



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

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

- ICHR monitored (13) deaths, including (9) in the West Bank (WB) and (4) in the Gaza Strip (GS).
- ICHR monitored some incidents of vigilantism in Balata refugee camp in the governorate of Nablus. These incidents caused panic to children, damage to property and injuries among citizens.
- ICHR received (60) complaints of allegations of torture and ill-treatment, including (52) in (GS) and (8) in (WB).
- ICHR received (71) complaints of violations involving the due process of law, including (46) in (GS) and (25) in (WB).
- ICHR monitored (4) cases of violations involving the freedom of opinion and expression as well as the freedom of media and peaceful assembly. It also received (8) complaints of violations involving academic freedoms.
- ICHR received (2) cases of violations involving public and personal freedoms.
- ICHR monitored (6) cases of assault on persons and public institutions.
- Security clearance as a condition for holding public office continued to be in place.
- ICHR received (3) cases of appropriation of citizens' money without court's decision.
- ICHR received (2) complaints of non-implementation of courts decisions, in addition to (13) decisions issued during previous months.

**Details of the violations:**

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

During the period of March 2015, ICHR monitored (13) cases of death, including (9) in WB and (4) in GS. As for the cause of these deaths, they were distributed as follows: (2) cases occurred under mysterious conditions, (1) in WB and the other in GS; (8) cases occurred due to negligence of general safety precautions, including (7) in WB and (1) in GS. (2) Cases occurred in family disputes and manslaughter, (1) in WB and (1) in GS. One death occurred in GS due to misuse of firearm.

*Further details on the causes of death below:*

### **1. Deaths under mysterious conditions:**

- On 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, **Muhammad Omar Halabi, 41 years of age**, from Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza city, was found dead in his clinic in Gaza northern governorate. His body was taken to al-Shifa' Hospital. Forensic Medicine Director reported that the cause of death was a large dose of sedatives. The family of the deceased refused to perform autopsy on his body. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2015, **Ala' Hamdan Matan, 25 years of age**, from Burqa village in Ramallah governorate died of drowning in a water well. According to the information provided to ICHR, she was transported to Palestine Medical Complex where she was announced dead. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident. Her body was taken to Forensic Medical Institute for autopsy.

### **2. Deaths in Family Disputes and Manslaughter:**

- On 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, **Jihad Asa'd Hasan, 28 years of age**, from Gaza city died of multiple stab wounds. According to the information provided to ICHR, he was stabbed in a family dispute. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, **Mahmoud Hussein Hamamra, 60 years of age**, from Husan village in Bethlehem governorate, died of stab wounds. According to the information provided to ICHR, he was found dead in his home. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident. The Public Prosecution reported that it captured the perpetrator who confessed that he killed Hamara while he was trying to steal.
- On 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, **Juma' Abdullah Muhammad Hasanin, 55**, from Qalqilia, was found dead in his house with stab marks on his body. According to the information provided to ICHR, the police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident. A suspect who was involved in the crime was arrested.

### **3. Deaths due to misuse of firearms:**

- On 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2015, **Hazim Ragheb al-Dura, 36 years of age**, from al-Shati' refugee camp died of bullet wound to his head. According to the information provided to ICHR, he was shot while standing at the veranda of his home during a dispute between two families. A number of suspects were arrested.

