



**Palestinian Center for Development & Media Freedoms “MADA”**

**Violations against Media Freedoms in Palestine during the first half  
of 2019**

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## Preamble:

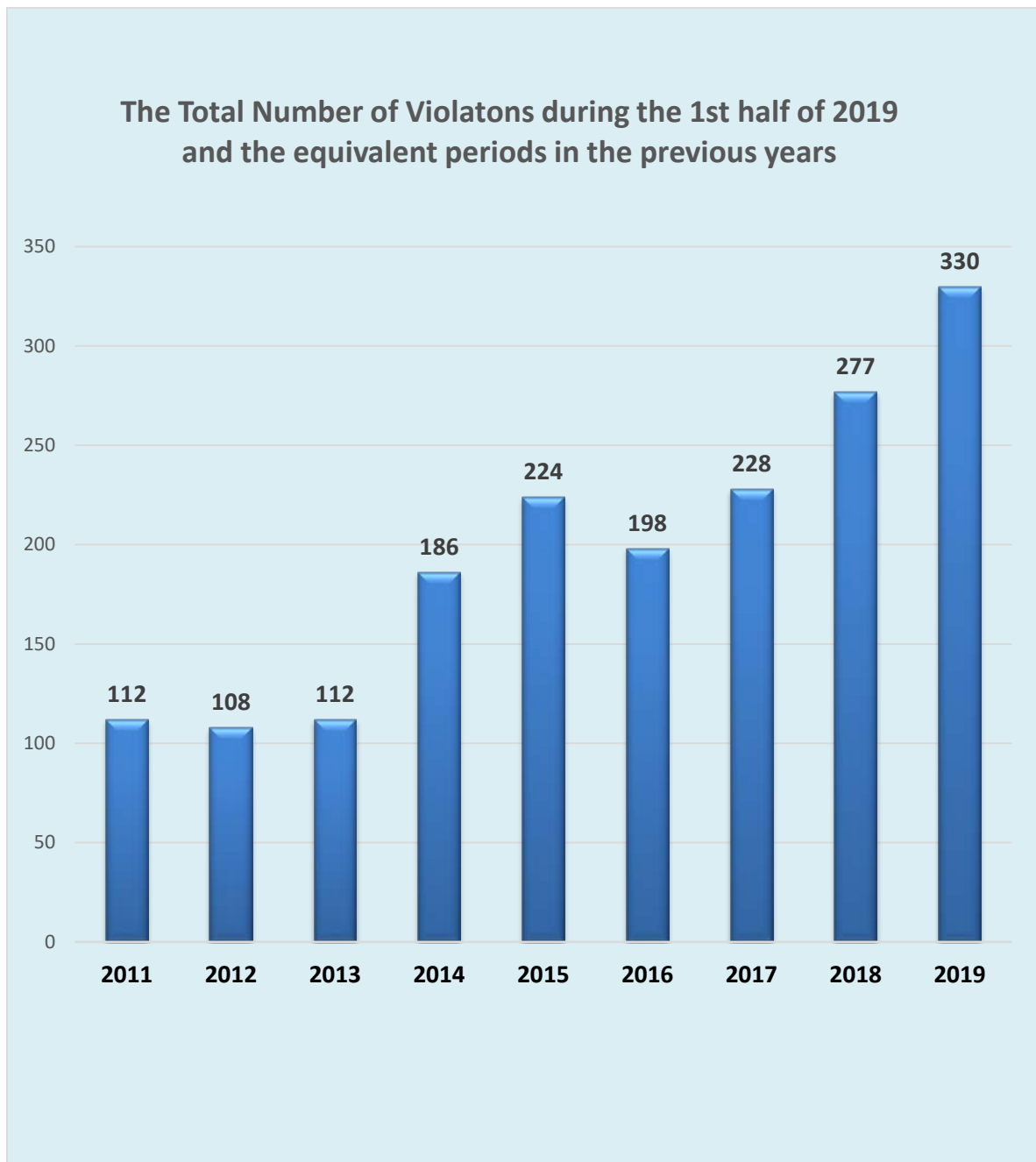
The first half of 2019 has witnessed a rise in the number of violations against media freedoms in Palestine compared with the same period last year. This is attributed to the significant increase in the number of Palestinian violations monitored in Gaza Strip, even though this was in parallel with a noticeable decrease in the number of Palestinian violations registered in the West Bank, while the number of Israeli violations remained at its high levels despite its relative decline, especially given the fact that Facebook closed dozens of pages and accounts of Palestinian journalists as a direct result of the understandings concluded by Israel with Facebook.

The total number of Palestinian and Israeli violations and those committed by Facebook monitored by MADA during the first half of 2019 totaled to 300 attacks compared to a total of 277 attacks monitored during the same period of 2018, that is an increase of 53 violations, representing 19% than had previously been the case.

(Total of Violations against media freedoms during the first half of 2019 and the years before)

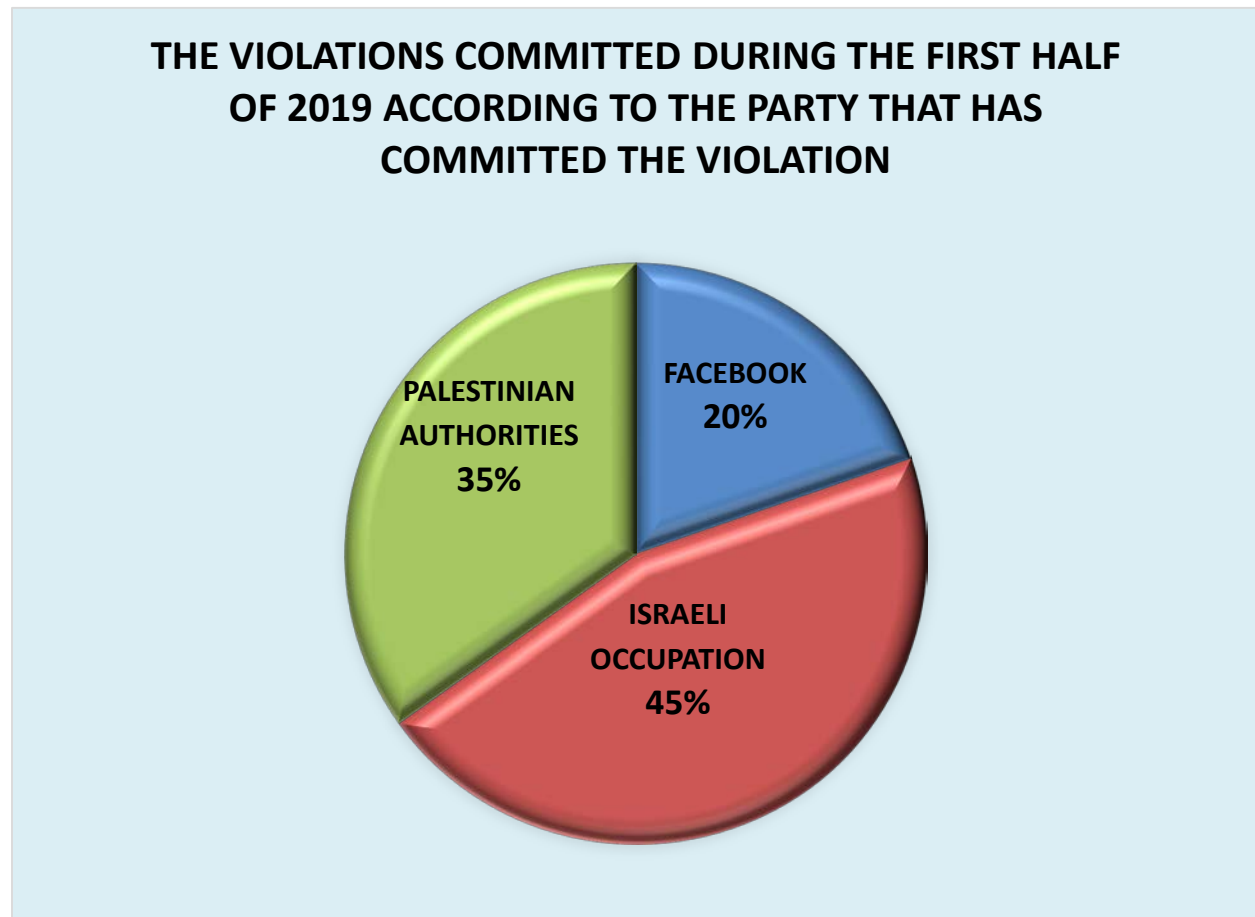
<b>1<sup>st</sup> half of 2019</b>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Total number of violations</b>	112	108	112	186	224	198	228	277	330  (including 65 violations by Facebook)

In addition to the increase which is noticeably evident when comparing between 2018 and 2019, it is noted that the attacks against media freedoms are taking an escalating path that has not stopped increasing since 2011. The table and figure below show the total number of violations monitored during the first half of the recent nine years.



