

**The Palestinian
Human Rights
Monitoring Group**



The PHRMG is a Palestinian, independent, non-governmental organisation working to end human rights violations committed against Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, regardless of those responsible. The members of the Monitoring Group believe that the strength of democracy and civil society in Palestinian society will be determined by the Palestinian people, through their defense or neglect of human rights.

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Human Rights Monitor
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2005 Annual Narrative report One-Year Report

Contents

1. About PHRMG	
Mission Statement, Aims and Goals	3
PHRMG at a Glance.....	3
2. 2005 Overview	
General situation of Palestinian Human Rights (Statistical Analysis Overview of the year 2005 fatalities)	
A. Palestinian fatalitie.....	4
B. Palestinians killed by PA Gunfire and the PA Security Forces	8
C. Israeli fatalities.....	10
3. PHRMG Human Rights activities & evaluation	
A. Publications, Research, documentation, And Awareness raising Activities.....	12
B. Evaluation	16
4. Future steps	22

The PHRMG Board and Staff would like to extend special thanks to the many friends who have supported our activities on behalf of the Palestinians:

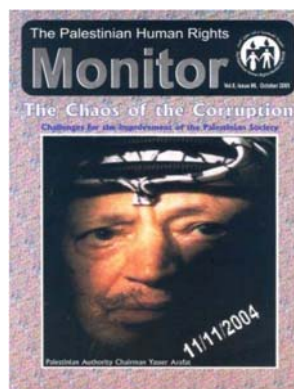
(The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of our contributors)

Finnish Representative Office to the PA

The Moriah Fund

Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMEP)

PHRMG Previous Monitor Issue was *The Chaos of the corruption* (Vol.8, Issue #6, October 2005) researched by: Fabio Forgione.



About PHRMG

The PHRMG was founded in December 1996 in response to the deteriorating state of human rights in Palestine during the post-Oslo era. Since then, the PHRMG has vigorously fought to create and maintain its reputation for politically neutral assessment of internationally accepted human rights principles. The success of this fight is evident in PHRMG's relationship with the international community, and more importantly with the Palestinian people.

Mission Statement

“Violations of the human rights of Palestinians, committed by both the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority, continue into the Post-Oslo Era. While most Palestinian human rights organizations limit their criticism to Israel, there remains a need for one that works to end violations committed against Palestinians, regardless of who is responsible. The members of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG) believe that the strength of democracy and civil society in Palestine will be determined by the Palestinian People, through their defense or neglect of human rights.”

Aim

Establish a pluralistic and democratic society in Palestine in which human rights are respected.

Goals

1. To monitor, record, and publicize all human rights violations in Palestine, regardless of the perpetrator.
2. To raise Palestinian awareness about violations taking place.
3. To provide legal assistance to victims of human rights violations.
4. To participate in the building of Palestinian democratic institutions.

Continuing last year's theme of “getting to know the PHRMG”, this year's Annual Report focuses on the activities of PHRMG that is the resource of our organizational success. First, the quality of our work is crucial to our position as a leading Human Rights Organization. Second, to help reflect the value and importance of Human Rights, PHRMG works with outstanding staff

and the best resources. The PHRMG uses a countrywide monitoring network to monitor Human Rights situations all over the country, regardless of who is responsible. Personnel working for the PHRMG are highly skilled and experienced, carefully selected and supervised for performance and accuracy. With emphases on diversification and consistent results, these capabilities, including our publications and work capacity around the country, are an important features of this report.

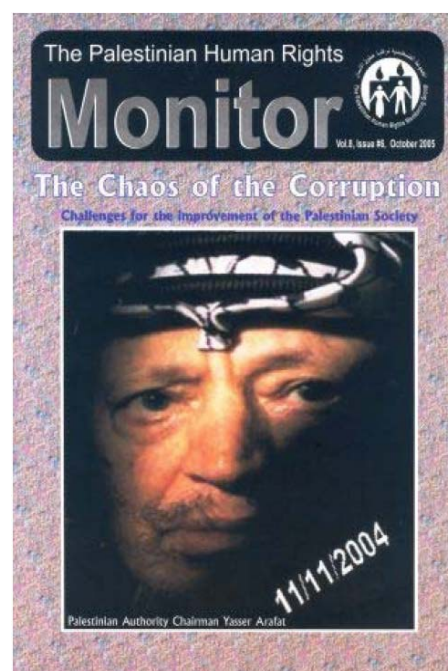
PHRMG at a Glance



The intention of this annual report is to summarize the year 2005 in all its diverse aspects.

It includes:

- * Analysis of the statistical information collected by the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group.
- * Main activities of the PHRMG during the year 2005.



The PHRMG maintains strong ties with international human rights groups media and donors. Their cooperation and partnership has proved vital to the PHRMG's outreach capacities, as well as to guaranteeing PHRMG's high degree of independence at home.

The PHRMG's success is manifested through the growing trust, respect and cooperation it enjoys at the community level. PHRMG field monitoring activities depend heavily on the information and cooperation of local organizations. These include the media, service providers, local authorities and victims and witnesses from whom PHRMG field researchers take testimonies wake of human rights violations. These relationships require a high degree of sensitivity to the community's needs.

The PHRMG's publications, particularly The Monitor, are widely read and respected, both by Palestinians and internationally; they are often passed from one reader to another until the next issue is published. The PHRMG's activities satisfy the Palestinian desire for politically independent and intelligent treatment of Palestinian human rights issues.

Year 2005 Overview

The main issue of the year 2005 was the wall. Rapidly rising, the wall has closed off Palestinians from their agricultural lands and prevents movement to and from other Palestinian cities. The PHRMG considers this an inhuman violation of international humanitarian law inflicted on Palestinian society.

PHRMG 2005 activities focused on documenting such violations and breaches.



The huge concrete wall totally surrounds the town of Qalqiliya. July 2003.

"This is a fascist, apartheid measure being done, and we do not accept it. We will continue rejecting it by all means", Palestinian Authority Chairman, Yasser Arafat, 18 June 2002. CNN.com



The 8 meters high concrete barrier cuts off Abu Dis from Jerusalem. September 2004. (Taken by Fabio Forgione).

"The barrier which is still being built is an 'apartheid' measure that would put Palestinians in cantons. We will go for a one-state solution. There is no other solution. We will not hesitate to defend the right of our people when we feel the very serious intention of (Israel) to destroy these rights, Palestinian Authority Prime Minister, Hamed Qureia (Abu Ala), 9 January 2004. Washington Times."

Statistical Analysis Overview of 2005 Fatalities

* Fatalities Analysis:

"Stratification & Analysis for the year 2005"

A. Palestinian Fatalities:

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005
Jan	29	65	30	51
Feb	75	69	49	12
Mar	242	99	87	3
Apr	305	61	58	6
May	56	67	128	10
Jun	67	68	39	8
Jul	51	7	70	22
Aug	58	25	42	7
Sep	52	36	117	17
Oct	63	61	147	20
Nov	57	33	44	15
Dec	62	47	8	23
Total	1117	638	819	194

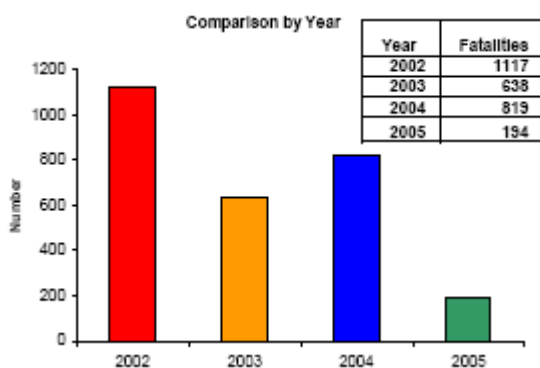
The year 2005 was a period of lower fatality rates compared to the previous 4 years; this indicates that the area has undergone a significant political transformation on both sides of the conflict.



