



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

April 2015

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

- ❖ The occurrence of fourteen mysterious deaths; 8 in the Gaza Strip (GS) and 6 in West Bank (WB).
- ❖ 54 complaints regarding torture and ill-treatment in detention centers; 47 in the GS and 7 in the WB.
- ❖ 72 cases of arbitrary detention, 52 in GS and 20 in WB.
- ❖ Violation of the right of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.
- ❖ Assault on persons, public institutions and public and private property.
- ❖ Violation on the right of academic freedom in the Palestinian universities.
- ❖ Seizure of citizens' property without judicial warrant.
- ❖ Moreover, ICHR documented several other violations such as death in detention, non-implementation of courts decisions, bringing civilians before military courts, injuries due to misuse of firearms and internal explosions and administrative detention.

The violations in Detail:

I. Violation of the Right to Life and Physical Safety:

During April 2015, ICHR monitored 41 cases of mysterious deaths; 6 in the WB and 8 in the GS. As for the cause of these deaths, they were distributed as follows: 1 death in a detention center in the WB and another death took place under mysterious conditions. Five deaths occurred due to the lack of general safety precautions; 3 in the WB and 2 in the GS. Two deaths occurred because of family quarrels and murder; 1 in the WB and another one in the GS. 2 deaths occurred due to misuse of firearms in the GS and 3 deaths happened in tunnels on the Egyptian Palestinian borders.

Further details on the causes of death below:

1. Deaths in Detention Centers:

On the 8th of April 2015, **Rabei' Mahmoud Mousa AL Gamal**, 37 years old from Hebron, died of severe injuries caused by a fire in a detention center at the military intelligence in Hebron. According to the information provided to ICHR, the fire broke out in the cell he was locked in. AL

Gamal was a member of the preventative Security Agency and he was imprisoned for one week. Representatives from ICHR attended to autopsy of his body and the findings showed that he died due to suffocation by CO1. The Public Prosecution opened an investigation of the accident.

2. Deaths under Mysterious Conditions:

On the 4th of April 4 2015, **Shahanda Qusra Kamal Al Hag Ysin**, 19 years old from Ramallah , died of her injuries after falling from a window in her family's house in Al Masayef area in the city. According to the information provided to ICHR, she was taken to Palestine Medical Complex where she was declared dead. The police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation of the incident and decided to move her body to the Forensic Medical Institute for autopsy.

3. Deaths Caused by Family Disputes and Murder :

On the 3rd of April 2015, **Raed Muhammad Sulaiman Zaidat**, 42 years old from Bani Naem in Hebron governorate, died of a stab wound. According to the information provided to ICHR, he was injured in a family dispute. The police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation of the incident and so did the Public Prosecution. A number of suspects were arrested.

On the 24th of April 24 2015, **Ahmad Muhammad Shihada**, 27 years old from Jabalia in northern Gaza, died of a bullet wound in his chest. According to the information provided to ICHR, the police investigated the incident which turned out to be an act of vendetta. Three suspects were arrested.

4. Deaths Due to Misuse of Firearms:

On the 8th of April 2015, **Nazmi Hamdan Malaka**, 50 years old from Al Zaituna neighborhood in Gaza, died of bullet wounds on. According to the information provided to ICHR, an armed masked person opened fire on Malaka. The police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation of the incident. A suspect was arrested.

On the 24th of April 2015, **Gabir Nahid Abu Sakran**, 26 years old from Al Shujaya neighborhood in Gaza City, died of bullet wounds. According to the information provided to ICHR, Sakran was wounded while handling a rifle at his home. The police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation of the incident.

5. Deaths Due to Negligence of General Safety Precautions:

On the 4th of April 2015, **Suhaib Nasir Al Masri**, 2 years old from Khan Younis, died of wounds in his neck and head from falling down the stairs in his house.

On the 12th of April 2015, **Yaqeen Muhammad Hassan Ahmad Nimir**, 4 years old from Beit Liqia in Ramallah governorate, died of a wound which he sustained when a TV set fell over him in his family's home, due to negligence of general safety precautions.