Different Palestinian authorities from the West Bank and Gaza Strip have committed a total of 115 violations, while the Israeli occupation has committed 150 attacks against media freedoms in the West Bank and Gaza Strip including the occupied city of Jerusalem as the Facebook was

responsible for a total of 65 violations, represented in closing pages for female/male journalists under what is called “Fighting incitement to violence and terrorism”<sup>1</sup>.



Most of the attacks monitored during the first half of 2019 amounted to 330, a total of 264 persons<sup>2</sup>, including 247 male journalist and 17 female journalists.

The main reason why most of these attacks are mainly targeting the (male) journalists compared to their female colleagues refers to two matters, the first is associated in general with the total number of female journalists compared to male journalists (who represent around 30%), while the

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<sup>1</sup> For more details on this regard, refer to the special report issued by MADA on violations against media freedoms posted on the social media.

<sup>2</sup> Some of these victims were subject to more than one attack during the period covered in this report, not to mention that another part of the attacks have targeted media institutions and not persons directly.

second matter is associated with the limited number of female journalists working in the field and in filming. Most of the female journalists working in “office posts” are relatively far from being subjected to direct attacks compared to those working in the field.

**(The Israeli and Palestine Violations during the first half of 2019 according to the type of violation)**

<b>Type of Attack</b>	<b>Israel</b>	<b>Palestinian Authorities</b>	<b>Facebook</b>
Physical attack-injury-beating	88	12	0
Arrest/detention-administrative transfer	6	37	0
Detention (mostly including questioning)	10	1	0
Summoning/summoning and questioning	3	21	0
Seizure/detention/damage of equipment	3	8	0
Destruction of institution/house	3	1	0
Prevent coverage	18	3	0
Deletion of materials	1	3	0
Closure/destruction of institutions	2	0	65

Human shields	12	0	0
Torture/abuse	0	16	0
Threatening	0	6	0
Travel ban	1	0	0
Other Attacks	3	7	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>65</b>

### Israeli Violations

The Israeli violations monitored during the first half of 2019 have witnessed a relative decline compared to those committed in the same period last year 2018.

The number of violations decreased from 208 attacks registered during the first half of 2018 to 150 attacks registered during the first half of 2019.

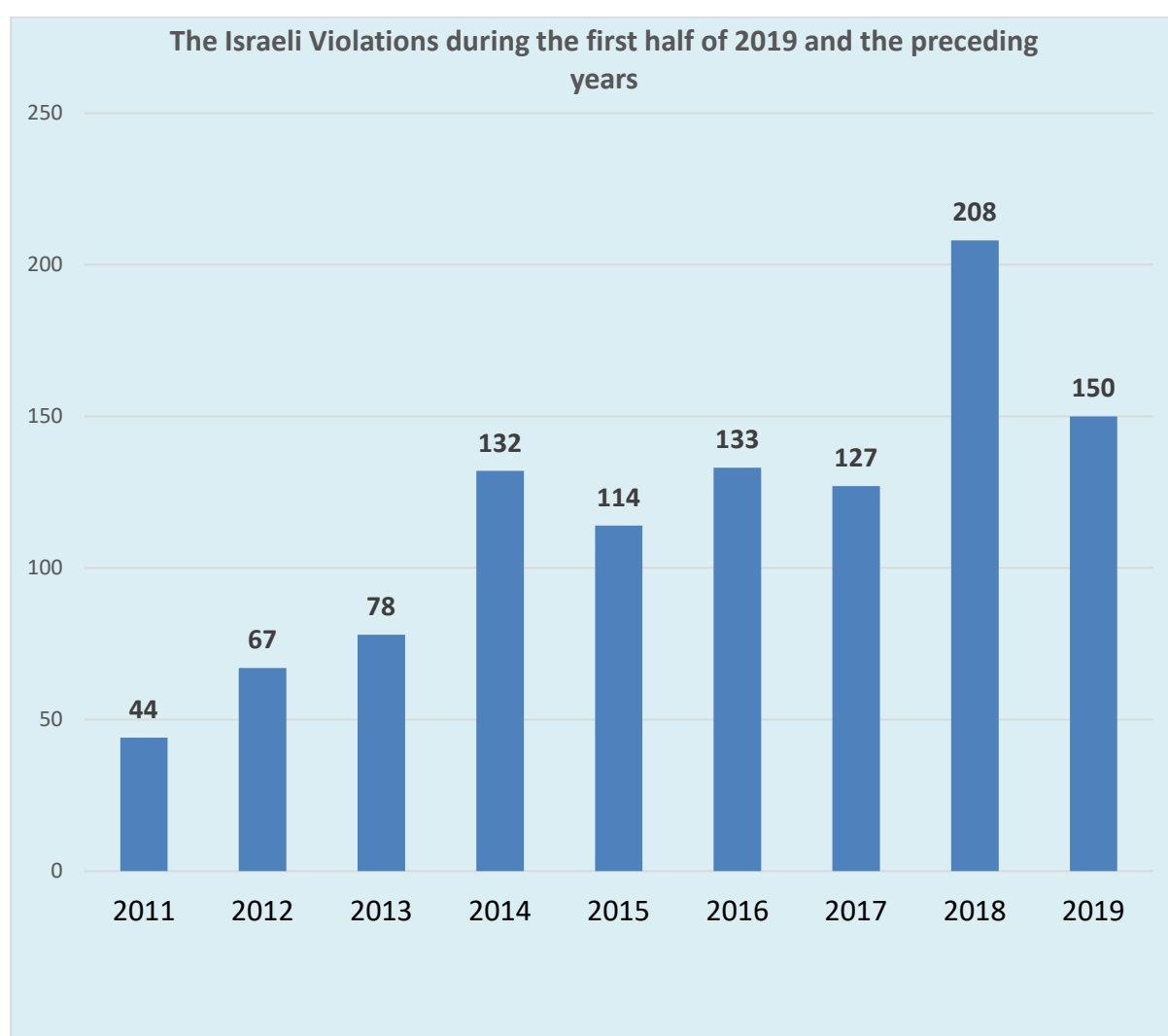
### (Violations of the Israeli Occupation during the first half of 2019 and the preceding years)

First half of year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Violations	44	67	78	132	114	133	127	208	150

The main reason for this difference is the huge jump in the number of Israeli attacks witnessed in April and May of 2018, following the start of the return marches in Gaza Strip. These two months

last year alone have witnessed a total of 99 Israeli attacks against media freedoms, compared to a total of 29 attacks monitored during these two months in 2019.

Despite the decline in the number of Israeli violations monitored during the first half of 2019, they still exceed the average number of Israeli attacks monitored in the previous eight years (from 2011 to 2018) totaling of 103 attacks in the year almost. That is, whatever Israeli attacks that have been monitored during the first half of 2019 exceed 46% of the average number of Israeli attacks monitored during the same periods in the last eight years.



The Israeli attacks fall under 12 types all related to the exclusion of media agencies, as well as female/male journalists from the field for the purpose of covering the practices of the occupation whether by preventing the media coverage or deleting the filmed materials or detaining female/male journalists while working in the field or through repression which forces the female/male journalists and the media agencies alike, to quit working for this sector, by targeting journalists physically or arresting them or destroying the media agencies. This is in addition to other practices which make journalists work under constant threats and attacks making job opportunities narrower and more dangerous, forcing them to refrain from engaging in or leaving work in the Media.

### **Physical Attacks**

The Israeli attacks totaling to 150, committed by the occupation army and authorities during the first half of 2019, are divided to 59 attacks in Gaza Strip compared to 91 attacks in the West Bank, including the occupied city of Jerusalem.

Almost all of the Israeli attacks registered in Gaza Strip are part of the most serious attacks, 55 of which were physical injuries by live bullets and direct gas bombs, as well as the destruction of two headquarters of institutions in Gaza Strip.

The total number of physical attacks committed by the occupation army against male/female journalists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the first half of 2019 amounted to 88 attacks, a rate of 59% of the total number of Israeli attacks. It should be noted that the physical attacks during the first half of 2018 constituted 57% of the total Israeli attacks.

Most of the Israeli attacks fall under the extremely serious attacks threatening the lives of female/male journalists and media freedoms in Palestine, namely the physical attacks, arrests, destruction of headquarters of institutions, and using journalists as human shields, as the total number of these four types of attacks amounted to 108, representing 72% of the total Israeli attacks monitored and documented during the first half of 2019 by MADA.