PALESTINIANS KILLED DURING AL-AQSA INTIFADA 28/9/2000 TILL 31/12/2005													
City	Gaza	Nablis	Tulkarem	Jenin	Jerusalem	Qalqilia	Ramallah	Hebron	Jerko	Beitlham	Green line	Foreigner	Total
Killed by The Israeli Army													
General	1491	356	153	212	25	36	109	161	13	87	7	2	2652
Children(0-14)	211	32	9	47	3	4	16	17		8			347
Children(15-17)	169	43	26	24	7	10	21	13		12			325
Assassination	87	52	18	49	2	6	6	16		8			244
Journalists		1		1			2					2	6
Total	1958	484	206	333	37	56	154	207	13	115	7	4	3574
Not Related To The Israeli Army													
Died at checkpoints	17	32	9	9	3	8	6	6		6			96
Killed by Settlers	1	12		1	2	2	6	7		1	4		36
Unclear Death	105	30	8	6	6	4	6	11	4	10			190
Suicide Bombers	32	51	13	25	3	4	6	15		17	2	1	169
Total	155	125	30	41	14	18	24	39	4	34	6	1	491
Brothers Against Brothers													
Gunfire	125	59	21	19	5	10	43	28	6	5			321
Stabbing	11	6	2	4	3	1	5	5	1	1	1		40
Beating to Death	1	1		2			1						5
Total	137	66	23	25	8	11	49	33	7	6	1	0	366
Collaborators													
A. Death in Custody	4	2											6
B. Killed in the Street	4	24	22	8	3	5	11	8		27			112
C. Executed By the PA	1												1
Total	9	26	22	8	3	5	11	8	0	27	0	0	119

Taken from the PHRMG website: <http://www.phrmg.org/killed%20during%20al%20aqsa.htm>

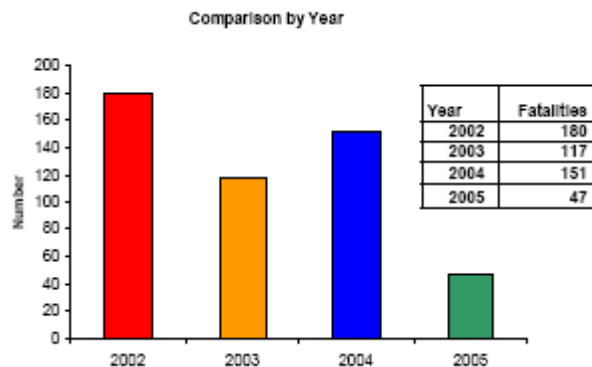
The above table illustrates the magnitude of the fatalities by region throughout the period of Intifada. Gaza saw the highest number fatalities. Its strategic location and conditions may be the reason. In the political dilemma Gaza is considered the headquarters of Palestinian Authority offices and political parties in Palestinian society.



Although there were still a significant number of fatalities during the year 2005, PHRMG recorded a decrease in fatalities compared with the previous 3 years.

Palestinian children are the most tragic victims of the ongoing occupation and the al-Aqsa Intifada. Israeli Military and law enforcement agencies, which have a legal duty under both international and Israeli law to protect Palestinians within their jurisdictions, have failed to address this problem. Children, either directly or indirectly, have become unfortunate victims of the conflict. Palestinian civil society must do its utmost to ensure the human rights of children.

Comparing the 2005 fatalities to the previous year statistics show a noticeable decrease. 2005 did prove reduction of violence (inclosing truce between Israeli and Palestinian parties. This caused a flex-reflex effect, such that decreased killing and violence by the Israeli government was matched by Palestinian society.



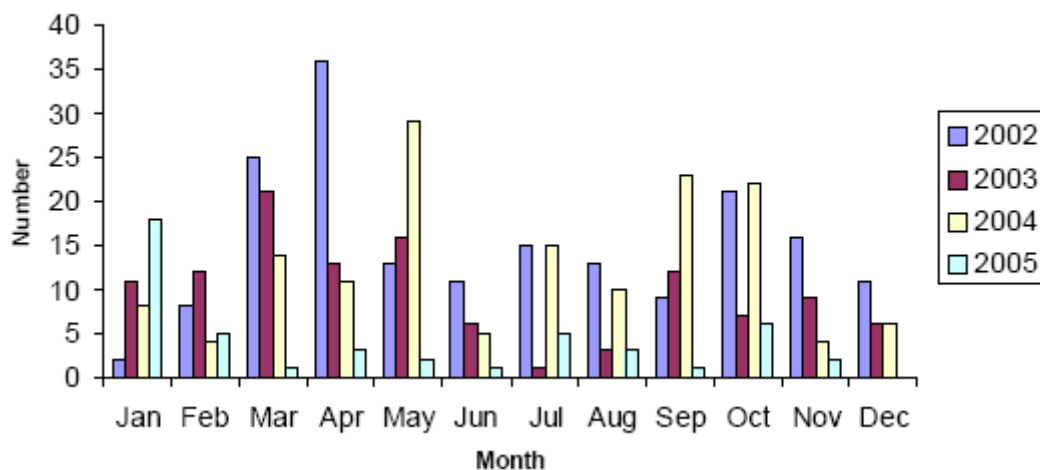
In Conclusion

“The sad conclusion is that, despite modest gains, there are still a significant number of fatalities. During 2005 an average of 16 Palestinians died each month, with 4 fatalities a week and one every 2 days for a total of 194. On average, at least three children were killed every 2 week during 2005.”

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005
Jan	2	11	8	18
Feb	8	12	4	5
Mar	25	21	14	1
Apr	36	13	11	3
May	13	16	29	2
Jun	11	6	5	1
Jul	15	1	15	5
Aug	13	3	10	3
Sep	9	12	23	1
Oct	21	7	22	6
Nov	16	9	4	2
Dec	11	6	6	0
Total	180	117	151	47

The killing of children and their participation in gunfights continued to be a dramatic problem in 2005 as well. This explicitly violates the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts. These conventions recognize that “every child has the inherent right to life” and that in cases of armed conflicts, “armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years.”

Palestinian Children Between 0-17



*** Assassination:**

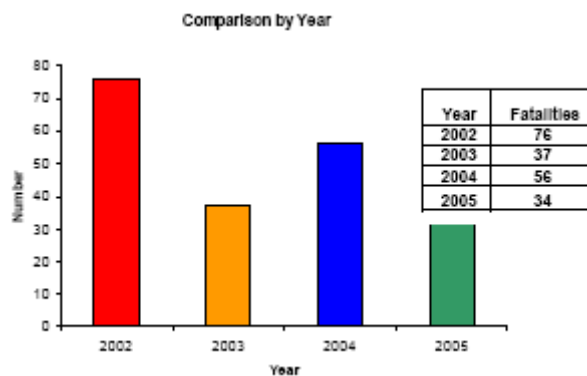
Extrajudicial killing remained a policy of the Israeli government. In an effort to minimize criticism of their policy, the Israeli government, calls the assassinations “Targeted killings.” Nevertheless, the practice still constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law, international criminal law, and human rights protocols. During these assassinations, bystanders were often killed as well.

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005
Jan	6	2	0	1
Feb	6	3	4	0
Mar	7	3	9	0
Apr	11	5	5	1
May	5	1	6	0
Jun	4	5	1	0
Jul	4	0	12	12
Aug	8	9	0	0
Sep	3	4	5	3
Oct	4	3	5	3
Nov	6	0	7	6
Dec	12	2	2	8
Total	76	37	56	34

The Israeli policy of extra-judicial killings (Assassinations) has been closely monitored by the PHRMG since the first case in which an Israeli military helicopter fired missiles, killing affiliates of active regimes. The PHRMG aims to outline the violations of human rights in such policies by summarizing all known assassinations, failed assassination and attempted assassinations.

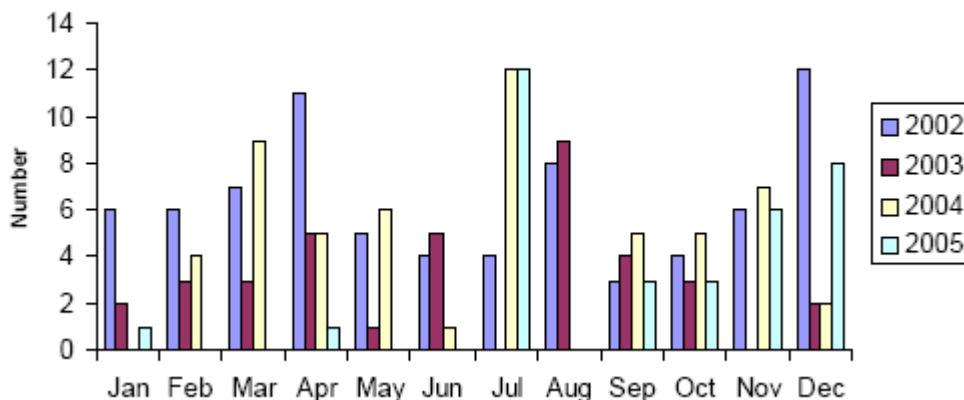
1. Disengagement from Gaza
2. Arrests among Islamic Jihad activists
3. The Wall Case and the international Security Council issue
4. Fatah and Hamas Disagreement (Chaos)
5. Missile attacks from Gaza on Settlements
6. Natania suicide bombing by Islamic Jihad
7. Israel High Court orders to continuo building the separation wall
8. Gaza Chaos and corruption
9. Hamas stands against participating in a coalition government with Fattah before the elections
10. London Terrorist bombing attacks
11. Sharm Al-Sheikh Terrorist attacks in Egypt

Looking at stratified data we find the following:



* According to area:
Approximately 60% of the extra-judicial killing by the Israeli government occurred in Gaza leaving 40% to the West Bank areas.