On the 14th of April 2015, **Abdullah Hussein Hassan Maharma**, 31 years old from Bethlehem died of a serious injury which he sustained when he fell off a height in a car repair workshop in Hebron. The police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation of the incident.

On the 18th of April 2015, **Rimas Ali Asi**, 1 years old from Al Tufah neighborhood in Gaza City died of serious injuries which she sustained from a a fire caused by a forgotten candle in her family's home. According to the information provided to ICHR, Asi was taken to Al Shifa' Hospital in Gaza where she was declared dead. The police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation of the incident.

On the 23rd of April 2015, **Bilal Azmi Hussein Edrees**, 46 years old from Hebron died of serious injuries which he sustained when he fell from of a building in Kufr Aqab between Ramallah and Jerusalem. According to the information provided to ICHR, he was taken to Palestine Medical Complex where he was declared dead. The police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation of the incident.

6. Deaths in Tunnels:

On the 11th of April 2015, **Ibrahim Fathi Isleeh**, 21 years old from Khan Younis, died of an electric shock while working in a tunnel in Rafah on the Palestinian Egyptian border.

On the 21 of April 2015, **Ahmad Magid Al-Saqa**, 18 years old from Khan Younis City, died of an electric shock in a tunnel in Rafah on the Palestinian Egyptian borders.

On the 27th of April 2015, **Muhammad Khaled Al Nagar**, 26 years old from Khan Younis died of serious injuries which he sustained while working in a tunnel that collapsed on the Palestinian Egyptian border.

7. Injuries Due to Misuse of Firearms – Internal Explosions:

On the 4th of April 2015, Fadil Khadir Aqleh and Ahmad Mahmoud Aqleh, both 18 years old from Rafah, were injured in a family dispute in which firearms were used. Both were taken to Al Nagar Hospital in the city. The police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation of the incident and a number of suspects were arrested pending the investigation.

On the 5th of April 2015, Abdulrahman Abdulqadir Muhesin, 34 years old, from Shujaiya neighborhood in Gaza, was shot in his feet. According to the information provided to ICHR, an armed person fired at Muhesin during a family dispute and he was taken to Al Shifa' Hospital in the city. The police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation of the incident.

On the 5th of April 2015, Nazir Hikmat Abu Al Ata, 27 years old from Shujaiya neighborhood in Gaza, suffered from shrapnel injuries caused by an explosive device that went off. According to the information provided to ICHR, he was injured while playing with an explosive device found near his

family's house. The doctors were forced to amputate the fingers on his right hand and the police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation of the incident.

8. Torture During Detention –Cruel and Degrading Treatment:

During April 2015, ICHR received 54 complaints regarding torture and ill-treatment, including 47 complaints in the GS and 7 complaints in the WB. In the GS, these complaints were filed against the following agencies:

- 43 complaints against the Police Agency.
- 2 complaints against the Internal Security Agency.
- 2 complaints against the Prison Administration.

In the WB, these complaints were distributed as follows:

- 5 complaints against the Police Agency.
- 1 complaint against the Preventative Security Agency.
- 1 complaint against the Military Intelligence Agency.

The complainants alleged that the security agencies used various forms of torture against them, including punching, kicking, cursing, insulting, sleep deprivation, and tying them in painful positions,

II. Violation of the Right to Due Process of Law, Including Arbitrary Detention, Political Detention, Administrative Detention and Appearing Before Military Judiciary:

Arbitrary and Political Detention:

During April 2015, ICHR received 20 complaints about inappropriate detention procedures in the WB. The complainants alleged that they were detained for political or arbitrarily reasons. In the GS, ICHR received 52 complaints regarding the same kind of violations.

Detention by Order of the Governor:

Since the 14th of April 2015, Murad Nasir Ahmad Mansour has been held in Nablus Reformation and Rehabilitation Center by order of the governor. At the time of writing, he is still detained.

Bringing civilians before military judiciary:

During April 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Mustafa Abdul Kareem Mustafa Taree from Ramallah, in which he reports that on the 14th of February 2015, he was detained by the military intelligence in Ramallah and brought before the military judiciary. The military court of Ramallah decided to keep him in custody until the 21th of April 2015. His detention was extended more than one time because he was accused of setting fire on a governmental vehicle.