It should be noted that the extremely serious Israeli violations monitored during the first half of 2018 have constituted a rate of 67% which exposes the techniques and methods by which the



Israeli occupation army and authorities treat female/male journalists and media freedoms in Palestine.

These techniques and methods are mostly confined to the most violent methods of repression, and silencing of journalists and the exclusion of media from the field, and even the exclusion of journalists completely from completing their work in this area through causing them serious injuries by targeting them and destroying some of the headquarters of institutions.

**(The Israeli Occupation Violations during the first half of 2019 according to the type)**

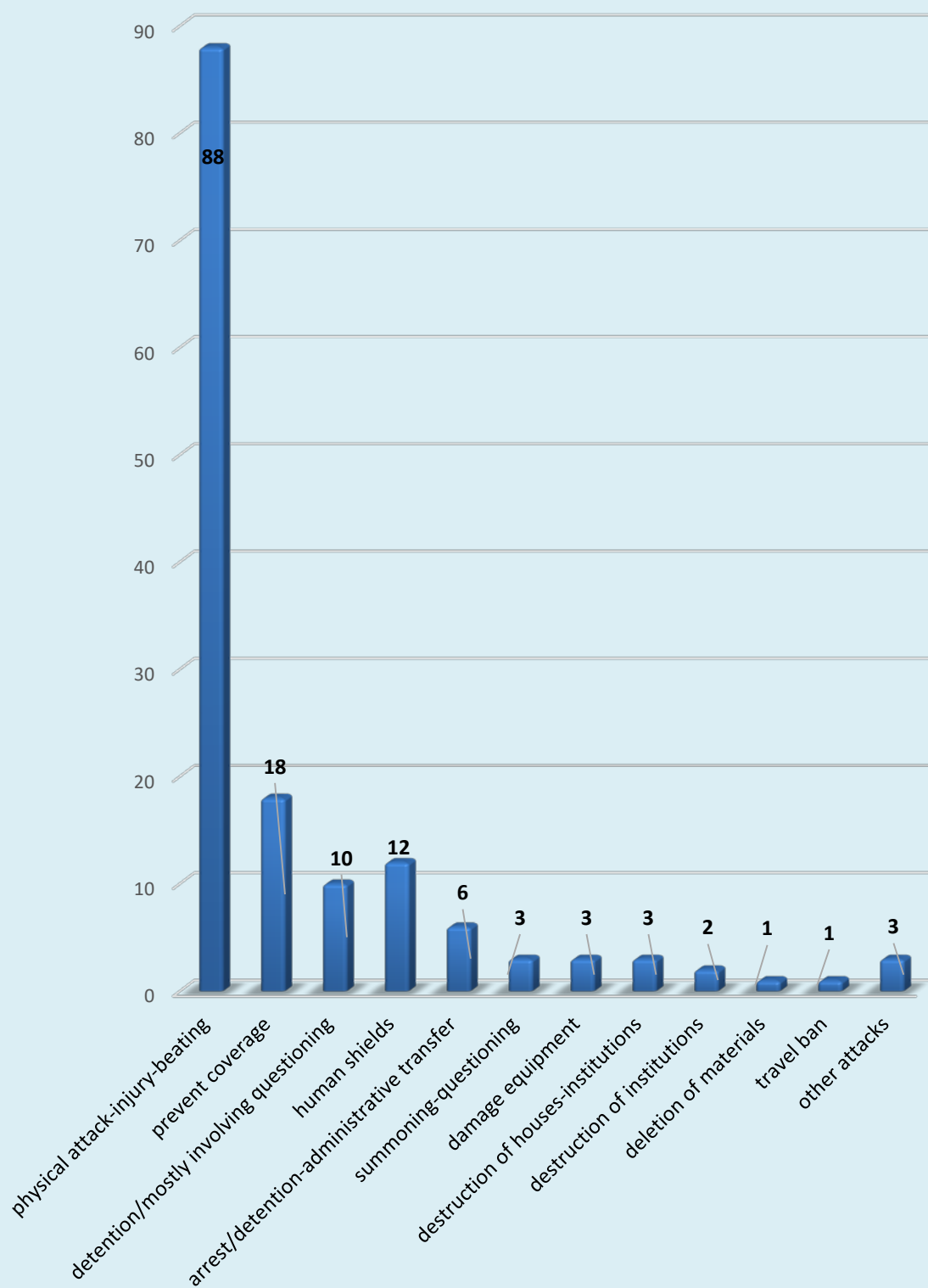
No.	Type of Violation	Number
1	Physical attack-injury-beating	88
2	Arrest/detention-administrative transfer	6
3	Detention/mostly involving questioning	10
4	Summoning-questioning	3
5	Damage of equipment	3
6	Destruction of institutions-houses	3
7	Closure-destruction of institutions	2
8	Prevent media coverage	18
9	Deletion of materials	1
10	Human shields	12
11	Travel ban	1
12	Other attacks	3
	Total	150

**Destruction of Headquarters:**

On May 4, 2019, the Israeli occupation army destroyed two media agencies in Gaza Strip by rocket shelling: Abdullah Al-Hourani Center for Studies and Documentation.

Al-Hourani Center is composed of two floors, where 15 employees work. It includes a hall for activities where 10-15 activities are monthly organized, in addition to a huge library that contains ten thousands books collected over 22 years (ever since the center was established in 1997) on the history and heritage of the Palestinian people, in addition to rare books and documents, as well as the Center publications amounted to 60. As to Anatolia Agency, it was targeted by the Israeli occupation army by four rockets at least which resulted in its destruction, where 11 journalists were working in three sections: the news section, the photography section and the video section. Material and property damage were caused to Anatolia Office estimated by the employees with no less than 20,000 USD, the price of cameras, machinery and equipment destroyed.

**Israeli Attacks during the first half of 2019 according to the type**



## **Facebook:**

Facebook has closed no less than 65 pages and accounts belonging to Palestinian journalists and authors<sup>3</sup> under a campaign it has carried out on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May. They were surprised that their pages were **closed completely and removed from the website of Facebook at the same time (between 9:00PM-9:30 PM on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019) without any clarifications or previous warning by the Administration even though these pages were followed by hundreds of thousands persons.**

According to the investigations of MADA researchers, all of those whom pages have been closed received the same notification on Facebook: “Hello, thank you for responding, we will ask you to reply with attaching a picture of yourself with one of your identity card elements” to the link and after they sent their identity card, they received the reply “there is an unknown error”

It is noteworthy that the Israeli occupation authorities have reached about three years ago to understandings with "Facebook" mainly to monitor the Palestinian content on Facebook which is the most popular social media site in Palestine, and delete that "disturb" the Israeli occupation authorities, under the pretext of fighting "incitement to violence and terrorism."

What is remarkable in this regard is that Facebook is showing a strong response to the removal of most of what the Israeli occupation authorities demand to be deleted. At the same time, it does not pay attention to the levels of incitement and racism that are widely seen in thousands of Israeli pages, especially those of official and public Israeli figures<sup>4</sup>.

## **Palestinian Violations**

The Palestinian violations monitored in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the first half of 2019 have witnessed a significant increase compared to the same period in 2018, totaling to 115 violations, that is an increase by 46 violations, 67% of what the case had been (see the attached table).

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<sup>3</sup> According to MADA, this campaign included accounts and pages of no less than 77 persons, but it has mainly targeted the pages of journalists and authors amounted to 65 persons of the total number of persons included in the campaign.

<sup>4</sup> For more details, refer to the special report issued by MADA on the increasing violations through the social media.

