



**Monthly Report on Violations of Human Rights and Freedoms in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
February 2015**

Violations of human rights and freedoms in Palestine continued throughout the month of February 2015. This report presents the main violations which were monitored by ICHR during that period.

Below is a comprehensive summary:

- ❖ ICHR monitored (10) cases of death, including (8) in WB and (2) in GS.
- ❖ ICHR received (60) complaints of torture and ill-treatment, including (21) in WB and (39) in GS.
- ❖ ICHR received (78) complaints of inappropriate legal procedures, including (50) in GS and (28) in WB.
- ❖ ICHR received complaints on administrative detention (detention by order of the governor).
- ❖ ICHR monitored (4) cases of violation of the right to freedom of opinion, expression, press and peaceful assembly.
- ❖ ICHR received (2) cases of assault on public and personal freedom.
- ❖ ICHR monitored (12) cases of assault on persons and public institutions.
- ❖ ICHR received (6) cases related to violation of academic freedoms.
- ❖ ICHR received (3) cases of security clearance for holding public office.
- ❖ ICHR received (4) complaints of expropriation of citizens' property without court warrant.
- ❖ ICHR received (6) complaints of non-implementation of courts' decisions.

Details of the violations:

I. Violation of the right to life and physical safety:

During the period of February 2015, ICHR monitored (10) cases of death, including (8) in WB and (2) in GS. As for the cause of these deaths, they were distributed as follows: (2) cases occurred in WB under mysterious conditions; (7) cases occurred due to negligence of general safety precautions, including (6) in WB and (1) in GS. (1) case occur in tunnel collapse on the Palestinian Egyptian border.

Further details on the causes of death below:

1. Deaths under mysterious condition:

- On 8th of February 2015, the police of Jerusalem suburbs found unidentified body buried in the yard of a house in Bidu village in the vicinity of Jerusalem. According to information provided to ICHR, the police opened investigation into the incident and referred the body of the dead to the Institute of Forensic Medicine for autopsy.
- On 20th of February 2015, **Malak Nael Raji Abdel Hafeez**, 17 years of age, from Jenin, was found hanging from swing set on the roof of her family's house in the eastern suburb of Jenin city. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident. Her body was referred to the Institute of Forensic Medicine for autopsy. Investigation is still in process.

2. Deaths due to negligence of general safety precautions:

- On 22nd of February 2015, **Jabir Jihad Mahmoud Qrei**, 6 years of age, from Ramallah city died of severe burns when fire broke out in his family's home. He was taken to Palestine Medical Compound where he was announced dead. According to the information provided to ICHR, the police opened investigation into the incident.
- On 23rd of February 2015, **Ehab Muhammad Mahmoud Jabarin**, 24 years of age, from Ramalla, died of burn injuries he sustained when a fire, caused by electrical failure, broke out in the house where he was present.
- On 24th of February 2015, **Abed Rabo Bakir Abed Rabo Takatka**, 17 years of age, from Beit Fajar, in the vicinity of Hebron, died of injuries he sustained when a big rock fell over him in his workplace in al Mazraa' al Sharkiya near Ramallah. He was taken to hospital but succumbed to his wounds.
- On 25th of February 2015, three brothers were killed in a house fire in Hebron. The three boys were identified as **Khaled Khalil Ismael al Qawasma, 15, Majd Khalil al Qawasma, 4, Muhammad Khalil al Qawasma, 3, from Hebron city**. The fire broke out in their apartment in the fourth floor of a building in the area of Abu Kateela in Hebron due to electricity malfunction. According to the information provided to ICHR, the police and the public prosecution arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 28th of February 2015, **Naji Khaled Abu Sabla**, 21, from Rafah, died of shrapnel wounds when an explosive device left by the Israeli occupation forces, went off. According to the information provided to ICHR, he was injured while he and his sibling were carrying sand from a nearby place to their house. The explosive device went off when they tried to examine it. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.

3. Deaths in tunnel incidents:

- On 19th of February 2015, **Abdulmajeed Atallah Authman, 20** years of age, from Deir Al Balah in al Wusta governorate, died of electrical shock while working in a tunnel in Rafah on the Palestinian Egyptian border.

4. Injuries due to misuse of firearms – internal explosions:

- **On 28th** of February 2015, Akram Khaled Abu Sabla, 18 years of age, from Rafah, sustained serious injury when an explosive device went off near the house of his family. According to information provided to ICHR, the incident happened when he and his sibling were carrying sand to their house. They found the explosive device which went off when they tried to examine it. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.

