



Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA)

Violations of Media Freedoms in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

The annual Report (2011)

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MADA: 206 Violations of Media Freedoms in Palestine in 2011 With the Murder of Italian Journalist Vittorio Arrigoni in Gaza Representing the Most Serious Violation of the Year

Summary

Media freedoms trends in the occupied Palestinian territories are deeply connected to the existing political situation, be it the Israeli occupation or the ongoing internal political division between Fatah and Hamas. Overall, the Palestinian territories witnessed a slight improvement media freedoms during 2011, however journalists and Palestinian media as a whole still suffer the tyranny of the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) and settlers with their continued attacks against journalists and media institutions, in addition to violations committed by Palestinian security forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

2011 in general has been a bitter year for journalists around the world, particularly those in Arab countries following the various revolutions and coups. Freedom of speech has become a heavy burden on many countries in the world with, according to the annual report issued by Reporters Without Borders for last year, 66 journalists killed around the world in 2011, including 20 in the Middle East. This high number demonstrates a doubling in the number of fatalities in the region in comparison with 2010, when a total of 57 journalists were killed with 10 of those fatalities occurring in the Middle East.

The Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA) identified a total of 206 violations against media freedoms in the occupied Palestinian territories during 2011, changing little from MADA's total violations count of 218 in 2010. Although the numbers show a decrease of 12 in the total number of violations compared with 2010, these number cannot be considered a qualitative improvement in media freedoms considering the seriousness and brutality of a number of the violations that occurred in 2011.

The most serious and heinous violation seen in 2011 was the crime of killing Italian journalist Vittorio Arrigoni by an armed group in Gaza. As a well known long-term solidarity activist and advocate of the Palestinian people, Arrigoni's murder sent shockwaves through Palestinian society. Before his death, Arrigoni had spent three years living in and reporting from the Gaza Strip, writing articles and raising awareness of the terrible conditions suffered by the people of Gaza as a result of the Israeli

blockade and siege. Arrigoni was known throughout the Palestinian territories as a kind man who loved helping anyone anywhere he could, a dedication for which he received Palestinian citizenship in honor of all his efforts.

2011 also witnessed the severe injury of journalist Mohamed Othman who was shot in the chest and hand by Israeli occupation forces on 15 May 2011 while covering a march commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the Nakba. The severity of Othman's injury, which included paralysis from the waist down, necessitated his transfer to a hospital in Turkey – where he remains today - for specialist treatment. After approximately 10 months of treatment his condition has improved and Othman is now able to walk with the aid of a specialist device, his doctors however estimate that it will take a further 2 years for him to be able to walk unassisted.

One of the most striking new trends found in 2011 is the outnumbering of IOF violations by Palestinian violations, albeit by a small margin, with 106 violations committed by Palestinian security services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and 100 violations committed by Israeli occupation forces and settlers - compared to 79 Palestinian security service violations and 139 Israeli military and settler violations in 2010.

It is worth noting two important issues in this regard however, firstly that although the total number of Israeli violations were smaller than the year 2010, those committed constituted a greater threat to the health and wellbeing of the journalists targeted with the excessive and inappropriate use for example of crowd control weaponry such as rubber coated steel bullets, tear gas, concussion grenades and the recently introduced Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD), coined "The Scream". Secondly, that in cases of non-violent abuses, such as restriction of movement, prohibition from travel or prevention from covering an event, many journalists do not report the incident. In addition, it is also important to note the different Palestinian security service trends seen in the two divided Palestinian territories, with 2011 seeing 62 violation in the Gaza Strip and 44 in the West Bank.

MADA implemented a number of local and international activities in 2011 to raise awareness, end violations against journalists, inform the international community and its official and civil representatives of the continued violations by the occupation against journalists, and spread a culture of freedom of opinion and expression in Palestinian society. MADA has succeeded in many cases that serve freedom of expression and the protection of journalists, however the protection of freedom of expression needs patience and continued efforts for many years to be achieved; an extremely difficult task without an end to the Israeli occupation or a ratified and implemented reconciliation between the Palestinian political factions.

In its annual report MADA documents all the violations committed against journalists and media institutions for each year separately, it also includes analysis of the most dangerous types of violations committed in 2011.

Israeli Violations

Throughout 2011 Israeli forces continued in their attempts to silence media by force and consolidate control with their perpetual violations, bearing all the established characteristics of ongoing occupation. Israeli occupation forces have been killing, harassing, assaulting and oppressing journalists for nearly half a century without either internal or external hindrance or accountability. In the past decade Israeli forces have killed 20 journalists in the Palestinian territories in addition to committing hundreds of physical and verbal violations and continuing to impede the work of journalists and media outlets.

In the past three years (2009, 2010, 2011), Israeli forces have committed 336 violations against journalists and media institutions and killed four journalists in early 2009 during its "Operation Cast Lead" war on the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip. Despite these colossal violations of international human rights law the international community has still yet to take any real steps towards holding Israeli occupation authorities accountable for their killing of journalists and attacks against them. There is no justice for the families of the killed journalists, and it is unresolved cases such as these which serve to legitimize Israel's systematic abuse of power, void of accountability and responsibility, and reinforce their commitment to preventing journalists from covering and documenting Israel's violations against the Palestinian people.

The largest number of violations committed by Israeli forces against media freedom occurred in Jerusalem, where 30% of the total violations took place, followed by 23% in the governorate of Ramallah and Al-Bireh, 21% Hebron, and the remainder in Nablus, Jericho, Salfeet, Bethlehem, Toulkarem and Gaza Strip.

The special situation in Jerusalem makes journalists highly vulnerable to IOF violations; in addition to the major obstacles facing Palestinian media institutions, current IOF protocol makes it impossible for new media agencies establish themselves in the city. The occupation considers Palestinian media one of its primary enemies due to the work media does in uncovering Israel's systematic ethnic cleansing and Judaization of Jerusalem through the confiscation of land, house demolitions, the deportation of Palestinian residents, the revocation of their identity cards and the denial of entry and occasional assault of worshippers attempting to enter Al-Aqsa mosque. Therefore, when

Palestinian journalists attempt to cover such events in Jerusalem they find themselves in danger of being assaulted, arrested or interrogated by the Israeli army or intelligence wishing to control the flow of information leaving the region.

The vast majority of violations in the Ramallah and Hebron areas were committed in the villages hosting weekly non-violent demonstration against the apartheid wall and occupation, such as Al-Nabi Saleh, Bil'in, Ni'leen and Beit Ommar. These violations are yet again spurred on by the Israeli occupation authority's desire to control the news and images coming out of these popular resistance activities, particularly the Israeli military's excessive use of crowd control weapons and the indiscriminate and disproportionate employment of violence against unarmed Palestinian and international demonstrators.

Israeli violations in the past three years based on area

Year \ Area	Ramallah	Hebron	Jerusalem	Nablus	Gaza Strip	Jericho	Salfit	Tulkarem	Bethlehem	Birzeit	Other Areas	Total
2011	23	21	30	12	3	5	2	1	3	0	0	100
2010	28	45	31	10	2	2	2	0	13	4	2	139
2009	11	11	31	8	26	0	1	0	4	0	5	97

The intensity of assaults and violations increased at the end of 2011 with occupation forces concluding the year with a series of vicious assaults against journalists and freedom of expression - totaling 16 violations in December alone - which is more than double the violations committed in the same month of last year, when in December 2010, 7 violations were committed, and only two were committed in 2009.

Intensification of IOF violations against journalists was also seen in November with a total of 11 violations as settler attacks against journalists increased, in addition to February and March with 10 violations each as a greater number of journalists in Jerusalem were targeted with violence.

Israeli violations during the past three years by month

year \ month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
2011	3	10	10	7	7	7	5	6	9	11	9	16	100
2010	12	13	27	8	10	9	19	8	10	12	4	7	139
2009	29	2	4	6	5	8	10	6	3	10	12	2	97

On the 11th of July 2011 the Israeli Knesset passed a draft law in attempts to quash the boycott of Israel. This new law makes any call for the academic, cultural or economic boycott of Israel a crime and is applicable to both Israel proper and the occupied Palestinian territories, including occupied East Jerusalem.

This law limits freedom of opinion and expression and assembly, and is a clear violation of articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. MADA expressed its fear that the implementation of such a law would lead to increasing numbers of violations committed against journalists in the occupied Palestinian territories and the further suppression of Palestinian voices.

The right to boycott is guaranteed under international human rights law as a legitimate method of non-violent resistance, and is considered one of the strongest forms of objection to the existence and continued expansionist construction of settlements on

Palestinian territory. Additionally, settlements are considered illegal in accordance with article 49 of the Geneva Convention IV which stipulates that “forcible transfers, as well as deportations of civilians from the occupying country to the occupied territories is prohibited”.

Israeli Violations Based on Type:

The 100 Israeli violations against press freedom in 2011 are divided into eight categories: physical assault on journalists, prevention of travel, prevention from covering events, equipment confiscation, arrests, detention, trial, and the raiding of homes. The table below shows that the majority of Israeli perpetrated violations were physically violent with a total of 55 reported incidences, followed by detention at 18, and arrests at 12.

Israeli violations during the past three years based on type

Type of Violation	2011	2010	2009
Prevention from travel	3	3	3
Raid of homes	1	0	18
Prevention from covering events	3	3	10
Equipment Confiscation	1	0	1
Arrests	12	18	7
Detention	18	19	16
Assaults	55	89	34
Trials	7	3	0
Killing	0	0	4
Other	0	4	4
Total	100	139	97

Physical Assault:

The ongoing and very real possibility of Israeli violations against journalists have created an atmosphere of constant stress and fear for journalists operating in the Palestinian territories, particularly since the vast majority of violations involve physical violence and injury and the high risk these violations have for affecting the long-term physical and psychological health of journalists and their ability to continue working. According to MADA’s statistics for 2011, physical assault was the most prevalent violation committed

by Israeli occupation forces and settlers, with 55 incidents out of a total of 100 violations.

Compared with previous years, it is clear that occupation forces have not changed their policy of oppressing journalists, and in any given encounter prefer to use physical violence “as the best method to silence and blind them”. Physical assault has been the most commonly used method over the past three years; 2011, 2010 and 2009 with 55, 89 and 34 recorded incidences, respectively.

The most common forms of physical assault on journalists’ involved direct beatings – with fists, batons and/or rifle butts, or their being directly targeted with rubber coated steel bullets, tear gas projectiles and/or stones. Most incidences of physical assault took place during the non-violent weekly demonstrations in the various villages across the West Bank and during their coverage of events in Jerusalem, such as the demolition of Palestinian homes or Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Occupation forces terrorize journalists with aims to discourage the continuance of their coverage of IOF violations against Palestinian civilians and the non-violent popular resistance activities represented by the weekly demonstrations.

During the past year, Israeli settlers played a large role in oppressing journalists, physically assaulting them and damaging their equipment with stones in particular. These violations are motivated by the settlers desire to prevent or destroy footage of their continued violent attacks on Palestinian lands, homes and farmers near illegal settlements in the West Bank. According to the testimonies of journalists, most attacks from the settlers are conducted under the protection and in the presence of the Israeli army.

Detention:

Detention still constitutes a high frequency Israeli violation against journalists and is used as a method to prevent them from covering events and performing their duties. Israeli forces detained 18 journalists during 2011, 19 during 2010 and 16 in 2009. In most instances, Israeli forces detain journalists until the end of the activity or event they are covering then release them. This clearly demonstrates that the primary aim of the detention of journalists is to prevent them from covering any event considered by occupation authorities as detrimental to their global reputation and image.

The IOF will also often detain and interrogate journalists after covering certain events, as seen in the case where a group of journalists were detained on their return journey from covering events in Beit Ommar in Hebron on 10 December 2011.

Additionally, some journalists are released only after being coerced into signing a document stating that they will not “disrupt order” nor cover any “illegitimate” activities, or in some cases, signing their own exclusion order preventing them from entering a specific area for specified period of time.

Arrests:

The arrest of journalists is considered one of the most serious violations committed by Israeli forces after physical assault as their arrest deters or prevents them from working, thus preventing them from providing for their families for long periods of time. In these cases the punishment for employing their right to freedom of expression is not only dangerous but also costly. Israeli forces arrested 12 journalists in 2011, five of whom are still imprisoned: Palestine Newspaper director in the West Bank Walid Khaled, Al-Quds Television programs coordinator in the West Bank Nawaf Al-A’amer, Shihab News Agency reporter A’amer Abu Arfa, Palestine New Network and UAE based Al-Khalij reporter Amin Abu Wardeh, and the reporter of Marah Radio Rateb Al-Sharif.

All but one of the journalists currently held in Israeli custody have yet to be officially charged with any offences and are instead being held under the military mandate of “administrative detention”, whereby the detainee is held without charge or trial for a three or sixth month interrogation period, a custody order which can be renewed indefinitely at the discretion of the Israeli military court. The one exception is the case of journalist Ra’ed Al-Sharif, who was charged with “incitement against the state of Israel” through his work at the radio station.

In many cases journalists are arrested by occupation forces and held in custody for an unspecified interrogation period, after which they are released due to “lack of evidence”, as with Al-Jazeera Talk reporter Mahmoud Al-Ja’bary from Hebron, who was arrested under suspicion of throwing stones at Israeli army personnel and held for one week before being released after the prosecution could find no evidence to substantiate their claim.

The arrest of journalists is not a new tactic of Israeli forces with previous statistics showing 18 journalist arrests in 2010 and 7 in 2009.

Additional Violations:

Israeli forces committed numerous other violations against journalists in 2011, including trial, prevention of travel and prevention of coverage, house raids and confiscation of equipment. These violations combined totaled 15.

The number of journalists put on trial increased in 2011 with 7 in the reporting year, 3 in 2010 and no incidences in 2009, according to MADA's records.

As for the prevention of journalists from covering events and traveling, MADA has recorded three incidents where journalists were prevented from traveling and three other incidents where they were prevented from covering events, which is the same number of incidents recorded in 2010. Israeli forces also stormed one house and confiscated equipment during 2011, however no incidents of such sort were recorded in 2010.

MADA wishes to stress again that violations constituting the prevention of travel or coverage of events are higher than related in this report, as many journalists either do not recount such violations or do not apply to Israeli authorities for permits to enter Jerusalem or the Gaza Strip, certain that they will be denied the necessary officiated written permission.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Israel's continued violation of international conventions, particularly article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and their continued assault on freedom of expression in the occupied Palestinian territories made journalism one of the hardest and most dangerous professions practiced by Palestinians. As such MADA denounces the widespread official international silence towards Israeli violations and the lack of any tangible steps taken to reduce the danger faced by journalists in the line of duty or hold occupation authorities accountable for their crimes.