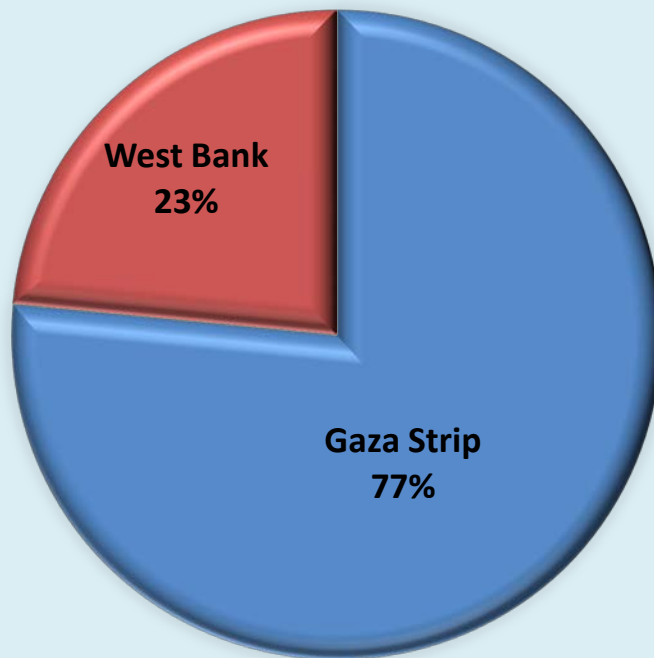
**(The Palestinian Violations during the first half of 2019 and the preceding years)**

First half of year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. of Violations	68	41	34	54	110	65	101	69	115

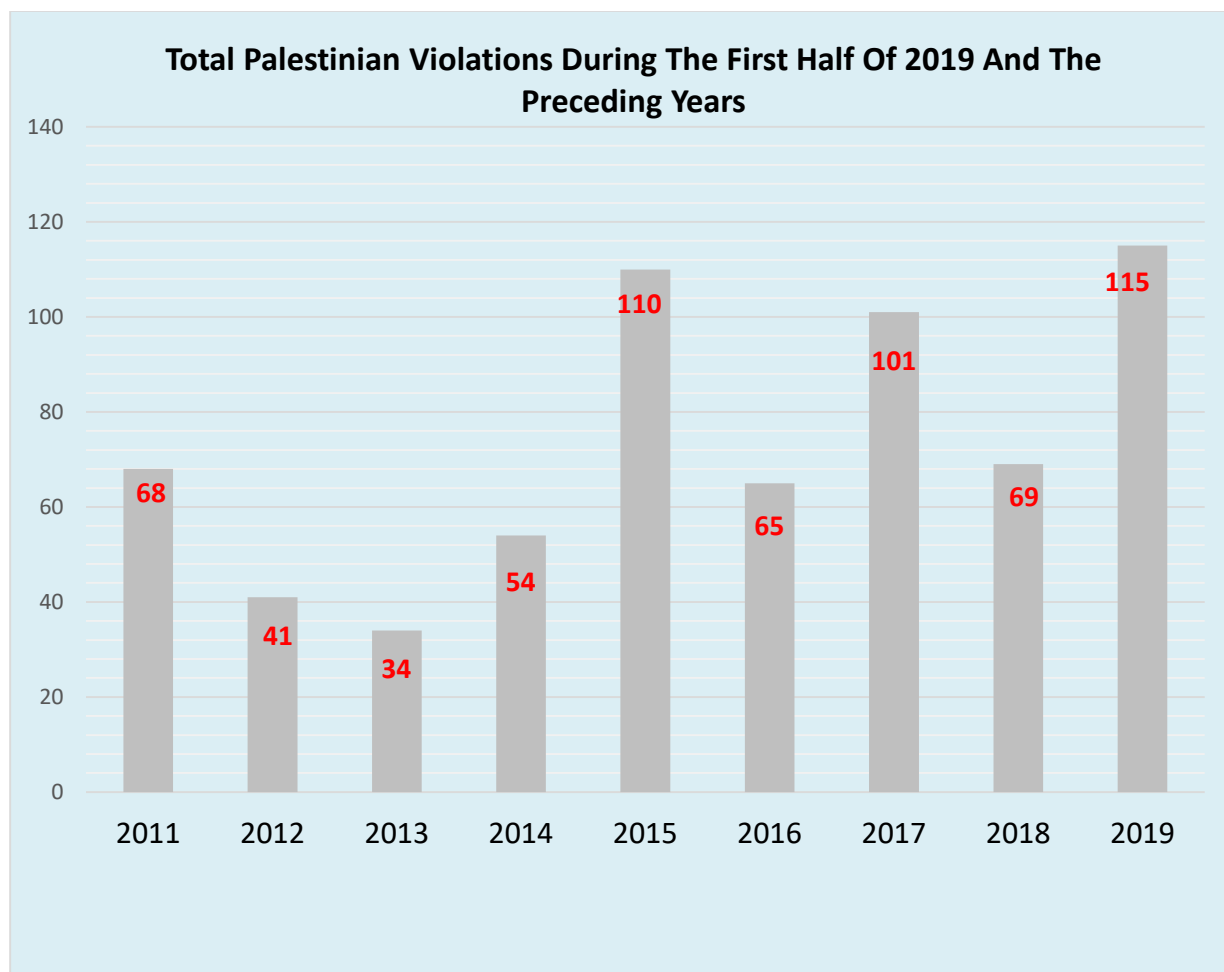
According to the location of the incidents, the map of the distribution of Palestinian violations has been reversed completely during the first half of 2019 compared to the same period of the previous year 2018.

While the Palestinian violations monitored in the West Bank during the first half of 2018 constituted the greatest rate 78% of the Palestinian violations compared to 22% in Gaza Strip, the same situation was completely opposite during the first half of 2019 as the Palestinian violations monitored in Gaza Strip constituted 77% of the total Palestinian violations compared to 23% in the West Bank which reflects a significant decrease in the West Bank compared to great increase in the number and rate of Palestinian violations monitored in Gaza Strip.

**The Palestinian Violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip  
During the First Half of 2019**



A total of 27 violations committed by Palestinian authorities during the first half of 2019 were monitored in the West Bank compared to a total of 88 violations committed by Palestinian authorities in Gaza Strip. In other words, the violations committed in Gaza Strip are three times greater than those monitored in the West Bank during this period.



The Palestinian violations amounted to 115 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip fall under ten types of violations, but most of them fall under three types of extremely serious violations against media freedoms, namely: arrests and detention, torture and abuse while arrested or detained, physical attacks which amounted to (the three types altogether) 65 attacks, constituting 57% of the total Palestinian violations (see attached table).

It should be noted that 53 of 65 attacks fall under the three extremely serious types of attacks (arrests, torture, and physical attacks) in Gaza Strip, constituting 82%, while 12 attacks of these extremely serious types of attacks were committed in the West Bank constituting 18%.

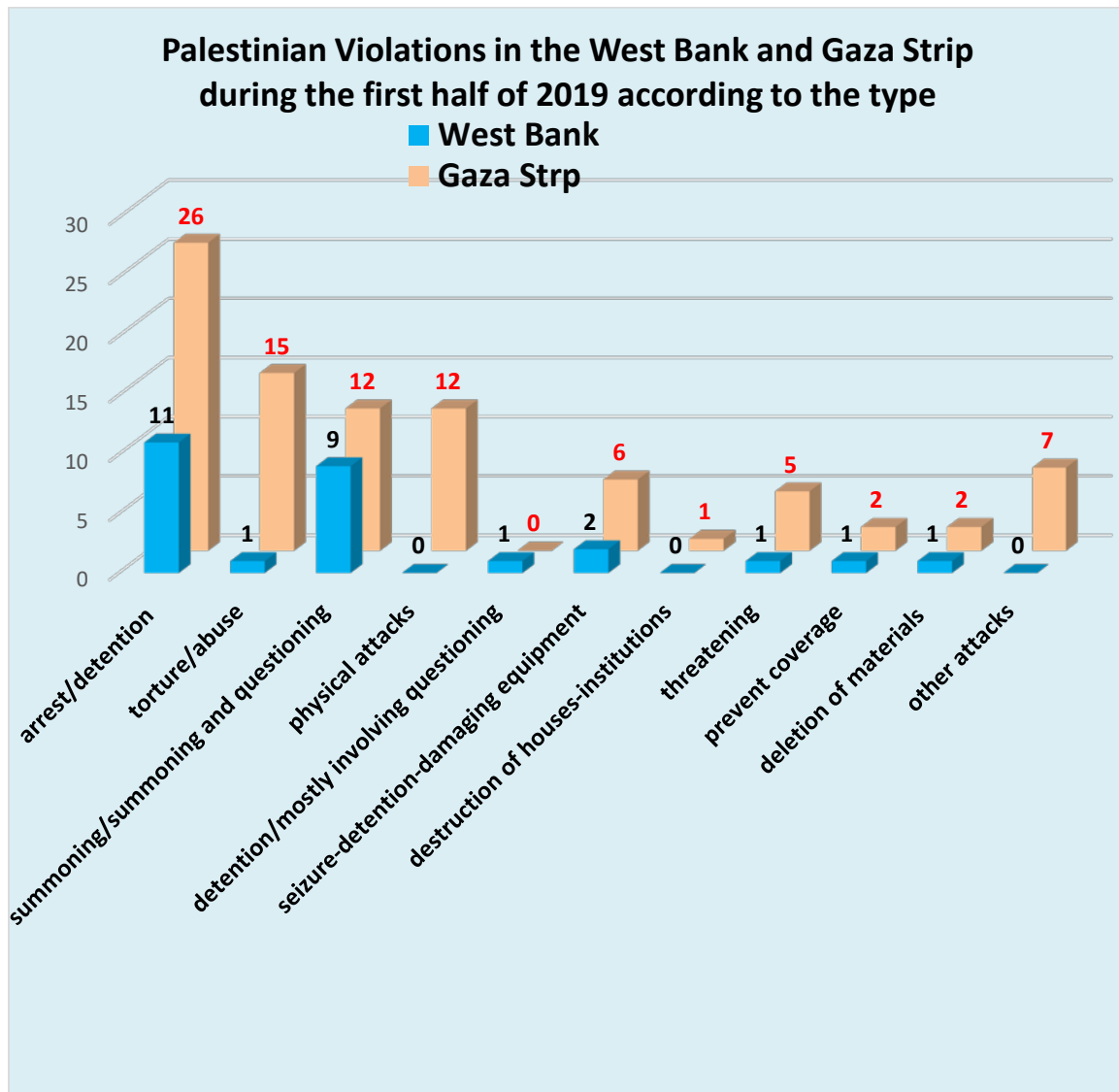
**(The Palestinian Violations during the first half of 2019 according to the type and location)**