5. Torture during detention- degrading and cruel treatment:

During the period of preparing this report, ICHR received (60) complaints of torture and ill-treatment. These complaints were distributed in WB as follows:

(10) complaints against Police Agency; (3) complaints against General Intelligence Agency; (5) complaints against Preventive Security; and (3) complaints against Military Intelligence.

In GS, they were distributed as follows:

(28) complaints against Police Agency; (6) complaints against RCC; and (5) complaints against Internal Security.

II. Violation of the right to due process of law, including arbitrary and political detention:

Arbitrary and political detention:

During the period covered by this report, **ICHR** received (28) complaints of inappropriate detention procedures in WB. Complainants reported that they are detained either arbitrarily or for political reasons. In GS, ICHR received during the same period (50) complaints of the same violation.

Concerning detention by order of the governor, (5) persons were detained during the same period by orders of some governors in WB. A number of them were kept in detention, though they were handed down decisions of release by competent courts.

ICHR received (5) complaints from detainees claiming that they were held by order of the governor. These complaints are illustrated in the table below as follows:

Number	Name	Detention date	Detention center	Detention authority
1.	Khaled Nasim Mashayekh	31\1\2015	Guneid Intelligence	Nablus's Governor
2.	Muhammad Ahmad Ubtali	22\1\2015	Jenin Prison	Qalqilya's Governor

3.	Wade' Abdullah Mirdawi	5\11\2014	Jenin prison	Qalqilya's Governor
4.	Nour al Din Magid Nazzal	27\10\2014	Jenin Prison	Qalqilya's Governor
5.	Firas Wajeeh Hamid	17\12\2014	Jenin Prison	Qalqilya's Governor

III. Violation of the freedom of opinion, expression, media and peaceful assembly.

- On 6th of February 2015, The General Intelligence Agency detained Musa'b Muhammad Musalam Abu Arqub, 38 years of age, from Hebron. Abu Arqub who is a Lecturer at the College of Dentistry at al-Quds University and Politburo of Palestine Liberation Party, was detained for his political affiliation. He wasn't brought before any judicial authority. Prior to his release on 9\2\2015, he was transferred to the premises of the General Intelligence in Jericho.
- On 22nd of February 2015. Preventive Security Agency summoned Muhammad Abdulkareem Nasar who is working as program presenter at Radio Alam at Hebron University. According to his statement to ICHR, he was interrogated about his work as a journalist and his program (Law in this Country) in which he discusses political detention. He reported that the Director of Preventive Security in Hebron interviewed him and threatened of sealing off the Radio Station if he continues to talk about political detention.
- On 23rd of February, Preventive Security Agency in Bethlehem summoned Usaid al Maqdisi Abed al Mageed Ata al Amarneh, 29, journalist, from Bethlehem. He is working as a cameraman for different news agencies, including Trans Media. His brother who lodged the complaint with ICHR claimed that he was detained against the backdrop of his work as a journalist.
- On 27th of February 2015, the Police Agency held Khaled Ismael Abu Mughesib, 37, from Gaza city. Abu Mughesib who is working as news editor for al Quds Radio reported to ICHR that a police force arrested him from his home by force. He added that he was questioned about filming a protest organized by citizens against the status quo. He added that he was beaten and insulted. Prior to releasing him on the same day, he was obliged to sign a document announcing his commitment to Islamic rules and not to criticize the government or exist in "suspicious areas".

IV. Infringement of Personal and Public Liberties

- On 9th of February 2015, Muntasir Araysha, from Nablus, sustained bullet wound to his thigh. According to the information provided to ICHR, two persons in plain clothes tried to capture him without introducing themselves. When he escaped, they shot and injured him in his thigh. After four days of his stay in hospital, he was arrested by the Intelligence Agency.
- On 20th of February 2015, Munir al Gaghoub, from Beta village in the vicinity of Nablus, sustained injuries to different parts of his body when a group of persons attacked him while returning from mosque to his home. He was

rushed to hospital and subjected to surgery operation. According to the information provided to ICHR, the police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident. A number of suspects were detained for investigation. Al Gaghoub is working as Head of Fatah Media Committee.