Conversely however, MADA would like to take this opportunity to thank the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) and other Arab and International NGOs, UNESCO, and the special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression in the United Nations for their unwavering support of Palestinian journalists.

MADA recommends the following:

1. Serious intervention by the international community and relevant human rights institutions to put pressure on the Israeli government to cease all violations against journalists and media institutions.

2. Holding the Israeli occupation accountable for all violations against freedom of expression.
3. Obligating Israeli authorities to abide by international conventions relevant to the freedom of opinion and expression, particularly article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
4. The immediate release of all journalists in Israeli prisons.
5. Application of pressure on the Israeli government to facilitate the work of journalists in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly East Jerusalem, and the facilitation of freedom of movement for journalists.

Second: Palestinian Violations

2011 was an eventful year full of Palestinian violations against freedom of expression, with a recorded 106 incidences of violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip - a marked increase on previous years with 79 violations reported in 2010 and 76 in 2009 – spurred on by continuing Palestinian political divisions. Despite the signing of a reconciliation agreement between Fatah and Hamas in 2011, no real steps towards appeasement have been made and there remains a void in accountability and due process of law, thereby fostering hostilities and leading to this marked increase in Palestinian perpetrated violations.

The most horrifying violation was the murder of Italian journalist Vittorio Arrigoni by an armed Palestinian group in Gaza Strip. His body was found on the morning of 16 April 2011 in an abandoned house in the north of Gaza Strip. The trials of the accused are still ongoing, while some of the perpetrators were killed during an exchange of fire with security forces in Gaza attempting to arrest them.

The number and nature of Palestinian violations committed against freedom of press in Palestine in 2011 have meant that the Palestinian territories now rank in the bottom quarter of the global list on freedom of opinion and expression - according to the annual report issued by Reporters Without Borders - coming in at 153rd place out of 197 countries, a three point drop from 2010's ranking.

Over half of the total violations were committed in the Gaza Strip with 62 (58.5%) violations out of a total 106 violations, and 44 (41.5%) in the West Bank. Of the total violations committed, 50% occurred in Gaza City with 53 violations, while a small

number of violations were committed in Khan Younis, Rafah, Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun.

While violations in the West Bank occurred in various cities; Bethlehem came in first place with a total of 12 violations, Ramallah 9 and Nablus 8; the remaining violations were committed in Hebron, Jenin and Qalqilia.

Palestinian Violations during the past three years based on area

year \ Area	Ramallah	Hebron	Beit Lahia	Nablus	Gaza	Jenin	Beit Hanoun	Khanyounis & Rafah	Bethlehem	Qalqilia	Toulkarem	Jerusalem	Total
2011	9	7	2	8	53	3	1	6	12	5	0	0	106
2010	5	8	0	12	24	2	2	7	10	7	2	0	79
2009	14	9	0	5	20	3	0	7	6	7	4	1	67

The internal conflict between the Palestinian political parties of Fatah and Hamas played a major role in violation trends throughout 2011, with marked increases during months of poor relations between the two factions and improvements in times of reconciliation agreements or meetings.

Journalists and media institutions suffered a number of Palestinian security service led violations in the first three months of 2011, with March marking a particularly troubled month for journalists, predominantly those based in the Gaza Strip, where MADA identified the majority of the 30 violations committed that month originated.

These months demonstrated particularly high incidences of violations because a number of public demonstrations were held at that time in the West Bank and Gaza Strip protesting the political division. Protestors often faced brutal treatment and suppression from security service personnel in Gaza attempting to contain or disband

the peaceful demonstrations; as a result journalists covering these events were often assaulted and detained. These months also saw a notable increase in property raids with a number of media outlet offices stormed by security services.

From May through until July, relative calm was witnessed throughout the region following the signing of the Fatah-Hamas reconciliation agreement on 4 May 2011, violations were seen to decrease and a number of previously closed media institutions, such as Palestine Television in Gaza Strip and Al-Aqsa Television in Ramallah, returned to work.

Unfortunately this improvement did not last long due to the unsuccessful implementation of the reconciliation agreement, which was not fully ratified by either party, leading to a relapse in poor relations and increased incidences of violations. MADA identified 12 violations in September, the highest rate of incidences since the signing of the reconciliation agreement. Some journalists were summoned for interrogation in the West Bank and journalists in Gaza Strip were prevented from covering President Mahmoud Abbas' speech in the United Nations.

Palestinian violations during the past three years based on month

2009	2010	2011	Year / Month	
			Year	Month
10	3	13	January	
4	2	9	February	
4	4	30	March	
3	3	6	April	
1	1	5	May	
11	6	6	June	
5	9	3	July	
10	11	7	August	
7	5	12	September	
5	8	4	October	
11	15	7	November	
5	12	4	December	
76	79	106	Total	

Palestinian Violations Based on Type:

During the past year, twelve key types of Palestinian violation were identified: prevention of travel, media outlets raids, prevention of coverage, equipment confiscation, arrest, detention, assault, interrogation, trial, killings, threats and blocking websites.

The percentages of each of these violations varied through the year, the most recurring type was interrogation (28 incidents), followed by physical assault (27 incidents) while the trial of journalists came in third place with 13 incidents. MADA also recorded 12 incidents of preventing journalists from covering events.

Palestinian violations during the past three years based on type

Type of Violation	2011	2010	2009
Prevention from Travel	2	3	3
Storming	9	8	8
Prevention from covering events	12	4	7
Confiscation of equipment	1	1	0
Arrest	5	14	30
Detention	6	17	21
Assault	27	10	6
Interrogation	28	17	0
Trial	11	0	0
Killing	1	0	0
Closure, blocking and disrupting frequencies	1	3	1
Threatening	3	2	0
Total	106	79	76

Interrogation:

2011 saw a sharp increase in incidences of Palestinian security forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip summoning journalists for interrogation. MADA recorded a total of 28 summonses, making this type of violation the most prevalent among the Palestinian security services of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In most incidents recorded by MADA, journalists were summoned either after publishing an article considered by security forces to be subversive to the party line, facing hours of interrogation and numerous threats, or to answer questions about the institutions employing them, where they were asked questions about their work, their colleagues, and the financial resources of the institution. According to journalists' testimony these interrogations tended to last much less time than those summoned for subversive opinions.

Appearing for security service summonses are an exhausting process for journalists as they are forced to wait long hours in detention centers and interrogation rooms of security headquarters and are often summoned repeatedly for the same issue. Additionally, in some cases journalists in the West Bank are summoned by different branches of the security services, such as the preventative security unit and intelligence services, and interrogated on the same matter whilst also expected to explain why a different branch of the security services had summoned them.

Physical Assault:

Physical assault on Palestinian journalists amounted to 25% of the total Palestinian violations in 2011 with 27 recorded incidents of journalists being beaten with fists, batons or sticks. This marks a significant increase in incidences of physical assault compared with previous years, where 10 incidences were reported in 2010 and 6 in 2009.

The majority of these assault occurred during the month of March, with 17 reported incidences, when security services in the Gaza Strip beat journalists in an attempt to prevent them from covering the demonstrations calling for an end to the political division. The remainder of assaults took place in other months in the year in both Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Prevention from Covering Events:

Journalists and media crews were prevented from covering various events on twelve occasions, with 9 incidences in the Gaza Strip and 3 in the West Bank. These incidents were not concentrated in one month specifically but took place sporadically throughout the year.

Like most Palestinian perpetrated violations in 2011, the prevention of journalists from covering events increased in comparison with previous years, with 4 recorded incidences in 2010 and 6 in 2009.

Journalists are prevented from covering any events or activities seen by security forces as “forbidden” or undesirable, and in some cases on an individual basis, as in the case of a Watan Television crew who were prohibited from covering a press conference with Dr. Nabil Sha’ath in Ramallah, despite having received an invitation to the event.

It is worth noting also that in some incidences, groups of journalists were prevented from covering an event, as was the case for President Mahmoud Abbas’ address to the United Nations General Assembly.

Trials:

During 2011, four journalists faced trial in the West Bank, in all cases their trials were postponed a number of times, combining to a total of 11 sessions conducted in the year.

The prosecution of journalists contributes to practices of self-monitoring and self-censorship of their work, with increased tendencies towards softening their articles in preference to spending long periods awaiting charge and trial. The charges faced by journalists are usually based on an opinion they expressed, as in the case of Issam Shawar who was tried for “harming national unity and disturbing the nation” as a result of four articles he wrote on the political situation.

Other trials include that of Ala’ Al-Titi from Hebron who has been in and out of courtrooms for two and a half years without resolve on a charge of “working with Al-Aqsa Television and incitement”; Mamdouh Hamamreh from Bethlehem, charged with “slander and defamation”, and George Kanawati from Bethlehem for “publishing an article that offends and harms the reputation of individuals” on his personal Facebook page.

Other Violations:

As for the remaining Palestinian violations monitored, only a few other types of violations were committed in 2011, including one killing, one incident of confiscation of equipment, one incident of blocking websites, 9 incidences of media office raids, 5 arrests, 6 incidents of detention, 3 incidents of threats, and 2 incidents of prevention from travel.

Conversely to increased incidences of Palestinian security service perpetrated violence, incidences of arrest and detention of journalists have decreased greatly in 2011 compared to previous years, when in 2010 there were 14 incidences of arrest and 17 of detention, and 2009 which saw 30 arrests and 21 detentions.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

The level of freedom of expression and opinion in Palestine has faced further decline in 2011, marred particularly by the – first of its kind - heinous murder of Italian journalist Vittorio Arrigoni, in addition to the overall increase in the number of violations. In response, MADA demands that the following obligations be met by the relevant authorities until the circumstances surrounding freedom of expression in the oPt improve:

1. Respect of the right to freedom of opinion and expression in the oPt by all parties.
2. An end to the effects of political partisanship on media in the region, including but not limited to allowing all media institutions to operate freely and without hindrance or interference from governmental bodies.
3. Commitment to upholding Palestinian Basic Law, particularly article 19 which guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
4. Ratification of processes ensuring perpetrators are held accountable for committing violations against freedom of press.
5. Preparation of a new draft law entitled “Basic Media Law” where different sectors of media (visual, audio visual, and audio) are organized and represented.
6. Establishment of a higher council for media through partnerships between governmental bodies, civil society institutions and journalists, and utilizing academic expertise specializing in law and media.

We would like to note that the fifth and sixth recommendations are part of a series of recommendations issued by MADA in 2011, following a research study on “legal organization of freedom of expression in Palestine” - prepared by Rashad Twam, legal consultant and under the supervision of media law advocate Ahmad Nasra.

Details of violations and testimony by date:

(5 Jan) Preventive Security Service detained Pal Media Agency cameraman Ahmed Kilani on Wednesday 5 January 2011, after his interview with the former Minister of Prisoners, Wasfy Kabaha, in the city of Jenin in the West Bank. Kilani told MADA center that after finishing the interview, the Preventive Security Service called him and asked him to come immediately to their headquarters, whilst there the Preventive Security Service reviewed the interview and ordered him to pledge that he would not publish it. Kilani refused because the interview addresses the issue of prisoners and there was no justification for deletion. Kilani added: "I was detained for three hours and then released, but they didn't give me the camera. At the afternoon of the next day they contacted me and asked me to come and collect the camera, but the interview was deleted".

(17 Jan) Israeli occupation authorities banned West Bank Al-Jazeera Net correspondent Awad Alrjoub from traveling to Jordan via the Allenby Bridge border on the 17 January 2011. Occupation forces offered no explanation to Alrjoub as to the reason for this restriction. Alrjoub traveled to Allenby Bridge intending to attend Al-Jazeera's "International Conference for Electronic Press" in Doha from the 19th-20th of January 2011. On arrival to Allenby, Alrjoub was shocked by the Israeli authorities decision to deny his right to travel. Alrjoub said that he had traveled many times before without any problems and asserted that this incident was an example of a tactic employed by Israeli authorities, intended to pressurize Al-Jazeera and its journalists into altering their coverage of Israeli occupation practices in the Palestinian territories.

(17 Jan) Palestinian Preventive Security Services arrested columnist Isam Shawar in the city of Qalqilya, West Bank, on Monday 17 January 2011. His wife told MADA that members of the Preventive Security Services came to the house at about 10 am asking the whereabouts of Shawar, she informed them that was at his dental clinic, so security personnel then went to the clinic and arrested him. His wife added: "They haven't charged him yet, but he was arrested because articles he published in Palestine newspaper."

(24 Jan) A group of young Palestinians attempted to raid Al-Jazeera's TV office in Ramallah on Monday 24 January 2011, in response to the recent publication by Al-

Jazeera of the "Palestine Papers" - detailed documents and minutes from the meetings of the negotiations between Palestinian and Israeli representatives from the past ten years. The Director of Al-Jazeera's TV office in the occupied Palestinian territories Walid Alomari told MADA that a group of youths tried to attack the office but were intercepted by Palestinian police; he expressed his warm thanks to the role that the Palestinian police played in handling the situation. Alomari added that: " the people have the right to object Al-Jazeera's publication, but they have no right to attack it. "

(24 Jan) Israeli occupation forces threw a tear gas grenade at Quds Net correspondent Diala Jwayhan during her coverage of the clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian youths in Batn Alhawa area in Jerusalem. Jwayhan said that she when went on Friday 24 January 2011 to cover the clashes at about 2:15 pm, when occupation forces deliberately threw a gas grenade at her, hitting her back and causing bruises and burns. Because of the density of gas Jwayhan also lost consciousness, Jwayhan added: "I received immediate treatment and they transported me to my home. I was unable to go to work for two days".

(26 January) Palmedia cameraman Ahmed Kilani and Quds TV correspondent Ahmed Allbekawi were detained by the Palestinian Preventive Security Agency after making a report in Ya'bad area in Jenin, West Bank. Kilani told MADA center that he went with his colleague to make a report about the high prices in Jenin, and after filming, one of the PSS members called his colleague Allbekawi, and told him to come to their headquarters with the photographic material they had taken that day. Kilani added: "When we went they reviewed the report, and then they released us. I stayed there about five minutes while my colleague remained there for an hour and a half, waiting for them to view the whole report".

(26 Jan) Four Palestinian's youths, including one armed youth, raided the PalMedia Agency (Nablus office) on Wednesday 24 January 2011 and proceeded to destroy agency property. The same day, unknown individuals opened fired in front of the house of Agency coordinator Hasan Altit. The two incidents took place in Nablus city in the West Bank. Al-Jazeera TV hired the studio from Pal Media yesterday to interview the academic and political analyst Dr.Abdul Sattar Qasim, to discuss Al-Jazeera's recently released documents the "Palestine Papers". In a statement to MADA, Altit said: "The office was raided at about 3:15 PM, immediately after completion of the broadcast. The raiders asked about Dr. Qasim and about me, but I was absent; then they started to destroy some of the holdings in the office: a computer, the studio camera, printer, and some glasses, then they fled. At 12:30 AM unknown individuals fired a gun in the air in front of my house".