No.	Type of Violations	Palestinian Authorities	
		West Bank	Gaza Strip
1	Physical attacks	0	12
2	Arrest/detention	11	26
3	Detention-mostly involving questioning	1	0
4	Summoning-summoning and questioning	9	12
5	Seizure-detention-damaging equipment	2	6
6	Destruction of houses-institutions	0	1
7	Threatening	1	5
8	Preventing coverage	1	2
9	Deleting materials	1	2
10	Torture/abuse	1	15
11	Other attacks	0	7
	Total	27	88

The arrests and detentions topped the list of Palestinian violations amounting to 37 cases, as 16 journalists were arrested and detained, tortured and abused during detention which is unprecedented in Palestine.



The arrests and torture of journalists, as part of a large-scale suppression by Hamas security forces on peaceful popular movements in Gaza Strip, protesting against the living conditions there, accompanied by widespread repression of media and journalists to prevent them from covering these protests. This also included the arrests associated with torture and beatings inflicted on other female/male journalists.



## **Details of Violations:**

### **January**

(1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2019) The Preventive Security Service has arrested the journalist, Zaid Mustafa Mohammad Abu Erra, and extended his detention, as he remained 18 days in detention.

According to investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, a force from the Preventive Security Service has stormed the house of Zaid Mustafa Abu Erra (31 years old), located in the village of Aqaba in Tubas, who works as an editor at Quds Press Agency. The force searched the house claiming that it has a search warrant from the Public Prosecution. A number of military jeeps were deployed outside the house, but five members of the security forces in military uniform entered the house and searched it. They seized his cell phone, laptop and camera memory. The search lasted about an hour. The journalist Abu Erra then was arrested. Since the first day of his arrest, his detention was extended for 48 hours, then on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 2019, his detention was extended again for eight days, and then on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, his detention was extended again to 15 days. His family was allowed to visit him on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, where his mother and children visited him, in addition to the representative of the Journalists Syndicate in Jenin, Mr. Atef Abu-Rub. Abu Erra was charged with "receiving money from abroad" but no investigation was conducted with him. He did not have a case and the court requested his file several times but the Preventive Security refused to give any files. The lawyer at Tubas Magistrate Court filed a request of release on bail several times for him, and they were all rejected repeatedly, the last of which was on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019. The testimony of Zaid Abu Erra was taken by the legal advisor of the Preventive Security Service and not by an investigator. The questions focused on the nature of his work and his relationship with some people. They told him that the reason for his arrest was part of the campaign "to respond to the arrests taking place in Gaza only". After 18 days of his arrest, Abu Erra was released on Thursday, corresponding 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019 and his laptop and cell phone are still being held by the Preventive Security Service.

(2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 2019) Palestine TV reporter in Nablus, Baker Abdalhaq, was injured by a rubber bullet in his leg while he was covering the storming of the Army and settlers to Joseph's Tomb in Nablus.

According to the investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, the Israeli Occupation Army, at around 11:00PM, has raided Balata Block in Nablus, to secure the access of settlers to

Joseph's Tomb, located in that area. It should be noted that the area is being continuously raided on Wednesdays, under the pretext of enabling the settlers to pray in Joseph's Tomb, which always results in the outbreak of clashes in the region. The reporter of Palestine TV in Nablus, Baker Mohammad Sabah Mamdouh Abdalhaq, (29 years old), was located in an area one kilometer far from the site of clashes that erupted after the army and settlers stormed Balata block. The army was stationed at a junction leading to the Tomb and the demonstrators were 200 meters away from the soldiers. At approximately 12:45 after midnight, some patrols approached suddenly and rapidly towards the journalists and fired rubber bullets intensively and directly at them, even though they were wearing their uniforms marked Press. Palestine TV reporter, Baker Abdalhaq, was injured by a rubber bullet in his left leg, directly below the knee. It was fired at him at point-blank range (approximately two meters). His colleague, Palestine TV cameraman Sameh Nazih Adel Darwazeh, and medics from the medical relief who were in the area, immediately took him to an ambulance nearby, while the army continued to fire. Another bullet injured Baker Abdalhaq in the protective shield he was wearing while he was being transferred to the ambulance. The firing of bullets and gas bombs continued until they reached the ambulance. During that time, the medic Yassin Omran was also injured in the face by two bullets while he was assisting the journalist Baker. The medic fell to the ground and another bullet hit the posterior side of the ambulance, and it immediately drove away from the area. He was taken to Rafidia Hospital in Nablus, where he arrived at 1:00 AM. Some x-rays of the injury site were done and he was given the necessary treatment and he was discharged from the Hospital at about 5:00AM.

(3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. 2019) The journalist, Huda Ahmad Ali Baroud, 31 years old, a reporter at Hadf News, has received a phone call from Mr. Bader Al-Deen, who introduced himself as an officer from the Media Office of the Ministry of Interior in Gaza. He asked her to come to his office at the Ministry to “chat” in a topic that she will find out when she goes. However, she refused to go since there is no official summons by the Ministry. As a result, she received a text from the same number reaffirming her to come on Sunday, corresponding 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019. Baroud has informed the Administration of Hadf News with the phone call and text she received and that she refused to respond. Consequently, the Administration of Hadf News contacted some officials at Gaza Government, who in turn contacted the Ministry of Interior, and the Administration was informed that the matter is about a report Baroud has prepared on the issue of “Incest in Gaza” which was published on the website of Hadf News on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2018. The Administration was also informed

that the Ministry is upset and offended and has an objection on the time of publishing the report only given that “the security and political conditions were unstable then”. The matter was closed with the Ministry of Interior following the intervention of the Administration of Hadf News and Baroud did not go to the office of the Ministry of Interior on Sunday and was not contacted later.

(4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The journalist, Reem Abu Amro, was injured with severe suffocation due to gas bombs fired by the Israeli occupation soldiers at the demonstrators in the peaceful return march taking place in Malka, east of Shujaiya, north Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Reem Fathi Khader Abu Amro, (23 years old), a photographer of MFU<sup>5</sup>, has arrived, at around 02:30PM, on Friday, corresponding 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, to Al-Awda Camp, located against the separating fence (the separating border fence with Israel), east of Gaza, to cover the events of the peaceful return march. It should be noted that this march is part of the peaceful return marches, which have started on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018, taking place each Friday, in which thousands of Palestinians peacefully demonstrate. On the other side of the fence, the Israeli soldiers fired tear gas bombs and rubber bullets at the demonstrators in the march which resulted in several demonstrators being wounded, some of whom with live bullets. At around 4:15PM, the journalist, Abu Amro, approached her colleagues towards the border fence, to document the injury of one of the demonstrators shot by the occupation soldiers, 20 meters away from the separating fence. She was wearing the helmet and vest marked Press, the occupation soldiers were heavily firing gas bombs at the location where the injury was to prevent the medics from transferring the wounded demonstrator. One of the gas bombs fired by the occupation soldiers injured the journalist Abu Amro and fell close to her which is why she inhaled great amount of gas until she fainted. As a result, she was transferred by an ambulance to the field hospital and then to Al-Quds Hospital, central Gaza. She was resuscitated after two hours of fainting. Some x-rays were done for her and they showed no fractures due to her injury. She stayed in hospital until 08:00PM under medical observation. However, she continued to suffer headache and vomiting on the following two days of her injury.

