estate". As with other country codes, Palestinians will be able to register addresses under their own domain, 'ps' for Palestinian State.

**March 23:** Israel announces the confiscation of hundreds of dunums of Palestinian land near Ramallah to open a bypass road linking Bet El with Ofra settlement.

**March 24:** Kol Ha'ir quotes a settler from the Adura settlement near Hebron, who put his house up 'for sale' in a Palestinian paper, as saying "although my neighbors have concerns, I promise you that there will be many after me."

**March 28:** The Israeli magistrate court in Afula rules that Israel must pay NIS 670,000 as compensation to five Palestinians from Qabatia who were beaten by Israeli soldiers at the beginning of the Intifada.

**March 29:** The Israeli High Court of Justice rules that the 730 Palestinians expelled from their homes in



the south Hebron hills can return for the time being.

- Hundreds of Palestinians march through Ramallah and Al-Bireh demanding the release of the Palestinian prisoners still behind Israeli bars.

**March 30:** At the opening of a Fateh Youth conference in Ramallah Pres. Arafat affirms that this year is the year of the establishment of the independent Palestinian state and that Palestinian independence will not be completed without Jerusalem being the eternal capital of Palestine.

#### **April:**

**April 1:** Rafah residents hold a sit-in in front of the Governorate demanding Pres. Arafat's intervention in a plan to cancel their ownership of 2,525 dunums of land to establish an industrial zone in Rafah.

- On the 32nd anniversary of the establishment of the Jewish community in the city, PM Barak sends a congratulatory message to the settlers in Hebron, expressing his support for their presence in the city..

**April 2:** PA Environment Min. Yousef Abu Safiyeh is attacked by five men in his office in Ramallah.

- The Palestinian national soccer team beats its Pakistani counterpart with 2-0 at the Asian Group Games in Doha, Qatar.

**April 3:** At a ceremony commemorating 32 years of Jewish resettlement in Hebron, Israeli Housing Min. Yitzhak Levy promises 15 new permanent dwelling units at Tel Rumeida.

**April 4:** PLC and PLO members and other national figures sign a petition calling for the release of Dr. Abdel Sattar Qassem, detained in Jericho prison without trial.

**April 7:** A Peace Now report reveals that some 7,120 housing units are currently under construction in Jewish settlements in the WBGS.

**April 8:** Three BZU students drown at Akka beach, one after falling into the water and the others while trying to rescue her. BZU suspends classes for four days as students and professors attend the funerals.

**April 9:** Presidential Sec.-Gen. Tayib Abdul Rahim says that the Palestinians oppose any attempt to accommodate Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Iraq, or Canada or Australia.

- Settlers from Kedumim uproot hundreds of olive trees in the Palestinian village of Kufr Qaddum.

- A popular anti-normalization with Israel conference is held in Kuwait, attended by participants from the Gulf States.

**April 10:** The Knesset's Budget and Security Committee approves \$400 million for security in settlements and the construction of 12 bypass roads, to be funded from the \$1.2 billion in US assistance promised as part of the Wye Agreement in Oct. 1998.

- Israel lifts the construction 'freeze' in the Golan heights, indicating its retreat from negotiations with Syria.

**April 11:** Head of the Palestinian delegation to the final status talks, Yasser Abed Rabbo, conveys to his Israeli counterpart Oded Eran five Palestinian demands to advance the peace talks:

- No to conceding any part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, incl. Arab Jerusalem.

- No to the legitimacy of Jewish settlements.

- No to adjourning final status issues like Jerusalem and refugees or accepting a partial framework deal.

- No to any Israeli military presence inside the Palestinian state from the Jordanian River up to borders with Egypt.

- No to accommodating Palestinian refugees outside their homeland.

**April 12:** At the G77 summit in Havana, Pres. Arafat says this year will witness the declaration of a Palestinian state and asks the present leaders to back the Palestinian demands.

- The PCBS reports that over 25% of Palestinian children live in poverty and almost 6% of children aged 10-17 are working.

**April 15:** During a joint press conference with visiting Chinese Pres. Jiang Zemin in Bethlehem Arafat denies press reports circulated by the Israeli media that Palestinians accept the establishment of a Palestinian state in 65% of the West Bank.

- Press reports say that Israel is considering a proposal under which the PA will receive parts of the Jordan Valley and then lease it to Israel for 20 years. Palestinians respond by saying such scenarios are nothing but trial balloons.

- Israeli settlers attack 71-year-old Thahab Najjar of Burin village near Nablus, kick her and try to throw her into a pit.

**April 17:** Huge popular rallies are held throughout the WBGS to commemorate the Palestinian Prisoner

Day; in many places protestors clash with Israeli soldiers, the worst confrontation being near Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem.

- The UN Human Rights Committee demands by a vote of 31-3 with 19 abstentions a halt to Israeli settlement construction in occupied territories and condemns Israeli human rights violations.

- Syrians on the Golan commemorating the day French troops withdrew from Syria in 1946 are joined by busloads of Palestinian sympathizers.

- The Palestinian High Court rules that Saleh Talahmeh and Mohammed An-Natsheh, imprisoned since 1996 and 1998 respectively, be released for lack of evidence. The PA refuses to enact the order.

**April 18:** The administrative councils of the two Gaza universities and PA police close down the campuses to restore order after clashes between students of the Hamas-affiliated Islamic University and those from the Al-Azhar University, close to Fateh, erupt, leaving over 30 injured.

- Three Palestinian homes in Issawiyya are demolished by Israeli forces.

**April 24:** Violent clashes break out in Qalandia RC after the PA state security court sentences five members of the Abu Gharbiyyeh family - charged with assaulting Environment Min. Yousef Abu Safiyyeh on 2 April - to several years in prison, and fellow Fateh-Jerusalem members block the Ramallah-Jerusalem road and throw stones at PA cars. In Jerusalem, shops close in protest at the sentence.

**April 25:** During a visit to Ramallah King Abdullah renews Jordan's support for the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

**April 26:** In Paris, a UN conference on Palestinian refugees - in conjunction with the Arab League and the OIC - convenes.

**April 27:** After unknown assailants shoot at the car of a female settler near Alon Moreh settlement, injuring her, the Israeli army imposes a curfew on the adjacent village of Deir Al-Hatab.

**April 28:** Israeli authorities notify Mohammed Suleiman Al-Astal that he is prohibited to pave a road on his property adjoining the Mawasi area of Khan Younis.

**April 30:** In Eilat, Palestinian-Israeli talks on a framework agreement for the final status negotiations resume.

- The PA and Turkey sign a tourism cooperation protocol.

Late April: The Gen.-Sec. of the PFLP George Habash resigns from his post after 33 years.

## **May:**

**May 1:** Palestinian prisoners being held in Israeli jails begin a hunger strike to draw attention to their poor conditions.

**May 2:** After a child is killed in a traffic accident on the Ramallah-Jerusalem road at Qalandia RC, protests erupt over the state of the road, for the improvement of which Japan allocates \$6 million, but the WJM refuses to allow the upgrade. Residents throw stones at Israeli vehicles and clash with Israeli soldiers.

**May 3:** Education Minister Naim Abu Al-Humus resigns, citing PA failure to increase teacher salaries as the reason.

**May 4:** After two days of paralyzed air traffic to and from Gaza Airport, Palestinian Civil Aviation Authority Fayez Zeidan announces that planes will resume their routes. The crisis started when Israel rejected an alternative shorter flight route proposed by Egypt and returned a plane from Cairo on 3 May as well as a Moroccan plane on 2 May.

**May 5:** Omar Assaf, head of the Palestinian teachers' union is arrested and the Ramallah radio station, which afforded him a platform, is closed.

**May 7:** Following a basketball game the day before in which some spectators attempted to attack the players PA police forces enter the Burj RC, attack, insult and arrest residents in order to show their strength. 50 are arrested. In protest, the camp observes a strike the next day called for by the Popular Committee.

- The PA Min. of Education decides to extend the school year to 6 June to make up for time lost during the teachers strike.

**May 8:** Israeli soldiers open fire on Palestinian students demonstrating in Bethlehem; six are injured.

**May 9:** The Arab League informs the five permanent UNSC members of their decision to suspend Arab participation in multilateral talks until there is progress in the peace process.

**May 10:** The Palestinian Bar Association notifies all lawyers working with the Palestinian Center for

Human Rights in Gaza and over 30 other lawyers working with human rights groups or NGOs that their names have been removed from the list of practicing lawyers, meaning they can no longer practice law nor appear before courts.

- Peaceful marches in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners begin to take place in most Palestinian cities. Where the Israeli army interferes violent clashes erupt with six killed and over 800 injured by 16 May.