(31 Jan) Police of the Hamas Government in Gaza beat, cursed and detained a group of journalists in the courtyard of the "Aljundi Almajhoul", who were staging a sit-in in solidarity with the Egyptian people on 31 January 2011. The journalists went to cover and participate in the Egypt solidarity sit-in, and when they arrived a group of women police attempted to confiscate their cameras and apprehended them to a civilian car where they proceeded to insult and beat the journalists whilst driving them to a nearby interrogation center. Police also assaulted and arrested other journalists and bloggers present at the scene and took them to the same investigation center. Journalist Asma' al-Ghoul told MADA that she and all her fellow female journalists: Al Jazeera reporter Nazik Abu Rahma, director and blogger Razan Madhoun, blogger Abeer Ayoub, and blogger Iba' Rezeq, were subjected to humiliation, insults, beatings, and body searches. They were also ordered to sign a declaration of "commitment to public morality and to not participate in future sit-ins". All detainees refused to sign so they were detained from 2:00 PM til 6:00 PM, until officials altered the statement to a pledge not participate in sit-ins, all of the women were then released except for Al-Ghoul who stayed until 7:00 PM. Al-Ghoul, added: "The interrogator separated me from my colleagues in order to beat me, she beat me violently on my cheeks and neck and pulled my hair despite informing her that I suffering from problems in the glands and nerves near the eye, I was also verbally abused by a police man, then I signed the pledge and was released. "

(2 Feb) Members of the Palestinian police attacked independent journalist Mohammed Jaradat while covering a solidarity march with the Egyptian people on Wednesday, 2 February 2011, in the city of Ramallah in the West Bank. Jaradat said that he was covering the march when members of the police attacked him and took him to the police station. There they punched him in spite showing them his press card, and after one hour he was released.

(4 Feb) Six journalists were attacked by Israeli soldiers while covering clashes between Israeli Occupation Forces and Palestinian youths after Friday prayer in the Bab Al'moud area of Jerusalem, on 4 February 2011. Israeli Occupation Forces threw tear gas canisters and concussion grenades in the direction of the journalists, one hitting Japan Agency photographer Mu'amar Awad on the hand, causing burns. Other journalists present at the scene: Quds Net correspondent Diala Jwehan, Alquds newspaper photographer Mahmud A'lian, Silwan Net website photographer Muhammad Abu Snenah, MNB agency photographer Ahmad Jaber, and Freelance photographer

Mahfouth Abu Turk (who also was hit by a stone throw on the Israeli occupation forces by Palestinian youth), suffered severe asphyxiation by the high concentration of gas. Mu'amar Awad said: "We were brutally and deliberately targeted. We were standing with each other, then some gas and concussion grenades were thrown at us".

(5 Feb) Israeli occupation forces attacked Agence France Presse photographer Hazem Bader during his coverage of the weekly Beit Omar march in Hebron. Bader said that he went on Saturday 5 February 2011 to Beit Omar to cover the march and whilst working was beaten and attacked by the IOF to prevent him from covering the event.

(5 Feb) Sawt Alshaab radio presenter Sameh Ramadan received a call from an official at the Internal Security Service of the Hamas Government in the Khan Younis on Saturday 5 February 2011. Ramadan told MADA's Legal Unit consultant that the caller told him that due to the broadcast of people's opinions and calls to his radio show, he was being accused of incitement against the Interior Ministry in Gaza. The caller asked him about his relationship with young people mobilizing for revolution and his relationship with Karamah newspaper. Ramadan told the caller that this line of questioning was illegal and that Karamah was not a newspaper, but a web site. Ramadan added: "In the end I was asked to confirm that I reject any activity hostile to the Interior Ministry in Gaza, but I refused to do so. So he told me that I was forbidden from communicating, sharing or expressing an opinion, getting involved with Karamah or a revolution and ended the call."

(7 Feb) Members of the Palestinian Preventive Security Services in Bethlehem, West Bank, prevented Quds TV correspondent Mamdouh Hamamrah from covering a teachers' sit-in in front of the Education Directorate in the city of Bethlehem. Hamamrah went to the Directorate of Education on Monday 7 February 2011 to cover the sit-in at 10:45 am when a unit of Preventive Security personnel approached him and his cameraman colleague, taking them to their headquarters in Bethlehem. Hamamrah told MADA that the cameraman was released after they had reviewed the photographic material, but that he remained in custody for a further two hours where he was interrogated about his work with Quds TV. The detective considered his work at Al-Quds illegal and threatened to arrest him if he continued his work with the station, saying to him: "We will arrest you each time you work for Quds which encourages sedition." Hamamrah added: "they made me sign a pledge that I will not violate the administrative system, I will respect Palestinian law, and will not work for the illegal channel in the West Bank - referring to Quds TV. I then enquired about obtaining an official letter designating Quds TV as illegal but I have not received any answer, they just told me to leave my work and look for another job."

(10/2) Intelligence services of the Hamas government in Gaza summoned journalist and member of the General Secretariat of the Journalists' Syndicate Yousif Aloztaz, on Thursday 10 February 2011. Aloztaz had received a call from an individual claiming to be an investigator who asked him to come immediately to their headquarters for investigation. Upon arriving at the offices he was interrogated about the election of the Journalists Syndicate, his participation in the election despite a decision of the Supreme Court in Gaza prohibiting elections, and a number of other matters relating to the syndicate's work and operations. Aloztaz added: "I explained to them that the elections took place in the West Bank and not Gaza and that my participation in the election was before the court's decision. After they finished the interrogation I was released but they told me they would call me again later".

(15 Feb) The Preventive Security Service in Nablus summoned freelance journalist Sami al-Assi to investigation on 15 February 2011. Security personnel came to his home and handed him a summons for 10 am the next day. Al-Assi added: "I was held in solitary confinement from 10 am until ten in the evening, they asked me only a few questions about my social status, then apologized and released me".

(15 Feb) Sawt A'shaab radio presenter, Sameh Ramadan, was summoned for investigation by Internal Security Services in Khan Younis, Gaza. Ramadan said that he had received a summons from the Internal Security on 14 February 2011 to go to their headquarters at nine o'clock the next morning. Upon arrival the guard asked him his name and place of residence, Ramadan protested the line of questioning and entered into a verbal altercation with the guard and the interview was postponed until 17 February 2011. Ramadan again appeared at the headquarters as requested, where they took his mobile phone and some of his belongings and left him to wait approximately an hour before beginning the investigation. Interrogators accused Ramadan, without presenting any evidence, of influencing public opinion and participating in the Karamah revolution. Ramadan stated that he denied all charges and added: "The investigation lasted about two and a half hours, they asked me repeatedly to sign a pledge to not participate in the Karamah revolution but I refused several times, in the end however I signed the document because of the threats they made against me".

(25 Feb) Palestine Voice radio presenter Tamim Muammar received a threatening email signed by the Internal Security Unit of the Hamas Government in Gaza telling him not to leave his house. The letter added that Muammar was leading a disinformation campaign against the government and conspiracies against certain persons. Shortly after receiving the email Muammar was surprised to discover that his e-mail account had been

canceled as a result of an attempted hacking. Muammar had additionally received a threatening phone call from an unidentified person several weeks prior to the email ordering him to "stop conspiring against the people," the caller, in the company of unknown persons, told them "Tamim Muammar makes plots against you."

(25 Feb) Israeli occupation forces attacked Pal Media Agency and German Television cameraman Abdul Ghani Natshe and Agence France Presse photographer Hazem Bader while they were covering the weekly Beit Omar march on Saturday 25 February 2011. According to Natshe he went to cover the events of the weekly march and was taking some aerial footage of the area when he and demonstrators were fired upon by the IOF with several rubber coated steel bullets. Natshe was struck on his right hand by a bullet and fainted following asphyxiation from a barrage of tear gas canisters fired at the crowd, necessitating his immediate removal to hospital for treatment. Bader said that he was beaten on the face, head, torso and legs by a group of Israeli border guards, leaving him with severe contusions and bruising.

(25 Feb) Israeli occupation forces arrested Al Jazeera Talk reporter Mahmoud Jabari on Friday 25 February 2011, while covering a march of solidarity with the families of the martyrs in the city of Hebron. Jabari told MADA that while he was covering the march he was approached by 6 IOF soldiers, who proceeded to beat and verbally abuse him before forcibly moving him to a military enclave. Jabari added: "I was then transferred to an interrogation center in the settlement of Kiryat Arba where they accused me of throwing stones at the army, I told them that I am journalist and I came only to shoot footage of the event. I was held in captivity until 3 March 2011, when the Israeli court ruled in favor of my immediate release without conditions due to the prosecution's lack of evidence against me."

(5 March) The Israeli occupation forces attacked WAFA news agency correspondent Tha'er Fakousa while covering the weekly Beit Omar march in Hebron city on Saturday 5 March 2011. Fakousa said that he went to cover the march's events, during that one of the soldiers approached and beat him severely, causing him bruises all over his body, after that the IOF threw bomb gas near him. So he lost his consciousness, and was taken to the hospital for treatment. Fakousa's camera also was broken.

(5 March) The Israeli occupation forces detained WAFA correspondent, Juaid Altamimi, while reporting from the old city of Hebron and held in custody for 4 days. The accident took place on Saturday 5 March 2011. Altamini said that he went to the old city to make a report. During that the IOF stooped him, so he showed them his journalist and identity cards, despite that they detained him for 4 hours in a cold weather.

(6 March) The Hebron Magistrate's Court Judge issued a decision on Sunday 6 March 2011, to postpone Ala' Al-Titi's twentieth trial until 4 April 2011, at the appeal of the prosecution who have requested another week to gather new evidence. Al-Titi's ordeal began at the Hebron Magistrate's Court on 4 November 2008 following his arrest on charges of sedition in relation to his work with Hamas owned Al-Aqsa TV. The Court of Appeals in Hebron had previously affirmed his innocence in a decision taken by the Magistrate's Court on 24 April 2009; the prosecution however repealed the decision. Al-Titi released a statement to MADA concerning the repeated postponement of his trial: "For more than 2 and a half years I have been going to the court, facing a new judge every 3 or 4 trials. The court has still not taken a decision on my case despite the fact I was previously found innocent of the same charges. The prosecution's constant stalling is threatening my career. I ask the court to expedite the determination of this case in accordance with the overwhelming evidence of my innocence and the inability of the prosecution to present its case so I can move forward in my career."

(6 March) The Preventative Security personnel summoned freelance journalist Mustafa Sabri for investigation on 6 March 2011 in Qalqilia city in the West Bank. Sabri said that he received the summon and went to the Preventative Security headquarters in Qalqilya, where he was detained from 5 til 10 pm. Sabri said: "they asked me about reconciliation, my current work, the articles I write and where I publish them. It was a friendly talk but the length of the detention and questioning was unacceptable and disruptive."

(11 March) The Israeli occupation forces prevented Journalists from covering the clashes that erupted between Israeli Border Police and Palestinian civilians in the Silwan - Jerusalem following Friday prayer on 11 March 2011. Al-Quds newspaper photographer Mahmoud A'lian said: "the IOF banned all journalists from covering the clashes, there were about 21 journalists when soldiers began pushing us and preventing us from reaching events; they also beat Palestine Public TV cameraman Nader Baybres."

(13 March) The Palestinian intelligence service summoned journalist Osaid Amarneh for investigation at their headquarters in Bethlehem on Sunday 13 March 2011. Amarneh went to their offices as requested and was questioned by security officers regarding a TVreport he had made about the Qana area of Nablus, officers additionally requested that he submit all photographic material from the report. Osaid added: "I brought the report, but they asked me to come again next Sunday. I went to their headquarters on the 20th and 27th of March and on 3rd of April, but they kept postponing the date, and now I have received another call summoning me to their headquarters on Sunday 10 April 2011."

(15 March) Policemen and members of the internal security forces attacked journalists covering a youth sit-in on 15 March 2011 in the Alkatebah yard, Gaza city. Protestors were demanding an end to the current internal political divisions between Fatah and Hamas.

MADA's legal unit consultant Karem Nashwan took statements from the group of attacked journalists - Al-Ayyam newspaper columnist Akram Attallah, Sawt Alwatan radio correspondent Ahmad Hithit, Agence France Presse photographer Muhamad Albaba, Sawt Elsha'b radio presenter and correspondent Sameh Ramadan and Sawt Alwatan presenter Mahmud Abu Taha.

In his statement, Akram Attallah said that he went to the Alkatebah yard to cover the sit-in, during which time he was approached by internal security personnel told to leave the area. He informed them that he is a journalists and wanted to continue covering, to which security personnel responded by beating him severely, leaving him with a broken hand and numerous bruises, requiring him to seek treatment at Al-Quds hospital.

Ahmad Hithit said that on his way to Alkatebah yard about 7:00 pm he was stopped by a group of policemen and internal security forces and prevented from entering the yard. Upon informing them that he is a journalist an officer began shoving him and threatened to arrest him if he didn't leave the area.

Muhamad Albaba said: "While I was going to cover the sit-in, I was attacked by an internal security member, he hit my camera which swung up and hit my hands and face, causing bruises; then he threatened to arrest me and confiscate my camera if I didn't leave the area immediately, so I left".

Sameh Ramadan said that he was covering events from the journalist's tent in Alkatebah yard, when internal security forces began beating and cursing him. Witnesses tried to halt the attack and told the security officers that Ramadan is a journalist; they however continued to beat him and damaged his camera.

The journalist Mahmud Abu Taha was also beaten whilst attempting to cover events: "I was standing beside the journalist's tent when I witnessed the beating of the Russian TV cameraman; I tried to help him and intervened, so they then began beating me with batons and sticks despite being fully aware that I am a journalist".

Asma' Alghoul said that she was near Alkatebah yard, during that one of the internal security service said: " Asma' is here", so they come and beat her in the street, then they took her to their headquarter. Alghoul added: "they threatened me not to write anything related to the policy in my blog or facebook, they also didn't allow me to call

anybody. I was release at 11:00 PM, and one of them told me: go out of the country, it's not yours".

CNN correspondent Tala abu Rahmi said: " members of public investigation unit raided the office in Gaza city nervously where the workers in the office were horrified, they searched the office and asked about my office where it was switched off and tried to confiscate cameras, but the workers prevented them so they just took the tape. Then they leave our office and went to the Jabanese TV office".

The Director of the Japanese television Bisan Abdel Salam Shehadeh said that 4 people of public investigation unit raided the office in Gaza city, and tried to confiscate cameras, computers and mobile phones, but she prevented them from that, so they confiscated the tape. Shehadeh added: "Our office overlooks the arena of the Aljundi Almajhoul yard, so we were filming from the building, during that we saw some people waving at us, after 5 minutes they raided the office, where they entered in an inappropriate manner and they spoke rudely, and after an argument lasted about half an hour, they just confiscation the tape".

