



**A monthly report on  
violations of human rights and freedoms  
in Palestine during June 2016**

In June 2016, domestic violations of human rights continued at a fluctuating pace. This monthly summary report highlights major human rights violations monitored and documented by the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR). Based on the documentation and monitoring of encroachments of human rights during June 2016, the (ICHR) concludes the following:

**Domestic human rights violations**

Violation	May 2016	June 2016	West Bank	Gaza
Incidents of unnatural death	20	12	9	3
Complaints of torture and ill-treatment	37	19	8	11
Violations of the right to due process of law	60	35	22	13
Detentions ordered by the Governor	17	5	5	0
Attacks on peaceful assemblies	9	6	5	1
Unenforced or delayed enforcement of court decisions	4	5	4	1

- In comparison with **20** incidents which had been reported in May 2016, the ICHR monitored **12** incidents of unnatural death during June 2016.
- In May 2016, the ICHR received **37** complaints of torture and ill-treatment, in contrast with **19** complaints had been filed in June 2016.
- In May 2016, the ICHR received **60** complaints of violations of the right to due process of law and detention without fair trial, in contrast with **35** complaints filed in June 2016
- The ICHR received **five** complaints against detentions ordered by the governor in the West Bank, while it had received **17** complaints in May 2016.

The ICHR was established in 1993 upon a Presidential Decree no. (59), and article 31 of the Palestinian Basic law 2013.

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- The ICHR documented **six** attacks on peaceful assemblies and encroachment on freedom of the press and freedom of opinion and expression. By contrast, **nine** attacks had been reported in May 2016.
- Compared with **four** complaints documented in May 2016, the ICHR received **five** complaints against unenforced or delayed enforcement of court decisions in June 2016.
- The ICHR documented **two** attacks on public institutions in the West Bank, while **seven** attacks were reported in May 2016.

A detailed description of violations:

### **I. Violations of the right to life and physical safety**

During June 2016, the ICHR documented 12 deaths, including nine in the West Bank and three in the Gaza Strip. Of these deaths, four incidents were deaths in mysterious circumstances, including three deaths in the West Bank and one in Gaza. Four people died in family feuds and manslaughter, including three deaths in the West Bank and one in Gaza. Two individuals, one in Gaza and the other in the West Bank, died due to a failure to implement public safety measures. Two people died in the West Bank as a result of illegal and unregulated spread and misuse of weapons and firearms.

A detailed account of incidents of deaths is laid hereunder:

#### **1. Deaths in Mysterious Circumstances**

- On 7 June 2016, **A. J., a 19-year-old male resident** of Silat al-Harithiya in Jenin, died of a bullet wound in the thigh. The ambulance was prevented from reaching him, and thus he lost a lot of blood. The national security forces shot A.J. while they were entering al-Jaradat neighborhood in Silat al-Harithiya, west of Jenin, to search a house. Young men resisted these forces, although it was unclear whether they used firearms or stones as reports were conflicting. The security forces used firearms and injured A. J. They dragged him into the street and the ambulance was only allowed to reach him after more than one hour, which resulted in his death. He was transferred to Dr. Khalil Sulaiman Hospital, where he passed away. Jenin's governor set up a committee to investigate the death upon the request of the family, who has blamed the security forces in Jenin for the death of their son. Up to the time of publication of this report, no official report of the incident has been issued.

- On 14 June 2016, **the dead body of M. M., a 22-year-old male resident** of Misilyah in Jenin, was found at the entrance to a residence next to the Arab American University. According to information provided to the ICHR, police arrived at the scene and opened an investigation into the incident. An investigation into the cause of death is still ongoing. The dead citizen worked as a guard at one of the dormitories near the university.

- On 17 June 2016, **T. Z., a 3-year-old child** from Beit Ummar in Hebron, drowned in her family's well. According to information provided to the ICHR, the police attended the scene and opened an investigation into the incident.

- On 27 June 2016, **N. N., a 44-year-old female** resident of Beit Lahia, north of Gaza, died of severe injuries after falling from a 3-storey balcony. According to information provided to the ICHR, N. N. fell from the balcony into the garden while cleaning the a window of an apartment at the third-story. She was admitted to the Indonesian Hospital in Gaza, where she died. The police attended the scene and opened an investigation into the incident.

## **2. Deaths in Family Feuds, Disputes and Manslaughter**

- On 25 June 2016, **the body of Sh. S., a 57-year-old female resident** of Gaza, was found in her house in Hadeel Tower, west of Gaza. Her body had marks consistent with being beaten with a sharp instrument. According to information provided to ICHR, the public prosecution and police attended the scene and opened an investigation into the incident. Three suspects were arrested; the death appeared to have occurred during a robbery at the citizen's home.