Assassination of Palestinians by Israeli Security Forces



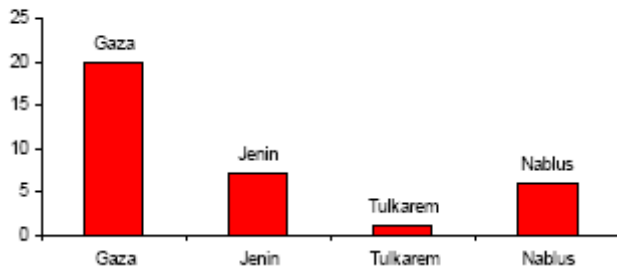
Further analysis of extra-judicial killings (Assassinations) reveals the following:

The month of July 2005 noticed the highest peak of assassinations. Many events took place at that period of time; specifically:

Israel is primarily targeting the headquarters of active legions of resistance; these are mainly Hamas affiliates in Gaza. Through the assassination of senior members of armed legions, the Israeli government hoped to coerce militants away from armed resistance.

Area	Number	% of Total
Gaza	20	59%
Jenin	7	20%
Tulkarem	1	3%
Nablus	6	18%
	34	

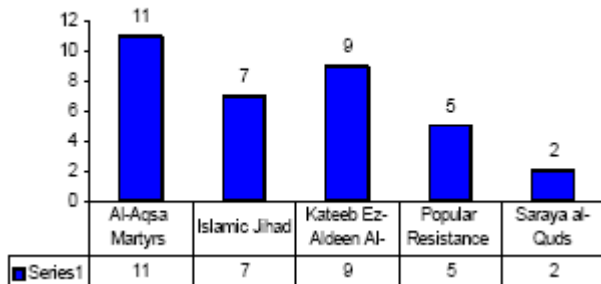
Assassination by Area



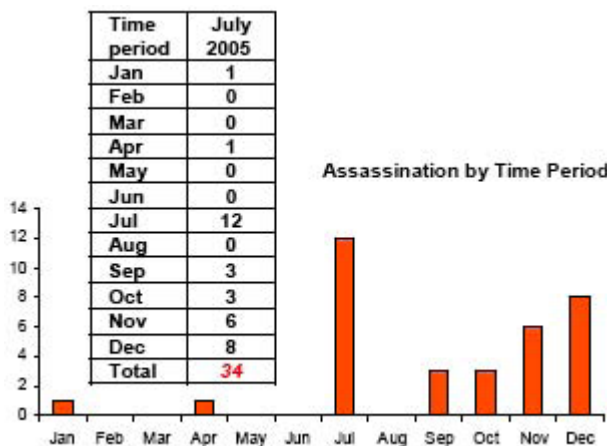
*According to Legion Category:

Legion	Number	July
Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades/Fatah	11	2
Islamic Jihad	7	5
Kateeb Ez-Aldeen Al-Kassam	9	5
Popular Resistance Committee	5	0
Saraya al-Quds	2	0
	34	12

Assassination by Legion Category



* According to time period:

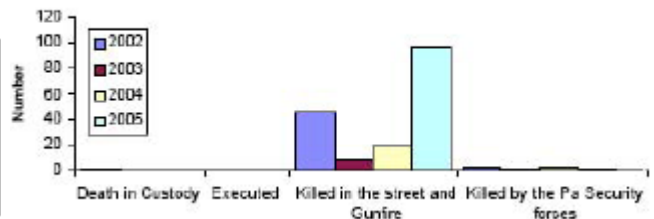


A. Palestinian Killed by Palestinian Gunfire/PA Security Forces:

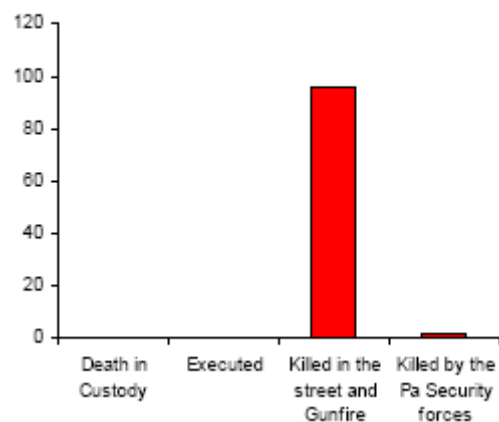
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005
Death in Custody	1	0	0	0
Executed	0	0	0	0
Killed in the street and Gunfire	45	8	19	96
Killed by the PA Security forces	3	1	3	2
Total	49	9	22	98

As the PA (Palestinian Authority) tries to take control on ground, incidents of gunfire exchanges between the PA and armed political forces occurred mostly in the Gaza district. The PA is still working to take control of weapons of militant factions.

Palestinians Killed by Palestinian Gunfire / Pa Security Forces



Killed by PA Gunfire by year 2005



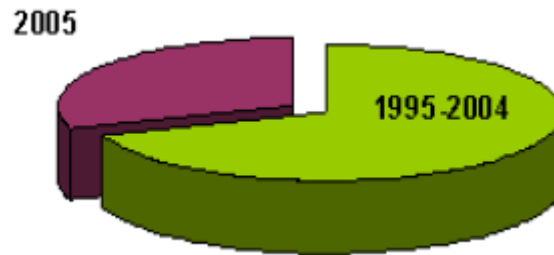
PRESS RELEASE

December 30, 2005 Special News Report: Brother Against Brother

On Thursday, PA policemen Abed al-Rahem Saleh (20 years old) was shot and killed while trying to restore peace to a Gaza neighborhood. Armed gunmen opened fire on the police station where he was working, in an attempt to force the release of clan members from the prison. The ensuing gunfight resulted in the death of al-Rahem Saleh and one of the gunmen. The clash gave credence to reports that the PA has lost control over Gaza.

To accompany this tragedy, a new investigative report by the Palestinian Human Rights

Monitoring Group has revealed an alarming trend: over half of Palestinian fatalities in 2005 have been a result of gunshot wounds received from other Palestinians. The number of Palestinian deaths by Palestinian gunfire is the highest this year than in any year previously recorded. In Gaza alone, 37% of gunfire fatalities for the year 2005 have occurred since the pullout in September. As a result of these events, the PHRMG calls on the Palestinian Authority to restore the rule of law to the Palestinian Territories. The PA's irresponsiveness to the civil unrest in Gaza and the West Bank is deplorable. It is vital that the PA take action to stop the exchange of illegal weapons in the Palestinian Territories: the PA must not continue passively promoting the arming of clans and military factions. The percent of Palestinian fatalities caused by Palestinian gunfire rose from 5% last year to a staggering 51% this year. The PHRMG appeals to Palestinians across the Territories to stop the war against fellow Palestinians and help restore civil order.



Palestinian Gunfire Fatalities in the year 2005 represent 30% of the Palestinian Gunfire Fatalities suffered during the last 11 years.

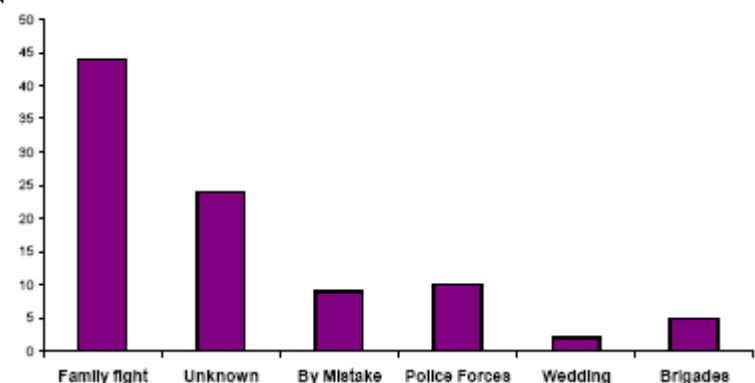
Statistical Brief – Palestinian Gunfire Fatalities (1995-2005)

Year	Total Palestinian Fatalities from Palestinian Gunfire - Gaza	Total Palestinian fatalities from Palestinian Gunfire – All Territories	% of Gunfire Fatalities Occurring in Gaza compared to all gunfire incidents	Total Palestinian Gunshot Fatalities in Gaza in a 5-yr Period	Total Palestinian Gunshot Fatalities in a 5-yr Period	Average % of Palestinian Gunshot Fatalities Occurring in Gaza over a 5-yr Period
1995	1	2	50%	14	53	26%
1996	3	10	30%			
1997	3	12	25%			
1998	2	9	22%			
1999	5	20	25%			
2000	2	26	8%	52	169	31%
2001	12	38	32%			
2002	16	37	43%			
2003	5	24	21%			
2004	17	44	39%			
2005	56	98	57%			
Totals	122	320				

Stratification according to reason

Reason	Number
Family	46
Unknown	26
Mistake	9
Police	10
Wedding	2
Brigades	5
Total	98

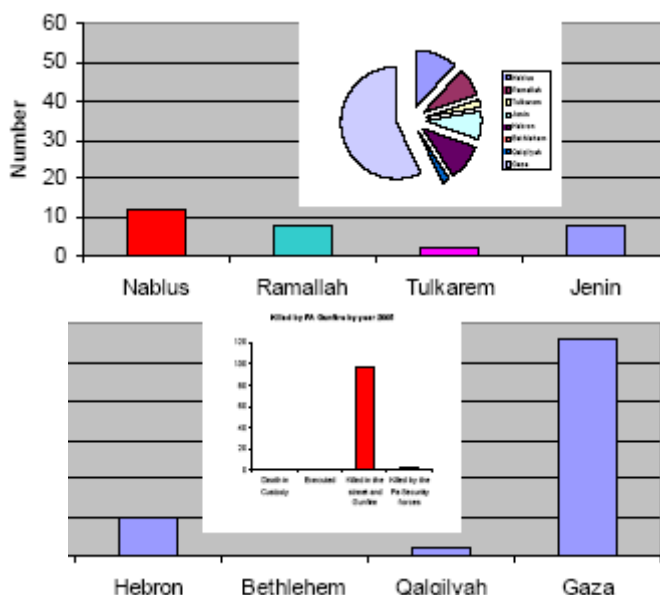
* Stratification according to reason of killing.



