

PCHR

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

<http://www.pchrgaza.org>

Weekly Report: On Israeli Human Rights
Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

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24- 31 Dec. 2008

In the Bloodiest Week since the Beginning of the Israeli Occupation, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) Launch a Wide Scale Offensive on the Gaza Strip Killing and Wounding Hundreds of Palestinians

IOF Offensive on the Gaza Strip

- **At least 300 air and sea raids have been launched by IOF on the Gaza Strip.**
- **334 Palestinians have been killed.**
- **The victims include 121 civilians and 165 civil police officers.**
- **The civilian victims include 33 children and 11 women.**
- **The children include 5 sisters and 3 brothers who were killed while sleeping at home, and 2 sisters and their brothers who were near their houses.**
- **The victims include: 3 brothers; 2 physicians; a paramedic; a lawyer; a preacher; a man and his two children; 9 students of an UNRWA vocational training center; and an UNRWA school guard.**
- **996 Palestinians, including 218 children and 113 women, have been wounded (this is only the number of the wounded who have been listed on the records of hospitals).**
- **37 houses have been destroyed and hundreds of houses and flats have been damaged.**
- **7 mosques have been destroyed.**
- **20 smith workshops have been destroyed.**
- **4 money exchange shops and a clinic have been destroyed.**

- **3 fishing harbors have been destroyed.**
- **67 security sites and training sites of resistance groups have been destroyed.**
- **25 buildings of public buildings have been destroyed, including those of ministries, governorates, municipalities, the Palestinian Legislative Council, and 3 educational institutions.**
- **A state of compulsory mass displacement of civilians has prevailed in border areas as a result of continuous air strikes.**

Daily Violations of Human Rights

4 Palestinians, including a child, were killed by IOF in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

A child died from a previous wound in Rafah.

25 Palestinian civilians, including 6 children and a journalist, were wounded by IOF in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

21 of these civilians were wounded when IOF used force to disperse demonstrations organized in protest to the IOF offensive on the Gaza Strip.

IOF conducted 40 incursions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank.

IOF arrested 39 Palestinian civilians, including 9 children, in the West Bank.

IOF have continued to impose a total siege on the OPT.

The Gaza Strip is completely isolated from the outside world.

IOF troops positioned at various checkpoints in the West Bank arrested 3 Palestinian civilians.

IOF have continued to take measures aiming at the Judaization of Jerusalem.

A house was demolished in Beit Hanina village near Jerusalem.

Summary

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have continued to wage the bloodiest and most brutal war against the Gaza Strip since its occupation in 1967, under an international and Arab conspiracy of silence. IOF have launched a series of surprising air strikes against security and governmental many civilian facilities, including workshops, houses, medical warehouses and even mosques in a grave precedent. IOF warplanes have so far continued to fly over the Gaza Strip terrifying the Palestinian civilian population. Many Palestinian families have received phone calls from the Israeli intelligence, which ordered them to vacate their houses as they would be bombarded. Such phone calls confused Palestinian civilians. PCHR believes that this declared war target Palestinian

civilians and their property, and statements of Israeli political and military officials herald a humanitarian catastrophe and a persistent war at all levels. The international community is required more than ever before to immediately act to stop this gravest offensive since the Gaza Strip was first occupied by IOF. According to what PCHR field workers have been able to document so far, the number of civilian victims in the first ten minutes of the offensive on the Gaza Strip is the highest since the beginning of this offensive. PCHR reiterates its condemnation in the strongest terms for this bloody war, and calls upon the international community, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and international organizations to immediately act to stop such grave and unprecedented deterioration in the human rights situation and humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli violations of international law and humanitarian law escalated in the OPT during the reporting period (24 – 31 December 2008):

The full report is available online at:

html format:

http://www.pchrgaza.org/files/W_report/English/2008/01-01-2009.htm

pdf format:

http://www.pchrgaza.org/files/W_report/English/2008/pdf/weekly%20report%2051.pdf