### **4. Deaths due to negligence of general safety precautions:**

- On 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2015, **Kamel Talal Abu Sha'ban, 24**, from Deir al-Balah town in al-Wusta governorate in Gaza, died of severe burn injuries he sustained after an explosion of a gas cylinder. According to the information provided to ICHR, he was working in al-Umda Shawarma restaurant where a gas cylinder blew up, causing a large fire that led to his death and injury of five workers in addition to ten other citizens. The civil defense brigade put out the fire and the police opened investigation into the incident.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2015, **Khadra Garad Abdel Hadi al-Sharawna, 83 years of age**, from Dura town near Hebron, died of burn injuries from a stove explosion at her house. According to the information provided to ICHR, the police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, **Osama Omar al-Hrub, one year and a half of age**, from Dura in Hebron governorate, died of drowning in a water bucket at his family's home. According to the information provided to ICHR, the police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, **Khaleel Ahmad Muhammad al-Masri, 16 years of age**, from Dura in Hebron governorate, died of serious wounds he sustained when he fell off a height. According to the information provided to ICHR, the police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, **Zakarya Muhammad Ibraheem Abu Ghanim, 44 years of age**, from Rafat in Ramallah governorate died of serious injury when he fell off an under-construction building in Betunia due to negligence of occupational health and safety. According to the information provided to ICHR, the police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, **Anwar Ali Muhammad Khalil, 63 years of age**, from Betunia in Ramallah governorate, died of severe wounds he sustained when he fell off a building in Kufr Aqab due to negligence of occupational health and safety. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, **Muhammad Afeef Abdel Rahman Qasim, 24 years of age**, from Aja village in Jenin governorate died of serious wounds he sustained when he fell off the sixth floor of an under-construction building in Kufr Aqab in Jerusalem governorate due to negligence of occupational health and safety. According to the information provided to ICHR, the police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, **Muhammad Jibreel Salama Muhammad, 43 years of age**, from Yatta town in Hebron governorate dies of serious wounds he sustained when he fell off an under-construction building. According to the information provided to ICHR, the police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.

## **5. Injuries due to misuse of firearms – internal explosions:**

ICHR monitored some incidents of vigilantism in Balata refugee camp in Nablus governorate. These incidents caused panic to children and damage to property. Even worse, a number of citizens were injured during clashes that broke out between wanted persons and the Palestinian security services. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2015, ICHR released a statement calling for immediate investigation in the incident occurred on 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, in which two children were injured on the main road near Balata refugee camp.

- On 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, a number of citizens (Muhammad Ibrahim Najar, 11, Bilal Muhammad Najar, 13 and Mahmoud Misbah Najar 33) sustained were injured by shrapnel. According to the information provided to ICHR, they were injured when a citizen was tampering with an explosive device at al-Najar's home. They were taken to the European Hospital in Gaza for treatment. The police arrived at the scene and started investigation into the incident.
  
- On 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, a number of citizens (Juma' al-Ashqar, 61, Sulaiman Abu Mughesib, 32, Fadi Bilal 20) sustained bullet and shrapnel injuries. According to the information provided to ICHR, "al-Ashqar" was working as a guard of a building project in Khan Younis city and when some persons tried to steal building materials, he tried to stop them by throwing a hand-grenade in their direction causing injuries to them. He also fired from his pistol toward "Bilal" injuring him in the shoulder. They were rushed to hospital for treatment. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.

#### **6. Death sentence:**

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2015, the Court of Cassation in Gaza upheld a death sentence issued by the court of first instance in Deir-al-Balah against Yousif Muhammad Abu Shamlah, 35, from al-Wusta governorate on 24/10/2014 after condemning him of deliberate killing in breach of the provisions of the Palestinian Penal Law of 1936. The sentence was also upheld by the court of appeal in Gaza on 28/5/2014. This sentence is final but requires President's approval for execution. ICHR expresses its reservation over such decision and demands that it be commuted to a lesser punishment.

#### **7. Torture during detention-cruel and degrading treatment:**

ICHR received during the period covered by this report (**60**) complaints of torture and ill-treatment – **52** in GS and **8** in WB-. In **GS**, these complaints were distributed as follows:

- (50) complaints against the police agency;
- (2) complaints against the reformation and rehabilitation centers;

While in the **WB**, they were distributed as follows:

- (6) complaints against the police agency;
- (2) complaints against the preventive security agency.

Different methods of torture were used, including Shabh<sup>1</sup>, beating, punching, badmouthing, insulting and deprivation of sleeping.