V. Assault on Persons and Public and Private Institutions

- On 3rd of February 2015, unidentified persons abducted Muhammad Omar al Mughayer, 31, from Gaza. Al Mughayer who is working as advisor for the Representative Office of Holland was held for 8 hours, hooded and beaten. He was dumped near al Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 3rd of February 2015, a group of masked persons, driving black car, abducted Iyad Shinin, 45, from northern Gazawhile he was going back home. They hooded and beat him before throwing him near al Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. They took over his car and personal belongings.
- On 6th of February 2015, an explosive device went off under the vehicle of Sami Hamad al Hims, 47, from Nuseirat refugee camp. Fire broke out in the car and caused damage to nearby houses and electricity wires. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 11th of February 2015, unidentified persons opened fire at Adnan Atef Abu al Rub, Mayor of Marg Bin Amer, eastern Jenin while he was standing in front of his home in Jalboun village. He suffered an injury to his left leg. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 15 February 2015, unidentified persons set fire to the car of Abdel Minim al Tahrawi, Fatah Official, 44, from Nuseirat refugee camp in al Wusta governorate. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 15th of February 2015, an explosive device went off in front of the house of retired police officer, Khaleel Hassan al Greesi, 58, from al Mughazi refugee camp in al Wusta governorate in Gaza Strip. No injuries were reported. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 15th of February 2015, the car of Ramadan Saed al Nauq, 37, from Jabalia, was set ablaze. Ramadan is Lieutenant Colonel at the Ministry of Interior and National Security.
- On 16th of February 2015, four unidentified persons opened fire in the direction of the car of Ma'moun Ibrahim Swedan, 43, from Gaza, Fatah Official. According to the information provided to ICHR, two of Swedan's escorts were injured (Yaser Elian, 25 and Salama al Ewedat, 26. They were rushed to hospital in Jerusalem for treatment. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the accident.
- On 21st of February 2015, unidentified persons set fire to the car of Hamouda Emad Shihada, 25, from al Shati' refugee camp in Gaza. According to the

information provided to ICHR, they threw Molotov Cocktail in the direction of the car burning its front side. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.

- On 22nd of February 2015, two bombs were placed at the entrance of the house of Fatah General Controller, Khaled Ahmad Abu Juma', from Nuseirat refugee camp in al Wusta governorate. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 24th of February 2015, an explosive device went off near the Police Center in Rafah. The back wall collapsed and the police opened investigation into the incident.
- At 8:30 am, 25th of February 2015, a force of military intelligence and preventive security escorted by Attorney General, broke into Ramallah-based offices of MPs, Magid Abu Shamali and Ala' Yaghi. According to statement submitted by Yaghi to ICHR, the force broke the doors of the offices and seized documents and computer sets. The office manager and the escort were arrested and others were summoned.

VI. Violation of Academic Freedom.

ICHR documented that a group of students affiliated with the Islamic Bloc at Birzeit University have organized a protest sit-in inside the campus of the university since 17/12/2014 protesting the measures by the general intelligence and preventive security against them. On 26/2/2015, the students ended their protest after these agencies pledged to stop political detention.

- On 3rd of February 2015, Preventive Security Agency detained Saif al Islam Wael Ahmad Taha, 22, from Hebron after summoning him for an interview. He was questioned about his student activities at Palestine Polytechnic University. He was released on 9/ 2/2015.
- On 4th of February 2015, Preventive Security Agency detained Laith Rasmi Muhammad al Asafra, 21, student at Hebron University. His father who lodged the complaint with ICHR claimed that his son who was detained for his political affiliation, was detained by the general intelligence in Hebron on 1/2/2015 and was detained by the preventive security on 4/2/2015. He was released on 15/2/2015.
- On 6th of February 2015, General Intelligence Agency detained Tareq Ziad Ahmad al Gunedi, 24, from Hebron for his political affiliation. Tareq who is a student at Palestine Polytechnic University was released on 10/2/2015.
- On 8th of February, ICHR received a complaint from Nasir Hussein Abed Al Azeez Abu Hadid, 22, in which he claimed that on 28/1/2015, the general intelligence in Hebron tried to arrest him while he was standing in front of the university for his political affiliation and student activity at the campus. He escaped and disrupted his study at the university since then.
- On 8th of February 2015, Preventive Security Agency detained Muhammad Yousif Ezat Asafra, 23, for his political affiliation. His father who lodged the

complaint with ICHR stated that his son who is a student at Hebron University, was arrested by the general intelligence in January 2015 on charges of fueling sectarian commotion. He added that he was rearrested by the preventive security on the said date but released later.