(16 March) A group of journalists were detained by members of the Israeli occupation border guard unit following their participation in a sit- in in the Mount of Olives area in Jerusalem, protesting the killing of Al-Jazeera cameraman, Ali Hassan Al-Jaber. The accident took place on 16 March 2011. In a statement to MADA, Pal Media cameraman Ashraf Shobaki said that he was with a group of journalists - Pal Media cameraman Hamza Naaji, Quds Net correspondent Diala Jwehan, Palestine Public TV cameraman Nader Baybres, and photographer Ahmad Jalajel - when members of the Israeli border guard unit stopped, ridiculed, detained, and threatened to arrest them. Jwehan added: "after that they called a police car and took us to the police headquarter on Salah Al-deen street. They detained our colleague Ahmad Jalajel after his involvement in a verbal argument with one of the border guards. They released him after 3 and half hours".

(19 March) The Hamas police government attacked Alwatan Voice local radio correspondent Nasr Abu Alfoul on Saturday 2011, whilst covering youth activities in Aljundi Almajhoul yard in Gaza city : "While I was covering events from the yard I was approached by three members of the police that wanted to arrest me, I told them that I was live on air, but they didn't listen and took me by force to a room near the yard where they accused me of providing [Ramallah] with information. I denied the accusation so they beat me severely with sticks and batons; then after two hours they released me after coercing me into signing a pledge of commitment to public order."

(19 March) Palestinian women journalists were also harassed by security services on Saturday 19 March 2011, including beatings and verbal abuse. Alhayat Aljadedah newspaper correspondent Nufouth Al-Bakri said that members of Internal Security followed her while she was covering the events in Aljundi Almajhoul yard in Gaza city, where they tried to force her to leave the area and attempted to confiscate her camera. Al-Bakri added: "They were focusing their attacks on the women journalists and women demonstrators yesterday, and they tried to force all of the journalists from the region, they were pushing and cursing us using obscene language".

(19 March) Ten people belonging to security services of the Hamas government raided the headquarters of Reuters news agency in Gaza city, where they physically abused and pointed handguns in the faces of journalists present in the offices: Abed Rabbo Shana, Mohamed Sobhi Abdel-Rahman and Mohamed Jadallah. Shana said that security personnel prevented all journalists from covering a march proceeding from Alázhar University, and they attacked the AP photographer Khalid Al'shkar and tried to arrest him, but we prevented them. When they saw our crew filming, they raided the office without justification, beat journalists with batons, and then pointed guns in their faces while the beatings continued. Shana, added: "In addition to that, they confiscated a camera and broke some of the equipment, the camera was returned after two hours."

(19 March) policemen of Hamas government raided Mayaden company for media in Gaza city, and beat all the journalists in the office. The director of the company Ramez Alghoul said that they tried to confiscate the camera but the journalists prevented them, so they took the tape. Alghoul added: "they beat us severely, and cursed us, journalist Munther Alshurafi went to the hospital after beating him on his head severely".

(19 March) Palestinian Public Investigation Unit personnel assaulted the freelance journalist Peter Beigin while covering a youth sit-in protest demanding an end to internal Palestinian division in Al-Manara Square, Ramallah city, on 19 March 2011. Beigin said that individuals belonging to the security unit took him along with two protestors to a nearby police station where they attacked him. Following the beating officers handed Beigin to the police, however he was not taken into custody. He added: "I stayed at the police station for about half an hour then I went to the hospital for a medical report in order to file a complaint, which I did, but so far I haven't receive any response."

(22 March) The Bethlehem Magistrates Court issued a decision to postpone the trial of Quds TV correspondent Mahmoud Hamamreh until 3 May 2011. It appears the postponement was the result of an absent witness. After the court ruling, MADA

center's Legal Unit lawyer Sana Aranki met with the prosecutor and requested he exercised care in summoning the witness in order to bring about a speedy end to the trial. Aranki also spoke with the prosecutor about Hamamrah's personal computer that had been previously confiscated. MADA's lawyer was assured that the laptop would be available the following day, and Hamamrah went and took it.

(25 March) The freelance photographer Mahfouz Abu Turk was attacked by the Israeli occupation forces whilst covering clashes between the IOF and Palestinians in Silwan on 25 March 2011. Abu Turk required treatment at Almaqased hospital after a gas projectile thrown by IOF soldiers struck his left eye causing abrasions and burns.

(27 March) Police officers of the Hamas government assaulted Quds Radio correspondent Mohammed Abdel Nabi in Kamal Adwan Hospital, Gaza Strip, on the morning of Sunday 27 March. Police officers had been detaining Nabi for over an hour in a room of the hospital where he had been making a report when the attack occurred.

According to his statement, Abdul Nabi went to the Kamal Adwan hospital to cover the injuries following an attack on Jabaliya City, northern Gaza, by the Israeli Occupation Forces. While he was there, it was discovered that one of the injured had been mistakenly pronounced dead and taken to the morgue where he was left for half an hour. Upon discovery that the patient was still alive his family began to scream and protest against the medical neglect. Abdul Nabi reported the story, titled "the living martyr", live on Quds Radio and included the testimony of the patient's cousin who had witnessed the mistake. Upon completion of the broadcast Abdul Nabi was approached by six armed police personnel informing him that he was wanted by the Ministry of Health. Police then tried to arrest him, to which he protested, and was then taken by force to a private room in the hospital despite the intervention of numerous witnesses.

Abdul Nabi added: "I was attacked and treated like a criminal, including verbal insults. A doctor from the hospital came to the room, demanding I withdraw the report on air, but I refused and said he should file a legal complaint. I was detained for more than an hour then released."

(29 March) Nablus city court postponed the verdict in the case of journalist Issam Shawar accused of "undermining national unity and disturbing the peace of the nation". The verdict, due on 29 March 2011, will now be decided on 19 May 2011. Shawar said that his charge and arrest were based upon four articles he had written about the political situation, but maintains that they expressed his own personal views only. Shawar was arrested and detained from 16 January 2011 until 13 February 2011 when

the court date was decided and he was released on bail set at five thousand Jordanian dinars (about \$7,000).

(30 March) group of journalists were attacked on Wednesday 30 March 2011, while they cover the "Land Day" march in Gaza. They are: The correspondent of W

AFA agency Wajeh Al-Najar, The journalist Iyad Taha who's working with Sawt Alwatan radio, Muhammad Alhasomi who's working with Alhuriyeh center for media, and the correspondent of Alhurra TV Wissam Yassin.

Wajeh Al-Najar told MADA that the police of the Hamas government attacked and dispersed the people in Aljundi Almajhoul yard in Gaza city, in the pretext of not having a permit to the march. The police also detained him for 7 hours, and then they released him after signing a pledge not to cover any "unlicensed" march.

Wissam Yasin also was attacked by the police personnel, after her refusal to leave Aljundi Almajhoul area. One of the police men broke her mobile while she was covering a march started from Alazhar University to Palestine yard.

The journalist Iyad Taha said that he was beaten with batons by a group of people in civilian and military clothes in Alsaraya area. One of them sprayed a strange thing on his face. Later he knew that this yellow powder influence on the nerves and affect the cognition. Taha lost his concentration and had difficulties in breathe, where his colleague Muhammad Alhasomi helped him and took him to the hospital.

Alhasomi reported that he was in the march near Al-Quds Open University. Hamas security services attacked the protesters and the journalists, who were located to cover the march's event, and beat them severely by batons. He added that they caused him bruises on his back, shoulder, and left hand.

(4 April) The Magistrate's Court in Hebron postponed the journalist Ala' Al-Titi's trial to 27 April 2011 to give the prosecution time to gather new evidence. Al-Titi has been appearing before the court since 4 November 2008. On 27 April the court again postponed the trial, which is now set for 26 May 2011.

Al-Titi's case - The court of Appeals in Hebron had previously affirmed his innocence on charges of sedition in relation to his work with Al-Aqsa TV, in a decision taken by the Magistrate's Court on 24 April 2009; the prosecution however repealed this decision. Al-Titi's lawyer Hamza Awad said: "The repeated postponement of Al-Titi's trial is just an exercise in procrastination, the judge has given the prosecution numerous opportunities

to present their evidence and determine their list of witnesses". Awad added that this repeated postponement is part of an on-going campaign of harassment against al-Titi, and in clear violation of his rights as a citizen guaranteed under Palestinian Basic Law.

(7 April) al-Bayader al-Siyas magazine correspondent Muhammad al-Madhoun sustained severe head injuries following an Israeli military strike in the Gaza Strip. In a statement to MADA, al-Madhoun said that on the night of the 7th he was in his cousin's home when Israeli's shelling began. Because of the severity of his head wounds al-Madhoun had to be taken for immediate treatment to Shifa' Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery.

(10 April) Two police officers serving the Hamas government deleted press material belonging to Alán channel journalists preparing a report on the closure of the Albaqiyat Alsaliha association in Gaza Strip. Alán channel correspondent Rita Isaac said that she went with the cameraman to make a report about the government sanctioned closure of the association. Isaac said that they noticed two people observing them, one of whom was videoing them, while they were filming outside the entrance of the association.

Isaac added: "We asked him why he was filming us and he responded that "it's not your business", after which he continued filming us, so I filmed them before entering my car. They then approached us and demanded to see our camera equipment, at first I questioned their demand and refused to hand it over. Then one of the men introduced himself as an officer from the Investigation and Internal Security Unit. I repeated my refusal so he took the camera by force and deleted all the data before throwing it into my car."

(11 April) Public Investigation and Palestinian police personnel detained Information and Communications company photographer, Ala al-Ehih, and prevented him from filming at Manara Square in Ramallah. Al-Ehih told MADA that he was filming at al-Manara Square at approximately 7pm, when he was approached a police officer who asked the reason for his filming. Al-Ehih told the officer that he was preparing a report on Ramallah city, who then walked away.

Al-Ehih was then approached by two men from the Public Investigation's Unit who asked him to accompany them to the police station, which he did so voluntarily. Al-Ehih, said: "I was taken to the Investigations Department and they interrogated me about my work and asked me to present my photography permit. I told the investigator that a permit was not necessary, so he began to argue with me, then the other members conducting the investigation tried to provoke me by playing carelessly with my camera. I was held at the centre for an hour before they released me."

(12 April) Internal Security members of the Hamas government prevented Quds Radio correspondent Abdullah Meqdad from covering a public sit-in for residents of the Mughraqa area, held in front of the Gaza City cabinet minister's headquarters. According to Mekdad, he went to the area to cover the sit-in, he was live on air with the protesters waiting to hear from an official who was directed to listen to their demands, and proceeded to interview one of the protesters. Mekdad said: "During that time one of the security men tried to pull the man I was interviewing with him, he also attempted to confiscate my mobile but I stopped him. I announced live on air that the Security Services were preventing me from interviewing protesters, then two more men approached me, asked me finishing the interview and demanded I leave the area immediately. At first I refused but then they tried to attack me so I left. "

(14 April) IOF personnel confiscated Radio Bethlehem 2000's transmitter in Hebron, effectively shutting down the station's 102.9 frequency band that broadcasts to southern West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Radio Bethlehem 2000 director George Canawati said that IOF soldiers raided the building where the transmitter was located and confiscated it, disconnecting all broadcasts to southern Bank and Gaza Strip. Canawati added that he had made a formal complaint to the Palestinian DCO, but has not yet received a response from the occupation authorities.

(15 April) Israeli occupation forces arrested Al-Ayyam newspaper editor Abdel Moneim Shalabi from his home in Al-Bireh. Shalabi said to MADA that a large force of soldiers came to his home at five o'clock on the morning, searched his house and arrested him. He added: "I was taken to an interrogation centre in Bet El settlement before they transferred me to Ofer prison. There I was interrogated for about two hours about my work and personal life; they released me in at 7pm the following night"

(16 April) An armed group in Gaza Strip abducted and murdered Italian journalist and writer Vittorio Arrigoni. Arrigoni was found dead in an abandoned house in northern Gaza Strip on the morning of Friday 16 April 2011. The Jihadi Salafist announced the abduction of Arrigoni on the morning of Thursday 14 April, and demanded that the Hamas government release detainees belonging to their separatist group. Arrigoni spent 3 years living in the Gaza strip writing about suffering of Gazans and participating in solidarity activities.

(19 April) Israeli soldiers and settlers attacked three photojournalists - Zahid Jaafar Ashtiyeh of Agence France Presse (AFP), Associated Press Agency photographer Nasser Ishtayeh and Wagdy Mohammed Shtayyeh of the (APA) Agency – while covering settler attacks on the eastern side of the village of Burin, south of Nablus in the West Bank, on Tuesday 19 April 2011. Settlers hurled stones at the journalists, who, in their attempt to escape the attack Wajdi and Nasser were detained and beaten by the Israeli soldiers.

In his statement to MADA, Ja'far Ashtiyeh said that he went to the area to cover settler attacks, where upon arrival to the scene settlers began throwing stones at them causing abrasions to his shoulder. He added: "We tried to stay away after that but Israeli soldiers beat Nasser to the ground, causing severe bruising, they savagely beat Wagdy both with their arms and rifle butts, breaking his nose."

(24 April) Tuyor Aljaneh channel correspondent Farid Saleh was issued with a 15-day ban from entering the al-Aqsa mosque courtyard by occupation authorities after filming a festival on Saturday 14 April 2011. Saleh said that after he finished covering the festival and was making his way out of the al-Aqsa mosque compound he was stopped by members of the Israeli police and escorted to a nearby investigation centre. There police officials presented him with the ban order prohibiting him from entering the Al-Aqsa courtyard for 15 days. The order officially states that any violation of this order will be met with a 3000 shekel fine. Saleh added: "My charge was violating the law by filming in a forbidden area, but there is no law that prevents filming in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa."

(3 May) Members of the internal security services of the Hamas government in Gaza attacked German ARD television reporter and television producer Zakaria Tilmes on Tuesday, 3 May 2011. Tilmes told MADA that he went to attend a concert in the

museum restaurant north of Gaza City at the invitation of UNESCO, but upon arrival was denied entry by security personnel. Of the 60 journalists invited to the event, only 20 were allowed entry to the venue. Tilmes, along with his fellow journalists, sat at the entrance of the building in protest and "after 10 minutes the cars carrying the maestro and the band came, as they approached I threw myself in front of their cars in protest. The Internal Security officers beat me and tore my clothes, then I sat next to the security guard and I was banned from covering the event."