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

### **– Arbitrary and political detention:**

ICHR received during the period covered by this report (25) complaints on violations of due process of law in the West Bank and (46) similar complaints from the Gaza Strip.

- **Detention by order of the governor:** Firas Ahmad Raja Soboh was detained by the general intelligence agency in Jericho on 8/2/2015 by order of the governor of Tubas. He wasn't released yet.

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

- On 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, the General Intelligence Agency in Hebron detained journalist **Radi Ahmad AAauthman Karama**. The complaint submitted by his brother states that he is working as a journalist for al-Hurriya Radio Station. He was beaten and detained by the general intelligence but released on 19/3/2015.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2015, police forces in Khan Younis in Gaza broke up a peaceful assembly by force. According to the information provided to ICHR, (500) people of Khuza east Khan Younis whose homes were destroyed during the last Israeli occupation aggression on the Gaza Strip organized a protest against electricity cut to the caravans they live in. They stated to ICHR that a police force arrived at the scene, opened fire in the air and beat a number of the participants causing injuries to them. Five other participants were arrested.
- On 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, the general intelligence agency in Hebron summoned freelance journalist **Sufian Muhammad Abdel Rahman Abu Ras**, 25 years of age. He was interrogated about his political affiliation and photos he posted on his facebook page. He was released on the first of March after he signed a paper to report to the agency office on the ninth of the same month. When he reported to them on that date he was asked to report again on fifteenth and twenty second of the same month.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, ICHR received an affidavit from the staff of Raya FM Radio Program (For People) complaining that on 29/3/2015 while they were interviewing referents of the Medical Referrals Department of the Ministry of Health in Ramallah, a number of the department's staff assaulted **Muhammad Nassar and Amgad Hussein** who were making the interviews to prohibit them from doing their duties.

## **IV. Assaults on public and personal freedoms:**

- During the period of March 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Issa **Muhammad Issa Fayyad**, 34 years of age, from Gaza, living in Bethlehem. He

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<sup>1</sup> Keep a person standing in a difficult position for a long time.

claimed that he was prohibited by the general intelligence from travel to continue his higher studies abroad because he was working for the agency. He was detained on 28/1/2015 and sentenced to (9) months in prison. It is worth mentioning that he has no judicial order prohibiting him from travel.

- According to a statement by Lawyer Mahmoud al-Disi, at 5:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, a white Skoda car with three persons inside intercepted his car at the entrance of al-Hashmia village near Jenin city. When he tried to overtake the car, they opened fire in his direction. The police pursued the vehicle and arrested two persons while the third escaped with a pistol in his hand.

#### **V. Assault on persons, public institutions and public and private property.**

- On 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2015, a car belonging to Ryahd Abed al-Wahad, Fatah leader, from al-Tufah neighborhood in Gaza city was set on fire. According to the information provided to ICHR, unidentified persons threw flammable material on the car while it was parking in front of the house. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- According to a statement by Jenin Governmental Hospital Director, Nadir Rashid, on 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, a citizen of Jenin refugee camp broke into the emergency section of the hospital with his two sons and beat two doctors, a nurse and a policeman. They broke the hand of one of the doctors. They claimed that the medical service the father needed wasn't delivered on time. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident. Two offenders were arrested while the third is still on the run.
- According to a statement by Nasir Abu Jaish, a member of the central committee of the Palestinian People's Party, on 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, unidentified persons opened fire at the party's office in Nablus city, causing damage to the glass of the building. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, a citizen assaulted Nagat Ahmad Mahmoud Farag Allah, 43 years of age, working for the Directorate of Social Affairs in Hebron. The offender was reported to be suffering from mental disorder.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, Nidal Omar Khaleel Abu Ayash, Lecturer, 58 years of age, was assaulted while leaving his workplace at Palestine Polytechnic College. He suffered cuts and injuries to his face. The offender was a member of the Palestinian national security agency.
- ICHR documented a number of incidents that occurred in different areas of Jenin city. According to statements by a number of citizens, some public and private properties were attacked and number of citizens were detained by the security agencies.