**May 11:** A press release by the Arab Human Rights Organization in Cairo condemns the Palestinian Bar Association's decision to suspend 31 lawyers as "arbitrary, contradicting the Universal Declaration for Human Rights."

- PA police arrests Mohammed Deif, one of Israel's most wanted Hamas members.

- The Tel Aviv District Court sentences West Bank settler Gul Hamel to life in prison for the Oct. 1998 killing Mohammed Zalmut, 70.

**May 12:** Yerushalim reports that Housing and Construction Min. Yitzhak Levy has budgeted \$37.5 million for new areas in the Ma'ale Adumim, Etzion bloc and Har Homa settlements.

**May 13:** Ahmed Shreim from Qalqilya is shot and killed by Israel troops clashing with Palestinian demonstrators.

May 13-14: Protests erupt in six Palestinian cities, including Hebron, Nablus, Bethlehem and Gaza. Palestinians demand the release of 1,650 prisoners still held in Israeli jails, and express frustration over the failure of peace negotiations. Among the victims of Israeli troops is a nine-year-old boy, who loses an eye to a rubber bullet.

**May 14:** The Arab Center for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers publishes a press release expressing its "deep frustration at the decision adopted by the Acting Council of the Palestinian Bar Association against the Palestinian lawyers. It considered that the decision violates the right of lawyers to freedom of expression."

- Leading Hamas figure Sheikh Salah Mustafa Shehadeh is released from an Israeli jail where he has spent 13 years.

**May 15:** On the 52nd anniversary of the Nakba, Palestinians observe a general strike and clashes occur throughout the WBGS with Israeli troops. The confrontations, the worst of which occur at the West Bank settlements of Bet El and Psagot and at Netzarim in Gaza, last for several days and leave six Palestinians killed and over 1,000 wounded.

- Yasser Abed Rabbo publicly resigns accusing Israel of trying to divide his camp, after discovering that a secret, separate channel of talks had been opened in Stockholm. Two Palestinian policemen die in West Bank rioting.

- Tens of thousands of Jewish settlers rally in West Jerusalem to protest any potential Israeli territorial concessions.

**May 16:** The commemoration of the 52nd anniversary of the Palestinian nakba turns violent as protestors clash with Israeli troops trying to disperse them. Three Palestinians - Iyad Safadi, 18, Bashar Shanir, 21, from Askar RC, and Ahmed Odeh, 20, from Ramallah - are killed and some 600 injured.

- In Qalqilya, a Jewish settler driving a bus runs over and kills the brothers Mohammed and Mahmoud Abu Zeid, 6 and 8, while they are walking along a nearby bypass road.

- Palestinian teachers announce the suspension of their strike due to the current situation in the WBGS and in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners who are on hunger strike in Israeli jails.

**May 17:** In Al-Bireh, 20 demonstrators were wounded near the City Inn Hotel, which is evacuated and taken over by Israeli soldiers. In Qalandia, Palestinian demonstrators storm the airport.

- The Palestinian High Court orders the temporary suspension of the decision of the Acting Council of the Palestinian Bar Association to remove the names of seven lawyers from the roll of practicing lawyers and asks for clarification of the reasons for this decision within eight days.

**May 19:** In Eilat, Israeli negotiators hand their Palestinian counterparts a proposed final status map comprising of separate Palestinian autonomous cantons on 66% of the West Bank; Israel will annex 20% of the West Bank and the remaining 14% will remain under Israeli control and be negotiated in the future.

**May 20:** Over the past ten days, some 1,270 Palestinians have been injured in clashes between marchers commemorating Nakba day and expressing solidarity with Palestinian prisoners and Israeli troops.

**May 21:** Following the unrest in the WBGS, PM Barak orders Israeli negotiators to end the current round of talks in Stockholm. PA officials criticize the decision as leading to further tensions.

- On the Day of Rage, Issa Qarakra, 29, from Qaddoum RC in Ramallah dies from wounds received few days ago.

- Sado Mudhi Al-Hawarin, 15, from Thahriyi, Hebron, dies from injuries sustained during clashes a week ago.

**May 22:** Pres. Arafat holds important talks in San'a with Yemeni Pres. Ali Abdullah Saleh who renews his country's support for the establishment of a Palestinian state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital.

**May 23:** In Gaza, settlers from Netzarim close the Karni crossing in retaliation for Palestinian demonstrations at Netzarim junction.

**May 23-24:** After announcing its intention to depart ahead of schedule Israel completely pulls out of South Lebanon after 18 years, a move seen by Palestinians as prove that no occupation can last forever.

**May 27:** Settlers of Maale Amos seize 200 dunums from Kisan village near Bethlehem intending to annex it to the settlement.

**May 29:** Al-Quds reports that Israeli forces have bulldozed 1,000 dunums of cultivated land in Bidya village near Salfit, in order to open a new bypass road known as 'Trans-Samaria B'.

- Ma'ariv reports that settlers in the Nablus area have extended their 'patrols', using horses, night-vision glasses and dogs.

- In Stockholm, Israeli Internal Security Min. Shlomo Ben Ami - commenting on the progress in the final status talks, says that the Palestinians have to stop "dreaming" about their right of return or Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders.

**May 31:** Hundreds of Palestinians in Israeli jails end a month-long partial hunger strike after a promise from Israel to improve prison conditions.

## **June:**

**June 1:** A presidential decree signed by Arafat provides for the formation of a Supreme Judicial Council for all Palestinian districts, to be presided over by Supreme Court Chief Justice Radwan Al-Agha and comprised of heads of supreme and appellate courts.

- 12 Palestinian security officers and residents are injured by Israeli bullets in the first-ever clashes at Rafah crossing at the border to Egypt. The dispute began when Israeli security arrested a Palestinian trying to cross into Egypt on the grounds that he was wanted.

- Ha'aretz reports that YESHA council leaders believe, on the basis of information from the PM's Office, that Israel will offer the Palestinians a final 92-95% of the West Bank and divide the settlements into three categories: those to be evacuated (incl. the Katif bloc in Gaza); those to be placed under Palestinian sovereignty but still connected to Israel; and those to be annexed to Israel.

- Ma'ariv reports that settlers from Nachliel near Ramallah have asked the army for 250,000 rounds of ammunition to be able to withstand possible attacks by Palestinians.

- A tender is published in Yediot Aharanot for the construction of 86 dwelling units in the Golan settlement of Katzrin.

**June 2:** At a Labor Party meeting PM Barak says he is willing to leave 20% of the Jewish settlers in the West Bank under PA sovereignty in the context of a peace deal.

- The YESHA settler council decides to resume settlement construction in locations where such activity has been frozen by the government (in late 1999).

- Peace Now announces that Israel has sold land for 1,596 settlement units between Jan.-April 2000.

**June 4:** The Council of Rabbis in 'Judea, Samaria' and Gaza announces, "The YESHA communities will continue to exist on the holy land. We will work for the growth of these communities, we will not agree to evacuate or to accept foreign rule."

**June 5:** US Sec. of State Albright arrives in the region hoping to push Palestinian-Israeli talks forward.

- In Ramallah, Pres. Arafat discusses with German FM Joschka Fischer the MEPP and bilateral relations; Fischer renews Germany's and the EU's support to the peace process.

**June 6:** Settler leaders from the Golan and WBGS form a joint committee to fight against Israeli concessions on settlements.

- 73 leading Palestinians sign a petition calling for a national referendum to ratify any agreement to be reached with Israel and expressing support for Pres. Arafat in face of Israeli pressure to impose an unfair deal.

- Khaled Mohammed Younis Baher, 35, from Beit Umar near Hebron, father of six, dies while in PA custody (after being arrested without charge on 25 May).

**June 8:** Pressured by donor countries to improve the investment climate and donor comfort, the PA finally

admits that public revenues are partly diverted towards the commercial operations of the PA-owned Palestinian Commercial Services Company (PCSC). The corresponding audit (undertaken in Feb.) is made public at a meeting in Lisbon of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee chaired by Norway.

- Jewish settlers of Ma'ale Amos confiscate some 2,000 dunums of land belonging to villagers from Arab Ar-Rashayida and Kisan near Bethlehem in preparation for expanding the settlement.

**June 10:** Syrian Pres. Hafez Al-Assad dies. The PA declares three days of mourning.

**June 13:** Pres. Arafat attends the funeral of deceased Pres. Hafez Assad at his birthplace town Qirdaha.

- Ha'aretz reports that Israel will sign the convention establishing an international court for war crimes, but will not accede to its jurisdiction, mainly because the establishment of civilian settlements in occupied territory is defined as a war crime.

- Shas resigns from Barak's coalition, leaving a minority govt. of 52 out of 120 MKs.

**June 15:** Some 4,000 settlers demonstrate outside PM Barak's home to protest any deal with Palestinians that includes evacuation of settlements or their transfer to Palestinian jurisdiction.