(3 May) The Bethlehem Criminal Court postponed proceedings in the case of Quds TV correspondent Mamdouh Hamamrah, to give prosecutors more time to determine its position after their witness testified in favour of Hamamrah, until 26 June 2011. Hamamrah is charged with the libel and slander of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, according to Jordanian Penal Code No. 16 of 1960, which is applied in the West Bank. The charge is based on claims that he downloaded a picture depicting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas beside a photo of Maamoun Bek – a fictional traitor in the Syrian Ramadan TV serial 'Bab el-Hara' – on his Facebook account.

(5 May) The Hamas internal security service of the Gaza Strip summoned Sawt Falastin radio correspondent Muammar Tamim for investigation at the Abu Khadra governmental compound in Gaza City. Tamim said that he went to the security headquarters at 1.30pm, he arrived late at the headquarters due to special circumstances. Tamim was left to wait at the headquarters for 2 hours before security personnel approached and told him to come back on 8 May 2011 at 9am. Tamim arrived at headquarters at nine as requested, where he was accused of sending a report on corruption within the Ministry of Health in Gaza to Al-Hayat Aljadedah newspaper. Tamim denied the charges, and after hours of interrogation and coercion was released and told to return again to their offices in two days with two personal pictures and his passport. Muammar added: "When I went there I waited about for an hour and a half and then they confiscated my passport and started to interrogate me; they told me that if I did not admit that I send the report, they would sue me. I remained adamant about my innocence and was released at approximately 5pm, but they refused to give me my passport. On 15 May 2011 I received a call from someone in Internal Security who told me to come and collect my passport, so I went there and took it."

(8 May) The IOF arrested journalist Waleed Khaled at his home in the area of Salfit in the West Bank. According to his father a large force of Israeli occupation soldiers came to the house at one o'clock in the morning, where they searched the house and arrested his son. The week following his arrest Khaled was transferred to a detention facility and sentenced to 6 months of incarceration under Israeli military laws of administrative detention. Khalid had previously been released on 25 January 2011 after 3 years and 8 months of imprisonment without charge or trial, as sanctioned under a previous Israeli military order of administrative detention.

(13 May) Palestinian police personnel attacked freelance journalist and researcher Hisham Sharabati while covering lead-up events for the 63rd anniversary of al-Nakba in the old city of Hebron. According to Sharabati, a peaceful march was proceeding to the Shalalah neighbourhood of Hebron, where Palestinian police were stationed to prevent demonstrators from reaching the Israeli controlled zones. Sharabati said that while he was filming the march he was approached by a police officer and asked to hand over his camera, Sharabati refused and was taken by force to another officer who asked him who his was working for. The officer engaged Sharabati in a verbal argument before allowing him to leave: "Once I walked a few meters away, a number of policemen attacked me and took my camera by force, I tried to retrieve it, but one of them took the video tape before returning it to me, they then forbade me from continuing my report. I tried more than once to retrieve the tape, but they wouldn't let me."

(15 May) Israeli Occupation Forces opened indiscriminate fire on the participants of a peaceful demonstration in commemoration of al-Nakba. Dozens of unarmed civilians suffered moderate to severe injuries, including freelance photographer Mohammad Othman (25 years). Othman was covering the March of Return, proceeding towards the Beit Hanoun crossing in northern Gaza Strip when Israeli Occupation Forces began firing live bullets at demonstrators. Osman was hit with live rounds to his chest and right hand and had to be evacuated to Kamal Adwan hospital for emergency treatment before being transferred to Shifa Hospital for surgery. Othman is currently suffering from paraplegia and is receiving physiotherapy in preparation for his transfer to a specialist medical center overseas. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has stated that the Palestinian National Authority will cover all the costs of his treatment.

(15 May) Sawt al- Watan radio correspondent Mohammed Bakr Allouh suffered severe effects from excessive tear gas inhalation and was evacuated for treatment at Kamal Adwan hospital. Allouh's breathing returned to normal after 30 minutes of treatment and he was discharged from the hospital.

(15 May) Freelance Photographer Mahfouz Abu Turk was attacked in the city of Jerusalem by "Musta'rbeen" (an Israeli security forces unit usually dressed like Arabs) while covering the arrest of a Palestinian youth in Al-Esawiyah. In his statement to MADA Abu Turk said that one of the "Musta'rbeen" attacked him with a gun, causing contusions on his left hand that required hospital treatment.

(15 May) Israeli Occupation Forces attacked Associated Press Agency photographer Najih Al-Hashlamoun while covering clashes between Israeli occupation forces and residents of the Shalalah neighbourhood in the city of Hebron. Al-Hashlamoun reported that he was filming Israeli soldiers firing tear gas at demonstrators from the gate of one of the houses, and was standing away from demonstrators when he was struck by a rubber-coated steel bullet, wounding his left foot. Al-Hashlamoun went to the Hebron public hospital, where staff found he was suffering from severe contusions and swelling.

(27 May) Israeli settlers and members of the Israeli Border Guards attacked Quds Net correspondent Diala Jwehan while she was covering a peaceful march against the opening of a new settlement in the Ras al-Amud area near Silwan, Jerusalem. According to Jwehan she went with colleagues to cover the march, which included members from international solidarity movements, when she was attacked by Israeli Border Guards who prevented her from covering events, ordered her to leave the area and attempted to burn her hands with lit cigarettes. Jwehan added that settlers had opened water hoses on demonstrators and journalists and spat on her and her colleagues. Photographers Atta Ewisat and Suleiman Khader also reported being repeatedly pushed by the border guards in an attempt to stop their media coverage.

(1 June) Israeli Occupation Forces detained Al-Quds newspaper correspondent Muna Alqawasmi and Bokra Net correspondent Maisa' Abu Ghazalah while covering the Israeli "AlQuds United" festival, in AlAqsa mosque yard in Jerusalem. The incident took place on Wednesday 1 June 2011. Alqwasmi said to MADA that she went with her colleague to cover the festival, during which time they were approached by an Israeli officer who detained their identity cards, cameras and mobiles, after confiscating their personal items the officer then took them to the Israeli police station in the "Bab Alsilsila"

quarter. Alqwasmi and Abu Ghazalah were interrogated separately about the reason for their covering events and their work: “after one and half an hour of investigation they took us to another police station and interrogated us once again. We were accused of violating the general system and annoying the police men, after 3 hours we were released”.

(13 June) A group of policewomen attacked the Middle East Center for Studies’ Ibtihal Mansour while covering a group sit-in demanding an end to political arrests in Nablus city in the West Bank. The incident took place on Monday 13 June 2011. Mansour told MADA that many people were present when she went to cover the sit in, at which time a man in civilian clothes approached her and asked to see both her identity and press cards. Mansour refused the request so the unidentified man called over a police man who ordered her to stop filming, which she did. Mansour added: “I stopped covering and was standing beside one of the legislative council members when a group of policewomen attacked and beat me brutally, they confiscated my mobile and tried to confiscate my camera as well. Some legislative members tried to intervene, including my mother, Muna Mansour, but in vain. Suddenly one of the police officers came and asked them to go away, one of them confiscated the video tape from journalist Ahmad Alkhatib and they searched him”.

(18 June) Israeli Occupation Forces attacked the Europe agency photographer Wajdi Ishtyeh while he was covering the weekly march in Oraq Burien village in Nablus city, on Saturday 18 June 2011. Ishtyeh said that he was covering the weekly march against settlements, when an Israeli soldier threw a gas projectile deliberately against him from a short distance which hit his right hand. Ishtyeh added: “it caused wounds and burns, and I was taken directly to the hospital for treatment”.

(19 June) Israeli Occupation Forces detained cameraman Moáýad Alashkar and prevented him from filming in front of Khdori University in Tulkarem, north West Bank on Sunday 19 June 2011. Alashkar – a cameraman for the Ma’an network and Associated Press agencies – said that he was filming members of the Israeli intelligence service while they stopped and searched university students. Israeli military personnel conducted full body searches and confiscated students’ mobile phones and identity cards for inspection. While filming events, Alashkar was approached by an officer who confiscated his camera, identity card and press cards. The officer proceeded to tell him that filming in the area was forbidden, Alashkar objected to the prohibition and entered into a verbal altercation with the officer, during which time the officer ordered his accompanying soldiers to arrest him. Alshkar added: "I called the Associated Press offices immediately and my boss requested to speak with the officer, he told the officer

that I was doing my job and had a right to film. After half an hour they returned my belongings and told me "Stay away from here". "

(20 June) Members of Hamas internal security services in Gaza prevented Wafa Agency correspondent Omar Alfara from covering the Tawjihi exams (final highschool exams) in Khanyounis city. The incident took place on Monday 20 June 2011. Alfara said to MADA: "I went to cover the tests, and while I was asking the students about the test, one of the security officers told me that talking to students was prohibited. I asked the officer why and informed him that I have a press card and special permission from the education ministry to cover, in spite of that he asked me to leave the school grounds. I went out and started to ask the student outside about the test so he told me again to stop talking with the students". Alfara said the after 3 minutes he received a call from the internal security unit who told him to present himself at their headquarters in Khanyounis immediately. He arrived at the headquarters as requested, and was made to wait for over an hour before being forced to sign a document stating that he will not cover the tests in Gaza unless he receives special permission from the security service spokesperson. Alfara called the spokespersons number many times but was never connected.

(22 June) Israeli Occupation Forces detained the Radio Bethlehem 2000's director George Kanawati while covering the Israeli occupation forces raid on Al-Quds Open University in the town of Beit Sahour, on Wednesday 22 June 2011. Kanawati told MADA that he was filming the occupation soldiers raid on the University when he was approached by one of the soldiers and asked to present his press card, which he handed over. On his return the soldier ordered him not to film, Kanawati refused saying that he was doing his job to film. Kanawati added: "After that, another soldier came and confiscated my ID card and told me that filming is prohibited, I told him that I was doing my job, am in my city and it's my right to film, so an argument occurred between us and after about 40 minutes they released me."

(22 June) The internal security of the Hamas government in Gaza summoned France 24 TV correspondent Salameh Atallah for investigation several times after preparing and broadcasting a report on the armed fundamentalist group "Taliban Palestine" in the Gaza Strip. Atallah received a call from Internal Security personnel and told to come to the security headquarters on Wednesday 22 June 2011 at ten in the morning. When he went there he waited about 2 hours before being questioned about the report. Investigators accused Atallah of fabricating the report, which he denied, informing the officers that he had handed them the complete report in May without any changes. Atallah was released at 3:00 pm that day and ordered to come back on 26 June 2011 at

ten on the morning. Atallah said to MADA: "When I went there I was detained in a very hot room and forced to stay on a chair for more than six hours, the security officers shouted at me whenever I tried to move. At about 4:00 pm an officer entered and interrogated me about the "Taliban Palestine" group and my report for around one hour before sending me back to the detention room. At approximately six in the evening they handed me another summons to appear at the headquarters on 30 June 2011, which I refused, but they told me that I was compelled to appear while an officer forcibly shoved me against the wall. Someone told me that the security service know that I did not fabricate the report, but don't want me to write about the topic. When I went there for the third time I waited for an hour and then was questioned again and asked about the human rights and media organizations that were in touch with me about my repeated summons. I was released at 2:00 pm".

(26 June) the Israeli occupation authorities banned Alnajah University columnist and media teacher Fareed Abu Dheir from traveling to a UNESCO conference on scientific journalism in Qatar. The incident took place on Sunday 26 June 2011. Abu Dheir told MADA that he was supposed to go to the conference to present a talk about scientific media in Palestine, and despite having official Israeli approval to travel from the Israeli coordination center, he was prevented from crossing the Allenby Bridge border to Jordan by Israeli occupation authorities. Abu Dheir added: "I was detained for two hours before an officer came, he told me I was banned from traveling because I do pose a threat to Israeli state security. This surprises me, I have been banned from travel several times since 2006, and when I contacted the Israeli coordination center they said that I could travel."

(28 June) Israeli occupation forces arrested Quds TV program coordinator Nawaf Al-Amer from his home in Nablus City, West Bank, on 28 June 2011. In his statement to MADA, Al-Amer's son said that a unit of Israeli soldiers came to their home at 2:30 am on 28 June 2011 and searched the second floor of their home before arresting his father. His son added: "they knocked loudly on the door and asked my father to leave the house while ordering us to stay in one room. After about 15 minutes they took him. We found out later that he is in Hiwara prison".

(5 July) Al-Quds TV program coordinator, Nawaf Al-Amer was arrested from his home in the town of Kafr Kalel, southeast Nablus, on the 28th of June 2011, and on the 5th of

July was sentenced to administrative detention by Israeli military personnel on Tuesday 05.07.2011.

(8 July) IOF barred journalist Mustafa Sabri from travelling through the Al-Karama/Allenby border terminal to Jordan on Friday 8 June 2011. According to Sabri, he presented his papers at Israeli border control at 8 am and was told by the guard on duty to wait. After approximately 3 hours of waiting Sabri was approached by a border official who informed him that he was barred from travelling for "security reasons". Sabri was offered no further explanation as to why the ban was in place, and added: "I will not be silenced and I will continue to defend my right to travel."

(9 July) Israeli Occupation Forces attacked Associated Press photographer Hazem Bader while covering a solidarity event with the people of Al-Toana village, south of Hebron on Tuesday 9th of June 2011. Bader went to the town of Al-Toana to cover a land reclamation event in solidarity with the residents of Al-Toana village, whose lands are threatened with confiscation due to the expansion of nearby illegal settlements. A group of international and Israelis activists gathered to assist village farmers clean and care for the land currently under threat. Bader was covering the day's activities when an Israeli border guard threw a concussion grenade between his legs, causing moderate contusions and burns on both his legs.

(10 July) Unknown persons attempted an arson attack on Ma'an news agency headquarters on Sunday 10th July. Ma'an's Gaza correspondent, Ibrahim Mohammed Khalil, told MADA that he had received a call that morning from a colleague in the office next door informing him that there were burn marks on Ma'an's main entrance door. When Khalil went to the office at approximately 7.30 am he found a large portion of the door had been burned and saw a plastic bottle with burning material inside.

Khalil added: "The building's security guard made the discovery at 5:00 am but didn't want to disturb us so early. We were lucky there is no flammable material near the main door". When asked of the possible reason for this attempted arson, Khalil said "the agency has not received any objections concerning any of the published articles and has not received threats in a long time, so we are very surprised. This was completely unexpected."

(17 July) Al-Aqsa TV cameraman Osaid Amarneh was summoned for investigation by Palestinian Security services on Saturday 17 July 2011. Amarneh stated that members of security services came to his home on Saturday the 16th of July and presented him with a notification of summons to appear before security service headquarters at 9 am the following day. Amarneh arrived as requested and was left to wait until midday, when investigators began the interrogation. Attending security personnel asked him about his colleagues and his work, in particular his latest broadcast.