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<sup>5</sup> The Media Field Unit is a network that delivers courses to the journalists, it has equipment and transmits news.

(4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The journalist Mohammad Zarab has suffered severe suffocation while covering the return peaceful march taking place in “Al-Farrahen”, east of Khan Younes, south Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, Mohammad Khader Abderabo Zarab, (23 years old), a reporter of the Tunisian WAFA News Agency, and the Local Handala Network, has arrived, at around 2:45PM, on Friday, corresponding 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, to Al-Farrahen, east of Khan Younes, in his Press blue vest. He went there to cover the return peaceful march, taking place each Friday. Hundreds of peaceful demonstrators have gathered in the area after the events of marches moved from Khuza'a to Al-Farrahen. On the opposite side of the demonstrators, the other side of the separating fence, the occupation soldiers were firing gas bombs, rubber-coated metal bullets, and live bullets at the demonstrators, which resulted in the injury of dozens of them, some of whom with live bullets. There was a tank in the area (near the soldiers) releasing heavy smoke. At approximately 16:15PM, while Zarab and a number of his colleague journalists were about 700 meters away from the Israeli soldiers, they began to retreat from the area because the soldiers were directly targeting them with gas bombs. One of the gas bombs injured the journalist Zarab in his chest after it hit the ground. The bomb's smoke was all over his face which caused him to inhale great amount of gas which is why he fainted. He was transferred in an auto rickshaw by one of the demonstrators to the field hospital, about one kilometer away from the area. Because of the state of convulsion that accompanied his condition, he was transferred to the military hospital, where he was given the necessary medical treatment and remained in hospital until 09:00PM under medical observation. Zarab explained that until the day this report was prepared (16<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019), he still suffers from a lack of breathing, headaches and sometimes spasms.

(4<sup>th</sup> Jan.) The journalist, Ahmad Al-Halabi, was injured by a rubber bullet in the back of his head, fired at him by one of the Israeli occupation soldiers, while he was covering the return peaceful march, in Malka, east of Gaza.

According to the investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, the journalist Ahmad Omar Ismail Al-Halabi, (27 years old), works for Kanan News Agency, has arrived, at around 2:00PM, on Friday, corresponding 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, to Malka, east of Gaza, to cover the return peaceful march, organized each Friday, since the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2018. At around 5:00PM, after he finished filming a child who was shot by Israeli soldiers deployed on the other side of the fence, while he was about

200 meters away from the fence, he was injured by a rubber bullet in the left side of the back of his head, even though he was in his Press uniform. As a result of the injury, he fell to the ground, and some paramedics transferred him to the medical point at around 500-700 meters away from the separating fence, where he received the first aid. He was also diagnosed and his wound was dressed. He was then transferred to Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza. He arrived the hospital at about 5:30. There he underwent medical examinations, X-ray and a CT Scan. He was given the necessary treatments, stayed in the hospital and then he was discharged.

(4<sup>th</sup> Jan.2019) The journalist, Mohammad Al-Arbeed, was injured by a gas bomb in the left thigh, while he was covering the return peaceful march, east of Jabalia, north Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the journalist Mohammad Atef Mohammad Al-Arbeed, (24 years old), from Al-Tawam neighborhood in northern Gaza Strip, a photographer of Shamal Online News Network, and a reporter of Shihab Agency, located northern Gaza Strip, has arrived at around 2:00PM, on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, to the border area, east of Jabalia. He was wearing his vest marked Press, and he went there to cover the events of the return march, taking place each Friday, at around 4:00PM. While he was filming the injury of several demonstrators by bullets and gas bombs, fired by the Israeli soldiers stationed on the other side of the separating fence, he was injured by a gas bomb in the left thigh, as he was 150 meters away from the separating fence. He was transferred to the field hospital, located close to the demonstrators, where he received the first aid. Then he was taken by a Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance to the Indonesian Hospital, northern Gaza Strip, as the place of injury was wounded. He underwent medical examinations and x-rays of the injury. He stayed for about an hour and then he was discharged from the hospital. On the day following the injury (Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019), the injury turned to a blue bruise and pus started draining as well. He returned to the Indonesian hospital, where the wound bandage was changed and the doctor informed him that he should replace it day after day until he recovers.

(5<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The occupation forces have prevented Palestine TV photographer, Ali Sami Yassin, from accessing Al-Khan Al-Ahmar to cover a ceremony marking on Fateh Launch Anniversary. He was arrested and pushed away from Al-Khan Al-Ahmar for five days, and he was prohibited to access it.

According to investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, Fateh movement at Jerusalem region decided to organize a ceremony marking its 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Al-Khan Al-Ahmar, which is threatened with deportation by the occupation, on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019. Therefore, the Occupation Army decided to close the roads leading to Al-Khan Al-Ahmar to prevent the celebration. It even ordered the busses and vehicles to go back and threatened them with arrest and prosecution as is the case with Palestine TV cameraman in Jerusalem, Ali Sami Mousa Yassin, (26 years old). Ali was prevented by the Army to enter Al-Khan Al-Ahmar for the purpose of transmitting and broadcasting the celebration directly through “Reporters in the Field”, which is aired at 12:00PM. He was prevented under the pretext that it is a military closed area. In addition to this, the Israeli police issued him a 250-shekel-ticket for allegedly parking on a road island inside the Sonol gas station near the main street of Al-Khan Al-Ahmar. Furthermore, another 1000-NIS shekels ticket was issued to him for allegedly using the phone while driving (although he denied using it), while he was leaving the gas station. He was arrested and his ID card was seized on the grounds that he did not comply with the orders of the soldiers who asked him to move away from Al Khan Al Ahmar while he was in the nearby fuel station. He was arrested at around 1:30PM, and then he was taken to Ma'ale Adumim Investigation Center where he was questioned about the reason why he was brought by the police and did obey the orders of the army. He was also questioned about the tickets issued to him by the Israeli police for offences he did not even make. He remained in detention and investigation for two hours until he was released under a decision that prohibits him from going to Al-Khan Al-Ahmar for five days, until the tenth of the same month.

(5<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Internal Security Service in Khan Younes, Gaza Strip, has summoned the journalist, Mouneb Saad Abu Sadah, as part of the campaign of summons and arrests implemented in connection to Fateh Movement anniversary.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Mouneb Saad Abu Sadah, (32 years old), a reporter of Al-Sabah Newspaper, has received, at around 12:00PM, on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, a phone call from an anonymous number, who turned out to be from the Internal Security Service in Khan Younes. One of the members of the Security Service talked to him and threatened him to stop writing, and inciting and to obey the laws. He told him to come to the Services headquarters in the eastern region at 4:00PM on the same day. Accordingly, Abu Sadah contacted some persons

and friends from Hamas, who in turn, solved the summons and informed him that it was settled and that he is no longer required to go to the Internal Security headquarters.

It should be noted that Abu Sadah, on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2018, the day of igniting the flame marking on Fateh anniversary, was beaten and assaulted by police elements in military clothing and others in civil clothing while he was at the place of events in Gaza City.

(5<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Internal Security Services of Hamas in Gaza Strip has summoned the journalist Loay Al-Goul three consecutive times, detained him for long hours each time, questioned, tortured and assaulted him.

According to the investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, a security force of Hamas in Gaza Strip, composed of three military vehicles, has arrived at around 10:00PM, on Friday, corresponding 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, to the house of the journalist, Loay Nahed Mohammad Al-Ghoul, (40 years old), located in Al-Shate' Camp, near Al-Sosi Msoque, west of Gaza City, to arrest him. When they knocked on the door, his brother (Saleh) came out and they asked him "where is Loay?". He told them that he was out, so they gave him a summons for his brother Loay, under which he must go to the Internal Security headquarters located near Ansar and they left. The journalist's wife immediately contacted him and told him what had happened. She photographed the notification of summons and sent it to the Journalists Vice Chairman, Tahseen Al-Astal, who disseminated the same on the social media and among the media agencies. On the following day, (Saturday, corresponding 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019), the journalist Loay Al-Ghoul, at around 9:00AM, went to the Internal Security headquarters, near Ansar, western Gaza City. Upon his arrival to the headquarters, he was taken by one of the security officers to one of the investigation rooms where an officer was waiting. The said officer checked Loay's ID, seized his cell phone, passport and the money he had and asked him to sit on a small chair with his face against the wall. After 10 minutes, one of the security officers came and took him to wait with another 30 detainees in the "bus" room (a wide room where detainees under investigation are placed). They made him sit on a small chair and prevented him from talking with the remaining detainees in the room. At around 2:00PM, he was taken again to the investigation room, where the officer stopped him at the door and provocatively talked to him. He asked him questions about his personal information, his wife's name, and his political affiliation, for five minutes, and then he was taken back to the "bus" room. After that, another officer came and took him to the investigation room and asked him the same



