



Monthly Report on Violations of Human Rights and Public Freedoms in the Palestinian-controlled Territory

January 2010

This monthly report highlights major human rights violations as monitored and documented by the **Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR)** throughout the Palestinian-controlled Territory during the month of January 2010.

Based on ongoing monitoring and documentation of encroachments on human rights and public freedoms during the month of January 2010, ICHR concludes the following:

1. Several cases of death occurred as a result of family disputes as well as deaths within suspicious circumstances.
2. Torture of detainees persists in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as indicated by detainees' claims and complaints filed to **ICHR**. There has been a notable increase in the number of allegations of torture (28 complaints in the Gaza Strip and 5 complaints in the West Bank).
3. Detention of individuals prevails in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank without regard to due process and stipulations of the Basic Law and the Penal Procedural Code.
4. The non-enforcement and procrastination of courts' decisions and rulings continue in the West Bank.
5. Monitoring and documentation of several cases of violations of public freedoms which took place extensively in the Gaza Strip this month.
6. Increase in the number of violations on public and private properties which took place extensively in the Gaza Strip this month.
7. The Ministry of Interior in Ramallah continues to deny the Deposed Government the supply of passport books.

Below is a detailed description of the aforementioned violations:

1. Violations of the Right to Life and Physical Safety

ICHR documented (19) cases of death in the Palestinian-controlled Territory during January 2010 including (10) deaths in the Gaza Strip and (9) deaths in the West Bank. As for the cause of death, these cases are distributed as follows: (4) cases of death in suspicious circumstances (3 in the West Bank and 1 in the Gaza Strip). **ICHR** also documented (5) cases of death caused by family disputes in

the West Bank. Additionally, there were (7) cases of death linked to negligence and failure to adopt public safety precautions (6 in the West Bank and 1 in the Gaza Strip), and (3) other death cases as a result of tunnels accidents.

The following provides more details on the death toll during the month of January:

Deaths in Suspicious Circumstances

In January, the following deaths in suspicious circumstances were registered in the West Bank:

- On 25/1/2010, **Iyad Mohammed Abu Awad**, a 35-year old male passed away and was brought to Jericho Government Hospital. According to **ICHR's** information, the body was referred to the coroner's office to determine the cause of death. The investigation is still ongoing by both the police and the Public prosecution.
- On 24/1/2010, **Shadya Mahajneh**, a 35-year old female resident of Taybeh village in the Jenin District was found dead and deserted on the side of the road nearby Jaba' village in the same district. According to **ICHR's** information, a police force, the district attorney, and the coroner arrived on the crime scene where the Public prosecution's representative in the Jenin district stated that the body was examined by the coroner for autopsy and the investigations are still going on to find the criminals.
- On 10/1/2010, **Sahar Khader Rateb Iskafy**, a 28 year-old resident of Hebron died after she fell from the fourth floor of her apartment building. The body was transferred to Hebron Government Hospital and was examined by the Public prosecution and the police. One suspect was arrested in this case.
- On 26/1/2010, **Jihad Talal Sheikh**, a 26 year-old resident of Zawaydeh village in the central district died of a gunshot to the chest while he was at his house. According to **ICHR's** information and the statement from his family, the deceased was found laying on the ground with his personal weapon next to him right after they heard the gun shots. The police opened an investigation into the accident and the Public prosecution referred the body to the coroner's office.

Deaths due to family disputes and acts of revenge

During this month, the following five deaths were documented, all of which took place in the West Bank:

- On 10/1/2010, **Ra'fat Rawhi Al Ajlouni**, a 28-year old male resident of Hebron, died due to wounds received on 6/1/2010. He was shot in the head during a family dispute in the old city in Hebron. According to information obtained by **ICHR**, the security agencies opened an investigation into the incident in order to present the perpetrator before the court.
- On 9/1/2010, **Sami Ahmad Abdul Rahman Safi**, a 42-year old male resident of Jericho city died from several shot wounds in various parts of his body during a domestic dispute between the Safi family and the Nashwan family from Ein Sultan Refugee Camp in Jericho. According to information obtained by **ICHR**, the Public prosecution opened an investigation into the incident, the perpetrator confessed to the Prosecution and the interrogation is still ongoing with him and other suspects.

