
مجموعة الرقابة الفلسطينية



PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP

SPECIAL REPORT

Israeli Obstructions of the Palestinian Electoral Process, 08:00 03 January – 08:00 22 January 2006

I. Introduction

Campaigning for the 25 January Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) elections is taking place in the context of **ongoing Israeli military activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)**, including attacks, raids, arrests, detentions, and comprehensive restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement, among others.

Additionally, **Israeli forces have engaged in numerous explicit obstructions of the Palestinian electoral process**, including:

- physically assaulting PLC candidates and campaign workers;
- detaining PLC candidates and campaign workers;
- preventing PLC candidates from carrying out campaign activities;
- denying PLC candidates or campaign workers' passage through checkpoints;
- confiscating or destroying campaign materials;
- preventing campaign volunteers from posting campaign fliers and printed material.

This Special Report highlights ground events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and explicit acts of obstruction of electoral activities by Israeli forces since the official campaigning period began on 03 January 2006. It is based on Daily Situation Reports of the Palestinian Monitoring Group.¹

¹ Daily Situation Reports are a survey of daily events collated from information provided by Palestinian Authority civilian ministries and security agencies. The reporting period for Daily Situation Reports is 08:00 to 08:00. *The information reported through the PMG process only represents data available at the time of distribution.*

II. Overview of Ground Conditions in the OPT

From 08:00 03 January – 08:00 22 January, the majority (93.2 per cent) of total Israeli military activity covered by this report occurred in the West Bank, including Occupied East Jerusalem. During this period, the following events occurred:

- Israeli military operations **resulted in the deaths of 8 Palestinians and the injury of 52²**;
- Israeli soldiers **physically assaulted 24 Palestinians**. Additionally, an Israeli settler physically assaulted 1 Palestinian civilian;
- Israeli military forces **carried out 151 air and ground attacks** on Palestinian locales;
- Israeli military forces **carried out 340 raids** into Palestinian villages, towns, cities, and refugee camps;
- Israeli military forces **arrested 243 Palestinians**;
- On 248 separate occasions, Israeli military forces **detained Palestinians and/or their vehicles**;
- Israeli military forces **provoked Palestinian Forces on 36 separate occasions**;
- Construction of the Wall and expansion of the Israeli settlement network continued;
- Israeli military forces **continued to impose comprehensive restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement, including erecting 195 flying checkpoints** (an average of 10 per day) and **closing an average of 27 main West Bank roads on a daily basis**.

Restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement, including the Wall and internal closures, constitute a major impediment to the Palestinian electoral process. These restrictions, in the form of stationary and flying checkpoints, the Wall, road closures and permit requirements, impede the ability of Palestinian candidates to easily reach their constituencies, as well as the ability of Palestinian voters to participate in campaign activities. **Such restrictions, particularly in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, may prevent or discourage eligible Palestinian voters from reaching polling stations on Election Day.**

Campaigning in Occupied East Jerusalem

The Israeli authorities have **heavily restricted campaign activities in Occupied East Jerusalem**. Movement restrictions, including permit requirements, minimize or make impossible the ability of Palestinian candidates to meet and interact with their Jerusalemite constituents. Candidates may hold meetings only in private houses. Meetings in indoor public facilities require prior coordination with and approval by the Israeli authorities, while those in outdoor public places are prohibited. Additionally, candidates' posters and flyers may not be posted in private shops or in public places. They are allowed only on bulletin boards designated by the Israeli authorities. While vehicles may bear campaign related bumper stickers, it is prohibited to have posters or pictures of candidates affixed to automobiles. The Palestinian flag, and other Palestinian "symbols" are also banned by the Israeli authorities.

These measures fall considerably short of the arrangements that were agreed upon for the 1996 Palestinian legislative elections. They prevent Palestinian candidates from effectively campaigning in Occupied East Jerusalem, deny Palestinian Jerusalemites the ability to fully participate in the electoral process, and undermine the Palestinian electoral process as-a-whole.

² One additional Palestinian civilian died during the reporting period of injuries sustained at the beginning of the current *Intifada*.

III. Selected Acts of Obstruction of Palestinian Legislative Elections

08:00 03 January – 08:00 04 January:

- Israeli forces detained 7 candidates running for the Palestinian legislative elections in the Jerusalem electoral constituency, while they were visiting the area of Bab al ‘Amud (Damascus Gate) in the old city of Jerusalem and notified them that elections are prohibited in the city of Jerusalem. The Israeli army also severely beat **Hatem Abdul Qader**, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, and **Dr. Talal Abu ‘Afif**, after which they fell unconscious. Additionally, Israeli forces dispersed an electoral gathering near Bab As Sahira (Herod’s Gate) and beat **Dr. Hanan ‘Ashrawi**, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council.
- The Israeli army raided the village of Beit Sira in the Governorate of Ramallah & El Bireh, prevented civilians from hanging campaign posters for candidates running for the Palestinian legislative elections, and severely beat 1 civilian.

08:00 04 January – 08:00 05 January:

- The Israeli army raided the village of Sur Bahir in the Governorate of Jerusalem, raided 1 house where a candidate running for the Palestinian legislative elections was holding a meeting, and notified attendants that they are prohibited from holding elections-related gatherings. The Israeli army also threatened to summon **Ahmed ‘Atwan**, a candidate running for the Palestinian legislative elections, to court if he holds meetings.

08:00 07 January – 08:00 08 January:

- Israeli troops positioned at Tayasir checkpoint east of the town of Tubas in the Governorate of Jenin prevented a candidate running for the Palestinian legislative elections from crossing to villages in the Northern Jordan Valley area.
- Israeli troops tore apart electoral campaign posters of candidates running for the Palestinian legislative elections on the road connecting the city of Hebron to the town of Dura.

08:00 14 January – 08:00 15 January:

- At 15:00, the Israeli army raided the town of Adh Dhahiriya in the Governorate of Hebron, took position near an electoral campaign rally for candidates running for the Palestinian legislative elections, and patrolled the area.

08:00 15 January – 08:00 16 January:

- Israeli forces detained and beat 6 civilians, including **Sheikh Mohammed Abu Teir**, near Bab al Asbat (Lion’s Gate) in the city of Jerusalem, while they were carrying out electoral campaign activities for candidates running for the Palestinian legislative elections.
- Israeli troops positioned at the checkpoint set up on the junction to the village of Hizma northeast of the city of Jerusalem detained 3 civilians carrying out electoral campaign activities for **Fadwa Khader**, a candidate running for the Palestinian legislative elections in the electoral constituency of Jerusalem. Israeli troops also confiscated electoral campaign posters and publications that were in the 3 civilians’ possession.
- Israeli troops positioned at a checkpoint set up near the village of Ar Ramadin in the Governorate of Hebron detained candidates running for the Palestinian legislative elections, and prevented them from entering the village for several hours.

08:00 18 January – 08:00 19 January:

- Israeli forces detained a number of candidates running for the Palestinian legislative elections in the city of Jerusalem and prevented them from holding a campaign press conference.

08:00 20 January – 08:00 21 January:

- At 18:00, the Israeli army raided the town of Yatta in the Governorate of Hebron and detained candidates running for the Palestinian legislative elections, after they held a campaign rally.