

# Palestine Chronology

## 1994 - 1995

### 1994

**Jan. 1:** King Hussein of Jordan, in speech to army officers, sets deadline for PLO-Jordan economic agreement, calling it a "last chance". "After that, let each side carry the responsibility on its own."

**Jan. 7:** Jordan, PLO sign economic accord. Jordanian banks in the West Bank to reopen.

- Israel releases 101 Palestinian prisoners.

**Jan. 16:** Clinton and Assad meet in Geneva. Assad says Syria is prepared to normalize relations with Israel in exchange for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

**Jan. 29-30:** Peres, Arafat meet in Davos, reach agreement on control of border crossings, area of autonomy around Jericho and on roads in the Gaza Strip. The final agreement is signed in Cairo on 9.2.94.

- For the first time, leaders of the People's Party (ex-communists) are elected in direct, open elections, by 120 party representatives.

**Jan. 1994:** JMCC poll: 45,3% of Palestinians support DoP, 39,8% oppose it, 14,9% have no opinion.

**Feb. 3:** 12th round of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks opens in Washington. Multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security ends in Cairo.

- In Jerusalem, Palestinians and the US sign a memorandum of understanding on the transfer of \$7 mill for the construction of 192 housing units in Jabalya.

**Feb. 19:** New York Times reports Israeli government plans 15,000 new apartments in "Greater Jerusalem".

**Feb. 22:** 15 settler families, most from Ariel, sign petition for Knesset assistance to help them leave.

**Feb. 24, 1994:** Abu Dis village near Jerusalem witnesses large-scale 10-hour gun battle as the Israeli army ambushes 2 Palestinian activists killing one, injuring the other.

**Feb. 25:** Hebron Massacre: 29 Palestinian killed by US-born settler Baruch Goldstein who opens fire on Muslim worshippers at Haram al-Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron.

**March 13:** Israeli cabinet unanimously declares Kach and Kahane Chai movements "terrorist"; bans them under 1948 Prevention of Terrorism Act.

**March 18:** UN Security Council issues Resolution 904 condemning the Hebron Massacre.

**March 31:** Israel-PLO agreement on Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) is reached. 160 observers (35 Danish, 35 Italian, 90 Norwegian) armed with pistols 'for self-defense' to be deployed in Hebron for 3 months.

**April 6:** Car bomb explodes at bus stop in Afula, killing 8 Israelis and injuring 44. Hamas says it was in reprisal for the Hebron Massacre.

- Two Israeli were shot and killed and 4 others wounded when a Hamas activist attacked a bus stop near Ashdod.

**April 12:** Israeli-PLO agree on Palestinian police force (9,000: 2,000 from OPT and 7,000 from outside).

**April 13:** A bus-bomb in Hadera, kills 6, wounds 28 incl. 18 IDF soldiers. Hamas leaflet says it was the "second in a series of 5 attacks" on Israelis in revenge for the Massacre.

- Deadline for completion of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho passes.

**April 28:** Israel, Palestinians sign economic agreement in Paris.

**May 1:** Jordanian government decides to permit Palestinians free entry and exit, unlimited residency. Move comes after 6 years of tightened travel restrictions.

- First ever Israeli delegation arrives in Qatar to discuss arms control in the Middle East.

**May 3:** In Cairo, PLO announces the establishment of a Palestinian national airline.

**May 4:** Chairman Arafat and PM Rabin sign 186-page Gaza-Jericho self-rule accord (Cairo Agreement).

**May 8:** TIPH begin their 3-months mandate in Hebron.

**May 10:** 157 Palestinian police cross into Gaza Strip from Egypt at Rafah crossing.

**May 11:** Knesset approves Gaza-Jericho agreement by vote of 52-0.

- In a speech in a mosque in Johannesburg Arafat calls for a 'Jihad' to liberate Jerusalem; compares Gaza-Jericho Agreement to a temporary agreement made by the Prophet Mohammed with the tribe of

Kuraish. After Israel protests, Arafat says he had referred to a religious Jihad which has religious but no military significance.

**May 13:** PLA's Al-Aqsa Brigade takes up duties as Palestinian police in Jericho.

**May 24:** Arafat cancels the over 2,000 military orders imposed by Israeli authorities since the beginning of the occupation.

**May 27:** King Hussein, Rabin meet in London; agree to continue the peace talks between the two states in July in Aqaba and Eilat.

- Arafat confirms the draft of a Palestinian constitution which will be the basic law for the Palestinians in the interim period and the basis for the Palestinian state's constitution.

**May 28:** PA announces its political programme.

**June 4:** Bomb attack in Hebron and following clashes leave 38 Palestinians injured.

**June 9:** Donor meeting in Paris proposes budget for the Palestinian self-rule: \$42 million to cover current expenses (June-August).

**June 15:** Vatican and Israel establish first ever diplomatic relations.

**June 29:** 500 Palestinian prisoners are released, 4,200 (of the 5,000 Israel is ought to release) still in jail.

**July 1:** Arafat returns to homeland crossing Rafah border.

**July 5:** Arafat swears in PA ministers in Jericho.

**July 6:** Farid Jarbu, Palestinian detainee suspected of collaboration, dies after 10 days detention and interrogation by Gaza police.