Year	Total Palestinian Fatalities from Palestinian Gunfire	Total Fatalities	% Palestinian Fatalities from Palestinian Gunfire to the total fatalities	Average % of Palestinian Gunfire Fatalities over a 5-yr Period
1995	2	48	4%	17%
1996	10	92	10%	
1997	12	82	15%	
1998	9	45	20%	
1999	20	48	42%	
5 Year Total	53	315		
2000	26	347	7%	5%
2001	38	514	7%	
2002	37	1154	3%	
2003	24	662	4%	
2004	44	863	5%	
5 Year Total	169	3540		
2005	98	292	57%	
Totals	320	4147	8%	

When stratified by district we notice the following:

District	Number
Nablus	12
Ramallah	8
Tulkarem	2
Jenin	8
Hebron	10
Bethlehem	0
Qalkilia	2
Gaza	56
Total	98



In Conclusion:

“Like most fatalities, the number of Palestinians who died at the hands of their Palestinian brothers fluctuates when compared across the last 4 years; noticeably the number of Palestinians

killed by Palestinians doubled in 2005 of what it was last year (2004).

PHRMG calls upon the PA to investigate all these cases and to take all possible measures to prevent attacks by armed groups and individuals.

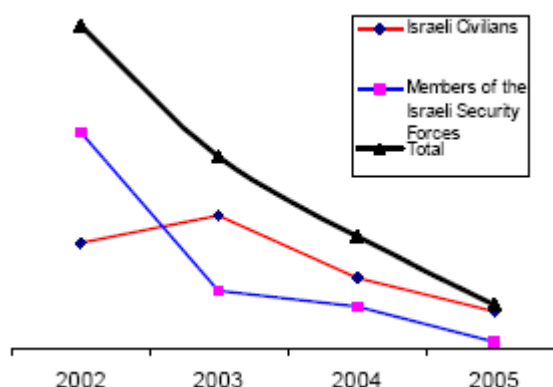
C. Israeli Fatalities:

The fifth year of the Al-Aqsa Intifada, which began on September 29, 2000, was the least violent yet, causing fewer incidents and casualties. On the Israeli side, the fatalities represented less than one fourth (1/4) the average during the previous 4 years.

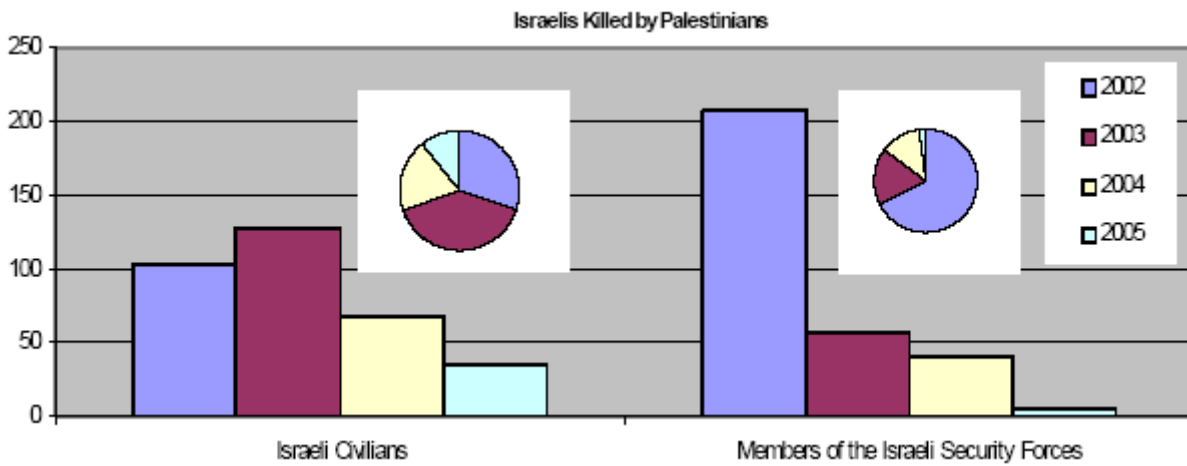
2005 was a very calm period for both sides, perhaps as a result of major changes during the past 12 months, including the death of Arafat in November 2004.

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005
Israeli Civilians	102	128	67	36
Members of the Israeli Security Forces	208	56	40	6
Total	310	184	107	42

Even though a noticeable decrease in fatalities was observed, there remain four Palestinian casualties for every one Israeli for every Israeli fatality.



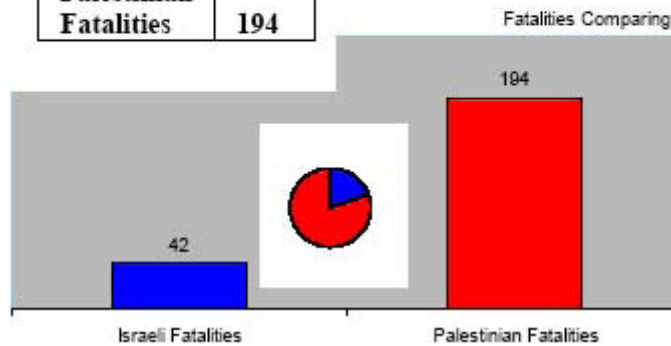
This rate has remained 1:4 from the beginning of the Al-Aqsa Intifada regardless of the differences in numbers. Thus, it is important to note that the ratio remain constant even though the overall numbers have decreased.



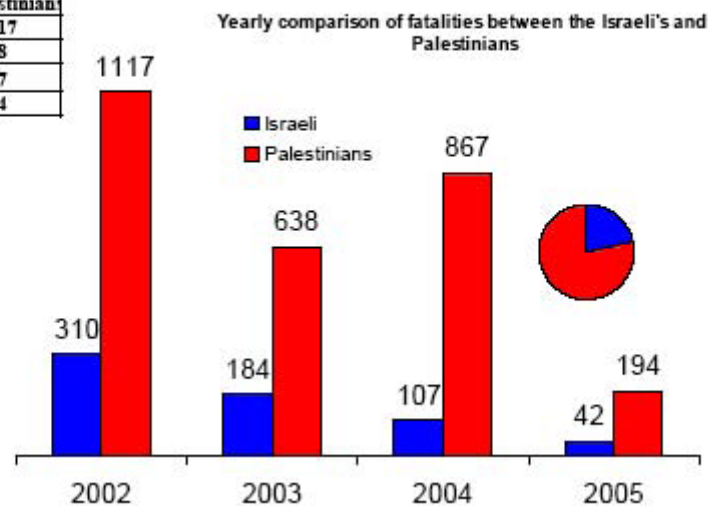
Year	
2002	310
2003	184
2004	107
2005	42



Year	2005
Israeli Fatalities	42
Palestinian Fatalities	194



Year	Israeli	Palestinian
2002	310	1117
2003	184	638
2004	107	867
2005	42	194



PHRMG Human Rights Activities

A. Primary Research and Publication:

Primary research and documentation form the cornerstone of most of our activities. The PHRMG's four field researchers have been working continuously to collect first-hand testimonies in response to urgent human rights situations, thereby maintaining a long-term research and monitoring presence in Palestine.

Their work has been the basis for many of PHRMG's publications and reports during the year.

The PHRMG makes its reports, statistics, articles and press releases available to the world through its website at www.phrmg.org.

The most rewarding indicator of progress towards PHRMG's aims is the coverage of human rights issues critical to the PA in local media.

1. The Palestinian Human Rights Monitor:

The Palestinian Human Rights Monitor is typically distributed as an insert in national newspapers by local newspaper distributors. The Monitor is also placed on PHRMG's website, whereby PHRMG reaches an even wider audience.

Monitor subjects are chosen carefully according and from situations at hand, events, violations of Human Rights, the need to stress a particular concern which transience the conflict.

The major target groups of the Monitor are the following:

* The non-academic Palestinian reader: The style and choice of vocabulary is easy to read and understand. A conscious effort is made to avoid inherently "political" perspectives.

* The international community: The English edition is disseminated widely among NGOs. The support of Diplomats and international organizations is important for the continuation of human rights activities in Palestine.