Amarneh said “the investigator used a threatening tone and ordered me to send my reports to them for prior approval before broadcasting them if I wanted to stay out of trouble. I refused, stating that as a journalist what they were requesting was against the law; he replied: ‘I’ll give you a couple of days and then I’ll call you’”.

(20 July) Preventive Security services in Bethlehem detained Al Aqsa TV cameraman Osaid Amarneh while he was filming a report in Dheisheh camp for a German TV channel on Wednesday 20 July 2011. He reported that members of the Preventive Security detained him for approximately an hour and a half and then asked him to present himself at security headquarters the following day. Amarneh waited until 2 pm for the commencement of the investigation, where security personnel again asked him to send all of his press materials for prior approval before broadcast, “I reminded them that I am a journalists and a member of the journalists syndicate, and that if they wanted to proceed legally they should contact the syndicate. The officer told me ‘I’m not talking with the union, I’m talking to you’ and took my mobile phone number. Up until now he hasn’t called me.”

(22 July) Israeli Occupation Forces threw a tear gas projectile at journalist Haitham Khatib while he was covering the weekly march in the village of Bilin, near Ramallah, on Friday 22 July 2011. According to Khatib, soldiers began throwing tear gas grenades at protesters participating in the march at random; one struck him and caused injuries on his right foot.

(28 July) Israeli Occupation Forces attacked and severely beat Al-Hayat Al-Jadedeh newspaper photographer Moheeb Barghouti while covering the weekly march against the settlement expansion in the village of Nabi Saleh on Friday 28 July 2011. Barghouti was standing at the entrance to the village preparing to cover the march when soldiers approached and requested his identity card and camera. Barghouti told them he is a journalist and therefore they do not have the right to handle his camera, the soldiers responded by smashing his camera and began beating him severely: "it did not stop there; five soldiers beat me with their guns and detained me in a military vehicle. Later they threw me to the ground in handcuffs in an isolated area far from the village, one of them then began kicking my face and body causing severe bleeding on the left side of my head. I was left lying on the ground bleeding for four hours before an ambulance took me to hospital where I stayed for two days to receive the necessary treatment."

(3Aug) Preventative security service in Nablus city summoned journalists Majdoleen Hassounah for investigation on Wednesday 3 August 2011. Hassounah said that she received a call from preventative security ordering her to go immediately to their headquarters. Hassounah refused, citing the summons as illegal. The following day members of the preventative security services came to her house and handed her a written summons for Saturday 6 August 2011 which she published through media outlets. Hassounah added: "after that they came to my house at night and arrested my 2 brothers Mohamad and Muhsen in order to pressure me into going to their headquarter, but I didn't go. When their summons was published in the media, the government media center intervened and secured the release of my brothers, however they continue to summon them for investigation, most recently on the 15th August". Hassounah has speculated that the summons came as a result of her coverage of a sit-in in solidarity with the families of political detainees in Nablus, after of hers friend told her that the security members asked about her while she was covering the event.

(9 Aug) Al Jazeera Afghanistan channel director, Samer Allawy, was arrested on Tuesday 9 August 2011 by Israeli Occupation Forces. Allawy was arrested while crossing the Alkaramah/Allenby border from the West Bank to Jordan after spending his annual vacation with family in Sabastya village Nablus city. Allawy's brother, Musab Allawy, told MADA that he was contacted on Wednesday by Israeli occupation authorities informing him of his brother's arrest. Officers did not provide a reason for his brother's arrest, but confirmed that Allawy was in IOF custody and would be moved to Aljalameh prison - in the Israeli territories north of Jenin - for 4 days of investigation. A representative of the Al Jazeera offices in Ramallah told MADA that Allawy had come to the West Bank to

spend his annual vacation with his wife and children and confirmed that Allawy had visited the Palestinian territories numerous times before without problems. Allawy still remains in custody where Israeli authorities have extended his detention several times.

(11 Aug) The website of electronic newspaper Alshu'la was suspended for one week in the West Bank on 11 August 2011. The website officer Saher Alaqra' said that after communicating with the technical crew in the website and Palestinian Telecommunication Company, it was clear that PTC was behind the website block. Alaqra' added that he contacted a number of the company's officials but in vain, so they were forced to download the website through a new server. A complaint was filed against the PTC to the Attorney General Ahmad Almughany

(17 Aug) The Internal security services of the Hamas government in Gaza prevented Alhuriya Lil'lam center correspondent Wissam Zogbor from filming in Alrimal area in Gaza. The incident took place on Friday 17 August 2011. Zogbor said that he went to make a report about Ramadan, youth movements and the atmosphere surrounding the political reconciliation in Gaza, at which time he was approached by about 20 members of the security services who ordered him to stop filming and confiscated his camera and identity card. Zogbor added: "after that they asked me to go to the Alabas center for investigation to sign a paper confirming that they had taken my camera. The next day I arrived at their headquarters to collect my possessions, but they refused to return my ID card and told me to return the following day. I went but they made me wait for 2 hours with a lot of hassle before returning my things. "

(18 Aug) Security services of the Hamas government in Gaza summoned WAFA news agency correspondent Fathi Tbeil, after reporting on a sit-in organised in solidarity with the Palestinian refugees of Alrimal camp in Syria, which was shelled by Syrian forces, on 18 August 2011. Tbeil went on Monday 15 August 2011 to the courtyard of Aljundi Almajhoul in Gaza to cover the sit-in, when security services soon began dispersed the peaceful crowd and arresting a number of participants. Tbeil said that after covering the event a security service member approached him in a vehicle and arrested him along with a group of demonstrators, taking them to the Alabas center for investigation. Tbeil was interrogated as to his reason for covering the event and was accused of entering a prohibited area and reporting on a prohibited event. Tbeil assured investigators that his presence at the scene was purely for work purposes and that he was unaware the event was illegal. Tbeil was held in security service custody until 3 pm the following day. Tbeil

added: "I was summoned for investigation at 8 am and when I went there they didn't interrogate me about the event but instead asked me about my sources and about some of the contacts in my mobile phone. I was released about 11.15 am".

(19 Aug) Israeli occupation forces attacked Al-Jazeera channel crew – cameraman Nabeel Mizawi and correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh – while covering Friday prayers in Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem on 19 August 2011. Abu Akleh said in a live broadcast to Al-Jazeera channel that the IOF beat her colleague Mizawi and pushed her and ordered them to stop filming. IOF personnel also broke one of the voice cables causing a sound cut, forcing the crew to stop covering and restrict their broadcast to image footage from the area.

(20 Aug) Members of Hamas government police attacked WAFA Agency correspondent Husain Alsinwar while preparing a report on the circumstances in Khanyounis following the Israeli air strikes on Saturday 20 August 2011. Alsinwar told MADA that he was preparing his report when he was approached by members of the police who tried to prevent him from covering and ordered him to stop filming, but he refused. Alsinwar added: "After that one of them beat me and tried to take my camera by force".

(20 Aug) Preventative security services arrested Radio Al'am presenter Muntaser Nassar at his home in Hebron city, West Bank on Saturday 20 August 2011. His brother told MADA that members of preventative service came to the house and asked for Muntaser, then arrested him and took him to Almokataá prison in Hebron. Muntaser was released on 28 August where he said he was interrogated about his work and personal issues.

(21 Aug) Israeli occupation forces arrested Shihab agency correspondent Amer Abu Arafah in Hebron on Sunday 21 August 2011. The website agency editor Ahmad Shildan told MADA that he was in contact with Abu Arafah until 1:15 am after he covered an IOF raid in the city of Hebron. Shildan called again an hour and a half later, but was answered this time by Arafah's brother who informed him that their house had been raided and Amer arrested. Shildan added: "that was shocking news for us in the agency; we did not think that he would be arrested while covering events in the city." On 31 August 2011 Abu Arafah was sentenced to administrative detention for six months.

(21 Aug) Israeli Occupation Forces arrested Al-Aqsa TV cameraman Osaid Amarneh after raiding his home in Deheisha refugee camp, Bethlehem, on Sunday 21 August 2011. Amarneh's father Abdelmajed Amarneh said that a unit of Israeli soldiers raided their building at 3:00 am and shot his cousin Baker Badaren, 27, in the leg. Amarneh added: "after that, they searched our house and detained us in different rooms and asked about Osaid, then they arrested him". Badaren was taken to Haddasah hospital in Jerusalem for treatment. Amayreh was released on 28 August 2011, after being interrogated by Israeli Police about his journalistic work, in particular his coverage of the funeral of two martyrs in Hebron last year and reports on Hamas activities. Amarneh told them that he is a journalist, a member of the Journalists' Syndicate and works with several media organizations. Amarneh added: "The next day I was taken to the court at Ofer where the judge gave prosecutors until Sunday 28 August 2011 to present evidence against me, but they did not so I was released".

(26th Aug) Internal security services of the Hamas government interrogated Palestine Voice radio correspondent Tamim Muammar on Friday 26 August 2011 before allowing him to travel to Egypt for medical treatment in the Ma'had Naser Altiby facility. Mummar told MADA that he was interrogated in the Rafah border in the internal security office for 2 hours, answering questions about his political views and his communication with the radio, in addition to his location in Egypt.

(27 Aug) Israeli occupation forces detained a group of the journalists who were preparing to cover a peaceful march against the separation Wall in Alwalajeh village, west of Bethlehem city. Ma'an Agency photographer Luay Sababa said that he was standing with a group of journalists far away from the demonstrators when a group of Israeli border guards approached, requested their press and identities cards and asked for the reason for their presence at the march. The group was detained for half an hour.

(9 Sep) Israeli occupation forces attacked Palestine Public TV crew – correspondent Haron Amayreh and cameraman Fadi Al-Jayousi – while covering the weekly Bila'in march near Ramallah city. The incident occurred on Friday 9 September 2011. Palestine Public TV correspondent Amayreh said that he went with his colleague Al-Jayousi to cover Bila'in's weekly march against the wall and supporting the upcoming UN bid for Palestinian statehood. At 1:15 pm Israeli occupation forces fired rubber bullets and teargas projectiles at them, causing them both moderate asphyxiation. Amayreh added: "the bullets were flying around us and the situation was very dangerous, but thank God we weren't seriously injured."

(10 Sep) Palestinian intelligence services in Bethlehem city summoned the Aqsa TV cameraman Osaïd Amarneh for investigation on Saturday 10 September 2011. Amarneh said that he was summoned to appear at intelligence service headquarters where he was questioned about the reason and context of his arrest by Israeli occupation authorities before being released.

(15 Sep) The Magistrate court of Bethlehem city issued the decision to release Radio Bethlehem 2000's director George Canawati on bail, with the provision that he appear again before then court on 3 October 2011, following charges of libel and slander filed by Bethlehem's Governor Abelfatah Hamayel. Canawati published a note critical of Bethlehem's Health Directorate on his Facebook in addition to criticising the presence of Israeli products on a table in a department meeting of managers on Thursday 8 September 2011. Canawati told MADA that after the publication of the notes the governor summoned him to his office. Canawati obliged and met with the governor and other health department staff, where he was faced with questions as to his reasons for writing the note. The governor then requested Canawati deletes the note from the site, to which he responded that the note was not a personal attack, but was written to highlight the indifference and neglect in the Health Directorate and to encourage department staff to instigate change.

Canawati added: "I removed the article but received an unexpected call from the Bethlehem court offices on Sunday informing me that the governor had filed a complaint against me and my presence was required at their headquarters. I went and gave my statement and they told me to return to the court the following day, I returned as requested accompanied by my lawyer, Anton Salman. I was questioned further and my lawyer presented my defence, after which the judge decided to grant me bail and told me to reappear before the court on 3 October 2011. Canawati's lawyer Anton Salman said "the plaintiff of the case must demonstrate that the comments had a personal negative affect on their life or livelihood in order to prove libel and slander was committed. In my opinion, the governor has not been affected by the article and therefore the complaint is not valid; I filed my defence yesterday on this basis."

(13 Sep) Israeli authorities extended the detention of Al-Jazeera Afghanistan Bureau Chief Samer Allawi for the fifth time since his arrest, for a further eight days. Allawi's lawyer Salim Wakim said Allawi's detention was extended on the basis that the

prosecution had obtained certain data concerning the case, but had yet to complete their preliminary investigation. Wakim asked the prosecution team during the trial: "Why you are extending the detention without providing any formal charges against him? The answer was that they have not yet decided that that is what they will do." Wakim added: "I appealed the arrest extension but it was refused on Sunday 18 September 2011". Allawy was released on 26 September 2011 after 49 days of detention. Al-Jazeera said in a statement that the release came as the result of a deal brokered between Allawi's defence and the Israeli military prosecution team, where Allawi admitted to the charge of conspiracy to provide a service to an organization hostile to Israel - in reference to Hamas, of which the Israeli military accused him of being a member - in return for his release.

Samer Allawy was arrested by Israeli Occupation Forces while crossing the Alkaramah/Allenby border from the West Bank to Jordan on Tuesday 9 August 2011, after spending his annual vacation with family in Sabastya village near Nablus city.

(16 Sep) the Israeli occupation soldiers attacked European Agency photographer Alaa Badarneh while covering a settler's attack in the Qasra area (south-east of Nablus), on Friday 16 September 2011. Badarneh reported that the occupation forces intervened to prevent residents from managing the settler's attacks and began throwing tear gas canisters at them: "the soldiers threw a gas canister at me from a distance of about 100 meters, which struck my right hand and caused moderate injury".

(17 Sep) A security officer working at the headquarters of the PLO in Ramallah prevented Watan TV crew - reporter Aysar Barghouti and cameraman Ahmed Zaki - from filming in the vicinity of PLO headquarters on Saturday 17 September 2011, despite having received an invitation to a Fatah press conference by its foreign relations officer Dr Nabil Shaath. According to Barghouti, he went with his colleague Ahmed Zaki to cover the conference commissioned by the Television administration at the official invitation from the office of Dr. Shaath. After covering the conference inside the hall Barghouti, along with other journalists, decided to conclude their reports outside the building, during which time he was approached by a security officer and told to stop filming, the order was accompanied by threats that if they did not leave immediately the security officer would contact military intelligence services Barghouti added: "We refused to leave, so the officer called the intelligence services who told him that they

didn't mind our filming, but the officer insisted on preventing us and confiscated our press cards, after about a quarter of an hour he returned them on the condition we did not continue filming".

(20 Sep), Israeli settlers attacked a WAFA agency photographer Ayman Nubani while covering the settler attacks against residents of A'sera village near Nablus, on Tuesday 20 September 2011. Nubani reported that he was in the village to cover events when a settler deliberately threw a large stone at him, hitting his chest and causing severe pain. Nubani added: "Thank God, my injuries were not life threatening, I went to Rafidia hospital in Nablus and they X-rayed my chest and found there were no fractures".