- On 29 June 2016, **M. Q., M. Q., and A. Q., aged 32, 47 and 18 respectively**, from Ya'bad, Jenin were shot dead during a family dispute in the town. According to information provided to the ICHR, a family dispute occurred before the Maghreb prayer, in which firearms were heavily used. The reason for the dispute was that one family refused to use the wedding hall of the other family. As a result, three Qabaha family members were killed, in addition to citizens and security forces, who were seriously injured trying to stop the fight. Properties were also set alight. The police attended the scene and opened an investigation. On 2 July 2016, the ICHR issued a statement on the importance of limiting the spread of illegal firearms and the formation of a committee to investigate the incident.

## **3. Deaths Resulting from Failure to Implement Public Safety Measures**

- On 5 June 2016, **the body of M. J., a 16-year-old** male from Qalqilya, was discovered in a well in Burqa, Nablus. According to information provided by M. J.'s parents, he disappeared on 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2016, when he was with his father, delivering tiles to the village school. It was ascertained that he fell into the well while moving the tiles; he probably failed to notice the well, which was merely covered with wooden boards.

- On 14 June 2016, **E.D., a 6-year-old child** from Rafah died of poisoning from an insecticide used on his family's farm. He died upon arrival at the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Yunis. According to information provided to the ICHR, the public prosecution and police attended the scene and opened an investigation into the incident.

## **4. Deaths Resulting from Misuse of Arms**

- On 29 June 2016, **A. S. and A. T., 24 and 26 years old** respectively, were killed. Both were residents of Nablus and worked with the security forces. According to information provided to the ICHR, these officers had been attempting to arrest gunmen in a suburb of the city. The incident occurred after one of the gunmen opened fire at a vehicle belonging to F. Sh., who also works with the security forces. F. Sh.'s wife was in the car and was injured.

### 5. Casualties Resulting from Misuse of Arms

- At midnight on 1 June 2016, anonymous gunmen shot A. A. after breaking into his house in Jenin refugee camp. As a result, A. A. was injured and was taken to hospital for treatment. The gunmen declared that they were the “hand of force” of national and Islamic forces in Jenin, arguing that they should punish whoever commit such an act in the absence of the active presence of security forces in the governorate.

**6. Torture in Detention - Cruel and Degrading Treatment:** During the period covered by this report, **19** complaints were made about torture and mistreatment, **eight** of them in the West Bank and **11** in Gaza. Complaints in the West Bank were as follows: **5** complaints against the police, **two** against the preventive forces, and **one** against the public intelligence services. In Gaza, **nine** complaints were made against the police and **two** against the internal security forces. Different methods of torture were described by complainants, like *Shabeh*, beatings using hands, legs and batons, cursing and humiliation.

**II. Violation of the right to due process of law:** This includes arbitrary detention, detention on the grounds of political affiliation, detention ordered by a governor and trial by military tribunals.

**Arbitrary and political detention:** During the reporting period, the ICHR received **22 complaints** against invalid detention procedures, including arbitrary or political detention in the West Bank, and **13** complaints filed in Gaza. During **June 2016**, **5** citizens were detained upon orders from governors. At the time of writing, **two** citizens were released and another **three** are in detention; they are named as:

#	Name	Detention Date	Place of Detention	Detained by	Comments
1	Amjad Alayan Sa'd Zamel	23/5/2016	Preventative Security, Nablus	Nablus Governor	
2	Hamza “Imad Ad-din” Ardnyeh	25/2/2016	Nablus Governor	Nablus Governor	
3	Ra'ef Salem Jameel I'ker	19/6/2016	Nablus Governor	Nablus Governor	

**III. Attacks on public institutions, public and private property and attacks on individuals.**

- On the night of 14 June 2016, unidentified individuals opened fire at a police station in al-Yamun in Jenin before fleeing. On the following night, unidentified individuals also opened fire at the police station without being arrested. According to eyewitnesses, shots were fired directly towards the police station without causing any casualties.
- On 30 June 2016, a citizen vandalized the contents of Hebron directorate of endowments, near the Ibrahim Mosque, and hurled insults at directorate staff; the reason is unknown. A complaint was filed at Hebron police station, but the police could not arrest the suspect because the suspect lives in Israeli-controlled Area C.