#### **VI. Violation of academic freedoms:**

- On 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, the preventive security agency in Hebron detained Abdullah Judi Zaidan Guneid, 21 years of age, for his political affiliation and students' activities at Hebron University. His father filed a complaint with ICHR in which he claimed that his son is a student at Hebron University and that he was detained for his political activities.
- On 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, the preventive security agency in Hebron detained Safwan Talal Akram Abu Sneineh, 21 years of age, for his political affiliation. His father filed a complaint with ICHR in which he claimed that his son is a student at Hebron University and that he was detained for his political activities.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, the preventive security agency in Hebron detained Anas Hatem Nagati Iskafi, 21 years of age, His father filed a complaint with ICHR in which he claimed that his son is a student at Hebron University and that he was detained for his political activities.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, the preventive security agency in Hebron detained Muhammad Khadir Ahmad Mahdi, 22 years of age, His brother filed a complaint with ICHR in which he claimed that his brother is a student at Hebron University and that he was detained for his political activities.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, the preventive security agency in Hebron detained Amgad Ayub Muhammad Sidr, 22 years of age, His father filed a complaint with ICHR in which he claimed that his son is a student at Hebron University and that he was detained for his political activities.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, the preventive security agency in Hebron detained Ahmad Shilan al-Jabari, 22 years of age, His father filed a complaint with ICHR in which he claimed that his son is a student at Hebron University and that he was detained for his political activities.
- ICHR received a complaint from Usaid Muhammad Omar Hashash in which he claimed that on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, he was detained by the general intelligence agency for his affiliation with the Islamic Students Bloc at Birzeit University. During his detention, he didn't appear before a competent judicial authority.

## **VII. Security clearance condition for appointment:**

ICHR received during the period covered by this report, a number of complaints in which complainants claimed that they applied to Sharia' Judiciary for work but they were asked for a good conduct certificate from the Ministry of Interior. This certificate, according to the job vacancy announcement issued by Sharia' Chief Justice, is a pre-requisite for holding public office. ICHR shall follow up these complaints with the competent authorities.

## **VIII. Appropriation of citizens' money without judicial warrant.**

- **Aleema Issa Yousif Jabir**, stated that her son "Fayez Jabir" was detained by the general intelligence agency in Hebron in December 2014 and was released on 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2014. She added that they seized his laptop, 3 flash memories, mobile

phone, hard disc, bank documents and books. These items weren't returned yet despite addressing the general intelligence in this regard.

- **Jawad Issa Ali Abu Hussein** reported that on 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2015, he was summoned by the preventive security agency in Hebron. On 25<sup>th</sup> of March he reported to their office where he was interrogated about an amount of money he received from al-Noor Society in Gaza.
- **Muhammad Abdulkareem Muhammad al-Faqawi**, 57 years of age, from Gaza city, stated that the general intelligence agency in Hebron confiscated from him NIS 10250 and \$100 after they detained him on 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2015.

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Husni Qadiri, from Jenin, in which he claimed that his son "Ahmad" was detained by the general intelligence since 27 days on charges of opening fire. On 19<sup>th</sup> of March, Jenin Magistrate Court decided to release him, but the decision wasn't implemented by the general intelligence.
- ICHR received a complaint from Ayman Muhammad Salim Abu Eid in which he claimed that he was detained by the general intelligence in Jericho on 27/1/2015. On 1/3/2015, Jericho Magistrate Court decided to release him on bail but the general intelligence hasn't implemented the court's decision.
- ICHR received a complaint from Hassan Abed al-Rahman Hussein Silmi in which he claimed that he was detained by the general intelligence in Jericho since 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2014. On 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2015, he appeared before Jericho Magistrate Court. It decided to release him on bail but the general intelligence hasn't implemented the decision.

In addition, thirteen other decisions issued by the Palestinian courts over the past months, have not been implemented yet.