(21 Sep) Preventive Security Services in Hebron summoned Palestine TV programme producer Younis Hasasneh for investigation on Thursday 21 September 2011. Hasasneh reported that a civilian car came to his house in the town of Halhoul, and handed him a summons to appear before Preventive Security headquarters at 9:00 am on Thursday. Hasasneh added: "I contacted the journalist's syndicate, which called the security services on my behalf, the officer informed them that they only wanted to speak with me for half an hour, but when I went to their headquarter I was left to wait until 3pm and then told to go home and to come back the following day at the same time. The next morning I went to the headquarters and was again left to wait until midday, at which point they returned my identity card and told me I was free to go. I wasn't questioned in the two days, no one even talked to me".

(21 Sep) The Preventive Security Services in the city of Qalqilya summoned columnist Issam Shawar for investigation on Wednesday 21 September 2011. Shawar said that he had received a phone call from the Preventative Security Service at nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, and told to go immediately to their headquarters. Upon arrival Shawar was detained in solitary confinement for two hours and then questioned about the last article he had written; he was released at 1pm the same day.

(23 Sep) Israeli occupation forces attacked French La Desk agency photographer Chris Huby (36 years) while covering the weekly march in Nabi Saleh - northwest of Ramallah -

on Friday 23 September 2011. Huby told MADA that he was standing approximately 50-60 meters from occupation forces when a soldier threw a metal grenade (a new type of weapon according to one of the Palestinian activists) to the ground beside him, causing severe contusions on his right leg. Huby received immediate triage treatment at the scene before being transferred to Ramallah hospital by ambulance, where he remained for 3 days before being transferred to France to complete his treatment.

(23 Sep) An unidentified person assaulted APA and Chinese Agency photographer Muammar Awad after covering clashes between the IOF and locals of the Ras al-Amud area in Jerusalem, on Friday 23 September 2011. Awad said that he went to cover the confrontation, where he witnessed and documented a young Palestinian male being brutally attacked by IOF soldiers, fracturing his legs, before arresting him. Awad added: "The officer saw me filming and did not like that because they had said that the youth had broken his legs jumping a wall. While heading home, a person threw a stone at me from a building, which struck my head broke my camera, I was taken to hospital and received nine stitches." Awad believes that the aggressor was related to Israeli security services and that the assault was intended to break the camera and destroy the incriminating photographic material, luckily this evidence was not destroyed in the attack.

(23 Sep) An Israeli occupation soldier shot rubber bullets at freelance cameraman Ghassan Bannoura while covering clashes between soldiers and Palestinians at Qalandia, in the city of Ramallah, before the scheduled speech of President Mahmoud Abbas at the UN General Assembly, on Friday, 23 September 2011. Bannoura told MADA that he went to cover the clashes that had erupted at Qalandia checkpoint when an Israeli soldier shot him with a rubber coated steel bullet, leaving him with injuries to his left thigh, Bannoura reported that the bullet was fired from a distance and as a result did not cause severe injuries.

(23 Sep) Members of the Hamas intelligence services in Gaza banned journalists from covering Mahmoud Abbas' UN General Assembly address at the Gallery hall in Gaza city on 23 September. Security service personnel broke into the Gallery, arrested its owner, Jamal Abu-Alqumsan, and prevented journalists from filming the broadcast. Security personnel ordered National Company for Information photographer Guevara Safadi to hand over his video recording in exchange for the release of Abu-Alqumsan, in addition

to preventing French journalist Christine Cech and Palestine TV cameraman Abdul Latif Hrafa from photographing the raid.

(24 Sep) Intelligence services in Ramallah summoned freelance journalist Mouath Meshaal for investigation and Preventive Security Services raided his home in the city of Nablus, confiscating personal items and equipment. Meshaal said intelligence members came to his father's business in the town of Silwad near Ramallah on Tuesday 22 September 2011, and handed his brother a summons, they then called him from his brother mobile and asked him to come to their headquarter in Ramallah on Thursday 24 September 2011.

Meshaal added: "The Preventive Security Service raided my home in Nablus at one o'clock in the morning on Wednesday 23 September looking to arrest me. They searched my home for over two hours and confiscated my camera in addition to some papers. I wasn't at the house that evening and was staying in Silwad. After that, on the same evening, the Preventive Security Service raided my home in Silwad, none of my family was present so my uncle Abdul Karim Meshaal went to meet them, they told him that I have to go to their headquarter in Ramallah on Thursday, 29 September." Meshaal also stated that he is not ready to observe the summons because of a previous experience, when on 30 August 2010 Meshaal was arrested and detained for 118 days without charge, following only a 15 minute investigation with security services.

(28 Sep) Israeli occupation police in the city of Jerusalem handed freelance cameraman Ahmed Jalajil an official injunction banning him from entering the Al Aqsa Mosque for 15 days on Wednesday 28 September 2011, after covering a policeman attack a Palestinian youth outside Al-Aqsa mosque. Jalajil said that he went to Al-Aqsa mosque to cover clashes between Israeli police and Palestinian worshippers after they prevented them from entering the mosque that morning. Jalajil added: "I filmed the assault of a Palestinian youth by an Israeli police officer, when he saw me filming the officer arrested me and the young man and took us to the nearby Qishla interrogation centre for investigation. After about four hours of questioning we were both released with the proviso that we not enter the Aqsa compound for the subsequent 15 days."

(3 Oct) The Magistrates Court of Bethlehem decided on 3 October 2011 to drop the charge of libel against Radio Bethlehem 2000 director George Canawati, and instead pursue his case on the charge of slander. The trial date has now been set for 30 November 2011, when judges will deliberate the charge of slander based on a critical 'Note' Canawati published on his Facebook page concerning the Bethlehem Directorate of Health.

The governor of Bethlehem Abdul Fattah Hamayel filed a complaint against Canawati with the Attorney General on Thursday 8 September 2011, following a 'Note' Canawati published on his Facebook page concerning the work of the Bethlehem's Directorate of Health and criticising the presence of Israeli products in a meeting he attended with Directorate managers.

(10 Oct). The Jerusalem Magistrates Court accused 'The Palestinians of '48' website correspondent Mahmoud Abu Atta of two counts of criminal misconduct, including breach of the public system and obstruction of the police. These charges follow Abu-Atta's portrayal of a group of settlers inside Al-Aqsa Mosque on 3 April 2009.

Abu Atta told MADA that his lawyer Mohamad Aghbarieh presented his defence, maintaining that he did not attack anyone inside the Al-Aqsa compound, but was there covering events when he was attacked and arrested by Israeli police. Abu Atta added: "The trial was postponed until June 2012, when the prosecution will produce witnesses, all from Israeli police, of my alleged attack against police. My lawyer will also present witnesses who can testify that they saw the events surrounding my arrest and assault".

(11 Oct) A large number of journalists affiliated with Hamas and Al-Jihad groups in the Gaza Strip raided the Journalists' Syndicate headquarters on Tuesday 11 October 2011. The interlopers forcibly took control of the offices and expelled syndicate journalists, declaring the formation of a new transitional council which will be convened for 6 months in the lead up to elections. Secretariat member of the Syndicate Yousef Alostaz told MADA that he witnessed between 80-100 journalists belonging to Al-Jihad and Hamas parties raid the headquarters and forcibly remove journalists from the headquarters.

Alostaz also stated that following the attack Secretariat members filed a number of complaints with human rights centers in Gaza, but as of yet the situation has yet to change. Alostaz added: "Members prepared to do that as soon as they announced the formation of the council after taking over the Syndicate headquarters".

(11 October) IOF personnel fired a number of tear gas projectiles at journalists covering a solidarity protest for Palestinian hunger strikers outside Ofer prison in Ramallah. Ma'an agency's correspondent Firas Taneneh and photographer Ashraf Kutkut, and Palestine TV reporter Sarah Aladra reported suffering severe breathing difficulties following the barrage of tear gas directed at them by IOF soldiers.

Ma'an agency correspondent in Ramallah Firas Taneneh said that he went to cover the protest in solidarity with the families of Palestinian prisoners, and that while covering events occupation soldiers threw tear gas bombs at protesters before deliberately throwing tear gas canisters at the group of journalists, despite the fact they were covering from a reasonable distance from both soldiers and demonstrators. Taneneh added: "I was asphyxiated, I could not breathe at all. My colleagues Ma'an photographer Ashraf Kutkut and Palestine public TV correspondent Sarah Aladrh all suffered the effects too. It was a very difficult situation and we could not extricate ourselves so we were stuck in the cloud of gas."

(16 Oct) Intelligence and security services in Hebron summoned the French Agency photographer Hazem Bader for investigation on Sunday 16 October 2011. Bader informed MADA: "The summons is based on an incident that occurred on 10 September 2011, when I was covering an event in Hebron with my colleague Nasser Shyoukhi and occupation forces wanted to arrest us. By virtue of our work with international agencies, we had contacts within the military liaison office who could lobby for our release. I was investigated as to my reason for contacting the liaison office. I told them that it was standard protocol with my agency to do so in instances of arrest by the IOF. I was interrogated from 11:30 am until 3:30 pm".

(18 Oct) Israeli occupation authorities prevented editor in Al-Quds newspaper Abdul Karim Abu Arqob from travelling to work and revoked his permit to access his paper's headquarters in Jerusalem. Abu Arqob was given no explanation as to the reason for the IOF's decision to further restrict his freedom of movement. Abu Arqoub told MADA that he was travelling to work on Tuesday morning when he was stopped by IOF at Qalandia, soldiers then confiscated his permit and identity card and told him to wait in a holding room. After 15 minutes they returned his identity card but informed him that the permit was revoked and he must appear before the military liaison office. Abu Arqoub added: "I went to the Liaison Office and they told me, without offering any explanation, that my permission was cancelled. I am very surprised by this decision as I have been working with the newspaper since 1999 and am usually granted the permit to enter my place of work, so I don't know why it was revoked. For what reason?".

(26 Oct) Israeli occupation authorities extended the administrative detention of West Bank's Quds TV program coordinator Nawaf Al-Amer for four months. Al-Amer was initially arrested on 28 June 2011 and has been held under administrative detention since that time. His wife, Mrs. Nawal Hussein Al-Amer, told MADA that Israeli occupation authorities officially informed her on Wednesday of the administrative detention extension and declined to provide any reasons for his arrest and imprisonment. She added: "We heard the news about the extension of his detention, but we were assured that the news was correct on Wednesday morning". Israeli occupation forces arrested Nawaf Al-Amer on 28 June 2011 from his home in Kofor Kalel southeast of Nablus city, West Bank, after raiding his home and searching a floor of the building. Mrs Al-Amer confirmed that occupation forces have additionally prevented their sons, who over 16 years old, from visiting their father since his arrest.

(26 Oct) A group of Israeli settlers attacked an Al-Jazeera channel crew as they returned from filming in the village of Beit Lou, west of Ramallah. The Al-Jazeera Jerusalem office issued a statement yesterday that the settlers – outside the nearby settlement of Nahaliel – threw stones at the Al-Jazeera crew's car while they were on their way to Ramallah after visiting the village. Crew cameraman Majid Al-Safadi suffered mild injuries from glass shards after a stone struck the windshield. Al-Jazeera also reported that a unit of the Israeli occupation army and border guards came to the scene, but told the crew that they couldn't do anything, and instructed them to go to the nearest police headquarters. The crew however was unable to comply as the nearest police headquarters are located inside the Jaba – East Ramallah – or Hashmonaim – near N'lin village – settlements, both of which the crew are unable to enter because of security reasons related to their safety and wellbeing.

(29 Oct) Stone throwing settlers attacked four Palestinian journalists covering the weekly Beit Omar march near Hebron city. Of the journalists, French Agency photographer Hazem Bader, European Agency photographer Abdelhafiz Hashlamoun, Palestine TV cameraman Hussam Abu Alan, and Palestine TV correspondent Fida' Nasir, Bader sustained the most serious injuries after a large stone struck his head causing substantial bleeding. Bader told MADA that he and his colleagues were covering the weekly demonstration when settlers began throwing large stones at the crowd. Israeli Occupation Force personnel were witness to the attack but did not prevent the settlers from continuing and instead began also targeting the peaceful demonstrators with tear gas projectiles. During the confusion a large stone struck Bader, resulting in severe head contusions for which he had to receive medical treatment. Bader went to the nearby hospital and received five stitches. Abdulhafiz Hashlamoun added: "During our coverage of the weekly march the settlers attacked us with stones, one hit my waist and caused

bruising. Two of my other colleagues were also injured, Hussam Abu Allan was struck on his waist and Fina' Nasir was hit on the leg, both were bruised."

(29 Oct) In Qalqilya, a local Magistrates Court judge agreed to issue a verdict on the case of Issam Shawar on Sunday 4 December 2011. Shawar is charged with "undermining national unity and disturbing the serenity of the nation" based upon articles he wrote and published through Ma'an News Agency, Dunia Alwatan, Falastene Alan, and the Egyptian Al-Ahram newspaper. Shawar told MADA that his lawyer presented his defence and submitted a plea of 'not guilty' on all charges. The judge set the hearing for the verdict on 4 December 2011. The prosecution first presented the indictment against Shawar on 1 February 2011, however the trial has been postponed several times.

(2 Nov) A large unit of Israeli occupation forces raided Reuters photographer home Adel Ibrahim Abu Ni'meh on the morning of Wednesday 2 November and searched his home in Aqbet Jaber refugee camp, Jericho. Abu Ni'meh told MADA that a large unit of IOF came to his home at about two o'clock in the morning and violently knocked on the main door, causing it to break. Abu Ni'meh went to investigate the disturbance and found a large unit of IOF soldiers outside his home. Upon entering, three of the soldiers held Abu Ni'meh outside and ordered his wife and children to stay in one room of the house whilst they hastily searched the house. The soldiers then ordered Abu Ni'meh inside to observe as they searched the house more thoroughly. Abu Ni'meh added: "It took about two hours, between searching the home and asking about my work. I have a three and half year old son, he was terrified when they entered the house because of their uniforms, some were wearing balaclava's".

(14 Nov) IOF military court on Sunday 13 November issued the decision to renew the administrative detention order of Falasteen newspaper Bureau Chief in West Bank Walid Khalid for a further six months. This is the second consecutive renewal of the detention order by the court against Khalid, who has not been charged for any offences. Khaled was arrested on 8 May 2011 after IOF soldiers raided his home in Salfit, near Nablus, and transferred to Nafha prison, where he remains until now.