**June 17:** Israeli Chief of Staff Gen. Shaul Mofaz threatens to use heavy artillery, incl. tanks and warplanes, to confront and curb any new Intifada in the WBGS.

- Hundreds of Palestinians march in Ramallah to protest human and civil rights violations by PA security forces, urging Pres. Arafat to take a clear stand on promoting the rule of law.

- In Gaza, settlers from the Gush Qatif bloc bulldoze a 400-m-long Palestinian road near Mawasi quarter.

**June 19:** Some 40,000 people attend a demonstration called for by YESHA against the Barak govt.'s policies.

**June 20:** On Gaza's Karni-Netzarim road a bomb explodes as an Israeli convoy moves towards the settlement, injuring one Israeli.

- In Ras Sudr, Sinai, workers discover a mass grave containing the remains of 52 Egyptian soldiers presumed to have been executed by Israeli forces in the 1967 War.

**June 21:** Israel moves armored tanks into Gaza, barricades settlements and conducts military maneuvers around population centers.

- In Ramallah, Arafat advisor on refugee affairs Abdel Fattah Ghanem is detained on a 'Presidential Detention Order' after making statements to Jordanian and Gulf newspapers regarding obstructions and the possible future of the refugee problem, in which he cited examples of administrative corruption

- The left-wing Meretz Party (10 MKs) abandons Barak in dispute with religious coalition members.

**June 23:** PNC speaker Salim Zanoun says that the Palestinian state will be declared this year no matter whether a peace agreement is reached or not.

- The target date for the completion of the third Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories - incl. three villages near Jerusalem - and the release of 230 Palestinian prisoners passes unobserved.

**June 24:** At a discussion in preparation of the PLO Central Council meeting in early July, PNC members decide that the PA must declare an independent Palestinian state as scheduled according to the signed agreements with Israel, i.e., before the end of the year. Also debated is the role of the PLO after the state declaration.

**June 25:** Israeli settlers Neve Daniel and Eli Azar attack Al-Khader village, destroying water wells and fences.

- Israeli Housing Min. Yitzhak Levy approves construction of 400 housing units to expand Efrat settlement.

**June 28:** Yediot Aharanot reports that PM Barak has asked US Sec. of State Albright to inform Chairman Arafat that Israel will annex territories if he unilaterally declares a Palestinian state on 13 September.

**June 30:** Israel's Atty Gen. Elyakim Rubinstein argues that UN Res. 242 and 338 do not apply to the current negotiations because they were passed over 25 years before the establishment of the PA. On 242 he also says that the withdrawals from Sinai and Lebanon do not represent a precedent for Israel's pull out from the entire WBGS.

## July:

**July 1:** After a dispute over a stolen car, Raji Fares Ibrahim Saqer, 29, of Al-Amari RC enters a Ramallah meat shop shoots and kills the butcher's daughter Ahlam Duqmaq, 25, from Al-Bireh, marking the beginning of several days of violence in the city. Less than 48 hours later, the PA state security court sentences Saqer to death by hanging and accomplice Jamal Al-Azza to 12 years of hard labor with a

further 6 months for illegal weapon possession. The sentencing is followed by violent protests by friends and relatives who clash with police. Shops in Ramallah only reopen on 4 July.

**July 2-3:** The PLO Central Council convenes with 110 of the 125 members in Gaza and votes unanimously to declare a Palestinian state this year after the six-year transitional period that ends 13 Sept. A statement read at the close of the meeting by PNC speaker Salim Za'noun calls upon the international community to "stand on the side of the Palestinian people who are determined to reinforce the sovereignty of their state on their occupied territories by the end of the transitional period."

**July 4:** Palestinian intellectual Edward Said is photographed throwing a stone across the South Lebanese border at Fatma Gate, in what he calls a "symbolic gesture".

**July 5:** Khalil Abu Arram, 16, from Jania, near Yatta, dies from the blast of an Israeli landmine.

**July 6:** The Palestinian leadership accepts Pres. Clinton's invitation to a three-way summit in Camp David.

- Safwan Asi, 12, from Beit Liqia, Ramallah dies when an Israeli army bomb left in his family's field explodes.

**July 8:** PFLP Deputy Sec.-Gen. Abu Ali Mustafa is sworn in on as the new Sec.-Gen. after party founder George Habash resigned.

- Near Kfar Darom settlement, Israeli soldiers shoot at the car of Itidal Mu'ammam, killing her and one of her children and injuring her husband and second child. The Israeli army later officially apologizes, saying the shooting was an "unfortunate mistake."

**July 9:** Israeli right-wing parties - Yisrael B'aliyah (4 MKs), Shas (17 MKs) and the National Religious Party (5 MKs) resign from the govt. over PM Barak's offer of concessions to the Palestinians in the upcoming Camp David summit.

**July 10:** On the eve the Camp David summit Min. of Culture and Information Yasser Abed Rabbo says that no agreement will be signed that does not secure an international body monitoring its implementation.

**July 11:** The US-sponsored Camp David Summit begins; a complete press blackout is imposed.

- Bashar Al-Assad becomes officially Pres. of Syria.

**July 12:** Head of the PLO Political Dept. Farouq Qaddumi says that there is a consensus among the African states on recognizing the independent Palestinian state once it is declared.

**July 13:** Ex-pop star Yussef Islam (known formerly as Cat Stevens) is turned back upon arrival at Ben Gurion airport and prevented from his pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

- The Israeli Civil Admin. announces plans to build a tourist center ("Metzpia Ha'jit") on land belonging to the Deir Dibwan village near Ramallah.

**July 15:** In Hebron near Al-Ibrahimi Mosque, dozens of Palestinians are injured after being attacked by settlers from Kiryat Arba, who vandalize Palestinian houses and cars and smash windows.

**July 16:** The Jerusalem-Ramallah road is closed off near Qalandia RC after camp youths burn three Israeli Egged buses en route to Bet El to pick up settlers for a right-wing demonstration- clashes with Israeli troops ensue.

- In Tel Aviv, tens of thousands of Jewish settlers gather at Rabin's square to condemn the Camp David summit.

**July 18:** On the grounds that it is built on state lands the Israeli command in the West Bank orders the entire village of Beit Iskaria, some 15 km south of Bethlehem, to evacuate within one month. The 300 villagers are warned that their houses will be destroyed.

- Thousands demonstrate in Hebron calling for the refugees' right to return and Palestinian statehood with Jerusalem as its capital. Other demonstrations in Ramallah and Gaza call for Palestinian national rights incl. statehood, Jerusalem and return as well as for resisting Israeli and US pressure on the Palestinian delegation at Camp David.

- A poll by the Arab-American Institute shows that 66% of responding Americans support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and 74% the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

**July 19:** Karne Shomron settlers seize 100 dunums of land belonging to villages near Qalqilya.

**July 20:** Israeli forces are exercising military drills near Israeli settlements at Gush Katif and Kfar Darom in Gaza.

**July 21:** The 'principles' of the US proposal discussed at Camp David reportedly include the following: the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state; no declaration of the 'end to the conflict' at this stage; Israeli withdrawal from 95% of the West Bank and annexation of the remainder in an exchange of territory; a safe passage "bridge" between the WB and GS; a free passage from Bethlehem to Ramallah.

On Jerusalem: Palestinian civilian autonomy (Israeli security control) in and around the Old City (holy places under independent religious administration) and free passage route to the Haram Ash-Sharif area; other Palestinian neighborhoods to get even greater civil-admin. autonomy, while Ma'ale Adumim and Givat Ze'ev will be annexed to the WJM. On Refugees: Israel grants recognition of their "suffering"; assimilation in the framework of family unification for some of them and for others staged assimilation into the Palestinian state; refugee compensation and rehabilitation through an international body.

**July 22:** PA Refugee Affairs Min. Assad Abdel Rahman resigns, saying he is unwilling to take the responsibility for the Camp David results on the refugee issue.

- Thousands of Hamas supporters demonstrate in Gaza against Camp David.

**July 23:** Israeli forces confiscate some 4,000 dunums of land in the Bethlehem area.

- Sheikh Ahmed Yassin offers Israel a truce in return for complete Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967.

- Pres. Clinton returns from the G8 summit in Japan to the ongoing Camp David talks.

**July 24:** The Knesset votes to extend the state of emergency, in effect in the country since 1948, for a further six months, until 26 Jan. 2001.

**July 25:** The Camp David summit ends without reaching an agreement mainly because of the issue of Jerusalem.

**July 26:** The WBGs and the Diaspora observe a general strike from 12-2 p.m. to support the Palestinian delegation at Camp David and reaffirm the non-negotiable Palestinian positions.