**July 12:** Arafat returns to Gaza; sets up permanent residency.

**July 13:** DOP deadline for Palestinian elections passes.

**July 17:** 3 Palestinians killed, do-zens injured during clashes at Erez between IDF and Gaza workers.

-JMCC poll: 57.8% of Palestinians welcome Cairo Agreement, 37.8% don't, 4.4% no answer/opinion.

**July 25:** Jordan, Israel sign ("Washington Declaration").

- PA announces the establishment of a City Council in Gaza.

**July 29:** Arafat gives verbal order that An-Nahar daily and Akhbar al-Balad weekly papers are no longer allowed to distribute in OPT.

**Aug. 8:** TIPH leaves Hebron after 3-months mandate.

- Rabin and Crown Prince Hassan open new border crossing at Arava.

**Aug. 18:** Yeshayahu Leibowitz, Israeli critic of the occupation, dies.

**Aug. 28:** PM Rabin prevents Pakistani ambassador to Tunis, T.K. Khan from entering Gaza to arrange a visit to the new established PA by PM Benazir Bhutto.

**Aug. 29:** Israel, PA sign Early Empowerment Agreement on the transfer of 5 civilian authorities (education, health, social affairs, tourism and taxation). Education authorities are transferred to the PA.

**Sept.1:** Morocco and Israel announce opening of liaison offices in Rabat and Tel Aviv.

**Sept. 5:** An-Nahar resumes publishing.

**Sept. 8:** Donor conference for Palestinian self-rule opens in Paris.

**Sept. 13:** Arafat, under financial pressure, drops his insistence that some of the donors should fund Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem and agrees that neither Israelis nor Palestinians "shall bring before the donor community those political issues that are of disagreement between them."

**Sept. 26:** Israeli Housing Min. Ben-Eliezer announces the defreezing of land for the construction of 1000 new apartments in the Alfei Menashe settlement.

**Sept. 27:** Jordan surrenders Waqf and Religious Courts in the West Bank, but excludes East Jerusalem.

**Sept. 30:** Gulf Cooperation Council officially ends economic boycott of Israel.

**Oct.9:** Hamas activists abduct Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsmann from inside Israel, demand the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for his safe return. The incident leads to the suspension of the peace negotiations in Cairo and the indefinite closure of the Gaza Strip where the PA reacts by launching a large-scale search arresting hundreds of Hamas supporters.

**Oct. 14:** During an Israeli attempt to free the Wachsmann by storming the hiding place, 3 Hamas members, Wachsmann and an Israeli soldier are killed.

**Oct. 19:** Bus bombing on Dizengoff Street, Tel Aviv, leaves over 20 people dead and many wounded. Hamas claims responsibility.

**Oct. 25:** The Vatican announces it will establish permanent official (but not yet diplomatic) relations with

the PLO.

**Oct. 25-27:** Pres. Clinton visits Israel; total closure imposed on the OPT. OPT observe a general strike.

**Oct. 26:** Peace treaty between Israel and Jordan signed.

**Oct. 30:** Beginning of the Casablanca Economic Conference.

**Oct. 31:** PA takes up position at Rafah border crossing.

**Nov. 1:** PA takes up position at Allenby Bridge border.

**Nov. 2:** Journalist and Co-editor of Al-Istiqlal, Hani Abed, is killed as his booby trapped car blows up in Khan Yunis; bomb allegedly implemented by Israelis.

**Nov. 4:** Turkish PM Tancu Cillar's visit to Orient House causes tension as Palestinian guards prevent Israeli security from entering.

**Nov. 7:** Ibrahim Mosque reopens after being closed more than 8 months following the massacre committed by settler Goldstein in Feb. New measures taken according to the Shamgar Commission divide the mosque physically and impose tough security arrangements at the entrances which causes massive Palestinians protest.

**Nov. 9:** Three-day economic conference for the forming of a Palestinian development strategy and economic cooperation begins in Gaza.

**Nov. 10:** King Hussein pays his first official visit to Israel.

.Begin Index.**Nov. 11:** Suicide bomb attack on Nezarim settlement checkpoint/Gaza, by a Palestinian Islamist on his motorbike leaves 3 Israeli soldiers dead and 12 more injured.

- In a large-scale round-up the PA arrests more than 140 people suspected of supporting the Islamic Jihad.

- Jordan and Israel ratify their separate peace treaty.

**Nov. 13:** Social Affairs Authority is transferred to the PA.

**Nov. 15:** Authority for tourism is transferred to the PA.

- Ibrahim mosque reopens permanently after the new measures have been reviewed.

**Nov. 16:** PLO Executive Committee holds first ever meeting on Palestinian territory, but with only 8 out of 18 members participating.

**Nov. 18:** Wide spread clashes incl. gunfire break out between Palestinian police and Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters in Gaza City, leaving 13 dead and over 200 injured.