* The parties responsible for the violations: Generally, a copy of the report is sent to the responsible party before the report's publications along with a request for their response. When a reply is received it is published alongside the report, thus facilitating a kind of dialogue.

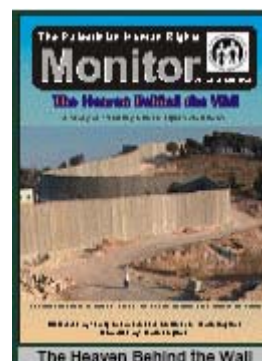
Monitor research and publication for the year 2005 handled the following issues:

1. *Gaza in Turmoil: "The Power Struggle within the Palestinian Authority"*



As far as the Palestinian Authority's internal struggle is concerned, the PHRMG calls upon all the Palestinian forces to achieve a rational solution for pursuing the common aim represented by the establishment of reasonable political institutions necessary for the implementation of the peace process and the consequent realization of an independent and viable Palestinian State.

2. *The Heaven Behind the Wall: A story of 'security human rights violations'*



The 'Apartheid Wall' stretches its route largely on the Occupied Palestinian Territory of the West Bank. By seizing privately owned Palestinian lands. The wall causes great humanitarian harm to the Palestinian residents of the area directly and indirectly subjected to construction of the barrier. The barrier furthermore runs in and around parts of East-Jerusalem, consolidating Israel's annexation of the city.

3. Human Rights and Democracy: “Conceptualization and Application in Palestine”

In the case of Palestine, a foundation exists both for the realization of human rights and the



development of a substantive democracy, however internal and external factors have hindered the building of viable institutions to actualize those ideals. Thus, greater attention needs to be given to the development of mechanisms such as elections, political parties, separation of powers, and the restructuring of institutions including the judiciary branch and security sector.

4. The Israeli Disengagement Plan: “A Prejudicial Action”



Disengagement and a withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank should be positive steps in the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians; yet, it must be achieved in the proper manner. Unilateral action is not the proper approach. Ultimately, this process will only be successful if both sides to the party are involved and accept the final decisions, not only at the political level, but throughout all stratum of society.

5. The Palestinian Mystique:

Disempowered, weak and uneducated; this is how Palestinian women are often perceived by the Western world.



Misinformation, lack of understanding and appreciation of cultural differences, ignorance, and ethnocentric fixations which the Western has erroneously associated with women's emancipation / oppression, have shaped this one-dimensional, derogatory and extremely distorted perception the Palestinian women.

6. The Chaos of the Corruption: “Challenges for the improvement of the Palestinian Society”



The Palestinian Authority's potential renewal will not come from outside, from the support provided by foreign or international actors. Rather it has to be planned by Palestinians themselves. Consequently, the next Palestinian agenda is expected to be very similar to the initial Palestinian Authority; establishment of effective and accountable political institutions, appointment of competent and reliable PA officials, and restoration of the rule of law represent crucial passages for the enhancement of the Palestinian leadership.

The Palestinian Human Rights Monitor for the year 2006 will be:

1. Report on Human Rights situations during the year 2005 (Annual Report).
2. Abbas and the Culture of Violence.
3. Media Report 2006.
4. Suicide Bombing.
5. Tahreed (Incitement).
6. The trap of poverty and Human Rights on Palestine.

2. The Palestinian Human Rights Press Releases:

Press releases are an important part of outreach activities. The PHRMG has collected an extensive mailing list comprises of diplomats, journalists, university professors and other concerned individuals in Palestine, Israel and abroad. Press releases are an important tool for PHRMG to update the public on events that require urgent attention and to urge rapid response. During 2005 PHRMG published 16 press releases.

2005 PRESS RELEASES	
January	Jan 27, 2005: Press Release Brothers against brothers Jan 2005: Monthly Statistics Press Release
February	February 17, 2005: Press Release Abbas and right to execution February 1, 2005: Monthly Report
March	March 2005: Monthly Statistics Press Release
April	April 2005: Monthly Statistics Press Release
May	May 28, 2005: Monthly Report May 24, 2005: Corruption under the shadow of the new PA May 19, 2005: Khaled Wahba
June	June 28, 2005: Reality Checkpoint: An End to the Culture of Death? June 1, 2005: Monthly Report
July	July 8, 2005: Democracy in Palestine July 1, 2005: Monthly Report
August	August 18, 2005: The PHRMG condemns Settlers Violence August 15, 2005: The Israeli Disengagement Plan August 1, 2005: Monthly Report
September	September 29, 2005: Five Years Of Al-Aqsa Intifada September 12, 2005: An open letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations September 7, 2005: PHRMG Condemns the Assassination of Former PA Security Chief, Moussa Arafat September 1, 2005: Monthly Report
October	October 1, 2005: Monthly Report
November	November 1, 2005: Monthly Report
December	December 1, 2005: Monthly Report

3. The Palestinian Human Rights Monthly Statistics:

The PHRMG recently started publishing Monthly Statistics of Palestinian and Israeli fatalities. The Monthly Statistics are sent out as a press release at the beginning of the month to our mailing list and are available at PHRMG's website as well.

The screenshot shows the website of The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group. At the top left is the logo with Arabic text. A navigation bar includes 'State Of Human Rights In Palestine', 'Contacts', 'Home', 'Our Profile', 'News & Events', 'The Monitor', 'Resources', 'Links', and 'Subscriptions'. The main content area is titled 'Intifada Statistics' and lists several reports:

- [Summary of Palestinian Fatalities from Sept. 28, 2000 to October. 31, 2005](#)
- [Killed by Palestinians Gunfire and the PA Security Forces from Sept. 28, 2000 to October. 31, 2005 \(Including Suspected Collaborators\)](#)
- [Summary of Israeli fatalities from Sept. 28, 2000 to October. 31, 2005](#)
- [A monthly list of Palestinians who were killed during the al-aqsa Intifada since 29 September 2000](#)

4. The PHRMG's Palestinian Human Rights Participation in Conferences and seminars:

Throughout the year 2005, PHRMG has been invited to attend many national and international meetings from which the organization has gained very good credibility for active participation.

The conferences that we were invited and have attended:

From	To	Organizers	Topic	Country
January 27	January 31	IANSA, PPM	Small Arms	Beirut- Lebanon
March 03	March 5	Amnesty	Gender	Amman-Jordan
March 07	March 11	UN	Question on Palestine	Geneva- Switzerland
March 14	March 20	Humanitarian Dialogue Center	Small Arms	Rio de Janeiro-Brazil
April 14	April 18	IANSA	Small Arms	Nairobi-Kenya
April 20	April 22	MEPIF (Middle East Peace Initiative Forum)	Middle East Conflict	Charney Manor-UK
June 26	June 30	UN	Investigation Committee on the Israeli abuses	Cairo-Egypt
August 3	August 9	Lab	Media	Gemona-Italy
September 17	September 21	HRITC (Human Rights Information & Training Center)	Fifth Human Rights Course	Sana'a -Yemen
September 22	September 25	UCLA (University of California- Los Angeles)	Israeli-Palestinian Meeting	Athens-Greece

5. Participation in local workshops and seminars:

- 16th February Israeli-Palestinian Building Business Bridges MBA Program
- 17th February 2005 Human Bombs and Targeted Killing: The Human Rights Prospective
- 4th March 2005 The future of the Palestinian political system and the possible political horizons
- 8th March An open invitation to attending a public hearing to the PA Legislative Council
- 12th March 2005 General meeting of the commotion to stop the spread of drugs
- 14th March 10 years on the presence of the PA, experience evaluation and future look
- 5th April conference on assessing and evaluation P2P activities
- 12th April 2005 BirZait: Honor Killing
- 20th April 2005 Jerusalem Issues – The Wall, Settlements, E1 will there be something to negotiate?
- 25th April 2005 The Palestinian Family and its rule in the community
- 29th April 2005 Special meeting concerning the UN committee for Human Rights
- 14th May 2005 The Past experience in the mirror of the Future
- 18th May 2005 Displacements
- 30th May 2005 Journalism investigation, its rule in the Palestinian Community
- 7th July 2005 Palestinian NGO web Portal
- 20th July 2005 Democratization and reform in the Palestinian Authority
- 30th July 2005 Security Sector Reform
- 17th September 2005 The role of National Human Rights Institutions in Human Rights Protection
- 14th December 2005 Presentation on a newly established Human Rights and Good Governance Secretariat (Consulate General of Sweden)

B. Evaluation:

PHRMG's work in the area of Human rights is evaluated by the magnitude of information and documentation disseminated as information, reports and website content. The organization is also evaluated by its members in monthly and annual evaluation plan. Further members evaluate PHRMG through the external audit report discussed in the context of activities and projects.

Evaluation process includes –but is not limited–:

1. This annual report information.
2. The external financial audit report.
3. Monthly and annual meetings of the board of directors.
4. Projects and proposal progress.
5. The magnitude of information gathering and dissemination.
6. Website hits and counting visitors and information requested through e-mailing system.