- On 17/1/2010, **Ghaleb Yahya Al Salaymeh**, a 39-year old resident of Wadi Qadoun - Jabal Al Mukaber died during a family dispute between two families in the neighborhood.
- On 25/1/2010, **Aysheh Saleh Hamad hadeh**, a 39-year old female resident of Nour Shams Refugee Camp died due to a break in the upper part of the neck caused by a strike by a sharp object. It was noted once the body was received at Thabet Thabet Hospital that there are traces on the body that indicate a crime. According to **ICHR**'s information, the police opened an investigation into the episode and held a number of people for questioning. Then the police discovered that the incident took place following a dispute over money.
- On 20/1/2010, **Ahmad Sidqi Radwan Khleif**, a 35-year old male resident of Bani Ilyas village in the Qalqilya District died due to wounds sustained from gunshots on 15/1/2010 during a family dispute as he was standing in front of his house in the village. According to **ICHR**'s information, the police opened an investigation into the incident after holding the perpetrator for questioning.

Deaths due to Negligence and Failure to Adopt Public Safety Precautions

During the reporting period, **7** cases of death occurred as a result of negligence and failure to adopt public safety precautions. **6** of these cases occurred in the Gaza Strip and one death was reported to have occurred in the West Bank, as described below:

- On 12/1/2010, **Bilal Khamees Al Khreibi**, a 22-year old male resident of Khan Younis, passed away from burn wounds that he sustained when a gas tank exploded as he was working at a frozen goods factory located at Al Amal neighborhood in the west of the city.
- On 22/1/2010, Khader, 7, Malak, 4 and Obaida, 2 the three children of Sameer Barghouth from Deir Al Balah died after inhaling smoke of an electric generator while they were sleeping in their house. According to **ICHR**'s information, the Public prosecution referred the bodies to the coroner and opened an investigation into the accident.
- On 22/1/2010, **Salha Nasr Allah al-Eid**, a 35-year old female from Rafah city died due to severe burn wounds sustained from a fire that erupted in her house. According to **ICHR**'s information, the body arrived at Abu Alnajar hospital and then referred to the coroner's office in Gaza. The police opened an investigation into the incident.
- On 27/1/2010, **Zeinab Mohammad Abu Warda**, a 70 year-old female resident of Jabalya burned to death. According to **ICHR** information, the fire erupted while her son was trying to light up the heater which was leaking gas. The whole house was burned down and the police arrived on the scene and opened an investigation into the accident.
- On 14/1/2010, **Imad Abdul Kareem Kan'an**, a 41-year old male resident of Anabta town in Tulkarem died after he fell from the elevator that he was maintaining in Ramallah. According to information obtained by **ICHR**, the cause of death was a fall from the 6th floor as the deceased was repairing the elevator in a building in Al Masyoon neighborhood in Ramallah. The cabinet of the elevator fell while he was inside it. He sustained broken bones and an internal bleeding, he was transferred to Ramallah hospital and then to Mustaqbal hospital before passing away in the evening of the same day.

Tunnel-Related Deaths

ICHR documented **three** cases of tunnel-related deaths resulting from accidents that took place at the tunnels at the Egyptian-Palestinian borders. The causes of death were either due to suffocation of the three people inside or falling off a high place or electrical wiring accident.

Torture during Detention: Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment

ICHR expresses its deepest concerns to the persistence of practices by the security agencies that constitute infringements on the rights and safety of detainees in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In **ICHR's** opinion, these practices should be prohibited, criminalized and punishable by law.

In January, **ICHR** has continued to receive complaints on a regular basis from citizens alleging being subjected to ill treatment and torture inflicted by the security agencies in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, **ICHR** received **(5)** complaints of torture in the month of January against the following security agencies:

- 2 complaints against the police
- 1 complaint the Preventive Security
- 1 complaint against the General Intelligence
- 1 complaint against the joint security forces

For the same reporting period, **(28)** similar complaints on torture and ill-treatment were lodged at **ICHR** against two security agencies in the Gaza Strip, run by the Ministry of Interior of the Deposed Government (the Internal security and the police).

2. Violations of the Right to Proper Legal Procedures - which also covers arbitrary detention and arrest on political grounds

ICHR is also deeply concerned by the continuation of incidents of arbitrary detentions and political arrests that do not comply with fair and proper legal procedures and those that deny citizens their personal freedoms without any respective legal justifications. One of the most fundamental rights has been violated when detained citizens are deprived of their right to be presented before a natural judge (i.e. regular judiciary) in stark violation to the Palestinian Basic Law and the Penal Procedural Code. Arbitrary detention practices continued at different paces in both of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as **ICHR** received numerous complaints of citizens who claimed they were arrested and arbitrarily confined to detention centers without legal justification.

In this regard **ICHR** received **(195)** complaints in the West Bank during the month of January, including **(141)** against security agencies while **(103)** complaints claimed the invalidity of the procedures followed in their detention, as complainants were either arrested arbitrarily or on the basis of political affiliations.