- US legislators announce draft laws to stop all US aid to the Palestinians should they unilaterally declare statehood on 13 Sept.

**July 27:** Pres. Arafat and his accompanying delegation receive a hero's welcome upon their return from Camp David to Gaza.

**July 27-29:** A CPRS poll finds that 56% of Palestinians support a unilateral state declaration in September while 37% support waiting for an Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

**July 28:** In an interview with Israel TV Pres. Clinton praises PM Barak for making "courageous" compromises and warns Arafat not to unilaterally declare statehood. He also says he will reconsider moving the US embassy to Jerusalem.

**July 30:** In Gaza, the PA arrests Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi, the no. 2 Hamas official in the WBGs, apparently for criticizing the Israeli-Palestinian talks at Camp David.

- Israeli settlers seize 50 dunums of land in the Mawasi area in Rafah, Gaza, and erect greenhouses there.

**July 29:** Pres. Arafat begins a tour to Arab and European capitals to enlist support for the Palestinian position on Jerusalem, the refugees, and the declaration of the Palestinian state on Sept. 13. Ports of call include Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunis and Damascus.

**July 31:** PM Barak narrowly survives two censure motions from the right-wing.

- Likud's Moshe Katzav is elected Pres. Of Israel, defeating Labor's Shimon Peres.

## **August:**

**Aug. 3:** During the last two weeks, PA security forces have waged campaigns against Hamas and other Islamists.

- USAID threatens to resort to economic sanctions in case of a unilateral declaration of the Palestinian State.

- Israeli FM David Levy resigns from the govt. over his opposition to Barak's peace positions.

- The PLC calls on Pres. Arafat to move ahead with plans to declare a state on 13 Sept.

- An attempt by Nazareth police to stop trucks from unloading construction supplies at the disputed site Shihab Eddin results in a fight between police and the Islamic movement leadership.

**Aug. 4:** Amnesty International accuses the PA of violating the right to freedom of expression.

**Aug. 5:** Hamas' Sheikh Ahmed Yassin expresses his high appreciation for the Palestinian leadership's commitment to the decisions of the PLO Central Council and its rejection to all outside pressures to give further concessions.

**Aug. 6:** Shas Party leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef dubs Palestinians "snakes"; his racist statement is harshly condemned by Palestinians and other Arabs.

**Aug. 8:** Five Israeli families appeal to Pres. Arafat to grant them political asylum in PA areas, saying the

Israeli govt. is prohibiting them from building on lands owned by the Jewish state and they wish to live with Palestinians.

- Israeli authorities confiscate fruits and destroy stands, located along Highway 60, an Israeli bypass road just north of Hebron

**Aug. 10:** Pres. Arafat visits Tehran en route to Moscow and discusses the possibility of holding an Islamic summit on Jerusalem with Pres. Khatami.

- At a press briefing PA Min. of Information and Culture, Abed Rabbo says that there is "No alternative for Palestinian full sovereignty over Arab East Jerusalem," and rules out the possibility of holding a new Camp David summit.

**Aug. 11:** Ramez Fayez Mohammed Rashid Elrazi, 25, from Gaza's Nusseirat RC, dies allegedly of a heart attack in his cell in the Israeli Nafha prison, where he was serving a three-year sentence for entering Israel without the required permit.

**Aug. 14:** Pres. Arafat meets Pakistani Pres. Gen. Musharaf in Islamabad to discuss the outcome of Camp David and particular the issue of Jerusalem.

**Aug. 15:** During his meeting with Chinese Pres. Zemin, Pres. Arafat receives Chinese govt. support for the Palestinians and their right cause.

- An Israeli undercover unit shoots and kills Mahmoud Bazar Abdullah, 73, mukhtar of Surda, Ramallah at 2.00 a.m. The victim had slept on the roof of his house and fired in the air when he noticed armed people approaching, taking them for burglars. Abdullah is the 24th person killed by Israeli army or settlers since the beginning of the year.

**Aug. 19:** Israeli authorities forbid 'The Camp of Return' for 3,000 youths from the WBGS and Israel being held in Jerusalem.

**Aug. 20:** In Amman, Jordanian trade unions hold a seminar against normalization with Israel, denouncing the nullification of a law banning the sale of land to an enemy and the Jordan Valley draft law allowing foreigners, incl. Jews, to buy and own lands in the Jordan Valley.

- In Ramallah, the PLC states unequivocally that there will be no peace deal with Israel without East Jerusalem.

- Ma'en Talhami, 12, from Al-Burj village near Hebron dies when a device left over by the Israeli army explodes in a field near his home.

**Aug. 21:** Israel says it has arrested 23 Palestinians, incl. 4 from inside the Green Line, who are allegedly affiliated with wanted Saudi Osama Bin Laden and have planned military attacks against Israel.

**Aug. 22:** Quoting figures released by the Israeli CBS Ha'aretz reports that the first quarter of 2000 saw an 81% increase in settlement construction, wherein private construction rose by 141%, construction on public buildings by 55%.

**Aug. 24:** Ha'aretz reports that the IDF has sent warnings to settler leaders in the Hebron and Nablus areas to prevent more attacks on Palestinians.

- Press reports indicate that Lebanon plans to sue Israel in the International Court of Justice to recover damages caused by Israeli attacks and its 22-year occupation, reparations are estimated at \$7 billion.

**Aug. 27:** Three Israeli soldiers are killed and nine wounded by friendly fire during a disastrous failed operation by a Duvdevan special unit supported by helicopter air cover trying to raid the West Bank village Assira Ashmalia in a hunt for 'most wanted' Hamas leader, Mahmoud Abu Hannoud, who managed to flee and hand himself in to PA police in nearby Nablus.

**Aug. 28:** Jordanian PM Ali Abul Ragheb urges Jordanian professional associations to abandon their anti-normalization drive aimed at contacts with Israel.

**Aug. 29:** In Cairo, a meeting between Pres. Clinton and Pres. Mubarak to prepare for another Israeli-Palestinian summit fails to succeed. It is later revealed that Egypt proposed a solution for Jerusalem: Israeli sovereignty in West Jerusalem, the Jewish Quarter and over the Western Wall, Palestinian sovereignty in East Jerusalem, incl. Al-Aqsa Mosque; declaration of Jerusalem as an 'open city' to the believers of the three faiths, who would enjoy free access to the holy sites; and joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols on Al-Haram compound. PM Barak rejects.

**Aug. 30:** PCBS media survey results show that 89.7% of Palestinian households own a TV set, 45.4% have satellite dishes, and that Qatar-based Al-Jazireh channel is the most popular channel followed by ART.

- Arafat and Mubarak meet in Alexandria to discuss the Agadir Jerusalem Committee meeting and other recent developments.



## September:

Early Sept.: The British Gas company begins to search for natural gas on the northern shores of the Gaza Strip.

**Sept. 1:** In Nablus, Judge of the State Security Court Fathi Abu Srouer sentences Mahmoud Abu Hanuud, who surrendered three days earlier, to 12 years in prison on charges of having established military cells.

**Sept. 2:** The PA Education Min. launches a Palestinian curriculum for grades 5 and 6 as the new school year begins.

**Sept. 3:** During the Arab League Council meeting in Cairo Papal Amb. to Cairo Msgr. Paolo Gigilone says that the Vatican is calling for a special status for Jerusalem with free access to holy sites for all worshippers.

**Sept. 5:** The 2nd Annual US State Dept. Report on International Religious Freedom accuses Israel of discriminatory practices against non-Jewish groups.

**Sept. 6-7:** At the UN Millennium celebrations in New York, attended by over 150 world leaders, Pres. Arafat urges putting an end to the most difficult refugee problem in the world and the sufferings of the Palestinian refugees, and stresses that there will be no flexibility with regard to sovereignty on the Muslim and Christian shrines in Jerusalem. Clinton fails to resolve the differences between Barak and Arafat during his separate meetings with both during the summit.

**Sept. 10:** In Gaza, the 129-member PLO Central Council postpones declaring statehood to give "peace another chance" until 15 Nov., but reiterates the Palestinians' right to full sovereignty over East Jerusalem and their right of return.

**Sept. 11:** The PA State Security Court in Gaza sentences Mohammed Daoud Al-Khawaja, convicted of murdering and robbing money-changer Mustafa Ahmed Jibril Baroud, 70, to death by firing squad.

- Ha'aretz reports that according to the Israeli Housing Min. settlement construction has increased by 96% during the first half of 2000. Since Barak's govt. took office (July 1999), work on 1,924 residential units in settlements has begun (1,384 in the Jerusalem district and 540 elsewhere), as opposed to 1,845 in 1998 and 1,160 in 1997.