(14 Nov) Israeli occupation forces arrested radio Marah presenter Raed Rateb Al-Sherif from his home in Hebron city, West Bank on Monday 14 November 2011. In a statement, Raed's father Rateb Al-Sherif told MADA that a unit of Israeli occupation soldiers arrived at his home at 1:30 am and ordered everyone to evacuate the house, including the children. Soldiers questioned Al-Sherif about his son's whereabouts and he informed them that Raed lives in another house. Soldiers ordered Al-Sherif escort them to his son's home where they knocked firmly on the door, when Raed answered they arrested him. Al-Sherif added: "I told them to knock gently on the door as my son's wife

is pregnant, but they told me to keep quiet and carried on knocking loudly. My son's wife had to be taken to hospital as the stress almost induced a miscarriage, her health is stable now however she is still suffering psychologically; she is always crying. My son is now in Ofer prison".

(16 Nov) Israeli occupation police arrested Quds TV Ahrar Program Presenter Israa Salhab on Wednesday 16 November 2011, after summoning her for investigation at their headquarters in Jerusalem. Israeli occupation authorities extended the detention of Salhab on Monday 21 November 2011 for a further four days without charge. Her brother Suhaib Salhab informed MADA that the Israeli court in Jerusalem issued the decision to extend her detention until 25 November without pressing any formal charges. Salhab was released on 28 November 2011.

(18 Nov) the IOF attacked a group of journalists during their coverage to the weekly march in Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah city, on Friday 18 November 2011. Associated press photographer Majdi Ishteieh said that the IOF threw a barrage of tear gas grenades at the journalists, causing contusions on his leg. Ishteieh added: "My colleagues - Alhayat Aljadedah photographer Issam Rimawi, Reuter's photographer Mohamad Turkman and AP photographer Abbas Momny - also suffered moderate asphyxiation from the gas".

(21 November) Internal security services and police of the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip arrested Aswar Press Agency correspondent Ziad Awad from his home on Tuesday, 21 November 2011. His wife Maysoon Awad said that about 12 men belonging to the police and internal security services raided their home in the evening and arrested her husband after searching their house. They also confiscated his computer, cameras, laptop, two cell phones, and CDs, in addition to some papers. She added: "They did not show a search warrant, but they said that his arrest was at the order of the Attorney General. Later the Red Cross contacted me and told me that my husband was detained in Ansar prison, and is in good health".

(23 Nov) Internal security personnel prevented the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate from holding a workshop in commemoration of the World Day to End Impunity on Wednesday 23 November 2011. A Journalist's Syndicate council member in Gaza Strip, Yousef Al-Ostaz, said that his colleagues Sami Abu Salem and Tahseen Al-Astal were contacted by a member of the Internal Security services who ordered them to cancel the workshop, and said if they wanted to implement any work on behalf of the Syndicate they must first coordinate with "the new transitional council" - a council formed by a group of journalists affiliated with Hamas and Al-Jihad groups after their raid and hostile takeover of the syndicate's headquarter on 11 October 2011. Security

representatives also contacted Palestine University and ordered them to cancel a workshop they had scheduled.

(24 Nov) The internal security services of the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip arrested the Chief Editor of Al-Naher Agency Hani Al-Agha while he was returning to Gaza from Egypt through the Rafah crossing on Thursday, 24 November 2011. Al-Agha told MADA that he was arrested by members of the internal security services at the crossing and held for half an hour before being taken blindfolded to their headquarters in the city of Rafah. AL-Agha added: "I stayed in jail for three days and no one talked to me, the investigation began on the morning of Sunday 27 November. Investigators asked me about my journalistic work, the financial sources of employer and some personal questions. I remained in detention until Thursday when they told me they were going to release me at eight in the evening on the condition that I sign a pledge to respect the general laws and regulations, they then handed me a summons to the internal security headquarters in Khan Younis for Thursday, 29 December 2011.

(24 Nov) Internal security services of the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip arrested freelance journalist Mohmoud Al-Barbar from his home on Thursday 24 November. His brother Qasim Al-Barbar said that three policemen entered their home, introduced themselves as internal security and asked his brother to accompany them. They also confiscated his wife's laptop. Qasim added: "I went on Sunday to the headquarters of the internal Security to inquire about my brother and they told me to bring his clothes as he would remain under investigation for two weeks. On the same day seven people came to my house and showed me a warrant issued by the Attorney General to search the home, they also searched the home of my brother and asked me and his wife to come to their headquarter the next day. When I went there I told them that his wife is pregnant and cannot come, so they interrogated me about my brother and the nature of his work and travel, then I was released".

(28 Nov) Internal security services of the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip summoned Aswar Press Agency supervisor and correspondent of the Lebanese Al-Quds magazine Manal Khamis on Monday 28 November 2011. Khamis told MADA that she had received a call from Internal Security and was ordered to go immediately to their headquarters, however she refused and said to the caller that she would not go without a formal summons, which they then sent, so she went along with her husband as requested. Khamis added: "I went with my husband and told to wait, after about an

hour they questioned me about my agencies financiers, the names of its employees and the nature of my work with Al-Quds magazine, particularly the news we publish about Hamas. During the investigation they asked my husband to accompany them to our home where they conducted a detailed search and confiscated my computer, 2 cameras, papers and CDs. They then told me to appear again at their headquarters in two days.

Khamis also said that she went again with her husband after two days, arriving at at ten o'clock in the morning as requested, but was told to leave and return after two hours. Upon their return they waited for a further hour before the investigation began. Khamis stated that interrogation concerned the same subject as two days prior and included the accusation that she was working within the Fatah movement, which she denied. Interrogators then threatened to arrest her if she did not cooperate, but she told them "That's all I have", and they released her. Khamis was summoned for investigation three times by security services between 28 November and 1 December 2011."

(30 Nov) The Magistrates Court of Bethlehem decided on 30 November 2011 to again postpone the trial of Radio Bethlehem 2000 director George Canawati on charges of slander. Canawati told MADA that the judge decided to postpone the trial until 24 January 2012 after hearing the testimony of Bethlehem Governor Abdel Fatah Hamayel consultant. The trial comes as a result of a complaint filed against Canawati with the Attorney General by the Governor on Thursday 8 September following a 'Note' Canawati published on his Facebook page concerning the work of the Bethlehem's Directorate of Health and criticising the presence of Israeli products in a meeting he attended with Directorate managers.

(1 Dec) Internal Security Services of the Hamas government in Gaza summoned Aswar Press agency supervisor and Alquds Lebanese newspaper correspondent, Manal Khamis, for investigation. Khamis told MADA that she had received a call from internal security personnel and ordered to appear before their headquarters in Ansar at 9am Thursday morning. Khamis arrived with her husband at the headquarters as directed where she was told to wait, when her husband was sequestered to a different room and questioned by investigator.

The investigator asked Mr Khamis if he would persuade his wife to answer their questions, to which he replied that she had already, on a previous occasion answered all of their questions about her employers and work. The investigator then threatened that if Mr Khamis would not persuade her to respond to their investigation she would be held in custody for two days. The investigators then released them both, but ordered them to return again to the headquarters in one hour. Manal Khamis added: "We

returned after one hour and they started to interrogate me in the presence of my husband about the agency and its funding sources, then they threatened that if I continued to publish news about the government, I would be punished, then I was released”.

(2 Dec) Israeli occupation forces arrested and beat Associated Press photographer Magdi Shtayeh while covering the weekly march in Bil'in, near Ramallah. Shtayeh told MADA that he went to the village of Bil'in to cover the events of the peaceful weekly march, when, at the start of the march, soldiers began hurling a large number of tear gas projectiles at protesters. Shtayeh was covering events near the soldiers when one approached, telling him that the area was a closed military zone and photographer was therefor prohibited. Shtayeh stopped filming at the soldiers request but could not leave the area safely while the soldiers continued to barrage demonstrators with gas, he added: “After that I was approached by another soldier who took me to one of their military jeeps. There the soldiers brutally beat me before detaining me in the jeep for about one hour. They fired gas grenades from the jeep and I felt suffocated with the launch of each gas bomb. They released me and then arrested Palestine TV cameraman Mohamed Radi who they held for a while before releasing.”

(2 Dec) Israeli occupation forces attacked Modern Media Company photographer Walid Ma'moun while covering the weekly march in the village of Bil'in, near Ramallah, on Friday 2 December 2011. Ma'moun said that he had gone to the village of Bil'in to cover the weekly march when he was struck on the shoulder by a tear gas canister. He added: "It was a severe injury and I had to remain under local anaesthetic for two days because of the pain. I was left with severe contusions and bruising on my shoulder. "

(4 Dec) Security services of the Hamas government in Gaza raided and halted the conference 'The First Palestinian Conference on Social Media' being held in the “Lighthouse” venue in Gaza City and coordinated with a Ramallah event via video conferencing. Security services stated that the prohibition was the result of event organizers failing to obtain the necessary permits. The Amin Network Office Director in Gaza Strip, Mohammed Abu Sharkh, stated that members of the investigative security services came to the venue and ordered an immediate end to the conference under the pretence that they did not hold a license from the Ministry of the Interior and declared the event illegal. Event organizers countered that they had received permission from the Ministry of Information in Gaza Strip, however security members said this was not sufficient and shut down the event. Abu Sharkh added: "After the intervention of government parties and non-governmental organizations, they have agreed for us to

resume the conference after obtaining written approval from the Ministry of Interior, which we received on the next day, so we completed the conference.

(9 Dec) Israeli occupation forces attacked Popular Resistance Committee Coordinator and photographer, Ali Abu Rahma, while covering the peaceful weekly march in the village of Bil'in, near Ramallah, on Friday 9 December 2011. Abu Rahma stated that he went to cover the activities of the weekly march in Bil'in when occupation forces began targeting journalists with gas projectiles. Abu Rahma said that as a result, he suffered severe breathing difficulties eventually leading to him losing consciousness, and necessitating triage treatment by ambulances stationed in the area.

(9 Dec) Israeli occupation forces attacked Palestine TV cameraman Najib Fraona during his coverage of the events of the weekly march in the village of Nabi Saleh, on Friday, 9 December 2011. Fraona reported that he went to cover the weekly march when soldiers fired a tear gas canister at him, hitting his left knee. Fraona added: "It caused bruising on my leg, and they took me to Ramallah Hospital where I received the necessary treatment, the doctor has asked me not to engage in work for at least one week."

(10 Dec) Israeli occupation forces detained a group of journalists after their coverage of the peaceful weekly march in the village of Beit Omar in Hebron, on Saturday 10 December 2011. Palestinian News Agency (WAFA) photographer Hussam Abu Alan told MADA that three Israeli soldiers detained him and four of his colleagues, including: a Palestine Today TV crew - correspondent Fida Nasser and cameraman Mahmoud Khalaf, and Palestine TV cameramen Fadi and Diaa' Oweiwi. Nasser reported: "They detained us for about an hour and took our identity cards. They also verbally abused us and accused us of biased reporting against the Israeli occupation soldiers, saying that we only showed the bad side of the army."

(12 Dec) In the West Bank, Qalqilya Magistrate's Court prosecutors appealed the court's decision to acquit columnist Isam Shawar of charges of "undermining national unity and disturbing the serenity of the nation" based upon articles he wrote and published through Ma'an News Agency, Dunia Alwatan, Falastene Alan, and the Egyptian Al-Ahram newspaper. Shawar told MADA that his acquittal was issued by the judge on Sunday, 4/12/2011, and he was surprised to learn that the prosecution appealed the decision under the pretext that he had pleaded guilty. Shawar added: "If I pleaded guilty then the judge cannot find me innocent. Now the trial for the appeal will be on 17 January 2012."

(15 Dec) The Israeli military occupation court of Ofer prison fined Marah Radio presenter, Raed Al-Sharif, six thousand shekels on charges that the content of his radio

programme constituted incitement against occupation authorities. Sherif's father informed MADA that the Israeli military prosecutor has appealed the courts decision, petitioning for the imprisonment of Al-Sharif in addition to the fine. He added: "Based on the resumption of the prosecution, the judge decided to extend the detention of my son until the court hearing, but our lawyer wasn't informed about the timing of the extension until now."

(18 Dec) Quds TV correspondent Linda Shalash was injured by a gas grenade when clashes broke out between Israeli Occupation Forces and the families of Palestinian detainees while she was covering the events of the prisoner swap outside of Ofer prison, near Ramallah, following the release of Gilad Shalit. Shalash said that she went on the evening of Sunday 18 December 2011 to cover the events in front of the Ofer prison, and while on air she was struck on the shoulder by a tear gas canister fired directly at her by IOF soldiers. Shalash added: "It was a very dangerous situation where I lost consciousness and suffered severe bruising on my shoulder. I was transferred directly to the hospital for treatment."

(28 Dec) Israeli occupation forces arrested Palestine News Agency (PNN) and Al-Khaleej Emirates newspaper reporter, Amin Abu Wardeh, from his home in the city of Nablus, West Bank, on 28 December 2011. His brother, Samir Abu Wardeh, said a large unit of occupation forces came to the building where his brother lives at approximately 1:15 am, when soldiers broke the main doors and raided the building from two sides. Abu Wardeh added: "They entered directly into my brother's apartment and ordered him to show his identity card, then they arrested him immediately, without charge or reason. He is now detained in Hawara detention camp."

(28 Dec) Internal security services of the Hamas government in Gaza banned Palestinian News Agency (WAFA) correspondent and Palestinian Journalists Syndicate Secretariat member, Sami Ajrami, from crossing the Rafah border into Egypt on 28 December. Ajrami told MADA that security staff at the Rafah crossing prevented him from travelling on the grounds that his name is on a list of persons banned from travel. Ajrami added: "When I inquired about the ban, I learned that Gaza court prosecutors had decided to ban all council members of the Syndicate from traveling, because the "journalists bloc" had filed a complaint to the court demanding that the government ban us from travel so we can not represent the Syndicate outside of Palestine. This decision was issued nine months ago, but none of the Syndicate members knew about it. "

(30 Dec) Israeli occupation forces attacked Al-Hayat Al-Jadedah newspaper photographer Essam Rimawi while covering the weekly march in the village of Nabi Saleh, near Ramallah, on Friday 30 Dec 2011. Rimawi told MADA that he went to the

village on Friday to cover the weekly march, during which time occupation forces fired a barrage of tear gas canisters on protesters and journalists, with one striking him on the leg. Rimawi added: "I was standing at a distance of only 100 meters from the occupation soldiers so the injury was severe and cause a lot of pain. I received first aid treatment in the ambulance at the scene before being transferred to hospital. Doctors found I had severe bruising and told me to rest for one week."

(31 Dec)Israeli occupation forces attacked Pal Media agency photographer Ashraf Abu Shawish during his coverage of the weekly march in the village of A'sira near the city of Nablus, on Saturday 31 December 2011. Abu Shawish told MADA that he was covering clashes that had erupted between occupation forces and the people of the village from the roof of a building, when a soldier fired a tear gas projectile at him. Shawish was unable to escape the gas and suffered asphyxiation and nearly lost consciousness before his colleagues began administering first aid. He was later treated on the field by medics for the effects of severe gas inhalation.