**Nov. 20:** Arafat and Hamas announce a temporary truce and an investigation of the 18 Nov. events.

**Nov. 21:** IDF demolishes the house of Tel Aviv suicide bomber Saleh Soury in Qalqiliya.

**Nov. 25:** Fatah, DFLP, PFLP, Fida and PPP sign non-aggression pact in Gaza.

- Jerusalem military court sentences to death Said Badarneh from Yabid near Jenin, for planning the suicide bombing in Hadera. It is not certain if the sentence will be carried out.

**Nov. 29:** Israeli authorities seal the houses of the families of those involved in the abducting of Israeli soldier Wachsmann.

**Dec. 1:** Health and tax authorities are transferred to the PA.

**Dec. 5:** The Israeli army hands over a report to Rabin stating that redeployment of the army in the West Bank - in the course of Palestinian elections - is too risky.

**Dec. 10:** Arafat, Rabin and Shamir are awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace 1994 in Oslo.

**Dec. 11:** Israeli and Jordanian embassies are opened in each other's capitals.

**Dec. 12:** PA, factions (Fatah, PFLP, DFLP, PPP, Hamas, Fida, Popular Struggle Front) reach agreement in Jericho, guaranteeing their right to demonstrate, celebrate, express opinions, and obliges each to uphold public order.

**Dec. 13:** In Casablanca, Morocco, the Islamic Conference Organization opens its two-day summit which is attended by Arafat.

**Dec. 15:** Hikmat al-Masri, leading Palestinian figure, dies in Nablus.

**Dec. 22:** Israeli settlers and soldiers bulldoze Al-Khader land to expand nearby Efrat settlement on 500 dunums, causing widespread protests.

**Dec. 25:** Hamas activist Ayman K. Radi from Gaza blows himself up in an attempt to board a bus carrying Israeli Air Force personnel in Jerusalem. 13 Israelis are injured.

**Dec. 27:** Knesset passes a law prohibiting any official Palestinian activities in East Jerusalem and forbidding any foreign official body to hold meetings or to take actions without prior sanctioning by Israel. Law violates the DoP, aims primarily at outlawing Orient House.

- Hatem Husseini, President of Al-Quds University dies in East Jerusalem at the age of 53.

- Israel sends 500 soldiers to disperse demonstrators who protest settlement expansion plans. Dozens of

protestors are arrested and injured.

**Dec.:** Intizar al-Wazir announces unemployment rate at 58% in the Gaza and 32% in the West Bank.

- Palestinian figures from various political backgrounds meet in Amman, found the *Palestinian Democratic Party*. Among them, Haidar Abdul Shafi, Hani Al-Hassan, Taysir Khaled and Shafiq Al-Hoot.

- Palestine is declared member of the International Olympic Committee, securing a place in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

- Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, Arab novelist, critic and translator, born in Bethlehem in 1920 and educated in Jerusalem, dies in Baghdad.

## 1995

**Jan. 1:** The first letter with a Palestinian stamp is sent from Gaza - by Arafat to the PLO office in Sweden.

**Jan. 2:** Israeli soldiers kill 3 Palestinian policemen in Gaza.

**Jan. 4:** Israeli undercover units kill 4 Palestinians in Beit Liqia.

- Gun battle between Palestinian police and Israeli soldiers at Erez checkpoint.

**Jan. 15:** Missile attack on a settlement in Hebron city.

**Jan. 16:** The Palestinian anti-settlement committee calls for a national anti-settlement day and protest marches in El-Bireh, Nablus, Hebron.

- Israeli Housing Ministry report announces plans to increase settlement in the OPT by 77% during 1995 in relation to 1994.

**Jan. 17:** The Civil Administration forces 30 families from their homes in the Yatta area, Hebron, under the pretext that the land is needed for military purposes. The property and belongings of the 200 people are burnt on site.

**Jan. 19:** Arafat, Rabin, Peres meet at Erez checkpoint to discuss issues of contention between the PA and Israel, mainly settlement activity.

**Jan. 22:** A double suicide bomb attack carried out in Beit Lid near Netanya by Islamic Jihad activists leaves 21 Israelis dead and tens injured.

- Israeli gov't decides to allow settlement expansion in the OPT including Jerusalem.

**Jan. 23:** Rabin raises the slogan of 'total separation' between the two peoples as solution to the problem of terrorist attacks against Israel.

**Jan. 25:** The Israeli ministerial committee for settlement affairs announces thousands of new housing units in settlements in the Jordan Valley and within "Greater Jerusalem" (Ma'ale Adumim: 1800, Betar: 900, Givat Ze'ev: 800).

**Jan. 26:** Palestine, Jordan sign a General Cooperation & Coordination Agreement in Amman, covering political, economic and cultural relations between both sides, including trade, currency, communications, media and administration.

**Jan. 28:** Settlers of Ma'ale Amos (Bethlehem) shoot at a group of Palestinian and Israeli demonstrators who show their solidarity with residents of nearby Kissan and Arab al-Rashaideh villages whose land the settlers attempted to confiscate.

**Jan. 30:** As follow up to the newly raised separation idea, Rabin charges the Police and Treasury Min. to come up with a long-term plan for the establishment of a guarded borderline between Israel and West Bank/Gaza Strip.