questions again “your name, your wife’s name, your political affiliation, also in a provocative manner”. He was threatened to be detained for 48 hours, and then he was taken back to the “bus” room. Then, another officer named “Abu Hamza” inquired about Loay Al-Ghoul among the detainees, and took him to the investigation room. The officer was holding in his hand the summons circulated throughout the social media. He asked Al-Ghoul who published this? And Al-Ghoul responded that it was his wife who photographed it and sent it to the Journalists Vice Chairman, Dr. Tahseen Al-Astal, to contact the concerned authorities and find out the reason of summons, in his capacity as the Journalists Vice Chairman. The officer replied “you are a liar”. Then he asked him about the Journalists Syndicate statement condemning the attack on the headquarters of Palestine TV in Gaza a few days earlier and Al-Ghoul replied that he was responsible for disseminating the statement throughout the social media and among the media agencies in his capacity as a Director at the Journalists Syndicate. The officer replied “you are lying”. He instructed some of the security officers in the room to take him and torture him. The physical assault and torture against Al-Ghoul began here. A bag was placed on his head in a special room. He was beaten by hands and whips on the shoulders and thighs after removing his jacket. Bruises were evident on his body due to the assault. During the assault, Al-Ghoul told them that he was suffocating from the bag and asked them to remove it from his head, and that his feet were trembling due to the beatings, so they lifted the bag from his head. About fifteen minutes after the end of the assault and beating, which took about half an hour, they returned him to the officer Abu Hamza in the investigation room, and the officer repeated the same questions, and asked him about the way he visits his Facebook, he told him that he does it by an iPad at home. The officer asked him to call the house and instruct his son to bring the iPad. Al-Ghoul replied that his son is very young and cannot do that. The officer asked him to call one of his family members and bring the iPad, but it was not brought. Again, the bag was placed on his head, and he was assaulted by hands’ fists. The officer Abu Hamza addressed him threatening: “we will always bring you here to assault you” and then he instructed to transfer him to cell with an area of 2.5m/120cm, which has a bathroom in it. In the cell, there was other four detainees, and he remained in detention until one of the security officer, at around 9:00PM, came and told him that he will be released at 10:00PM, provided that he must return to the headquarters on the following morning at 09:00AM. Indeed, he was released and left the Internal Security Headquarters at around 10:00PM, on Saturday, but his belongings remained seized. At around 09:30AM, on the following

morning, (Sunday, corresponding 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019), Al-Ghoul returned to the headquarters, and immediately the investigation officer Abu Hamza talked to him and told him that he spoke with Dr. Tahseen Al-Astal, the Journalists Vice Chairman, and asked him about the person who disseminated the summons notification throughout the media and “in sum, you are a liar”. He also told him that he is claiming that he was assaulted and it is not true that anyone has assaulted him. Then the journalist Al-Ghoul showed his shoulders that have the bruises of assault and beatings the day before. The officer said “stop lying, this is from your nails”. He was taken to the “bus” room and there he stayed until 1:00PM. A security officer came and told him that he would be released after the Popular Front intervened in his matter, provided that he returns to the headquarters at 08:00AM on the following morning. He was indeed released around 2:00PM. On the following morning (Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019), Al-Ghoul returned to the Internal Security headquarters. They took him and put him in a cell. During his detention, one of the detainees suffered a heart attack (Mazen Abu Jahel, a colonel in the Palestinian Authority) and he was transferred to the hospital. At 1:00PM, the security officers opened the gates of the cells and told all the detainees that they would be released. At about 2:00PM on that day, they handed him over his belongings which were seized, and released him.

(5<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) Several masked persons have stormed the headquarters of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation in Gaza City during daylight hours and smashed its equipment.

According to the investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, the Director General of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation in the southern governorates, Raafat Hammad Abdel Majeed Al-Qudra, (50 years old), and his Deputy Imad Jawad Mohammed Marzouk, (52 years old), have received a telephone call from the owner of the building, where the headquarters of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation is located, in Tal Al-Hawa neighborhood, southern Gaza City, at about 10:15AM, on Friday, corresponding 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019. It should be noted that the building consists of two floors (fourth and fifth) with a total of six apartments, among them an apartment for the Voice of Palestine Radio, and another apartment for the TV studio. Most of the doors of the apartments are made of wood, except for the studio door, which is made of iron, where the transmitter of the TV is kept. The remaining rooms are administrative offices. The phone call informed them that persons have broken into the headquarters of the Corporation and smashed its equipment with “axes and hammers”. None of the staff members were inside the headquarters, given that most of

them were in the morning hours leave, as their work is mainly covering the return marches during the evening. Accordingly, most of the staff members of the Corporation came to the headquarters from their residents within half an hour. They were shocked by the destruction and damage caused to the headquarters. The wooden doors and the equipment of the Voice of Palestine Radio were completely destroyed, and this included the studio, the voice devices (3), the montage devices, five cameras, 2 UBS chargers, in addition to the office furniture. The attackers were unable to break into the studio because of the iron doors, and when someone was asked about what happened, he said he heard loud voices and noise, and believed that the workers were doing some maintenance work. But soon left the headquarters four people, one of them was masked while the others were not, and when he asked them who they were, they replied, "We are the youth of the reformist movement" and they fled. About three hours after the attack, some police officers arrived at the site, inspected the site and left. The Administration of the Corporation has formed a committee of five engineers and specialists and it has estimated the damages by 169,000 USD, the value of the equipment which were destroyed and damaged, not to mention the destruction of the doors and furniture.

Around 330 staff members are working in the Corporation. It is worth noting that there is no guards for the headquarters, due to the split. Friday, the day on which the attack took place in the morning, is an official holiday for the staff. Usually the work is done from the main headquarters of the Corporation located in Ramallah, West Bank. The reporters and photographers in Gaza begin their work in the evening to cover the return marches. The Corporation's service officer comes every Friday morning to supply water and equipment to the journalists and then he leaves. He was in the headquarters on the day of attack, at around 8:30PM, and then he left. Half an hour after he left, the attack took place.

The attack was denounced by various media and human rights organizations, and various agencies and organizations have called on the security services in Gaza to identify the perpetrators and try them. Later, the Ministry of Interior in Gaza announced the arrest of the five people whom it declared as the "perpetrators" who have committed the attack. It claimed that the "attackers" belong to Fatah movement, whose salaries were cut off by the Palestinian Authority. One of the five "perpetrators" who were arrested is "a staff member in the Corporation whose salary has been cut off". But it did not reveal their names. This has raised doubts on the Ministry of the Interior's

scenario on the identity of the perpetrators of the attack, and whether they actually belong to “Fateh”, as it claimed.

(6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Internal Security Services in Khan Younes has arrested the journalist Salah Abu Salah after he was summoned by the Services headquarters, as part of the summons and arrests implemented by the security services in Gaza Strip in connection to the events of Fateh Launch Anniversary the Movement was planning to organize.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Salah Mohammad Musallam Abu Salah, (38 years old), from Abasan Al-Kabira, in Khan Younes, a freelance journalist, and a member at the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, has received, at around 12:00PM, on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, a phone call from the Internal Security Services in Khan Younes. He was informed to immediately come to the headquarters, western Khan Younes (the sea) to discuss a matter that will take only 5 minutes. He was informed that if he does not go, a patrol will come and arrest him. Abu Salah immediately went to the headquarters, and when he arrived, he was searched, and his personal belongings were seized. They asked him to give them his passwords for his personal accounts and the passport of his laptop as well. Then they took him to detention in a “large brick” with an area of 5x7 meters, where other seven persons from Fateh activists were detained, and the number kept increasing. On the following morning, 40 detained arrived. Abu Salah remained in detention until the following day, corresponding 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, without questioning, until he was summoned at around 2:00PM, on the following day (7<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) to the investigation room. He was questioned about his personal information and some of his posts on his accounts which the investigator considered “inciting” and about the events of Fateh launch anniversary and his role in the same. After that, the investigator left the room and left in it for about half an hour until one of the security officers came in and handed him over his belongings. He was released at 3:00PM on the same day. During his detention, the security officers were forcing them to sit on a chair with their faces against the wall for hours. Furthermore, during their sleep, the officers were intentionally wake them up, threat and torture them. After he was released, he found out that his laptop was connected to another computer and that they took the data in it.

(6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Palestinian preventive security has arrested the Palestinian photographer, Mahmoud Noah Harish, 28 years old, from his home located in Beitunia, Ramallah, for 23 days.

