



Monthly Report on Violations of Human Rights and Freedoms in Palestine October 2014

Violations of human rights and freedoms in Palestine continued throughout the month of October 2014. This report presents the main violations which were monitored by ICHR during that period.

Below is a comprehensive summary:

- ❖ Violations of the right to life continued throughout the period covered by this report. ICHR monitored **9** cases; 3 in the West Bank and 6 in the Gaza Strip. They were distributed as follows: two cases occurred in family dispute, one case occurred due to misuse of firearm, one case occurred under mysterious conditions, three cases occurred due to negligence of public safety precautions and two cases due to tunnels incidents.
- ❖ ICHR received this month **64** complaints of torture and ill-treatment; **7** in the West Bank, **57** in the Gaza Strip. They were distributed in the West Bank as follows: **3** against the police agency, **3** against the preventive security agency, **1** against the general intelligence agency. In the Gaza Strip, **54** complaints were filed against the police agency, **2** against the correction and rehabilitation centers and **1** against the internal security.
- ❖ ICHR received **102** complaints of violations of the right to due process of law.
- ❖ ICHR received **32** complaints of inappropriate detention procedures in the West

Bank. The complainants claimed that they are in detention either for political reasons or arbitrarily. In the Gaza Strip, it received **80** similar complaints.

- ❖ **ICHR** monitored a number of violations (**6 cases**) concerning freedom of expression, media and peaceful assembly.
- ❖ **ICHR** monitored (**5**) cases of misuse of firearms.
- ❖ The right to movement and travel (1 case).
- ❖ Appropriation of citizens' property without judicial order (2 cases).
- ❖ Non-implementation of courts' decisions (1 case).

Details of the violations:

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

During the period of October 2014, **ICHR** monitored **9** deaths; **3** in the West Bank and **6** in the Gaza Strip. As for the cause of these deaths, they were distributed as follows: **2** cases occurred in family disputes, **1** in the Gaza Strip and **1** in West Bank. **1** case occurred due to misuse of firearms in the West Bank. **1** case occurred under mysterious conditions in WB. **3** cases occurred due to negligence of public safety precautions in the Gaza Strip and 2 other cases occurred due to tunnel collapse on Gaza Egypt border.

Further details on the causes of death below:

1. Deaths due to family disputes, vendetta and manslaughter:

- On 8th of October 2014, **Ali Ahmad Saqir, 58 years old**, from Khan Younis, died of a bullet wound to his head. According to the information provided to ICHR, Saqir was hit in the head by 2 bullets fired by an armed person in the city market. The police arrived at the scene, opened investigation and arrested

a suspect. The investigations showed that the crime was committed in revenge for a previous incident.

- On 25th of October 2014, **Muhammad al-Qadi, 23 years old**, from the village of Tel in Nablus governorate, died of a fire bullet in a family dispute in the village where firearms and stones were used. According to the information provided to ICHR, al-Qadi was killed by a fire bullet when he was standing in the area where the family dispute erupted. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident and arrested a suspect for interrogation.

2. Deaths due to misuse of firearms:

- On 16th of October 2014, **Bilal Talal Muhammad Zaid al-Rajabi, 25 years old**, from Hebron, died of a bullet wound in the chest. According to the information provided to ICHR, the Palestinian security services was carrying out a security campaign in the area that is still under Israeli control in the city (H2) to arrest wanted persons and pulverize illegal cars. Clashes broke out between the security forces and some youths. A man and a woman were injured in addition to al-Rajabi during the clashes in which stones and firearms were used. A number of the security servicemen were injured, too. Al-Rajabi was announced dead and his body was taken to the forensic institute for autopsy to identify the cause of his death and the type of the weapon used. The Public Prosecution opened investigation into the incident and the Governor's Office formed an investigation committee for the same purpose. The findings of the investigation were not published yet.

3. Deaths under mysterious conditions.

On 26th of October 2014, **Hiba Naseem Mahmoud Haian, 16 years old**, from the village of Salmouneh in Bethlehem died under mysterious conditions.

According to the information provided to ICHR, she passed out while she was on her way to school. She was transported to Beit Jallah Hospital where she was announced dead. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident. The Public Prosecution also opened investigation and referred the body of the deceased to the forensic institute for autopsy.