- Israel begins process of returning Jordanian land it occupied in 1967, in line with the peace agreement.

**Jan. 31:** The PA-appointed Mufti of Jerusalem declares the beginning of Ramadan. Thus, for the first time in modern history, the Palestinians announce their own Ramadan, not following Jordan or Egypt anymore.

**Jan.:** US Pres. Clinton classifies after the Beit Lid bombing 12 organizations and 18 people as "terrorists", orders the freeze all their US assets. Among them are Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP, and the Jewish extremist groups Kach and Kahane Mei.

- Settlers are given permission by the Israeli army to run patrols outside their settlement boundaries.

**Feb. 2:** Cairo summit: Arafat, King Hussein, Rabin and Mubarak meet to discuss the peace process and to restart the stalled negotiations. They issue a joint statement reaffirming their support for the peace process and condemning bloodshed and terror in the region.

**Feb. 6:** As of today, mail can be sent/received direct to/from Jordan.

**Feb. 7:** In Cairo, negotiations on Israeli redeployment and Palestinian elections begin but with no progress;

- In Gaza, an Israeli security guard accompanying a gasoline truck is killed; DFLP claims responsibility. The PA reacts with the arrest of some hundred DFLP activists.
- Arafat creates by presidential decree a military court for "state security" - praised by the Israelis but strongly condemned by Palestinian human rights groups.

**Feb. 7/8:** Trade ministers of the PA, USA, Jordan, Egypt and Israel meet in Taba, follow up the Casablanca Conference, discuss borders, finance, investment, trade & cooperation.

**Feb. 9:** Rabin-Arafat talks at Erez end without progress as Israel links all issues with security: settlements, prisoners, Palestinian election/Israeli withdrawal, lifting the closure.

- EU Troika (FMs from Spain, France, Germany), visits Orient House and Arafat (Gaza) to discuss the peace process and economic aid.
- Rabin appoints two committees to study the possibility of a total separation of the Palestinian and Israeli populations.

- Israel completes its evacuation of Jordanian territory.

**Feb. 11:** Jericho Municipal Council (with the exception of the president), appointed by the PA in Aug. 1994, including all Palestinian factions, resigns, because of the president's autocratic decision-making, inefficiency, corruption, and delays in implementing decisions.

**Feb. 15:** PA arrests and interrogates human rights activist Raji Sourani (Gaza Center for Rights and Law) in response to the Center's 7 Feb. statement criticizing Arafat's decree creating a Higher Court of State Security, calling it undemocratic and the beginning of the militarization of Palestinian society.

- Palestine, South Africa establish full diplomatic ties (ambassadorial).

**Feb. 16:** 100s of settlers from Kiryat Arba and Kach group members celebrate the Hebron massacre's anniversary and praise Baruch Goldstein. IDF does not stop them although Kach is outlawed.

**Feb. 17:** Raji Sourani arrested by the PA for the 2nd time, warned to stop criticizing Arafat.

**Feb. 21:** Former Nablus mayor Bassam Shaka'a announces establishment of a Oslo-opposing "Palestinian National Group".

**Feb. 22:** PLO Executive Committee, chaired by Arafat, meets in Cairo to discuss the peace negotiations. The 9 participants (out of 18 members) launch a campaign to publicize Israeli obstacles to the peace process.

- Israel's Labour Union says number of foreign workers replacing Palestinians in Israel has reached 70,695.

**Feb. 26:** Arafat bans Gaza-based Al-Assed magazine for allegedly publishing anti-Jordanian comments.

**Feb. 28:** UN Sec. Council discusses Israeli settlement expansion but refuses to table a resolution condemning Israel, as US threatens to veto.

- Rabin government wins no-confidence motion filed Febr. 20th by vote of 59 to 48.

**Feb. 1995:** Human Rights Watch - Middle East report on human rights violations in the PA self-rule areas says PA "has not demonstrated a commitment to installing the rule of law" in Gaza and Jericho and "is responsible for a series of arbitrary and repressive measures" such as arrests, searches, censorship, denial of freedom of expression, assembly and association.

**March 2:** Eid al-Fitr begins. Feast is overshadowed by the deteriorating economic situation due to the ongoing closure.

**March 7:** The FMs of Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and PA Planning Min. Nabil Shaath meet in Amman to discuss for the first time since the DoP the issue of Palestinian refugees.

**March 10:** Arafat-Peres meeting at Erez ends with the announcement of the "July 1st-deadline".

**March 12-14:** British PM John Major meets Arafat in Gaza and Palestinians in Jerusalem to discuss the peace process.

**March 17/18:** Fatah's Central Committee meets in Tunis to discuss the peace process and negotiations.

**March 19:** PLO Executive Committee meets in Tunis with less than the required participants (only 11 out of 18) and reaffirms its commitment to the peace process.

**March 20:** An attack by Palestinian assailants on a Bus carrying settlers to Kiryat Arba leaves two Israeli dead and several others wounded. In retaliation, Jewish settlers kill an Arab by-stander, rampage through Hebron after the IDF has imposed a punitive 4-day and subsequent night curfew (6 p.m.-5 a.m.).