VII. Security Clearance for Public Office:

ICHR received (3) complaints of security clearance:

- ICHR received a complaint from Mousa Mokhaimer Shihada, 26, in which he stated that on 28/1/2015, he applied to the Ministry of Interior in Hebron for good conduct certificate to apply for the post of Marriage Officer, announced by Chief Justice Office. To fulfill the condition of applying for this job (security clearance condition), he referred to the General Intelligence Agency in Hebron but received no answer though he obtained a good conduct certificate from the Preventive Security Agency.
- ICHR received a complaint from Ibrahim Muhammad Ali Shretih, 40, in which he claimed that on 8/1/2015, he applied to the Ministry of Interior for good conduct certificate (security clearance condition). To fulfill the condition of applying for this job (security clearance condition), the General Intelligence Agency in Hebron refused his application despite Preventive Security Agency's agreement.
- ICHR received a complaint from Abdulrazaq Saed Abdulrazaq Khaseeb from Ramallah in which he claimed that Sharia' Chief Justice Office provided that no one can apply for a job vacancy (Marriage Officer) announced by the office without having good conduct certificate from the security agencies.

VIII. Seizure of Citizens' Money without Court's Warrant.

- Rateb Abdulraziq Muhammad Bakri, 76 years old, from Hebron reported that on 24/2/2014, Preventive Security Agency seized from him (\$ 87675) transferred for him through money changer office in Hebron. Though he discussed the issue with the Preventive Security several times, the money was not returned to him. ICHR addressed the Preventive Security but received no response.
- Raed Hmedan Mahmoud al Sharabati, 44 years old, from Hebron, reported that on 21/1/2015, the General Intelligence Agency inspected his house and seized a computer set, camera, DVD, documents and CDs.
- Yousif Izat Muhammad Asafra, 48 years old, from Beit Kahil in the vicinity of Hebron, reported that in November 2014, the General Intelligence Agency inspected his house and seized computer set (2), digital camera (Canon), computer memory (2), mobile phone, documents and account statements. He added that he referred to the general intelligence in Hebron several times but retrieved nothing.

- On 3rd of February 2015, Preventive Security Agency in Hebron detained Hamza Abdulhadi Badawi Zahour and seized his computer set, laptop and two mobile phones. Some of these items were returned to him.
- The father of Laith Rasmi Asafra reported that the Preventive Security Agency seized the mobile phone and laptop of his son who was detained by the agency on 4/2/2015. He added that they seized his computer set in May 2014.

IX. Delay in Implementing Courts' Decisions:

ICHR received during the period covered by this report a number of complaints of non-implementation of courts' decisions. These complaints can be summarized as follows:

- On 3rd of February 2015, Bilal Yousif Abdulrahman Hajajla, from Jericho was detained by the General Intelligence Agency. He appeared before Jerich Magistrate Court on 5/2/2015 and received bail decision. Though he paid the bail, he wasn't released.
- On 18th of February 2015, Halhul Magistrate Court decided to release Abdullah Khalil Muhammad Zamara, 22 years old, on bail of (JD 500). Though he paid the bail the general intelligence refused to release him. He appeared before court once again on 22/2/2015. The court decided to release him on bail of (JD1000). Though he paid the bail once again, but they refused to release him until March 2015. His mother reported that he was detained on 5/2/2015.
- On 18th of February 2015, Halhul Magistrate Court decided to release Muhammad Jamal Abed Shafut, 21 years old, on bail of (JD500). He wasn't able to pay it due to his financial condition. on 22/2/2015, the judge agreed to the defense lawyer's demand to replace the cash bail with personal bail. On the same date Halhul Magistrate Court decided to release him on bail of (JD 1000). His mother reported that she paid the bail but he wasn't released until March 2015. She added that he was detained on 3/2/2015 for political reasons.
- On 23rd of February 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Muhammad Ahmad Ubtala who has been held in Jenin Reform and Rehabilitation Center since 22/1/2015. He asks for implementing the bail decision handed down to him by court 10 days before lodging the complaint. He was held by order of the governor of Qalqilya.
- On 23rd of February 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Wade' Abdullah Mardawi who has been held in Jenin Reform and Rehabilitation Center since 5/11/2014. He asks for implementing the bail decision handed down to him by court 10 days before lodging the complaint. He was held by order of the governor of Qalqilya.
- On 23rd of February 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Wade' Abdullah Mardawi who has been held in Jenin Reform and Rehabilitation Center since 27/10/2014. He asks for implementing the bail decision handed down to him by court 10 days before lodging the complaint. He was held by order of the governor of Qalqilya.

In addition, fourteen previous courts' decisions have not been implemented yet.