4. Deaths due to negligence of public safety precautions:

- On 22nd of October 2014, **Muhammad Sami Abu Jarad, 4 years old**, from the town of Beit Hanun in north Gaza, died by the explosion of explosive device. According to the information provided to ICHR, the child was injured while tampering with a grenade left behind by the Israeli occupation forces. The incident happened after the family of the child returned to their home that they evacuated during the Israeli bombardment of the area. He was transported to Beit Hanun Hospital where he was announced dead. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident.
- On 26th of October 2014, **Khaled Mahmoud al-Dali, 2 years old**, from Gaza city died after drowning in waste water pool in the American Friendship Park in al-Tufah neighborhood in Gaza. He was rushed to al-Shifa' Hospital in the city where he was announced dead.
- On 29th of October 2014, **Hassan Saleh al-Deri, 3 years old**, from Gaza city, died of falling off the roof of his family's four-storey home. He was rushed to al-Shifa' Hospital where he was announced dead. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation.

5. Deaths in tunnels:

- On the first of October 2014, Muhammad Abdulsamea' Abu al-Haj, 42 years old, from Gaza city, died of falling from a height while working in a tunnel on

the Palestinian Egyptian border. He was rushed to Abu Yousif al-Najar Hospital where he was announced dead.

- On 7th of October 2014, **Ezat Mahmoud Ayash, 23 years old**, from al-Sultan neighborhood in Rafah governorate died of an injury he sustained on 21st of September when he was working in a tunnel on the Palestinian Egyptian border. He was rushed to al-Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem where he was announced dead.

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

- On 17th of October 2014, **Ibraheem Saed Radwan, 32 years old**, from the town of Bani Sahela in Khan Younis governorate, was injured by two fire bullets in the leg. According to the information provided to ICHR, he was wounded when a person pointed his pistol and shot in his direction in the market of the town. He was rushed to the European Hospital for treatment. The police arrived at the scene and opened investigation into the incident. A suspect was arrested.

7. Torture during detention– degrading and cruel treatment:

- **ICHR** received during the period covered by this report received **64** complaints of torture and ill-treatment; 7 in the West Bank, 57 in the Gaza Strip. These complaints were distributed in the West Bank as follows: **3** complaints against the police agency, **3** complaints against the preventive security agency and **1** complaint against the general intelligence agency. In Gaza Strip, **54** complaints were filed against the police agency, **2** complaints against the Administration of the Correction and Rehabilitation Centers and **1** complaint against the internal security.

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

ICHR received during the period covered by this report **32** complaints of violation of the right to due process of law. The complainants claim that they are in detention due to political reasons or arbitrary detention. In the Gaza Strip, it received during the same period **80** similar complaints.

Concerning detention upon governor's decision, **ICHR** received this month **5** complaints; 4 in Hebron and 1 in Nablus. The first four complainants claimed that they were held for **15** days in the police cell of al-Qala'a upon the decision of the Governor of Hebron and the other complainant claimed that he was held for **14** days upon the decision of the Governor of Nablus.

III. Violation of the right to freedom of opinion, expression, press and peaceful assembly.

- On 13th of October 2014, **ICHR** received a complaint from Luay Muhammad Khalil Asafra, student at Hebron University. He claimed that the preventive security agency detained him on 28th of September due to his affiliation with Hamas Movement and questioned him about his activities with the Islamic Bloc inside the university and his posting on "facebook".
- On 17th of October 2014, the security forces temporarily obstructed a rally organized by students of Bethlehem University to prevent them arriving at Rachel's Tomb/ Bilal Bin Rabah Mosque where the Israeli occupation forces are stationed. Some participants said that they were beaten by the security forces.
- On 17th of October 2014, security forces, mainly the special police and the National Guard force prevented a peaceful rally in Hebron from heading towards Bab al-Zawya area where the Israeli occupation forces are stationed.