- After 3-month interruption, Syrian-Israeli talks resume in Washington.
- Israel bars the entry of all Gaza vehicles after discovery of a truck allegedly carrying explosives.
- March 21:** Rabin reiterates the se-paration plan through a fence manned by IDF and dogs.
- March 24:** Arafat visits Jericho for the second time since his return; meets with local figures and US Vice-President Al Gore.
- March 29:** IDF kills Mufid M. Hajjaj as he got out of his truck after a collision with an Israeli jeep.
- Israel formally returns 400 ha of land to Jordan's jurisdiction.
- PA Interior Min. starts issuing Palestinian passports.
- April 1:** Raji Sourani, director of the Gaza Center for Rights & Law, dismissed by the center's board of trustees for criticizing the PA.
- April 2:** A bomb blast in an apartment building in Gaza's Sheikh Radwan neighborhood, allegedly used as a munition factory by Izz-Eddin al-Qassem, kills 5 Palestinians and injures dozens more.
  
- April 9:** Two suicide bomb attacks in the Gaza Strip leave 7 Israelis and an US Jew dead and many injured. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for the Kfar Darom attack, where an activist crashed his booby-trapped van into an Egged bus carrying soldiers and settlers, while Hamas claims responsibility for the Netzarim attack where a car ran into an Israeli military and settlers convoy. The PA reacts by arresting more than 150 activists.
- April 10:** State Security Courts begin operating in Gaza. First case is Islamic Jihad activist Samir Ali Jedi, sentenced to 15 years for incitement against security and testing minors' ability as suicide bombers.
- April 11:** State Security Court sentences Islamic Jihad activist Omar Shalah to 25 years for training suicide bombers.
- April 12:** IDF raids Birzeit area, arrests 9 students with no valid permits to study in the West Bank.
- April 13:** Arafat orders closure of al-Hayat al-Jadida newspaper in Gaza for publishing anti-PA articles.
- April 14:** PLO, Hamas meet, discuss ways of ending attacks on Israel from inside the self-rule areas.
- April 16:** PA representatives meet with Hamas, Islamic Jihad leaders to discuss points of disagreement and to calm the situation in Gaza.
- New group "Palestine National Democratic Coalition" led by Firuz Yari announces its break-away from PFLP, in Gaza.
- 3 suspected Izz-Eddin al-Qassem members are killed when Israeli undercover units riddle their car with bullets near Hebron.
- April 17:** On Prisoner's Day, still 6.000 Palestinians remain in Israeli prisons and detention centers.
- Rabin's offer to consider a Palestinian state in Gaza if Palestinians leave the West Bank for the time being alone is strongly rejected.
- April 21:** The first group of pilgrims carrying Palestinian passports leave Gaza for the *haj* to Saudi Arabia.
- April 24:** Abed Samad Hreizat from Yatta dies in Hadassah Hospital following beatings by Israeli security. (Third Palestinian to die in Israeli detention in 1995, and 35th since the beginning of the Intifada).
- April 26:** PFLP member sentenced (to 1 year imprisonment) by PA Military Courts in Gaza.
- April 27:** Yussef Nasr from Issawiye is killed at an Israeli checkpoint when entering Jerusalem.
- May 2:** PA Military Courts sentence to death by firing squad Palestinian police officer Taher Fares for killing his colleague, an alleged collaborator, in Gaza, April 29.
- May 3:** Palestinian "special" Military Courts sentence dozens of Islamic militants to jails, in trials closed to the public.
- UK and France condemn Israel for expropriating 134 acres in J'lem.
- May 7:** Israeli authorities lift night curfew on Hebron after 50 days.
- May 10:** US Congress majority leaders Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich introduce bills calling for moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem.
  
- May 11:** Arafat orders the arrest of over 250 Islamic militants and the confiscation/ registration of all arms in private hands.
- May 12-15:** UN Security Council hold special session on recent land confiscations in Jerusalem.
  
- May 14:** The PA state security court orders the Gaza-based, Hamas-affiliated paper *al-Watan* to close (allowed to reopen June 19th).
- May 17:** US veto (its 30th in favor of Israel) prevents the adoption of a UNSC resolution condemning

Israel's confiscation of land in Jerusalem. The 14 other states voted to approve the resolution.

**May 19:** At an extraordinary session of Jordan's parliament, all 29 speakers call for a freeze of the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement.

- Israeli military starts expropriating large tracts of West Bank land in order to build by-pass and security roads (approx. 130 km) for settlers after Israeli redeployment.

**May 23:** Hadash and the Arab Democratic Party declare that they will boycott the next Histadrut executive meeting as it is held on Israel's "Jerusalem Day".

- 4 Arab and 1 Jewish-Communist party table non-confidence motion against the government in protest of the land confiscation in Jerusalem. As Likud says it will vote with them for the downfall of the government, Rabin orders to halt the seizure.

**May 26:** PA and the Egyptian-Palestinian Contractors Company sign agreement on building the first Palestinian Airport.

**May 27:** Arafat and Peres meet in Morocco, pledge to reach an agreement on the implementation of the 2nd stage of the DoP before July 1.