#### **IV: Encroachments on freedom of opinion and expression, the press and peaceful assembly**

- On 15 June 2016, personnel from the general investigations services in Gaza prevented the organisation of an event called “The Palestinian division must end”, called for on Facebook by the Consortium of Independent Palestinians (CIP). According to available information, the CIP applied for a permission to stage the event, but the request was rejected.
- On 15 June 2016, during a security crackdown at Kufr Aqab, security forces hit journalist Jihad Mahmoud Ahmad Qasem on his face, dragged and pushed him, then detained him inside a security vehicle to prevent him from filming.
- On 21 June 2016, the intelligence agency in Hebron searched the house of A.H., a 21-year-old resident of al-Shuyookh in Hebron Governorate, without a formal court warrant. The individual was not at home. Later on 26 June 2016, the man gave himself up voluntarily and was detained on the grounds of a post on Facebook regarding his earlier arrest by the intelligence agency on 15 August 2015.
- On 25 June 2016, intelligence personnel in Nablus detained A. A., a 33-year-old resident of Hebron and a reporter for Shihab news agency in the West Bank, during the filming of an episode on Ramadan customs and traditions. He was prevented from filming, assaulted, injuring his hand, and his camera was seized. He was transferred to intelligence HQ at Nablus and interrogated about his work; he was released the following morning.
- On 27 June 2016, the intelligence agency in Hebron searched S.A., a 38-year-old freelance journalist from Hebron, regarding her journalistic work. The agency confiscated her camera, returning it the same night, and released her husband, who was detained for several hours.
- On 27 June 2016, the intelligence agency in Hebron summoned N.A., a 28-year-old resident of Hebron employed at the Ram Sat news agency. According to the complaint he filed, he was summoned because of his political background, his journalistic work and the fact that he was a former political prisoner of the intelligence agency.

#### **V. Unwarranted confiscation of private property**

- On 21 June 2016, the intelligence agency in Hebron searched the house of M.H., the father of A.H. who is currently detained by the intelligence agency in Hebron, without a formal court warrant. Several photographs were confiscated, along with a black coat under the pretext that it was a military coat.
- On 24 June 2016, the intelligence agency in Hebron arrested A.S., who had spent ten years in Israeli jails, and confiscated the sum of 23,500 ILS. The agency had not returned the money by the time of writing of this report.
- On 27 June 2016, the intelligence agency in Hebron searched the house of H.A. and confiscated a hard disk, a personal computer and a camera that belonged to his wife, who is a journalist. Later, the camera was returned with the camera's memory card, a CD case holder that belonged to his children and papers belonging to his wife. Other items had not been returned at the time of writing of this report.

#### **VI. Delayed and stalled enforcement of court decisions**

- On 17 June 2016, the ICHR received a complaint from H.A., a 29-year-old who had been detained at az-Zayton police station. In a nut-shell, the complain states that the court release order of 6 June 2016 which stipulates that the detainee shall be release after 91 days of detention has not been entered into effect yet.
- On 24 May 2016, the security forces in Hebron arrested M.Kh., a 35-year-old from Gaza and a resident of Halhoul. On 7 June 2016, the Halhoul magistrate's court released him on bail of 200 JD. Although the bail was timely paid to the court, the security forces did not enforced the court order before 21 June 2016.
- On 24 May 2016, the security forces in Hebron arrested A.S., a 30-year-old resident of Bethlehem city. On 6 June 2016, the Halhoul magistrate's court decided to release him on a bail. Although the bail was timely paid to the court, the security forces arbitrarily adjourned the enforcement of the order until 21 June 2016.
- On 26 May 2016, the security forces in Bethlehem arrested A.T., a 25-year-old resident of Bethlehem. On 2 June 2016, the Bethlehem magistrate's court ordered the release of the defendant, but the security forces did not enforce this decision and continued to keep A.T. in detention as ordered by the governor. Eventually, the defendant was released on 14 June 2016.
- On 26 May 2016, Bethlehem security forces arrested Y.S., a 34-year-old resident of Bethlehem. On 2 June 2016, the Bethlehem magistrate's court decided to release him on a bail. Although the bail was paid to the court, the security forces adjourned the enforcement of the order until 12 June 2016.

**In addition, 11 court decisions delivered over recent months and years have not been enforced.**

## IX. ICHR documentation of violations of human rights in public policies and the legislative process

### Cabinet decisions:

1. On 21 June 2016, the Cabinet requested comments from Cabinet members on draft amendments to the General Electricity Law no. 13 of 2009; draft regulations on financial reward and remuneration schemes for the boards co-managed by the government, draft regulations on the Higher Commission of Education and Professional Training in Palestine and its related executive board; draft regulations on licensing firearms and ammunition; and draft regulation on the national council for children's needs.
2. The local council elections were scheduled to be held on Saturday 8 October 2016. During the same session, the Cabinet approved priorities and policy interventions within the framework of the national policy agenda for 2017-2022.
3. On 28 June 2016, the Cabinet referred a draft decree law on pharmacological studies to its members for consideration and comments.