**Sept. 13:** Israel, Palestinians fail to achieve a final peace accord by today's deadline.

- After touring Hebron MK Mossi Raz expresses extreme concern over the situation in the city and the fear that another [Baruch] "Goldstein is lurking and waiting for the right time to perpetrate another massacre."

**Sept. 16:** Egyptian FM Amr Musa calls for Palestinian sovereignty over Palestinian lands occupied by Israel in 1967 incl. East Jerusalem, saying that Israeli sovereignty over Al-Aqsa Mosque is unacceptable.

- An Arab League statement on the 18th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre calls for complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in June 1967, and for the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

- In Washington, some 10,000 people participate in the 'Return March' calling for the Palestinian refugees' right of return.

- A coalition for integrity and accountability named 'AMAN' is established in Ramallah.

**Sept. 17:** At the Netzarim junction in Gaza, a demonstration commemorating the Sabra and Shatila massacres escalates into two days of violence.

- In London, several thousand Palestinians, Arabs and British attend the 'Return March' calling for the Palestinian refugees' right of return.

**Sept. 19:** Israel and the PA agree to establish a Free Trade Area as part of a final economic accord, after an "effective economic border" has been established.

- In Paris acting Israeli FM Shlomo Ben-Ami meets with Pres. Chirac to examine the chances of finding a compromise formula on the issue of Jerusalem. The currently discussed proposal includes transfer of sovereignty over the Haram compound to the responsibility of the UNSC.

**Sept. 20:** The National Beverage Co. and the Palestinian Soccer League sign an agreement in which the company agrees to sponsor the national team, which will have the Coca-Cola logo on their team jerseys.

**Sept. 21:** After years of negotiations Israel and the PA reach an agreement on the Gaza seaport for the initial phase of which France and Holland have pledged \$70 million. Israel will retain a role in checking cargo at the port, whose capacity will be limited.

**Sept. 22:** After 5 years of denial and concealment, the Beilin-Abu Mazen agreement is published in full in Newsweek.

- The US State Dept. announces suspension of the security clearance of its Amb. to Israel, Martin Indyk

due to investigations against him for alleged security violations.

**Sept. 24:** Hisham Abdul Razzaq, in charge of the PA prisoner portfolio, states still over 1,650 Palestinian political prisoners are held in Israeli jails.

**Sept. 25:** After plans to confiscate 1,800 dunums from Beit Mahel village for expanding 'Nazaret Illit' are announced over 1,000 Arab citizens inside the 'Green Line' protest at the PM Office against discrimination and expropriation.

**Sept. 27:** In Gaza, explosives go off while an Israeli convoy passes near Netzarim settlement, resulting in the death of an Israeli soldier.

- The Israeli Atty. Gen. drops the corruption charges against former PM Netanyahu due to insufficient evidence, setting the stage for him to re-enter politics.

**Sept. 28:** Pres. Arafat inaugurates Palestine's first gas well, 35 km from the central Gaza seashore, in cooperation with British Gas Co.

**Sept. 29:** After meeting with Syrian Pres. Bashar Assad, EU Middle East envoy Moratinos says that "the differences are very thin" between Israeli and Syrian positions.

- After Israeli forces attack Palestinians at Al-Aqsa Mosque, leaving five dead and over 160 injured, violence erupts across the WBGS, leaving scores of Palestinians wounded. A 3-day general strike is declared to mourn the martyrs.

**Sept. 30:** Throughout the WBGS Israeli troops use excessive force against Palestinian demonstrators protesting against Israeli provocations and yesterdays deaths; nine Palestinians are killed, incl. three children under the age of 16, and hundreds injured. The worst confrontations are in Al-Bireh, Gaza's Netzarim junction and Hebron. Clashes spread into Israel, where one Palestinian is killed and dozens injured. One of the martyrs, 12 year old Mohammed Ad-Dura deom Gaza who died in his father arms, becomes the symbol of the what soon is termed Al-Aqsa Intifada.

Late Sept.: For the first time Syria allows 28 Israeli Arabs to visit Yarmouk RC to meet relatives they have not seen since 1948.

**Sept.:** 100-meter swimmer Samar Nassar and athlete Rami Theeb represent Palestine at the Olympic Games in Sydney.

## **October:**

**Oct. 1:** At least 12 Palestinians are killed in clashes throughout the WBGS; Israel uses anti-tank rockets near Netzarim and fires from helicopters in Nablus. Settler gunfire kills Sara Abdel Haq, 18 months, near Nablus.

**Oct. 2:** Called for by Palestinian human rights groups LAW and PCHR, 4 international organizations (International Commission of Jurists/Sweden, the International Federation of Human Rights/Paris, the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Human Rights/Denmark and Human Rights Watch/US) arrive in the WBGS to investigate the violations committed.

**Oct. 3:** Palestinian citizens of Israel call for international protection after attacks by Israeli civilians, settlers and army inside Israel and in the WBGS.

- The festival of Arab poets and critics - renamed to the Solidarity Festival of Arab poets and critics with Jerusalem and the martyrs - opens in Jericho; participating countries include Tunisia, Jordan, Oman, Iraq and the US.

**Oct. 4:** While clashes in the WBGS continue, PM Barak and Pres. Arafat meet with French Pres. Chirac and US Sec. of State Albright in Paris, where they agree to order forces away from flash-points; nothing is signed, however, as Israel refuses to accept an international inquiry into recent events.

- The ICRC "deplores" the Israeli targeting of over 18 Red Crescent ambulances by gunfire.

**Oct. 5:** Arafat attends talks with Egyptian Pres. Mubarak and US Sec. of State Albright, while Barak cancels his participation because of Arafat's refusal to sign the agreement in Paris.

**Oct. 6:** Israel seals the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

**Oct. 7:** UNSC passes Res. 1322 by 14-0 (US abstaining) which "deplores the provocation carried out at Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Jerusalem on 28 Sept. 2000, and the subsequent violence (...) resulting in over 80 Palestinian deaths and many other casualties;" and "Condemns acts of violence, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinians."

- Meanwhile clashes in the WBGS continue for the ninth consecutive day and raise the number of dead to 75; over 3,000 are injured. In Nablus, Palestinian protestors storm and destroy 'Joseph's Tomb', after the

Israeli army withdraws its troops from the site.

- Arab-Jewish clashes occur in Jaffa, Tiberias, Hadera, Nazareth and several villages in the Galilee.
- In South Lebanon, Hizbullah abducts 3 Israeli soldiers; in response, Barak issues a 4-hour ultimatum for the release of the hostages and a 48-hour ultimatum to Arafat; both are extended after they expire.

**Oct. 8:** Throughout the West Bank, Israeli settlers protected by Israeli troops confront Palestinians, killing one and wounding many more as well as damaging many shops and cars.

- The body of Isam Hamad, 36, from Um Safa near Ramallah is found in a field near the settlement of Halamish; evidence suggests that he was tortured and killed by settlers.

- Jewish mobs attack Arabs in Nazareth, incl. the home of MK Azmi Bishara, stoning Arab homes, cars and passers-by and shouting "death to the Arabs." Two Arabs are killed and dozens injured. In other areas of the Galilee, Jewish rioters block roads and attack Arab citizens. In Tiberias, Jews destroy a 200-year-old mosque.

- Israel closes Gaza International Airport and Rafah Border Crossing.

**Oct. 9:** As Yom Kippur begins, PM Barak indefinitely extends the ultimatum to Arafat.

- UN Sec.-Gen. Kofi Annan and Russian FM Igor Ivanov travel to the region trying to negotiate an end to the violence in meetings with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

**Oct. 10:** The UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People expresses grave concern at the continued confrontations and resulting loss of life, and states that it is due to Israel's refusal to abide by its obligations under International Law.

**Oct. 11:** As clashes in the WBGS continue, the Palestinian death toll climbs to 85 - 26 of them 18 years or younger.

- Arab communities inside the 'Green Line' commemorate the death of 13 demonstrators in recent clashes between Israeli police and local residents.

**Oct. 12:** Two Israeli soldiers are killed in Ramallah by a Palestinian mob. Israel reacts by bombing Gaza, Ramallah, and, later in the night Jericho and Nablus, destroying police headquarters, military bases, and the TV and radio broadcasting towers.

- During a meeting with Sharon, Barak officially invites Likud to join a national emergency govt.

**Oct. 13:** In the early morning Israeli missiles and helicopters fire at Hebron, injuring several Palestinians and leading to protest marches later the day, in which one Palestinian is killed and at least 15 injured.

- Other clashes occur in Bethlehem and Al-Bireh and Jerusalem.

**Oct. 15:** Raed Hamuda, 30, from Al-Bireh dies from injuries sustained during clashes five days earlier, bringing the Palestinian death toll to 92, incl. 27 children.

- In Beirut, Hizbullah abducts an Israeli businessman, said to be also a Mossad agent.