**May 31:** 70 Palestinian families living in Canada Camp on the Egyptian side of the border with Gaza, are allowed to return to Gaza.

**May 1995:** Fatah wins a majority of 21 seats at elections to the students' council of Bir Zeit, followed by the Islamic coalition (18 seats). At Al-Quds Technology College, the Islamists obtain 67.5%, Fatah 31.8%. At Bethlehem University, a Fatah-PPP coalition wins.

**June 1:** Israeli Military Court cancels the death sentence of Hamas member Sa'id Bardarneh for assisting in the Afula-suicide bombing, (Nov. 1994) as the trial was conducted incorrectly.

**June 2:** IDF fire with anti-tank missiles at a house in Hebron killing Hamas activist Hamed Yaghmour who was hiding in it.

**June 4:** In Tunis, the PLO Executive Committee gives Arafat a mandate to continue negotiations for Israeli redeployment in the West Bank.

**June 5:** Israel's Likud party splits with the departure of its senior Mitzrahi figure David Levy.

**June 6:** In Cairo, Israel and the PA reach an agreement on the transfer of all spheres of authority to the PA as soon as possible.

- Palestinian TV broadcasts for the first time in the OPT from 9-11p.m.

**June 7:** Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the PA attend the first working session on Palestinians displaced in 1967 in Beer Seba.

- German Chancellor Kohl meets Arafat in Jericho, discusses peace process and financial support for projects in the autonomous areas.

**June 8:** Haidar Abdul Shafi launches a new political front in Gaza, promoting Palestinian democracy, and supporting the PLO while highly critical of the autonomy.

**June 12:** Settlers occupy 13 empty flats in Borkan settlement (West Bank); Israeli army do not interfere.

- Peace Now proposes a compensation plan for Jewish settlers if they leave the OPT, calls for immediate dismantlement of 26 settlements located near/in Palestinian centers.

**June 14:** IDF kill 3 Palestinians - an ex-PLO *Force 17* fighter trying to cross into the Gaza Strip, and 2 waiting for him - at Rafah near the Egyptian border.

- French Foreign Ministry recognises the validity of Palestinian passports issued by the PA.

**June 15:** As Palestinian police try to arrest Iz al-Din al-Qassem activist Bassam Issa in Gaza, gunfight break out, involving neighbours; Issa is shot and hospitalised.

- Israeli soldiers shoot and kill three Palestinians who tried to leave the Gaza Strip across the wire fence which separates it from Israel.

**June 18:** Palestinian prisoners begin an open-end hunger strike protesting deteriorating prison conditions and demanding release.

- Likud leader David Levy announces his resignation from the Likud; forms a new party promoting the interests of Oriental Jews.

**June 21:** Arafat joins for 24 hours the prisoner's hunger strike.

**June 22:** Israeli undercover unit shoot and kill Islamic Jihad leader Mahmoud al-Khawaja in his home in Gaza's Shati Camp.

- Rabin reveals that the building of by-pass roads for settlers in the West Bank will cost the Israeli tax-

payer \$250,000 per settler family.

**June 23:** OPT observe a general strike in solidarity with prisoners.

**June 25:** A Palestinian activist is killed when his booby-trapped cart explodes in front of an army base near Khan Younis. Palestinian police arrest 50 Hamas activists.

- Two Palestinians protesters are killed - a third dies a day later of his wounds - when IDF fire at participants of a march in solidarity with prisoners, in Nablus.

**June 27:** Jewish settlers start a campaign of land-grabbing throughout the West Bank in protest of their government's decision to get into the 2nd stage of the peace accords.

**June 29:** IDF kill "wanted" Hamas activists Taher Kafisha at Ras al-Jura (Hebron); demolish 2 houses, uproot groves and vineyards nearby.

- Israeli negotiators offer army withdrawal from towns in the north of the West Bank; Palestinians refuse a staged withdrawal.

**June 1995:** Israel begins to introduce magnetic cards bearing information on the holder to Palestinian laborers from the West Bank. The cards have to be carried besides entry permits to Israel or Jerusalem.

- For the first time, *Tawjihi* (general high school examination) takes place simultaneously in the West Bank and Gaza and exams are being corrected by Palestinian teachers.

- Settlers build secret roads connecting settlements in the West Bank, with donations from US Jews.

**July 1:** July-1st target-date passes without a PA-Israel agreement on extending autonomy to the West Bank. The new date is 25 July.

**July 13:** Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas) arrives in Gaza to take up permanent residence.

**July 19:** Following the killing of two Israelis in Wadi Qilt - claimed by PFLP- settlers launch a campaign of attacks against Palestinians in the territories, hurling stones at Arab cars, attacking residents, and vandalizing properties.

**July 21:** In protest to the Israeli plans to partially redeploy from the West Bank, settlers close off roads, burn tires, stone Palestinian cars, vandalise their property and chant anti-Oslo slogans. IDF does not intervene except to disperse Palestinian counter-protestors.

**July 24:** 6 Israelis are killed and dozens wounded by a suicide bomber on a Ramat Gan bus.

- Yasser Arafat's wife Suha delivers their first child in Paris: Zawha.