In Conclusion:

The year 2005 was slightly different from previous years. It is obvious from information in this report that there has been a calm period from both sides of the conflict. Thus, a different strategy for the year 2006 had been discussed; some different approaches and ways in handling projects will be adopted in order to strengthen the Human Rights view in the area.

As some of these projects still await to be approved from funding organizations, PHRMG is in a continuous search for support, partnerships and funding organizations since our projects mainly depend on raising funds.

(PHRMG) implements projects and programs concerning different issues and matters such as (briefing follows):

- *Peace Building Education
- *Peace Building Development
- *Peace Building and Conflict Resolution
- *FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA CENTER
- *Training of Trainers
- *Hotline Proposal Generation
- *Civil education for youth
- *Reforms to the Judicial System
- *Democracy Center
- *Outreach Proposal

**** Hotline Project:***

Established in June 2001, the Settler Watch Hotline and Legal Unit employs a community empowerment approach with a solid basis of networking with Palestinian and Israeli organizations to encourage Palestinians, both direct victims and witnesses, to come forth with their reports of illegal settler activities, to put pressure on Israeli authorities to intervene, and to facilitate the pursuit of justice in aftermath of these cases. PHRMG's legal staff Unit had pursued 368 case of settler attacks reported to our hotline, in year 2004 PHRMG has implemented two "Know Your Rights" workshops in different places inside Hebron (in order to encourage more consistent reporting of these violations) with one interview with the local press on the progress of the project, in addition to two televised workshops through a local TV station.

Project Background: In April 2001, the PHRMG published a report on the phenomenon of Israeli settler violence against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Territories. The main conclusions reached in the report were that settler violence against Palestinians is a very real problem, and that the Israeli army and law enforcement agencies, whose legal duty it is to protect Palestinians under their control, have failed dismally in this regard. Reinforcing the conclusions reached by several previous Israeli human rights reports, the PHRMG believes that one of the main causes for the continuation of settler violence is the virtual impunity the settler offenders enjoy. The Israeli army and police rarely intervene to stop or apprehend settlers who attack Palestinians, and the Israeli police rarely investigate such crimes, even when complaints are filed.

Because their complaints are routinely ignored or dismissed, Palestinian victims of settler attacks are often reluctant to contact the Israeli police. However, the absence of complaints provides the police with an excuse not to open investigations and bring settler offenders to justice.

On this basis, the PHRMG established Settler Watch Hotline in June 2001. This project was conceived as a public service that works to encourage Palestinian victims to assert their right to file complaints, to exert public pressure on the Israeli police to investigate the complaints, and to encourage the Israeli judicial system to prosecute settler offenders when appropriate. In order to accomplish these objectives the PHRMG established a 24-Hour Hotline and a Legal Unit.

The Hotline actively encourages callers to file complaints, and the Legal Unit follows up on complaints and informs Palestinians of their rights.

Project Objectives:

A. Encourage Palestinians, both direct victims and witnesses, to come forth with their reports of illegal settler activities, and to file complaints with the Israeli police.

B. Put pressure on Israeli police to investigate cases of settlers' attacks on Palestinian persons and property.

C. Pursue serious cases brought to the attention of the Hotline and Legal Unit based on the following criteria (a) potential to help victims, (b) potential to raise awareness, and (c) potential to lend public credibility to the Hotline and Legal Unit approach towards greater reporting and prosecution of crimes.

General Conclusion: The general conclusion that can be drawn from the experience of the Hotline and Legal Unit since its establishment in June 2001 is that there is an urgent and long-term need to address the inadequacies of the various Israeli law enforcement authorities in order to protect the human rights of the Palestinians living within its jurisdiction.

Rationale: The PHRMG believes that it is the duty of Israeli authorities not only to investigate incidents when they are reported, but also to make the reporting procedures physically and socially accessible. Indeed, this duty is outlined in international human rights documents as the responsibility of signatories to prevent, protect and promote human rights.

The PHRMG also believes that it is the responsibility of the Palestinian public to make every effort to hold the Israeli authorities accountable to their international human rights obligations. The Palestinian public can accomplish this by (a) reporting violations to the Israeli authorities when they occur, an act that places the legal and moral onus for investigating and prosecuting crimes on the Israeli authorities; and by (b) working with the PHRMG to follow-up on cases once they are reported.

*** Trainers of Trainers:**

The purpose of this project would be to propose a better approach to dealing with the ongoing conflict. It stems from the fact that the armed struggle against the occupation has somehow failed, and that the Palestinians need to find a

new way of struggling more effectively, a way that would have a practical effect upon the Israeli public and international community. It is a project that would advocate the Palestinians rights for a free and independent state that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people for a just and peaceful existence.

This project aims at creating cooperation and coordination between Palestinian and Israeli NGOs working in the fields of peace and human rights, through developing a Trainers of Trainers (T.O.T) program for a number of Palestinians in the fields of human rights and international law. The program would train the selected group of Palestinians to perform the role of advocacy on behalf of the Palestinian case, create greater awareness among International and Israeli NGOs towards the history of the Palestinian/ Israeli conflict, the injustices that has been forced upon the Palestinian people, and the rights and liberties of the Palestinians for a free and independent state.

Objectives:

Reaching Israeli human rights domains interested in the support and defense of the Palestinian case, through creating a network of Palestinian, International and Israeli NGOs with the goal of influencing the International and Israeli public opinion to the support and defense of the Palestinian struggle.

Bring awareness to the endless chains of violence and injustices being committed against the Palestinian people by the Israeli government.

Denounce the historic injustices made to the Palestinians and obtain a formal recognition of their rights, advocating for a realistic and pragmatic implementation of those rights.

Providing the Israeli peace movements with trained Palestinian speakers able to explain the demands of the Palestinian people, in order to influence the Israeli public and government from within, and achieve a peace more tinted with justice.

To promote the communication, cooperation, and co-ordination between Israeli, International and Palestinian human rights organizations.

Tightening the dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli NGOs and state structures and insisting upon the rights and issues of the Palestinian people that were neglected and ignored in past Palestinian/ Israeli agreements.

Insisting upon the fact that working towards the end of occupation and Israeli dominance, is the main reason for the Palestinian resistance; thus influencing the international public opinion towards understanding the Palestinian case

clearly. Establishment of a human rights monitoring system. Developing methods of human rights education within the Israeli school systems. Further sensitize the mass media on human rights issues.

**Reforms to the Judicial System*

Background: The legal system in Palestine is complex. The Occupied Territories was ruled during the last century by the Ottoman Empire, British Mandate authority, Jordan, Egypt, Israel military occupation authority and the Palestinian Authority. Multiple layers of sometimes contradictory laws show various past and present attempts to regulate and organize the Palestinian Territory. Further complicating matters, these political and administrative authorities frequently undermined the Palestinian Judiciary. The Palestinian Judiciary was deprived of essential support due to the regimes' belief that the existence of an independent and impartial Palestinian judiciary contravenes their political goals and interests in the Palestinian territory.

Both the Israeli occupying authority and the PNA have relied on them in many presidential decrees. It is very important to examine and systematize these laws to determine the extent to which they should be relied on by whatever regime governs the Palestinian territory. As long as there are so many contradicting laws and a lack of support, the Palestinian Judiciary cannot strengthen its position or assume its rightful position in the Palestinian Authority.

The Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories constitutes a direct impediment to Palestinian jurisdiction. The negative and drastic impact the Israeli occupation has had over Palestinian jurisdiction is represented in the measures and regulations it has taken in countering the Palestinian judicial system during its occupation. Among these measures was the cancellation of the Court of Cassation, the revival of the mandatory emergency laws, the more than one thousand and five hundred military orders which ultimately resulted in the revocation of numerous laws which have been enforced in the Palestinian Territories.

The Palestinian Judiciary system, already weakened by years of Israeli occupation, is being further undermined and abused by the PA. State Security Courts often ignore legal due process and civil courts take years to reach a decision. Corruption, a lack of accountability, and disregard for the rule of law is destroying the credibility of the Judiciary in the eyes of its own

public. Palestinians are denied their basic right to a fair and just society.

The rule of law is almost non-existent in the Palestinian Autonomous Areas. The judiciary and security forces serve the particular interests of their political masters rather than the Palestinian public interests.

The PA president, ministers, and the police and security forces have systematically disempowered and undermined the authority and independence of the judiciary and legal systems. The separation of powers, a foundation of the rule of law, is not respected. PA officials have not shown the political will to give sufficient authority, respect, and financial and other resources to the Judiciary and the Legislature.

Palestinian Authority executive officials have perpetrated serious human rights abuses, including torture, unlawful killings, and prolonged arbitrary detention. The judiciary is not strong enough to hold the executive accountable. This has created a situation in which ordinary Palestinians have neither the means to redress injustice, nor any protection against their abusers. The pressures of the Intifada have magnified these problems. Three Ministers of Justice have been assigned especially to the reform of the judicial system. Unfortunately they have failed in that mission due to their lack of interest and time, and the constant interference of the executive authority in the judiciary affairs. The newly appointed Prime Minister Mr. Abu Mazen states his great interest in reforming and rehabilitating the Palestinian Judiciary.