- PM Barak negotiates with Likud Party leader Ariel Sharon to form a "national unity government."

**Oct. 16:** The Sharm Esh-Sheikh summit begins with Pres. Arafat, PM Barak, Pres. Clinton, the UN's Kofi Anan, the EU's Javier Solana, King Abdullah and Pres. Mubarak. At the end of the summit Clinton announces that both sides have agreed to halt violence, set up an inquiry into its causes, and explore restoration of security cooperation as well as a return to peace negotiations. Neither Barak nor Arafat announces the details of his position on the agreement.

- Israeli troops shoot and kill a Palestinian policeman in Gaza and a 13-year-old boy from Aida RC in Bethlehem, bringing the death toll of WBGS Palestinians to 94.

- In clashes throughout the WBGS, some 60 Palestinians are injured.

**Oct. 17:** The UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva opens a special session on the situation in the WBGS and in Israel. Giorgio Giacomelli, UN investigator to the Palestinian territories (11-15 Oct. 2000), states that the scale of Palestinian deaths at the hands of Israeli forces during the recent wave of disturbances is "unprecedented," and that at least "40% of an estimated 2,000-3,700 Palestinians wounded by Israeli occupation forces were under the age of 18 and that at least half of the injuries resulted from the use of live ammunition".

- The Human Rights Watch report on its investigation in the WBGS (4-11 Oct. 2000) condemns Israeli forces for using excessive, lethal force with demonstrators.

**Oct. 18:** The International Federation of Human Rights releases the findings of its mission to the Occupied Territories, pointing to Israel's excessive and indiscriminate use of force and demands the establishment of an international independent commission of enquiry.

**Oct. 19:** A special session of the UN Commission on Human Rights passes a resolution condemning the "grave and massive violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel", and decides to establish a "human rights inquiry commission, a move Israel denounces.

- Amnesty International calls upon the US govt. to cease all transfers of attack helicopters to Israel.
- An AI report on its mission to the WBGS (4 Oct. 2000) notes Israel's "excessive use of force in circumstances in which neither the lives of the security forces nor others were in imminent danger".
- An UNSCO report estimates the daily economic losses due to the current crisis for the Palestinians at US\$8 million.

**Oct. 20:** The UN Commission on Human Rights endorses by 19-16 (17 abstentions) a resolution condemning Israel's "disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force" against Palestinian civilians and requesting High Commissioner Mary Robinson to undertake an urgent visit to the occupied territories to take stock of the violations.

- The UNGA adopts a resolution with 92-6 (46 abstentions), condemning the violence in the OPT and Israel's excessive use of force against Palestinian citizens, and urging all parties to implement the Sharm Esh-Sheikh understandings.

**Oct. 21:** As clashes throughout the WBGS continue, with dozens of Palestinians newly wounded, the death toll amongst Palestinians increases to 112 (incl. 34 children).

- In Hebron, Fateh activist Fayez Mahmoud Al-Qymri, 33, is shot in the head and killed by Israeli 'special units' while washing his car.
- PM Barak's announces that "Israel will take a time out from the peace process" and that it is now time for an emergency unity govt. (to include the Likud).

- An Amnesty International delegation arrives in Israel to gather information regarding arrests and detentions of Palestinians from Israel and East Jerusalem. The report calls for international protection of the Palestinian people.

**Oct. 21-22:** An Arab League emergency summit convenes in Cairo to discuss the recent violence in the Palestinian territories; it allocates US\$1 billion in funds to support the Palestinian population, calls for a UN-led "international war crimes tribunal" to investigate actions committed by Israel, and requests a UN presence in the WBGS. The final statement stops short of calling for breaking ties with Israel, but calls for ending all steps toward normalization of relations with Israel.

**Oct. 22:** Following the Arab summit in Cairo, Tunisia and Oman announce their severing of ties with Israel and closing their trade representations in Tel Aviv.

**Oct. 23:** Morocco severs ties with Israel, closing the consulate in Tel Aviv and Israel's interest office in Rabat.

- Israel re-closes Gaza International Airport, the Rafah border passage and King Hussein border passage.

- Shas refuses to join a unity govt., but says it will support it.

**Oct. 24:** Egypt's FM Musa says that the peace process in its current form is over.

- Jordanian security forces prevent over 10,000 people participating in the 'march of return' from Amman to the border with Israel, injuring some 120 marchers in the ensuing clashes.

- Jordan and the US sign a Free Trade Agreement in Washington.

**Oct. 25:** In a move meant to counter recent UN resolutions ("biased against Israel"), the US Congress votes 365-30 to condemn the Palestinians for the current confrontations and calls on Pres. Arafat to stop the violence. It also passes a new foreign aid bill, allocating \$2.82 billion to Israel for the next fiscal year (=18.9% of the total and the largest aid amount of any country).

- The Palestinian death toll in the ongoing Al-Aqsa Intifada reaches 123, incl. 39 children. The total injured is 5,862.

**Oct. 26:** During a visit to Beit Jala and Aida RC, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah stresses that Palestinian Christians and Muslims are one people with a shared destiny.

**Oct. 27:** At the end of their week-long mission in the WBGS, a medical team from Physicians for Human Rights-USA release their findings, saying that the IDF has used live ammunition and rubber bullets excessively and inappropriately to control demonstrators, and that Israeli soldiers appear to be shooting to inflict harm, rather than solely in self-defense.

**Oct. 29:** At a press conference, PA Min. of Industry and Trade Maher Al-Masri says that all economic sectors are in a 70%-decline and that the Israeli govt. is holding back custom revenues. Many Palestinians have become unemployed, as employers are unable to keep them on the payroll.

- Barak-Sharon talks over a national emergency govt. collapse when Sharon demands a veto over all peace process decisions.

- Terminally ill Riad Awwad, 26, dies at Allenby Bridge after being banned from returning to his hometown of Beit Jala for two consecutive days.

## November:

**Nov. 1:** During his meeting with German Chancellor Schroeder, Pres. Arafat calls for a firmer German and European role in the peace process; Schroeder confirms the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

- PM Barak wants complete economic separation between Israel and the Palestinian economy, particularly in infrastructure, and believes that this could be achieved in 3 to 5 years.

**Nov. 1-2:** During the night, Regional Cooperation Min. Shimon Peres meets with Chairman Arafat in Gaza; they discuss the recent violence and agree to certain cease-fire terms.

**Nov. 2:** Israeli authorities close down Gaza International Airport for the third time since the beginning of the Intifada.

**Nov. 4:** In Hebron, a 23-day old baby girl dies from poisonous tear gas fired by Israeli troops in residential areas.

**Nov. 5:** As the Al-Aqsa Intifada enters its 38th consecutive day, the Palestinian death toll climbs to 153, with over 4,800 wounded.

- Lebanese children seize an Israeli cow hostage near the international borders between Israel and Lebanon, saying they would not return it until their lambs, which disappeared into Israel, are returned.

**Nov. 6:** Barak easily survives four censure motions in the Knesset filed by Arab MKs to protest the deaths of 13 Israeli Arabs in the recent violence.

**Nov. 7:** The Vatican calls on Israelis and Palestinians to return to the negotiating table, saying that neither has an absolute right to Jerusalem.

- A Jewish settler runs over and kills Ahmed Khoffash, 8, from Mardah village near Nablus.

- A German airplane transfers 23 injured Palestinians to Germany for treatment.

- The US State Dept. announces the international commission of inquiry into events in the WBGS as follows: heading the commission will be ex-senator George Mitchell (mediated in the peace talks in Northern Ireland), members: ex-senator Warren Rudman, former Turkish Pres. Suleiman Demirel, the EU's Javier Solana and Norwegian FM Thorbjorn Jagland.

**Nov. 8:** Peace Now releases details of budget submissions to the Knesset, revealing that PM Barak will ask for 1.2 billion NIS for Jewish settlements in the WBGS in 2001.

- Pres. Arafat leaves for a meeting with Pres. Mubarak in Cairo from where he continues to London to meet with PM Blair before leaving to Washington.

- Ha'aretz reports about an Israeli govt. plan to double the Jewish population in the Misgav region of the Galilee - currently inhabited by an Arab majority - within the next five years.

**Nov. 9:** Pres. Arafat meets Pres. Clinton in Washington; they reportedly discuss the American "bridging proposals" but with no clear outcome. Arafat says he is ready to take part in another summit, if such a meeting is properly prepared and its success is assured; he also raises his demand for sending an international force to the region.

- The UNSC discusses the demand for an international protection force to protect Palestinians in the WBGS.