Some participants said that they were beaten. Journalists from Wattan News Agency were also attacked by the Palestinian security forces. According to information provided to **ICHR**, the security forces used stun bombs, tear gas canisters to disperse demonstrators. Also, some participants were arrested. Amin Ahmad Amre, the father of Anas Amre said that his son was arrested due to his participation in the demonstration. Momen Misk, 14 years old, said that security servicemen (National Guard Force) beat him on his shoulder and left hand's fingers several times. He added that they badmouthed him and threatened of holding him in prison for several days. ICHR received **3** complaints from the guardians of the persons who were held by the security forces due to their participation in the event: Muhammad Dauod Qawasmeh, Abdullah Hassan Ismael Ideis and Fuad Hijazi Subhi Ali Salem.

- On 17th of October 2014, security forces attacked the staff of Wattan News Agency while they were covering the peaceful rally that launched from al-Hussein mosque in Hebron protesting Israeli assault on al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. **ICHR** received a statement from Murad Ismael Al-Jabari, 37 years old, Manager of Wattan News Agency in southern West Bank. He claimed that the special police force assaulted the staff of Wattan Agency, confiscated their camera, held its cameraman for 10 minutes and badmouthed them. They were denied the right to cover the event or fulfill their mission.
- On 28th of October 2014, **ICHR** received a complaint from the mother of Ghasan Jamal Muhammad Najajra, 23 years old. She claimed that her son was arrested by the general intelligence agency in Bethlehem on 21st of October 2014 for his political affiliation and activity on social media.

- On 30th of October 2014, ICHR received a complaint from the family of Hassan Khaled Hassan al-Qawasmeh, student at Palestine Polytechnic University. They claimed that the preventive security in Hebron arrested him on 29/10/2014 for political reasons and student activities.

IV. Misuse of firearms

Following the security campaign that was carried out by the security forces on 16/10/2014 in Hebron, the following incidents took place:

- On 16th of October 2014, masked persons opened fire in air in the center of Hebron. No injuries or damages were reported.
- On 17th of October 2014, masked persons opened fire in Bab al-Zawya in the center of Hebron. No injuries or damages were reported.
- On 17th of October 2014, the police center in Hebron was exposed to firing. The police said no injuries were reported.
- On 23rd of October 2014, unknown persons opened fire at the house and car of Adnan Misbah Al-Rajabi. The cars of his father and nephew were also fired at. Adnan works as lieutenant kernel at the national security force. No injuries were reported. The police opened investigation into the incident.
- On 29th of October 2014, unknown persons opened fire in the area of Abu al-Halawah in Hebron. No injuries were reported.

V. Assault on persons, public institutions and public and private property:

On 7th of October 2014, a blast happened in the French Cultural Center western Gaza city and caused damage to the building. The civil defense brigade extinguished the fire and the police arrived at the scene. Investigation is still underway.

VI. Violation of the right to movement and travel

On 30th of October 2014, ICHR received a complaint from Ali Khaled Ali Qaraqe', 24 years old, from Al-Aza refugee camp in Bethlehem. He claimed that on 29th of October 2014 when he was travelling to Jordan, the Palestinian intelligence agency stopped him on the crossing and prevented him from travelling due to his social media activities and ironic comments on the political situation. They asked him to report to their office in Bethlehem on 2/11/2014. They asked him to give them his facebook account.

VII. Appropriation of citizens' property without court's order

- **ICHR** received during the period covered by this report a complaint from Issam Yasin Abdulhamid al-Rajabi, 32 years old, from Hebron. He claimed that on 16/10/2014 he was arrested by the joint security force and held in the general investigation unit center. He added that they confiscated his DVR which he uses in his car show.
- **ICHR** received a complaint from Misbah Sulaiman al-Qawasmeh, the father of Tamer Misbak al-Qawasmeh. He claimed that on 11/11/2013, the general intelligence agency arrested his son (Tamer) and confiscated a sword, 2 daggers, 2 telescopes, 2 sweaters, personal docs and CD from his house. Though they released him in June, they didn't return the said items.

VIII. Delay in implementing courts' decisions:

ICHR received a complaint from Samer Abdulmuti Maqbul, from Nablus. He asks for the implementation of the decision issued by the High Court of Justice on 23/4/2014 to stop Ohud Yaesh from managing al-Itihad al-Nisa'e Society and return Maqbul to his work as manager of the computer

section in al-Itihad al-Nisa'e Hospital that is owned by al-Itihad al-Nisa'e Society in Nablus.

It is worth mentioning that 13 decisions issued by Palestinian courts over the past few months have not been implemented yet.