As for the Gaza Strip, **ICHR** received (72) complaints this month, (62) of which are against the security agencies while (38) claimed the invalidity of the procedures followed in their detention, as complainants were either arrested arbitrarily or on political grounds.

3. Attacks on the Freedom of Speech, Peaceful Assembly and Academic Freedoms

ICHR documented the following incidents of peaceful assembly violations during January:

- On 4/1/2010 members of the Internal security went into “Al Samak” restaurant located near the beach in Gaza city as there was a celebration for the anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution organized by the General Union of Palestinian Women. The security members asked the organizers to cancel the ceremony which they refused. Security members then remained in the hall until the ceremony was over and arrested the owner and interrogated him on hosting this event. Before he was released, he was forced to sign a letter of commitment not to host any events before obtaining a permit from competent parties.
- On 10/1/2010, the police prevented the General Union of Palestinian Women from organizing a ceremony to commemorate the first anniversary of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip. According to **ICHR's** information, members of the General Intelligence in Jabalya called upon both the administrative director and the janitor of the Jabalya Services Club. They were forced to sign a commitment not to host this event and not to open the hall of the club even though the police was informed.
- On 14/1/2010, a member of the national security agencies of the Ministry of Interior of the Deposed government in the Gaza Strip broke into the house of Ammar Yaser Al Talawi in Khan Younis. The latter is a cameraman and a producer in the Al Aqsa Media Network. He was threatened after his computer was taken away. According to his statement to **ICHR**, the security officer wanted to get a hold of media material related to his work by force. He also said that the police refused to receive his complaint on the incident when he attempted filing a complaint in the police station, as one police officer detained him for around an hour and assaulted him and forced him to sign a commitment to maintain order before he was released.
- On 1/1/2010, **Nathiran Jadou’ Al Swirky**, a 56-year old female resident of Al Tufah neighborhood in Gaza city passed away as police officers were arresting her two sons while beating them to transfer them to Al Tufah police station. The reason for the arrest was lighting candles to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of the Fatah Movement. The woman passed out while she was walking and the police decided to transfer her to Al Shifa hospital. She passed away before she got to the hospital. According to **ICHR's** information, the incident occurred in the context of procedures taken by the security agencies in the Gaza Strip against the members and affiliates of the Fatah movement in order to stop them from having any festive events to celebrate the launch of the Fatah movement in the Gaza Strip.

Attacks on Associations

During the reporting period, **ICHR** documented the following attacks on the establishment of associations:

On 17/1/2010 members of the Internal Security force entered the office of the head of the Refugee Department at the Palestinian Liberation Organization located in Tal el Hawa in Gaza city. According to

information obtained by **ICHR**, the office and the computer set were searched while the IDs of two employees were withheld. They were questioned at the internal security headquarters in Gaza with regard to the department's work before they were released.

Attacks on Academic Freedoms

On 12/1/2010, the president of Al Quds Open University - the northern branch, Dr. Khaled Mohammad Abdul Dayem, a 54 year old resident of Jabalya city, was summoned by the internal security agency. He was questioned about his professional profile and his relation with the Fatah Movement and its activities inside the university. During the cross-examination, he was humiliated and warned not to discriminate between students' unions particularly the Islamic one.

On 17/1/2010, a police force entered the campus of Al Azhar University in Gaza city and arrested 6 students, among them the coordinator of the Student's Movement at the university.

4. Attacks on Public Institutions and Public and Private Property

In the month of January, **ICHR** documented the following cases of attacks on public institutions and private properties:

- On 6/1/2010, a bomb exploded in front of "Tal Al Qamar" Café in the Nasser neighborhood in Gaza. The café is owned by Theeb Al Balawi and Rami Yousef Al Ajrami from Gaza. The accident resulted in mild damages in the café and according to the owners' statement to **ICHR**, the police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation into the event.
- On 9/1/2010 a bomb exploded in front of Al Andalib Café in downtown Gaza which is owned by Mohamed Salem Thafer and caused major damages to the café. According to **ICHR's** information, the police opened an investigation into the incident.
- On 11/1/2010, a bomb exploded at the entrance of a drug store located in Jabalya city owned by Ahmad Abu Saqer. The accident caused material damages to the drug store. According to **ICHR's** information, the police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation into the accident.
- On 13/1/2010, a bomb exploded underneath a car owned by Mohammed Salameh Al Ghsein from Al Daraj neighborhood in Gaza city who works in the navy police. The explosion caused severe damages to the car. According to **ICHR's** information, the police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation into the accident.
- On 14/1/2010, a bomb planted at the entrance of a billiard hall called "Friends Forum" in Al Nasser neighborhood in Gaza city exploded. The explosion caused partial damage to the door. According to **ICHR's** information, the police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation into the accident.
- On 14/1/2010, a bomb exploded at the entrance of a maintenance shop for computers and cell phones owned by Sami Eid Areir located at Al Shuja'yeh neighborhood in Gaza city. The accident caused damages to the entrance. According to **ICHR's** information the police arrived to the scene and opened an investigation into the accident.