III. Violation of the Freedom of Opinion, Press and Peaceful Assembly:

On the 25th of April 2015, Ahmad Ali Said was arrested by the General Intelligence Agency while he was travelling from Jericho to Jordan. Said was supposed to attend the second regional conference for the Arab Network for Community Accountability and present a paper on institutionalizing community accountability in Palestine. According to Said, the reason why he was detained was to prevent him from participating in the conference. Moreover, the General Intelligence Agency broke into his home in Al Yamun village in Jenin governorate and searched it through. They also prohibited him from travelling.

On the 29th of April 2015, security forces and members of the Islamic Bloc interfered with a peaceful assembly organized by the “April 29th Movement” in Al Shujaya neighborhood in the GS. The assembly wanted to raise awareness about general elections and the participants, who were assaulted, told ICHR that the security forces destroyed the podium and broke up participants by force, using clubs and bars. A number of persons, such as, Hakim Shila, Riziq Madhun, Hanin Al Qadi, Mervat Abdulqadir, Hassan Murtaga, Nadim Madhun and Kareem Qadura, were injured. They testified that they had been shot by people in civilian clothes.

On the 29th of April 2015, security forces in Gaza attacked a number of journalists and prohibited them from covering a peaceful assembly organized by the “April 29th Movement” in Al Shujaya neighborhood. According to a statement by the following journalists: Fadi Shna’, Ahmad Fayoumi, Ahmad Abu Hashim, Ibraheem Dahman, Ahmad Abu Kmeil, security personnel in civilian clothes prohibited them from filming and destroyed their cameras. Abu Kmeil was held in Al Shujaya police center for a short period of time.

On the 29th of April 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Abdulrahman Muhammad Mousa Younis, a correspondent and cameraman working for Al Quds website and Baladna Radio at Bethlehem. He claimed that he had been attacked by the traffic police while filming an accident. The police pushed him and tried to grab his camera and they accused him of exposing people and defaming them. He added that they cursed and pulled him to the police vehicle although they knew that he was a journalist. The police committed these acts without receiving a complaint from the person involved in the traffic accident.

IV. Assault on Persons, Public Institutions and Public and Private Property.

On the 2nd of April 2015, a force from the internal security entered the PLO’s International Relations Office and ordered the staff to leave. They confiscated computer set and closed the office without showing any warrants.

On the 3rd of April 2015, prior to the announcement of the death of Raed Muhammad Sulaiman Zadat, 42 years old from Bani Naem village in Hebron, his family set fire to 19 homes of which 11 were burned to the ground. They also destroyed the furniture of a house but no injuries were reported.

On the 8th of April 2015, after the announcement of the death of **Rabei' Mahmoud Mousa al-Gamal**, 37 years old from Hebron, a group of angry people burned tires in al-Hawooz al-Thani area and Wadi al-Haria street in Hebron. On the same day, angry youths burned a car belonging to the national security force near Alia Governmental Hospital and threw stones at them. However, no injuries were reported. On the following day, armed persons opened fire at the police station in al-Hawooz al-Thani area without any injuries being reported.

On the 14th of April 2015, masked men opened fire at Muhammad Juma' al-Teerawi, 24 years old and injured him in the foot while he was standing at the entrance of Balata refugee camp in Nablus. They captured and transferred him to Jericho Hospital. It later turned out, that the masked men worked for the General Intelligence Agency. Al-Teerawi is now in detention by order of the governor although he did not carry any weapon or resist when they arrested him, according to his sister who visited him at the hospital.

On the 23rd of April 2015, a money exchange shop was subjected to firing by unknown men. According to the information provided to ICHR, the shop belongs to Tayel al-Hiwari, the Secretary of Nablus Chamber of Commerce and Industry. About 20 bullets were fired at him from an automatic rifle and the shop was slightly damaged but no injuries were reported. The police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation of the incident.