**July 25:** The new PA press law comes to effect.

- The deadline for the expansion of Palestinian autonomy to the West Bank passes without an agreement.

- In the US, Islamic Hamas leader and US citizen Musa Abu Marzouk is detained on the pretext that Israel has charged him with conspiracies to commit crimes of murder.

**July 26:** In a French-Palestinian summit in Paris, Arafat discusses with Pres. Chirac and PM Alain Juppe the peace process.

**July 31:** IDF evict some 1,500 Efrat settlers from their tents on Im Hmedeen hill near al-Khader.

**July 1995:** In protest to redeployment plans, Israeli Rabbis issue a *halachic* (religious) ruling prohibiting soldiers to redeploy as an contravention to a (Torah) commandment and risk to lives and the state.

- Throughout the month, Israeli settlers demonstrate daily in front of the Orient House.

**Aug. 4:** The PA closes Gazan oppositional papers Al-Watan and Al-Istiqlal until further notice, charging them with printing anti-PA material.

**Aug. 13:** A settler shoots and kills Kheir al-Queisi from Ramallah during a demonstration to protest settlers' land-grabbing attempts.

**Aug. 18:** Clashes between Hamas supporters and PA police break out in Gaza, when police surround a house in which suspected suicide bomber Wael Nassar is hiding. During the exchange of fire and as the police try to disperse the crowd gathering at the site, 4 policemen and 5 civilians are injured.

**Aug. 19:** PA Preventive Security order the Jerusalem daily *Al-Quds* to close, ostensibly for publishing objectionable material critical of the PA's performance. Though lasting only for one day, the closure is considered the most serious attack on the freedom of press so far.

- In Nablus, 3 masked men attempt to assassinate Prof. Abdel Sattar Al-Kassem, lecturer of political science at An-Najah who is an outspoken critic of the Oslo Accords.

**Aug. 21:** Suicide bus bomb attack in Ramat Eshkol leaves 4 Israeli and the bomber dead and more than 50 wounded. Hamas takes responsibility; Israel imposes a total closure on the OPT suspends the peace



talks (for one day).

- Israel seals off Jericho demanding that the PA hand over Abdul Majid Dudin and Rashed al-Khatib, accused of organising anti-Israeli attacks.

**Aug. 23:** Settlers attack Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti when he leaves his office and destroy his car.

**Aug. 24:** The PA in Jericho arrests Dudin and al-Khatib and sentences them to 12 and 7 years for harming Palestinian interests; the military trial is the first of its kind in Jericho.

**Aug. 25:** Israeli undercover kill wanted Hamas activists Nader Shehadeh & Ibrahim Qawasmi, in Hebron - In Gaza, the creation of the "Palestinian Islamic Front", headed by Sheikh Saleh Abdel-Al announced.

**Aug. 27:** In Cairo PA and Israel sign an agreement concerning the transfer of 8 civilian authorities (agriculture, trade, industry, labour, municipal affairs, postal services, fuel, statistics/census) from the Israeli military government to the PA. The authorities will be formally transferred on Sept. 10. The transfer of 40 other civil authorities is still pending.

**Aug. 28:** Taufiq Sbeih Sawarqa, accused of selling weapons to Hamas, dies during interrogation by Palestinian police.

**Aug. 1995:** An Israeli ministerial committee decides to extent the permission the GSS to use "special measures", including violent shaking, in the interrogation of Hamas and Islamic Jihad members.

**Sept. 3:** Israeli TV reports that right-wing extremists and settlers are planning to set up an armed militia in order to face the IDF should it try to remove settlements.

- Israeli Housing Min. Ben-Eliezer states that the only way to avoid bloodshed in Hebron is to remove the settlers from the city.

- An Israeli plane sprays chemicals on 2,700 olive trees in Ramallah area, damaging most of them.

**Sept. 7:** Abbas Zaki, one of the architects of the Oslo accords, returns home after 28 years of exile.

**Sept. 8:** Salman Azamareh is shot and killed by masked men near his home in Halhul. Radical settler groups, 'Eyal' and 'David's Sword' claim responsibility.

**Sept. 10:** Fatah leader Abu Ali Shaheen returns to Palestine after more than 10 years of exile.

- Abdul Fatah Rantisi from Gaza, sentenced to life in 1993 for killing a collaborator, is killed by collaborators in his cell in Askalan prison. 41th death in detention since the beginning of the Intifada.

**Sept. 11:** Poet Mahmoud Darwish arrives in Palestine after living in exile since 1971.

**Sept. 12:** Jericho State Security Court sentences Yusef and Ahmad Ra'i to 7 years imprisonment with hard labor for involvement in the killing of 2 Israelis in Wadi Qilt. Israel demands their extradition.

**Sept. 13:** Jewish settlers attack Qurtuba Girls' Elementary School in Hebron for the fifth day demanding the removal of the Palestinian flag. Israeli army disperse parents and residents with teargas and rubber bullets. Over 25 pupils and some 20 toddlers from a nearby kindergarten have to be hospitalised.