- An Israeli combat helicopter attacks the car of Fateh-Tanzim activist Hussein Abayat, 37, in Beit Sahour with missiles, killing him and two 52 and 53 year-old women bystanders. A passenger in the car and three other civilians are injured. In revenge, Fateh vows to assassinate IDF Chief-of-Staff Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz.

- The PA delays its declaration of independent statehood, planned for 15 Nov., for the third time.

- Responding to intense pressure from other Islamic countries, Qatar announces its closure of Israel's trade office in Doha, citing "the escalation of Israeli repression in the occupied territories."

**Nov. 9-10:** A FM meeting in advance of the summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) discusses the violence in the Palestinian territories and calls on all Muslim countries to break off relations with Israel.

**Nov. 11:** Hamas activist Ibrahim Bani Odeh, 34, from Nablus is killed when explosive device goes off in the car he is driving, apparently activated remotely from an Israeli helicopter.

**Nov. 12:** In Washington, PM Barak holds talks with Pres. Clinton to discuss the American bridging proposal to resolve the final status arrangement, as based on the Camp David understandings

- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR), Mary Robinson, on a visit to the WBGS to investigate Israeli human rights violations against the Palestinian people, travels to Hebron. Israeli settlers attack journalists in the delegation and her car is hit by shots. Robinson holds Israeli troops responsible

for firing on her convoy.

- The Israeli army attacks and kills two Palestinians from helicopters, then uses robots to remove their bodies from the car before burning it.

- Salah Eddin Brigades claim responsibility for the killing near Ar-Ram of Qasem Khleif of Beit Safafa for collaborating with Israel.

**Nov. 12-14:** The 9th OIC summit, called "the summit of the Al-Aqsa Intifada," convenes in Doha. A statement issued condemns Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people, and demands international protection forces to protect the Palestinian people.

**Nov. 13:** Israel orders that no goods may enter the PA territories, aside from humanitarian aid products like food and medicine, while gasoline will be kept a minimum level and raw materials, such as concrete and cement, be stopped.

- A BZU Development Studies Program poll shows that 80% support military attacks against Israel targets, 74% oppose the participation of children in the confrontations, 57.8% support the continuation of the peace process on the basis of international law, and 75% of those polled said they support the continuation of the Intifada.

**Nov. 14:** In their meeting in London, UN Sec.-Gen. Kofi Annan presents a secret, international initiative to restart the peace process to PM Barak: convening an international 'peace summit' chaired by the UN and attended by delegates from the US, EU, Russia, China, Israel, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and possibly Saudi Arabia.

**Nov. 15:** On the 12th anniversary of the Palestinian declaration of independence, Palestinians flock to the streets in symbolic celebrations.

- UN Human Rights High Commissioner Mary Robinson says she is worried by the escalating situation in the WBGS and accuses Israel of using excessive force against the Palestinians. She also refutes allegations that Palestinian children are being pushed to the forefront of confrontations by the PA.

- At a Kahane memorial event in Jerusalem members of the outlawed Kach movement vow violence against Palestinians as response to what they call 'army restraint', saying "The Arabs must be made to feel afraid."

**Nov. 16:** The Israeli army and GSS arrest 15 Fateh-Tanzim members in the West Bank villages Kusra, Talfit and Al-Muayir (all Area B) for allegedly having carried out shooting attacks.

- Eight Palestinians are killed and over 100 injured in heavy Israeli overnight bombing of Palestinian residential areas in the Bethlehem district and in the north. Among the victims is German doctor Harald Fischer from Beit Jala who is killed while trying to evacuate injured neighbors.

**Nov. 17:** Khaled Abdallah Salameh, 25, is shot and killed by Israeli forces in the Akbat Jaber RC in Jericho.

**Nov. 18:** PNC speaker Salim Za'noun says that the Palestinian announcement of an independent state will be made on 31 Dec. 2000, coinciding with the anniversary of the 1965 outbreak of the armed resistance (Fateh).

**Nov. 19:** Jordanian unions and associations publish a blacklist of people and companies that refuse to sever their "normalization" ties with Israel.

- The PA issues instructions prohibiting shooting from Palestinian 'A' areas.

**Nov. 20:** In a bomb attack on an Israeli settler school bus in Gaza, two Israelis are killed and 12 injured. In retaliation, Israeli military bulldozes dozens of dunums of agricultural lands, uproots trees and destroys farms and homes in Gaza. Later, Israeli helicopter gunships fire over 50 missiles at multiple targets in Gaza, hitting 12 buildings (incl. the TV broadcasting station, communications center, electricity building) and causing damage to many civilian houses. At least 125 people are injured, including 60 children. One man was declared dead.

- During a meeting with opposition parties Likud leader Sharon calls on PM Barak to assassinate Mohammed Dahlan, whom he holds responsible for the attack on the school bus.

- The Israel Land Admin. issues a tender for 76 new housing units in the settlement of Elkana near Qalqilya, bringing the total of tendered settlement housing units by the Barak govt. to 3,575.

**Nov. 21:** Egyptian Pres. Mubarak recalls Amb. to Israel Mohammed Bassiouny in protest against "Israeli aggression" against the Palestinians. This is the first time Egypt has recalled its Amb. since Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

- Palestinian NGOs call on Kofi Annan, UN Sec.-Gen., Arab League Sec.-Gen. Ismat Abdel Majid, and all organizations that care about human rights to intervene immediately by putting pressure on Israel to lift the siege imposed on the Palestinian territories and to provide international protection for the Palestinian

people.

- The Orthodox Church Council in Jordan and Palestine condemns Israeli aggression against Palestinians and calls for international protection.

**Nov. 22:** Israeli tanks open fire on two Palestinian civilian vehicles near Morag settlement in the GS, assassinating four Palestinian Tanzim activists, and injuring 8. The attack brings the Palestinian death toll since 29 Sept. to 222, 68 of whom are children.

- Arriving in Israel on the final leg of a Middle East tour US Defense Sec. William Cohen tells PM Barak that Israel should allow the international fact-finding committee to begin its investigation into the recent violence as this would have a calming effect.

- In the Israeli town of Hadera a car bomb goes off, leaving 2 killed and over 50 injured.

- In Selit Al-Daher village near Jenin four Palestinians are injured, after a settler opens fire at a group of villagers.

- Settlers continue to harass villagers from Hares near Nablus, uprooting trees, closing the entrances to the village and threatening the inhabitants.

**Nov. 23:** Hamas member Ibrahim Abdul-Karim Bani Odeh, 33, from Tammoun village near Jenin, is assassinated when an explosive in the car that he was driving (belonging to his cousin Allan Bani Odeh, later convicted as collaborator with Israel) detonates.

**Nov. 24:** ILO Dir.-Gen., Juan Somavia, warns of an "evolving humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territories resulting from the closure, (...) unemployment and the inability of many workers to meet their families' basic needs".

- FIDA activist Firas Qasem Saba'neh, 25, is assassinated near Jenin by Israeli 'special units.'

- Pres. Arafat meets Russian Pres. Putin who says Russia is ready to submit a peace initiative.

**Nov. 25:** At a press conference, PA Min. of Social Affairs Intisar Al-Wazir says that not one dollar from funds collected to assist the Palestinian people has yet reached the Min. or the PA.

**Nov. 26:** In Cairo, GSS Chief Avi Dichter and head of Preventive Security Service in Gaza, Mohammed Dahlan, meet to discuss renewing security coordination between the two sides.

**Nov. 26-27:** During the night, five Palestinians - Qusay Zahran, Ziad Salma, Mohammed Odwan, Mahmoud Al-Adl, and Mahdi Jabr - are killed in cold blood by Israeli soldiers who open fire at them near the by-pass road south of Qalqilya.

**Nov. 27:** The Israeli High Court adjourns a hearing on the Likud's petition calling for an early elections bill to be passed with only a simple majority on the first reading, rather than an absolute majority of 61 out of 120 Mks.

- The Israeli parliament votes in favor of a bill aimed at blocking the return of Palestinian refugees to Israeli territory as well as changes to Jerusalem municipal boundaries by requiring an absolute majority of the 120-member Knesset to authorize either

- Islamic representatives request at the UNSC that military forces be sent to the WBGS to protect the Palestinians.

**Nov. 28:** The FM's of Jordan and Egypt meet in Aqaba with Abu Mazen and Saeb Erekat, as part of efforts to bring about an end to the violence and a resumption of negotiations.

- PM Barak announces that a date for new elections will be set in the next few days. The Knesset then votes in favor of bills calling for its dissolution and new elections.

**Nov. 30:** Yedioth Aharonot publishes a poll on Jewish pupils' attitude towards Israeli Arabs that reveals that 52% favor restricting Arabs' rights, mainly because they endanger national security.

- US police has canceled Netanyahu's speaking engagements in the San Francisco area because of security concerns.