On the 26th of April 2015, a number of citizens attacked Dr. Muhammad Salem Abu Sharkh, 38 years old from al-Dahrya and Jafar Ibrahim Issa Khalaila, 38 years old from Samu' in Hebron. The attack occurred at their working place Abu al-Hassan al-Qasim Hospital in Yatta in the same governorate and the attackers were arrested.

V. Violation of Academic Freedoms:

On the 7th of April 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Osama Hashim Adeb al-Gunedi who alleged that the Preventative Security Agency had detained him on the 5th of March 2015 for his political affiliation and activities at Palestine Polytechnic University. He was later released on the 31th of March 2015. On the 8th of April 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Fayez Nafiz Faye Jabir from Hebron, who alleged that the Preventative Security Agency had summoned and pursued him for his political affiliation and activities at the Hebron University.

On the 20th of April 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Ibrahim Abdulfatah Salhab from Bethlehem, who alleged that the Preventative Security Agency had detained him for his political affiliation and activities at the Palestine Polytechnic University. He was later released on the 27th of April 2015.

On the 27th of April 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Rawhi Muhammad Marwan Abu Shamsia from Hebron, who alleged that the Preventative Security Agency had detained him for his political affiliation and activities at the Hebron University. He was later released on the 29th of April 2015.

During April 2015, the Preventative Security Agency detained a number of students at the Birzeit University and summoned others for their political affiliation after the Islamic Students Bloc's victory in the students' council election at the university. These violations were as follows:

- On the 25th of April 2015, Jihad Salim, a representative of the Students Islamic Bloc at the university's Students' Council Election Preparatory Committee was detained by the Preventative Security Agency for more than 20 hours.
- Musa'b Ayman Abdulrazaq Zalum, spokesman for the Islamic Student's Bloc, reported that his house was searched while he was outside and that the security agencies tried to detain him for his political affiliation.
- Musab Ayman Abdulraziq reported that the Preventative Security Agency summoned him alongside other students, such as, Abdulazeez al-Ajuli, Mahmoud Awashra, Husam Mansour, Ibrahim al-Ghafri after the victory of the Islamic Bloc in the students' council elections.
- On the 28th of April 2015, Muhammad Sulaiman Saqir was detained by the Preventative Security Agency for his political affiliation and student activities at Birzeit University.

VI. Seizure of Citizen's Belongings Without Judicial Warrant:

On the 7th of April 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Osama Hashim Adeeb al-Gunedi who alleged that the Preventative Security Agency in Hebron had detained him for his political affiliation and student activities at Palestine Polytechnic University. He added that they seized his mobile phone (Galaxy 3), laptop (MSII5), charger, documents, photos, books and computer set. At this time of writing, the confiscated things have still not been returned.

On the 8th of April 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Fayez Nafiz Fayez Jabir from Hebron who alleged that the Preventative Security Agency summoned and pursued him for his political affiliation and activities at Hebron University. On the 6th of April 2015, they searched through his house and confiscated a computer set and notebooks.

On the 9th of April 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Anan Abdulhalim Muhammad Abu Arafah, brother of Amer Abdulhalim Abu Arafah who is working for Shihab News Agency, in which he alleged that the General Intelligence Agency detained his brother in Hebron and demanded him to hand over the advance payment of 2500 dollars which he took from the News Agency for paying off some debts. Despite the fact that the brother had a document proving that the amount of money was paid as an advance on his salary. According to Anan Abdulhalim Muhammad Abu Arafah, the General Intelligence Agency wanted to place pressure on his brother because he is working for a news agency accused of working for Hamas.

On the 20th of April 2015, ICHR received a complaint from Hisham Kamil Abu Shaqra, a journalist from Bethlehem, in which he alleged that on the 16th of April 2015, the Preventative Security Agency detained him for 17 days and confiscated his camera, laptop, 24 CDs, personal photos, documentary films, books and flash memory. At the time of writing, they have not returned any of the confiscated things.

VII. Delay in implementing courts' decisions:

During April 2015, ICHR received one complaint regarding non-implementation of courts' decisions, however, it was solved the same month. In addition, 13 other decisions issued by the Palestinian courts over the past months, have not yet been implemented.