The Palestinian Judiciary desperately needs a new and rehabilitated system, including court buildings, a national Judicial training institution, and resources to develop knowledge and capacity of technical court staff such as clerks, researchers, and court managers. Looking closely and examining the major impediments facing the Palestinian Judiciary system within the Palestinian Authority helps shed light on the extreme need for reforms to strengthen and affirm the importance of the Judicial Authority to build a strong civil society in harmony with human rights principles.

Objectives:

Identifying the needs for reforming and strengthening of the Judiciary, based on the direct relationship and communication with the judges.

Organizing joint activities with regional and international centers with similar interests aiming at conducting monitoring and reforms to the judicial system.

Organizing workshops, training courses, and public meetings to activate participation in the effort to realize independence of law.

The call for unifying the Palestinian Judicial system through passing a law pertaining to the formation of the Palestinian courts, taking into consideration reactivating the Cassation Court whose role, as a legal court, has been absent upon a decision by the leadership of the Israeli occupying forces once the Palestinian Territories were under occupation.

Creating public awareness to bolster the independence of the law as an indicator of honoring and implementing international standards of human rights.

Publishing and distributing regional and international agreements and pacts concerned with the independence of the law.

Monitoring the implementation of all direct laws pertaining to the Judiciary.

Target Groups: Judges, Lawyers, NGOs, The Palestinian public, and Executive Authority

Activities: Performing direct and ongoing monitoring sessions, Organizing TV programs, publicizing the project's activities in the newspaper, Organizing public meetings and debate forums, Carrying out training courses, lectures, and study workshops, Creating and distributing publications and newsletters.

**Civil education for youth*

The Palestinian Uprising years ago has greatly influenced the social and psychological beliefs and attitudes of the Palestinian community, especially among young men and women, teenagers and children. The Israeli military actions that are seen daily on television screens, in addition to the campaign of arrests and violence that is being forced upon young men by the Israeli forces, have created dangerous patterns of behavior that reflect negatively on the values of any civil society. These chains of atrocity towards these youngsters are affecting teenagers and children directly and indirectly. Therefore, it is essential that they should be treated with sensitivity and consideration due to the substantially unhealthy environment they are living in, so as to minimize the size of damage that is definite to affect them in a negative way.

By studying the situation on the ground, through meetings with Palestinian families and teachers of East Jerusalem, and by examining the complaints we have been receiving from the parents of children (ranging in age from 6–16), we realize that there is a serious phenomenon spreading

within the local community, resulting in a more aggressive and angry attitude among these children. Some of the symptoms of this phenomenon include:

An unprecedented increased level of violence among teenagers and children towards their peers and/or towards their teachers.

Students' lack of interest in studying, dropping out of school and skipping classes.

Unwillingness among youngsters to continue their education further than high-school level.

Children and teenagers' feelings of insecurity and fear, both in and outside the home.

Increased support for suicide attacks among teenagers and children: suicide bombers have become idols and role models for teenagers.

Teenagers and children are increasingly refusing to mix and socialize with their peers.

An overall lack of tolerance for other people and their beliefs: an increased number of cases of thought suppression and a decreased level of respect for the opinions and ideas of other people. This attitude contradicts one of the basic principles of democracy: freedom of expression. This attitude also leads to a lack of respect for the person him/herself.

These symptoms, and others, go to show that there is a serious negative phenomenon happening within the Palestinian society that must not be overlooked or ignored. The children of today are our hope of a better tomorrow, and so they must be given their right to live and learn within a healthy environment based upon the foundations of civil society

Objectives: The symptoms discussed above prove it necessary and essential that a project be implemented to approach and deal with these negative symptoms. The basic objectives of this project can be summarized as follows:

To educate the youth in areas of democracy, freedom of expression, and civil society.

To create consciousness among the youths and children to the necessity and significance of education and its role in achieving their objectives towards the betterment of themselves and their society.

To encourage youngsters and children to pursue learning wherever they can get it.

To instill within East Jerusalem's youth a respect for themselves and for others, and to counter any influence that extremist parties have upon them with their own false notions and ideas.

To create a healthy atmosphere for youngsters and kids where they can learn, enjoy their time, and participate in creative and constructive activities.

Beneficiaries: In order to achieve a meaningful change on this track, it is necessary to work with teenagers and children on three levels: In the family, in school, and within the community.

****Peace Building Development, Education, and Conflict Resolution: Communication, Cooperation, & Training***

To foster education of human rights, conflict resolution, and understanding cultural differences, this project aims at strengthening the communication and co-operation amongst institutions and non-governmental organizations in Israel and in the Palestinian self-ruled areas working in the field of human rights.

Objectives:

To promote the communication and co-ordination between Israeli and Palestinian organizations.

To bring Palestinians and Israelis from different organizations to work and interact together on a regional basis.

To promote the exchange of information, experience and strategies between Israeli and Palestinian representatives of organizations and institutions working in the field of human rights.

To promote the dissemination of information from local and international sources regarding the best practices and methods on development and enforcement of human rights.

To foster innovative approaches in promoting mutual understanding in the Middle East.

To educate Palestinians and Israelis on issues like: peace building, conflict resolution, non-violence, etc.

To create awareness towards the differences in the Palestinian and Israeli cultures, and help bring understanding and acceptance towards each other.

To instill the spirit of team building, to show its significance in achieving a stronger structure for communication and improvement of the Palestinian/Israeli relationship.

Specific targets are:

Quantitative and qualitative intensification of efforts in awareness building on human rights issues in Israel and in the Palestinian self-ruled areas.

Tightening the dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli NGOs and state structures.

Establishment of a human rights monitoring system.

Developing methods of human rights education in the school system.

Preparation of legislative proposals meant to improve legislation on human rights issues.

Further sensitize the mass media on human rights issues.

Target audience:

Results of extensive discussions, which PHRMG has carried out with a number of Israeli and Palestinian human rights non-governmental and governmental organizations show that there is a strong interest in having an exchange of information, experience, and strategies among Middle Eastern human rights organizations as well as in raising awareness of human rights issues among the media and public institutions. This has prompted PHRMG to design a project in co-operation with the Galilee College, an Israeli academic institution, focusing on the development of a Palestinian/Israeli network of organizations and institutions working in the field of human rights, for the purpose of peace building, conflict resolution and understanding cultural differences.

Thus the target groups for the project have been selected as follows: Representatives of NGO's and public institutions working in the field of human rights, Journalists and media workers, Lawyers, Teachers and Public administrators.

****FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA CENTER:***

The weaknesses of the Palestinian media sector and widespread curtailment of freedom of expression of Palestinians – which has been highlighted by this current crisis – is a serious impediment to Palestinian democratic development. Human rights organizations, because of their grassroots orientation and monitoring function, are aware of the challenges inhibiting development of a free and independent Palestinian media. In light of this current crisis, which is unlikely to abate in the near future, there is a need and opportunity for better coordination and cooperation between the media sector and civil society. Human rights organizations, through their experience in battling self-censorship, and constantly working to provide credible and honest information to the constituents, can disseminate information and led expertise, and serve as a resource for journalists, and thereby help to strengthen the foundation for democratic development.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To develop and maintain a fully-equipped library and website

To curb the threat of self-censorship

To empower Palestinian journalists, through information and networking opportunities, to play a more effective role in providing objective and meaningful reporting; and

To widen the narrow range of perspectives on human rights issues that are currently available to the Palestinian public by engaging and educating journalists

****Democracy Center***

Introduction: Among the new realities that have emerged from the breakdown of the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians and many years of violent confrontations is the overt dissatisfaction harbored by many Palestinians towards their elected leadership, the Palestinian Authority (PA). While the Al-Aqsa Intifada (uprising) driven principally by resistance to continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories, it has also evolved into a manifestation of the frustration felt by many Palestinians that their elected government has grown completely out of touch – politically and economically – with its constituents. Civil Society actors, particularly human rights organizations, are voicing concern about the weakening role of the Palestinian Authority, and the complete lack of rule of law. Their concerns are overshadowed by the current crisis with Israel, and have not yet surfaced in the Palestinian media.

The weaknesses of the Palestinian media sector and widespread curtailment of freedom of expression of Palestinians – which has been highlighted by this current crisis – is a serious impediment to Palestinian democratic development. Human rights organizations, because of their grassroots orientation and monitoring function, are aware of the challenges inhibiting development of a free and independent Palestinian media. In light of this current crisis, which is unlikely to abate in the near future, there is a need and opportunity for better coordination and cooperation between the media sector and civil society. Human rights organizations, through their experience in battling self-censorship, and constantly working to provide credible and honest information to the constituents, can disseminate information and lend expertise to, and serve as a resource for journalists, and thereby help to strengthen the foundation for democratic development.