- UNICEF states that since 28 Sept., 97 Palestinian children (47 in Gaza and 50 in the WB) have been killed in clashes with the Israeli army, and that of the 9,802 people injured during the same time 4,116 were children.

- 29 Israeli researchers ask Barak to admit to historical injustices faced by Arabs in Israel during the 1948 Nakba and ever since as a step to solving the present problems.

## **December:**

**Dec. 1:** On the first Friday of Ramadan, hundreds of citizens pray at the Israeli roadblock dividing Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

- The Israeli-imposed curfew on Palestinians in Hebron's Old City enters its third month.

**Dec. 2:** The Jordanian Parliament is discussing a memorandum calling for canceling the peace agreement with Israel.

- Christian leaders join Muslims in opposing religious burials for Arab IDF soldiers killed during military service. Archamendrite of the Greek Orthodox Church Hanna Atallah says no matter whether Muslim or Christian the soldier "is betraying his people and collaborating with the occupation army and therefore it is forbidden to pray for him either in a church or mosque."

**Dec. 3:** The Islamic movement in Israel calls on all Arab parties to unite for the Knesset's next elections, as this would serve the interests of the Palestinian people in establishing a state.

**Dec. 4:** A Peace Now study on the Oslo period shows that housing in settlements has grown 52.49% since Sept. 1993, and the settler population about 70%.

- A new Peace Now population map states that there are currently 700 Palestinian towns with approx. 3 million Palestinians, compared with 145 settlements inhabited by 195,000 settlers; some 6,500 of these live in 16 settlements in the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, some 50% of the settlers live in nine urban settlements.

**Dec. 5:** During a visit to Hebron, Member of European Parliament Lisa Morgentina says there will be no peace in the region without Israeli withdrawal and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

- In Amman, an Israeli diplomat is shot and slightly injured.

- In separate incidents, US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk and UN Middle East peace envoy Terje Larson warn of a regional war if the current situation continues.

**Dec. 6:** During UN Middle East peace envoy Terje Larsen's tour in Hebron, Israeli soldiers attack the Palestinian delegation accompanying him and arrests a few members. Larsen also demands an end to the Israeli closure, saying the first 8 weeks of the Intifada alone have destroyed three years worth of Palestinian economic accomplishments and that growing unemployment and poverty generates rage and aggression.

- Israel's most wanted Palestinian, Hamas member Mohammad Deif, escapes from a Palestinian jail.

**Dec. 7:** The last Palestinians from Canada RC in Sinai return to Tel As-Sultan near Rafah in south Gaza.

**Dec. 8:** Four Palestinian security forces and a civilian - Muhannad Mahmoud Abu Shazouf, 31, Ziad Mohammed Sbaih, 34, Mohammed Abdallah Yahya, 17, Ala Abdel Latif Abu Jaber, 17, and Mohammed Rateb Taleb, 21 - are assassinated by a cannon shot from an Israeli tank at their car in the Jenin area. Throughout the WBGS, clashes lead to the death of three additional Palestinians and the wounding of dozen others.

- An Amnesty International report condemns Israel's use of force, saying that at least 90 Palestinian children were killed during the recent clashes and hundreds more were mistreated.

**Dec. 9:** The Palestinian High Court of Justice rules to release Farouk Abu Hassan after six years of imprisonment without trial following his arrest in 1994 by the PA military intelligence.

**Dec. 10:** Former PM Benyamin Netanyahu announces his decision to stand for the post of PM.

- PM Barak submits his letter of resignation to Pres. Katsav.

- The Labor Party nominates Ehud Barak for the post of PM.

- Fateh activist Mahmoud Yousef Al-Mughrabi, 24, from Dheisheh RC is assassinated by Israeli forces.

**Dec. 11:** The international fact-finding commission on violence in the Palestinian territories, headed by Ex-Senator George Mitchell, meets separately with PM Barak and Pres. Arafat.

- Former PM Netanyahu announces that he will not run for the PM post if there will be no Knesset elections at the same time.

- Islamic Jihad activist Anwar Mahmoud Jubran, 28, from Arabbeh is assassinated by Israeli forces.

- Israeli forces assassinate Tanzim activist Yousef Ahmed Abu Swai, 28, in Al-Khader near Bethlehem while on his way home.

**Dec. 12:** The Mitchell fact-finding Commission meets with Pres. Mubarak of Egypt and King Abdullah of Jordan.

- PM Barak's resignation enters into effect.

**Dec. 12/13:** US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross meets with PA Chairman Arafat in Morocco in an attempt to resume the peace talks.

**Dec. 13:** In Hebron, Hamas activist Abbas Othman Al-Uyowi, 26, is assassinated by Israeli forces while walking on Wad At-Tuffah Street.

**Dec. 14:** Israeli forces assassinate Hamas activist Hani Abu Bakrah from Rafah while driving his mini-bus taxi near the Kitzofim settlement in Rafah.



**Dec. 17:** The corpse of Fateh activist Rashid Abul Hassan, 34, who disappeared four days earlier, is found near Nur Shams RC. At Qalandia RC Samih Al-Mala'ibi, 29, is killed when a bomb goes off in his car. Fateh blames Israel for both killings, saying they are part of Israel's series of assassinations of Fateh members.

- Bethlehem mayor Hanna Nasser announces the cancellation of this year's Christmas celebrations because of Israel's continuous attacks on the city and in mourning for the Palestinians who have died. Christmas will be limited to religious services.

- Lebanon's Pres. Lahoud declares that it will not naturalize the Palestinian refugees living on its soil, insisting that they must go back home.

**Dec. 18:** The Palestinian demand for a UN observer force in the WBGS is defeated in the UNSC when only 8 instead of the required 9 SC members vote in support of the resolution.

**Dec. 19:** The Knesset rejects with 69-49 the bill to dissolve itself and therefore Netanyahu will not run for PM.

- A new round of US-mediated talks between Israel and the Palestinians begin in Washington.

- Sharon is formally declared the Likud's candidate for PM.

- The UN Human Rights Commission appoints a three-member commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations in the WBGS, comprising American Professor of International Law Richard Falk, South African John Dugard, of Leiden University (Netherlands), and former Bangladesh PM Kamal Hussein. Israel announces it won't cooperate.

**Dec. 21:** Meretz votes 25-17 and 3 abstentions not to support Shimon Peres' bid for PM.

**Dec. 25:** Settlers protected by Israeli soldiers uproot 400 olive trees in the Wadi Marda area belonging to villagers from Jama'in.

**Dec. 27:** Israeli sources say that Israel accepted that within the framework of a final status agreement, all settlements that will be evacuated will be sold to the Palestinians, based on a plan prepared by the World Bank. The homes will then be inhabited by refugees especially those from Lebanon.

- A hand grenade explodes on a bus in Tel Aviv, injuring 14 people. A group calling itself ' Salah Eddin Brigades' claims responsibility.

- The Barak Govt. renews Netanyahu's designation of settlements as areas of highest national priority, giving them tax break, funds and may other incentives.

**Dec. 28:** The Israeli cabinet votes to accept the Clinton proposals as the basis for the renewal of negotiations, if the Palestinians also see them as such.

- Arafat and Mubarak meet in Cairo after the planned Sharm Esh-Sheikh summit is cancelled because PM Barak refused to participate in light of the Palestinians' response to Clinton's proposals.

**Dec. 29:** The weekly Palestinian leadership meeting, headed by Pres. Arafat says that the maps proposed by the US admin. are a copy of the Israeli suggestions at Camp David, which were rejected by the Palestinians.

- King Mohammed VII of Morocco meets with Shimon Peres to discuss the current situation and vows his country's support for the Palestinian people and its commitment to push the peace process forward.

- Yossi Sarid, head of Meretz Party, states on Israeli radio that Israel will have no choice but to give up sovereignty over Haram Ash-Sharif if the Palestinians give up the right of return of refugees.

- In Qalqilya, Israeli forces uproot some 120 citrus trees to make way for the expansion of Qaddumim settlement.

- A report by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights in Gaza shows that Israeli forces have bulldozed over 4,450 dunums of mostly agricultural land in Gaza in the past three months.

**Dec. 31:** Senior Fateh official Dr. Thabet Thabet is assassinated by Israeli undercover units while leaving his home in Ramin near Tulkarem.

- Binyamin Kahane, son of the slain anti-Arab Rabbi Meir Kahane and leader of Kahane Hai, is killed along with his wife when Palestinian gunmen ambushed their van near the West Bank settlement of Ofra.

- A booby-trapped car explodes in Netanya, wounding 54, one of whom - the believed perpetrator - later dies in hospital.

- Israeli parties sign an agreement on holding clean elections, not to violate any laws during the election campaign, to preserve the public calm and avoid any form of violence, or damage to property, the environment and public cleanliness.