- On 23/1/2010, a bomb exploded underneath an SUV owned by Ahmed Fuad Abu Qarayah from Al Daraj neighborhood in Gaza. The accident caused damages to the car and according to **ICHR** the police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation into the accident.
- On 26/1/2010, a bomb was planted underneath an SUV owned by Maher Ibrahim Al Layli from the Sabra neighborhood in Gaza city. The citizen works with the naval police. The explosion caused severe damages to the car. According to **ICHR**, the police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation into the accident.
- On 26/1/2010, a cafeteria owned by Fuad Musa Abu Jabal was burned down by unidentified citizens in Al Breij city in the central governorate. According to **ICHR's** information, the fire was put out by the civil defense and the police opened an investigation into the accident.

5. Delayed Execution and Procrastination in the Enforcement of Palestinian Courts' Judgments

It was noted during this month that the issue of the non enforcement of court rulings especially in the West Bank has increased. Any failure to enforce the decision of the Palestinian courts, regardless of their nature or level, is considered a forthright violation of the stipulations of the Palestinian Basic Law, and more notably Article **(106)** that states that “judicial decisions are enforceable and any form of defaulting on their implementation is a crime punishable by imprisonment or dismissal from office ...”.

In this reporting period, rulings and decisions, issued by the Court of First Instance in the city of Nablus, for the release of a number of citizens detained on the ground of “affiliation to militia” are still not being executed. Despite the actual payment of the specified bails, the security agencies insist on not releasing them.

As for the enforcement of the Palestinian Supreme Court and the Court of First Instance rulings, **ICHR** documented a number of complaints on the non-enforcement of decisions issued by the Supreme Court while the executive power, in both its civil and military arms, failed to enforce those decisions until the writing of this report, including the following cases:

First: cases of non enforced decisions during the month of January:

1. On 10/1/2010, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice in Ramallah ordered the release of **Nidal Sameeh Murshid Sleimiyeh**, who has been detained since 3/10/2009 by the military police in the military prison in Hebron, in the custody of the Military Justice Commission as the arrest violates the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. However, the decision has not been enforced until the writing of this report.
2. On 10/1/2010, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Mazen Shihdeh Saleem Warsaneh**, who has been in the detention of the military police in the military prison in Hebron on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 16/8/2009 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code No 3 for the year 2001. This decision has not been enforced until the writing of this report.
3. On 10/1/2010, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Mohammad Rajab Shihdeh Fataftah**, who has been in the detention of the General Intelligence in Hebron on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 31/12/2008 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.

4. On 19/1/2010, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Mohannad Mahmoud Jameel Nairoukh**, who has been in the detention of the General Intelligence in Hebron on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 10/10/2008 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.
5. On 19/1/2010, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Wisam Azzam Abul Muhsin Qawasmeh**, who has been in the detention of the General Intelligence in Hebron on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 8/10/2008 due to the violation of the provisions of the Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.
6. On 10/1/2010, the Penal Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Dia Adden Hamdan Ali Musleh**, who has been in the detention of the General Intelligence centers in Nablus on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 27/8/2009 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.
7. On 12/1/2010, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Tareq Abdul Razeq Dawoud Zeid**, who has been in the detention of the General Intelligence in Nablus on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 8/11/2009 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.
8. On 19/1/2010, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Sami Smeer Abdu Sider**, who has been in the detention of the Preventive Security in Nablus on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 11/9/2009 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.
9. On 12/1/2010, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Sa'ed Basem Fathi Yaseen**, who has been in the detention of the General Intelligence in Nablus on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 19/11/2009 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.
10. On 11/1/2010, the Court of First Instance in Nablus ordered the release of **Aref Mohamed Aref Dawoud**, who has been in the detention of the Preventive Security in Ramallah on the custody of the civil prosecution since 19/4/2009 while the decision has not been enforced yet.