The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG) will help to establish a Freedom of Expression and Democracy Center in its Jerusalem office.

Objectives:

To curb the threat of self-censorship

To empower Palestinian journalists, through information and networking opportunities, to play a more effective role in providing objective and meaningful reporting; and

To widen the narrow range of perspectives on human rights issues that are currently available to the Palestinian public by engaging and educating journalists

Main Outputs: Equipped library, Computerized and searchable Arabic/English language archive of Arabic and local English human rights related press, bulletin board for information exchange, outreach materials, and training workshop series.

****Outreach Proposal***

SUMMARY: Violations of the human rights of Palestinians, committed by both the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority, continue in to the Post-Oslo Era. While most Palestinian human rights organizations limit their criticism to Israel, there remains the need for one that works to end violations committed against Palestinians, regardless of who is responsible. The members of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG) believe that the strength of democracy and civil society in Palestine will be determined by the Palestinian people, through their defense or their neglect of human rights.

This proposal seeks support for the PHRMG's Public Education and Outreach (Outreach Unit), towards effective awareness rising among local and international audiences. The principal output of the Outreach Unit is the Documentation and press release publications of the events concerning Human Rights and monitoring day-to-day events, which is disseminated among the Palestinian Public, Palestinian Organizations, as well as internationally

BACKGROUND TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION: The Palestinian people are suffering from violations committed by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA). Israeli violations are well known due to coverage by numerous Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations. Common violations include deaths in custody, torture, administrative detentions, land confiscations, house demolitions, ID confiscations, settlement activities and restrictions of movement.

Palestinian violations are not as well known but equally prolific. Physical torture, and unlawful arrests and detentions, and the use of the death

penalty are common practices in Palestine. Ironically, Palestinian torture methods imitate Israeli methods, both in technique and severity. Since 1994, 30 people have died in custody following torture by Palestinian prison authorities. A report released by the PHRMG reveals a list of more than 250 cases of political prisoners held for over a year without trial in Palestinian security facilities. Since 1995, 70 prisoners have been sentenced to death and 14 have been executed.

Freedom of expression and the media are also habitually violated. According to several reports by independent media rights groups, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and Reporters sans Frontiers (RSF), all material critical of the PA that is published in newspapers and television is effectively censored. PHRMG investigations have revealed that the media is also a victim of more direct violations; in the Palestinian Human Rights Documentation of previous release of the Monitor. "Media in Palestine: Between the PNA's Hammer and the anvil of Self-Censorship" (Issue #5 November 1999), our investigations show how the PA often uses threats and physical torture to silence Palestinian journalists. The result is that media coverage of violations is poor at best.

NEED FOR INTERVENTION:

Prior to the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in May 1994, human rights advocacy was part and parcel of the struggle against the Israeli occupation and for Palestinian independence. During the first Intifada (1987 - 1993) the PLO itself championed human rights and distributed material published by human rights organizations. As a result of this focus the Palestinian People know are quite well informed about their rights, at least with respect to Israel.

The establishment of the Palestinian Authority represented a watershed event for the Palestinian human rights movement; the initial elation that activists experienced soon made way for an introspective re-examination of their role within this new context. Most groups have defined their aims with nationalist terms. While these aims are of course important their effect is to limit the independence that is so important to the efficacy and legitimacy of the human rights perspective.

Those groups, including the media that have taken an independent and overtly critical stand on human rights violations committed by the PA, have been censored or intimidated into self-censorship. The role of the media, as both victim of violations, and as catalyst of long-term

democratic change, makes the media particularly deserving of attention.

In this regard, the PHRMG has been the focus of a number of attempts at sabotage and harassment, including arrests and threats. The PHRMG's vigorous struggle for independence under these conditions has been successful thanks, in large part, to international support, including overwhelming international response to instances of harassment, as well as ongoing independent funding.

PHRMG human rights reports have gained international recognition and respect, and our monitoring and documentation practices have led to a growing level of trust and cooperation on the community level. PHRMG accomplishments are attributable to its application of internationally accepted and politically neutral standards of human rights.

The PHRMG is the only traditional human rights organization in Palestine; one that holds the authorities democratically accountable through public exposure of human rights abuses, regardless of who is responsible. Since 1996, the PHRMG's reputation and presence are raising awareness, reducing violations and contributing to the long-term strengthening of Palestinian democracy.

Future steps

In 2006 the emphasis will be laid on the issues of illegal arms misuse and settler violence. The illegal arms misuse project is expected to gain support from different organizations, its major emphasis will be research on the use and spread of illegal small arms in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It is necessary to pay attention to illegal arms especially in the coming year, since it is expected that the spread of illegal small arms will rise rapidly when Israeli security forces handover more Palestinian areas. The matter of illegal small arms is posing a serious problem to Palestinian society, especially in Gaza Strip. Moreover, the high number of Palestinians killed by their own brothers in 2005 shows that there is a great need for a project working towards the elimination of the illegal use of small arms and the spread of weapons.

PHRMG will consider the following:

A. To continue its status quo activities since such an objective monitoring of the killings has not been done closely by other NGOs and NPOs.

B. To monitor more closely and narrow some areas of fatalities such as “small arm” in 2006 perspective.

C. To expand and strengthen one of the projects and programs which are listed, PHRMG will keep monitoring many other aspects of the sufferings of Palestinians and of Israelis. Depending on what donors of PHRMG expect from PHRMG.

**** Year 2006 will be certainly a year of turmoil. Election, the Intifada, and the chaos/corruption will have a great effect on the ground. PHRMG's role will continue to be significant as has been case so far.***

Besides these two broad initiatives, PHRMG is planning to develop and (re-) initiates projects, programs and research on the following:

Weapons among Palestinians under the Palestinian Authority: Fewer Guns, More Weapons Control, Less Conflict “SOUND OF PEACE”:

The Palestinian Authority (PA) faces many safety concerns. The presence of weapons among Palestinians and the exchange of gunfire between Palestinians is one safety concern that rarely makes the headlines, this concern, however, has far reaching consequences in the lives of Palestinian civilians.

Our research to-date shows that around 322 Palestinians have been killed or injured since 1995 as a result of gunfire between Palestinians. We also know that the Israeli Occupation Army justifies its practices and methods against Palestinian civilians, such as the reoccupation of area A, 1 tight closures and the destruction of public institutions and civilian homes, by the danger posed by the presence of guns and firearms in the hands of Palestinians. In short, the presence of unregulated guns among untrained Palestinians has a two-fold safety consequence on Palestinian civilians by leading to gunfire between Palestinians and to abusive practices and methods against civilians by the Israeli Army.

These far reaching consequences call for the collection, assembly and release of data information on weapons and gunfire among Palestinians in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. Through this project, the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group's (PHRMG) goal is to formulate a policy proposal that will ultimately lead to an increased personal security for Palestinian civilians.

PROJECT SUMMARY: This project aims to collect and analyze data on the issue of gunfire in the Palestinian Authority (PA) and to update the information database from the different sources. In addition, the project has for goal to form a statistical reference data base for those interested in acquiring information.

To attain this objective, at least a 6 to 8 month intensive research and field interviews are needed, with a retrospective data collection and analysis thereof. The project activities will be implemented in Palestinian self-ruled areas as soon as funding is available. The activities will include:

Meeting with representatives of Palestinian institutions and Security Forces.

Conducting regional field work and interviews in the Palestinian self-ruled areas with the general public to collect information on their views of the problem and to assess the extent to which the PA Gunfire Regulations are being implemented.

Updating data and statistics on the issue on both the website and the press releases of the PHRMG website.

Establishing a discussion forum on the Internet in order to discuss the state of affairs for relevant topics and subjects regarding gunfire and human rights in the Middle East.

Publishing a newsletter in English, Arabic and Hebrew.

Other reserches and projects:

Peace Building and Conflict Resolution
Freedom of Expression and Media
Reforming the Judicial System
Publication of the Monitor

As it has been indicated previously in this report “As for some of these projects still pending to be approved from funding organization PHRMG is in a continuous search for support, partnerships and funding organizations since our projects mainly depends on raising funds”.

PHRMG Registration:

Non-profit registration # 58-029-271-2
Non-profit Organization Registered in the United States (EIN 83-0397275)

We have recently established PHRMG as a 501 c (3) tax exempt organization in the United States. We are establishing a US board to support the mission and activities of PHRMG. Donations to PHRMG in the US may now be tax deductible under US tax laws. We welcome your continued support and make payments to PHRMG (EIN 83-0397275)

EIN documentation can be found on the following web link:

[http://www.phrmg.org/Tax Exemption Approval Letter.pdf](http://www.phrmg.org/Tax%20Exemption%20Approval%20Letter.pdf)

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The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG) is a Palestinian, independent, non-governmental organization working to end human rights violations committed against Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, regardless of those responsible. The members of the Monitoring Group believe that the strength of democracy and civil society in Palestinian society will be determined by the Palestinian people, through their defense or neglect of human rights.

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