- 4th meeting of the four-way Committee on Refugees ends in Amman without progress.

**Sept.18:** Jenin Municipality handed to the PA after 28 years occupation.

**Sept. 20:** On the occasion of the Jewish holiday period (New Year, Yom Kippur, Sukkot), Israel closes off the Gaza Strip, cancels all permits (consecutive expanded for over three weeks).

- Israeli army arrest Aysha Ayyash, mother of wanted Yahya Ayyash ("Engineer"- believed to be behind the suicide bombings) detain her at al-Moskobiya Prison in Jerusalem.

**Sept. 27:** Due to Jewish holidays, Israel closes off the West Bank, cancels all permits (consecutive expanded for more than two weeks).

**Sept. 28:** In Washington, the PLO and Israel sign the "Oslo 2" Agreement on the second stage of Palestinian autonomy.

**Sept. 29:** Azzam Abdel Rahim dies in PA custody in Jericho. 5th death in PA detention since May 1994.

**Oct. 1:** National and Islamic forces in Nablus sign a "Honour Charter" calling for peaceful interaction.

**Oct. 7:** Mohammed Abu Shaqra dies as a result of torture while in Israeli detention at Ansar 3 prison.

- Peres-Arafat meet at Erez; the Israelis present redeployment maps that vary from those agreed on in the Taba accords, causing a crisis.

- JMCC poll on Taba Accords: 23.7% strongly support, 14,9% cautiously support, 16.4% oppose.

**Oct. 10:** Israel releases 600 political and 220 civil prisoners.

- Salfit is first West Bank town to be evacuated by the Israeli army and handed over to the PA.

**Oct. 11:** The Israeli army evacuates Qabatiya, Kharbatha and Yatta.

**Oct. 24:** Israeli bulldozers destroy six houses (built before 1967!) in Jiftlik, Nablus for being built without

permit, 50 people homeless.

**Oct. 26:** Islamic Jihad leader Dr. Fathi Shikaki assassinated in Malta.

**Oct. 29:** Israel imposes a strict closure on Jenin, denying entry to any non-resident.

- Islamic Jihad releases a communique on the assassination of its leader Fathi Shikaki, calling all Zionists "target of our attacks" and declaring Dr. Ramadan Abdullah Shalah new head of the movement.

**Oct. 1995:** Palestinian women prisoners boycott their release as Israel refuses to release all of them in line with the Taba accords.

**Nov. 2:** 2 Islamic Jihad activists are killed in attempts to blow up 2 buses near Gush Katif settlement; 11 Israelis are injured.

**Nov. 4:** Law student Yigal Amin assassinates Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin at a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

**Nov. 6:** Representatives and heads of states from all over the world, incl., for the first time, King Hussein and Pres. Mubarak, attend the Rabin's funeral in Jerusalem.

**Nov. 8:** The PA take charge of the postal services in the West Bank.

**Nov. 13:** The PA take over Jenin, deploy forces in surrounding villages/towns: Burqin, Kfur Rai', Maithalam, Jalqamus, Yamun, Tamoun.

**Nov. 15:** DFLP announces their boycott of the coming elections.

**Nov. 16:** Hamas announce their intention to boycott the elections.

**Nov. 18:** Departments for transport, licensing, weather, passports, population registry, employment, land registration transferred to the PA.

**Nov. 19:** Arafat flies to Jenin on a historic visit to the first freed West Bank city.

- Palestinian forces enter Tulkarem.

- Hamas leaflet calls for boycotting the upcoming elections as they only serve Israeli interests.

**Nov. 22:** Knesset approves PM Peres' Cabinet by a vote of 68 against 8 with 38 abstaining.

**Nov. 28:** Postal services exchange between PA and Arab states begins.

**Nov. 29:** PNC convenes for first time since 1964 in OPT at Al Bireh Municipality, 42 members attend.

**Nov. 30:** The Israeli Military Attorney General for the Occupied Territories prohibits the Muslim Brotherhood to form an organisation.

**Dec. 3:** Palestinian police arrives in the Bethlehem area.

**Dec. 9:** Hamas formally declares its boycott of the upcoming elections.

**Dec. 11:** IDF pulls out of Nablus a day earlier than scheduled.

- Palestinian forces arrive in the Ramallah area.

- Samiha Khalil announces her candidacy for presidency.

**Dec. 15:** Arafat visits Nablus, declares the city liberated and heads for the first time the weekly PA meeting in the town.

**Dec. 17:** 450 Palestinian police enter liberated Qalqilya.

**Dec. 18:** PA-Hamas talks on participation in the coming elections and on halt of military actions against Israel begin in Cairo.

**Dec. 21:** Israel evacuates Bethlehem, Palestinian police enter.

**Dec. 22:** Last day for nominations of candidates to the Council.

**Dec. 26:** Israeli army pulls out from 5 villages near Hebron: Dura, Yat-ta, Bani Naim, Thahariyeh, Nuba.

**Dec. 27:** IDF leaves Ramallah.

**Dec. 30:** Arafat visits Ramallah, declares the city and neighbouring Al Bireh liberated.

**Dec. 31:** Arafat visits Tulkarem.