Second: Non enforced decisions issued in the past months

1. On 15/12/2009, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Atef Ali Hussein Rbaa**, who has been in the detention of the General Intelligence in Hebron on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 18/11/2009. Due to the violation of the provisions of the Procedural Penal Code No 3 of the year 2001. This decision has not been enforced yet.
2. On 12/1/2010, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Khaled Jameel Khalil Al Sarraj**, who has been in the detention of the General Intelligence in Ramallah due to the illegality of detention procedures. This decision has not been enforced yet.
3. On 24/6/2009, the Palestinian Supreme Court issued a decision to revoke a prior decision by the Ministry of Interior that ordered the appointment of an interim preparatory committee for the administration of **Yatta Charitable Society for the Care of Orphans** instead of the former elected administration. The court ruled that the Ministry's decision has not mentioned the case of such measure and the fact that it violates the provisions of Article 37 of the Charitable Associations Law of 2001 as the decision has not been enforced until the writing of this report.
4. On 22/4/2009, the Palestinian High Court issued a decision which ordered the police to reinstate **Nour Eddine Saleh Hammad**, into the police forces with all of his ranks. The aforementioned was dismissed from the police service since 1/11/2007. Nevertheless, the courts decisions remain unimplemented until the time of writing this report.

5. On 18/10/2009, the Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Walid Musa Hamid Hussein** who has been detained by the Preventive Security in Ramallah since 11/7/2009 but the court's decision has not been enforced yet.
6. On 14/10/2009, the Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Joudeh Mahmoud Daghra** who has been detained by the Military Intelligence Agency in Ramallah. The court's decision has not been enforced until the writing of this report.
7. On 22/11/2009, the Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Bahjat fathi Yousef Yamin** who has been detained by the Military Intelligence Agency in Qalqilya since 8/4/2009. The court's decision has not been enforced until the writing of this report.
8. On 8/7/2009, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice revoked a prior decision by the Ministry of Interior that ordered the dissolution of the elected administrative body of Beit Ummar Society for the Care of Orphans, and the appointment of an interim preparatory committee. The court ruled that the Ministry's decision has not mentioned the case of such measure and the fact it violates the provisions of the Charitable Associations Law of 2001.
9. On 6/7/2009, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the return of **Mohammad AbdulQader Ibrahim Karaja** to his place of work in the Police and to cancel his expulsion and all entailing issues of this decision which is claimed to violate the provisions of Article 19 paragraph 4 of the Security Agencies Service Law of 2005. However the police have not implemented the decision until the writing of this report.
10. On 15/12/2009, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Tayseer Ali Hussein Rbaa**, who has been in the detention of the General Intelligence in Hebron on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 6/11/2009. Due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.
11. On 29/12/2009, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of Khalil Abdul Jalil Khalil Shahateet, who is detained by the military police in Hebron, on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 10/3/2009 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. However, the decision has not been enforced until the writing of this report.
12. On 30/12/2009, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Abdul Salam Jamal Abdul Salam Abu Heija**, who has been in the detention of the General Intelligence in Nablus on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 16/11/2009 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.
13. On 30/12/2009, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Nidal Mohammed Abdul Latif Jaber**, who has been in the detention of the General Intelligence in Nablus on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 3/6/2009 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.
14. On 24/11/2009, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Ahmed Tayseer Mohammad Ghanem**, who has been in the detention of the Preventive Security in Nablus on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 29/8/2009 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.
15. On 28/9/2009, the Palestinian Supreme Court of Justice ordered the release of **Alaa Tayseer abdul Hafeth al-Surakji**, who has been in the detention of the preventive security in Nablus on the custody of the Military Justice Commission since 14/1/2009 due to the violation of the provisions of the Penal Procedural Code. This decision has not been enforced yet.

6. Violations of the Right to Travel and Movement

Gaza residents are still suffering from the unavailability of passport books since November 2008 until the end of this current month (January 2010).

According to information that **ICHR** obtained from officials from the Ministry of Interior of the Deposed Government, the Ministry of Interior in the West Bank does not send passport books for citizens in the Gaza Strip which entails depriving them from the right to travel and movement. In addition, it affects most of those in urgent need for traveling abroad for seeking medical care, university education, students and thousands of expatriates whose passports have expired and require renewal.

7. Dismissal from Civil Service (dismissed teachers who were appointed when Hamas Government took office in 2006):

The Palestinian Ministry of Education continues to issue decisions for the dismissal or suspension of appointment against a number of school teachers and staff. In January 2010, (9) more complaints were filed to **ICHR** thus increasing the total number of teachers' dismissal or suspension complaints filed to the **ICHR** over the past months to (362). The aggrieved stated that their dismissals were made upon decisions by the Minister of Education and Higher Education under pretexts such as the non-obtainment of security clearance or approvals of their appointments from parties that are not the competent authorities to begin with or mandated by the law to assume such a responsibility. **ICHR** deems that such measures violate both of the Palestinian Basic Law and Law of Civil Service not to mention their infringement on citizens' right to assume public office equally and without discrimination.