According to his famil (and him later), and according to the investigations of "MADA" researcher, a group of persons, at about 11:00PM on 6 January 2019, broke into the house of Mahmoud Noah Harish, located in Beitunia, Ramallah. He is a journalism and media graduate from Abu Deis University and works as a freelance photographer. The persons who broke into the house identified themselves as officers of the Preventive Security Service, some of them were masked and armed. They searched Mahmoud's house, and missed up its contents not to mention that they damaged some of his hourse contents, they confiscated his personal cell phone and computer. One of the officers told the family that Mahmoud was wanted for 48 hours, and that there is a arrest warrant against him, and a search warrant for the house. But he did not show them to the family, and the later did not ask to see the same. Then they arrested Mahmoud and left. Later, the family learned that he had been transferred to the headquarters of the Preventive Security Service in Beitunia. Furthermore, and after his mother, sisters and his wife visited him as well as the lawyer of Al-Dameer Foundation, his family also learned that he was in the cells rather than in the prison rooms. Mahmoud was brought twice before the court on charge the of "stir up sectarian strife" and the last time he was brought before the court was on Thursday (10th January 2019), where his detention was extended by 15 days, and on (28th January 2019) he was released on bail of 500 dinars. After his release, it was found that journalist Harish remained in detention for 23 days at the Preventive Security headquarters in Beitunia, and that he was interrogated only once after his arrest directly and for a short period of no more than 10 minutes by an officer who asked him about something he posted on his Facebook page in which he is demanding the security services to protect the Palestinian people from settler attacks. He was also questioned about previous posts in 2013-2014, which, according to the officer, are considered "offensive to the security services and contain insults". The officer refused to show the journalist Harish the posts since the later denied posting such insults. The officer treated him badly during interrogation where he "intentionally raised his voice and screamed at me while questioning". He was detained for the first 19 days (of his 23-days arrest and detention), in "a very narrow cell that smells stinky and in poor conditions". He was then transferred to the prison rooms where he remained until his release on (28th January 2018) after the lawyer of "MADA" objected on the request of the Public Prosecution to extend his detention for the second time for another 15 days where the court only extended his detention for 5 days pending investigation, the court responded to the request of MADA's lawyer for a personal

bail of 500 Jordanian dinars. A week after his release, he recovered his personal phone and identity card.

(7<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) Israeli intelligence agents have kidnapped journalist Firas Debs from the street and arrested him for a day and a half on the backdrop of a comment he posted on Facebook.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the journalist Firas Yousef Ahmad Debs, born on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1985, in charge of the media and public relations in the Islamic Endowments Department in Jerusalem, while he was walking in Nablus street in Jerusalem, specifically next the gas station, along with his colleague Rami Al-Khateeb, at around 1:00PM, on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, some Intelligence Officers were getting in his way. He was feeling that they were following them while walking as they were entering every place they go to. They blindfolded his eyes after they got in his way near the gas station. They also handcuffed his hands with plastic ties and took him to @room 4@ for investigation. During the arrest and investigation, he was not beaten or cursed, but he was violently arrested. His cell phone was seized and its contents were accessed. They told him that he was wanted by the Israeli intelligence service "Shabak" for inciting against the Israeli officer who entered Al-Aqsa Mosque carrying a bottle of "Champagne" in September 2019, referring to a comment posted by the journalist Debs to his colleague, the journalist Ziad Abu Buhais, on Facebook, which says "may Allah takes his revenge and curse the laggards". Debs told them that what he posts on Facebook is a personal matter, unlike the media reports he publishes in his capacity as a media official at the Endowments Department which contain nothing but facts. He was questioned in three rounds with no rest in between. The first round lasted for two hours, the second for one hour, while the last for more than three hours. He was questioned, a file was opened and photocopied for him, and his finger prints were collected. This was before transferring him to Moscobiya Detention Centre where he was questioned for another hour. Debs remained in detention there until 11:00AM on the following day, (8<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019). In the meantime, arrived a videotape of his lawyer, Mustafa Yahya, showed the incident mentioned in the charge and confirming that it was unacceptable, he said: "Can I enter a Jewish synagogue with a pig's head?" In a legal framework, he was released on unpaid bail of NIS 5,000, payable in the event of repeated arrest, and then released at about 8:00PM on the same day (8<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019). About a week later, on Wednesday 16 January 2019, the journalist Debs received an order to come back to investigation again in "Room 4" in connection with events that took place at Al-Aqsa Mosque during that period.

He was questioned about two hours. Debs was arrested three times (other than the above mentioned arrest), all of which have taken place inside Al-Aqsa Mosque. He was also summoned two more times not to mention that he was also alienated from Al-Aqsa Mosque several times, the longest lasting for 6 months.

(7<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) In parallel with the campaign of summonses carried out by Hamas Government in Gaza Strip against the backdrop of Fatah movement's inauguration ceremony. At approximately 11:00AM on the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, the family of journalist Maysoun Wasfi Saleem Kuhail, 42 years old, an author at "Dunia Al-Watan", a received summons at their house located in Jaffa Street - Al-Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza, from the Internal Security Service, in the name of Maysoun's brother, Mousa Wasfi Saleem Kuhail (38 years old), from Al-Rimal neighborhood in Gaza, who works for the electricity distribution company, under which he must go to the Service Headquarters (Al-Hakem Palace in Gaza). Thus, he was informed of the summons by his family. So Mousa indeed went to the Internal Security headquarters in Gaza at about 01:30PM on the same day. When he arrived at the headquarters, his identity card was seized and he was placed in the detention room (called the bus) with dozens of detainees from Fatah cadres and activists. After an hour and a half of detention without any questioning, Kuhail asked one of the Security Officer why he was detained clarifying he had nothing to do with Fateh or the political events and he asked to meet one of the officials for clarification. Accordingly, the investigator called him to his room, and then told him "we know you have nothing to do with Fateh, but you were summoned to deliver a message to your sister, the journalist Maysoun Kuhail, to stop writing and inciting against the government in Dunia Al-Watan newspaper or her personal accounts, and that if she continued to do so, you will be held liable before us and you will be summoned again". Then he was taken to another room where he met another person who delivered the same message and threat to him, gave him back his ID card and released him around 3:30PM on the same day.

(10<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) On 10<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, an Israeli bus was subject to gunshot by anonymous persons on the bypass road adjacent to the military checkpoint "Beit El" near the entrance to the city of Al-Bireh. This resulted in raids by the occupation forces in the following two days in that area, not to mention the seizure of recordings of cameras from homes and shops. On 10<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, at 5:30AM, 15 Israeli military patrols stormed Al-Masayoun neighborhood, in Ramallah and seized the camera recordings from shops there. This resulted in clashes where the Palestinians threw stones at the

army patrols, while soldiers fired metal bullets and tear gas bombs at them resulting in several injuries. These clashes attracted many journalists and the media to cover the same, including “Reuters” photographer Mohammad Ali Turkman (51 years). At approximately 7:30PM, one of the soldiers fired a rubber-coated metal bullet at the journalist Turkman during his coverage of the clashes on Al-Jihad Street in Al-Maseyoun neighborhood, Ramallah, while he was about 100 meters away from the soldiers. The bullet directly injured his left leg-below the knee, even though he was wearing the Press uniform which was evident to the soldiers. He received the treatment in field, where medics described his injury as minor. After receiving the first aid, Turkman continued to film and cover the clashes, but one of the soldiers, after about 10 minutes, again targeted him with a rubber bullet fired at his head this time. The bullet hit the muzzle that he was putting on his face to protect him from gas. Which is why he was not affected or injured as the muzzle protected him from being severely harmed.

(11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) Journalist Hussein Karsou’ was injured by a tear gas bomb fired directly at him " by an Israeli soldier while covering the events of the peaceful return march in the area of Malka " .east of Gaza

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Hussein Abdaljawad Karsou’, 44 years old, married with four children, a photographer of MFU, has arrived, at around 2:30PM, on Friday, corresponding 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, to Malka to cover the events of the peaceful return march, organized each Friday, at the separating fence with Israel, erupted since 30<sup>th</sup> March last year, in which hundreds of citizens take part. On the other side of the fence, Israeli soldiers fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition at demonstrators indiscriminately, killing a woman and injuring dozens of others. At approximately 4:15 PM, the journalist Karsou’, who was wearing a helmet and a blue jacket marked "PRESS" while he was 100 meters away from the separating fence, covering the demonstration. He was injured by a direct gas bomb fired by one of the soldiers in the face (bottom left eye) causing him bleeding. Immediately, he was transferred to the field hospital in the area, where he received the first aid to stop the bleeding and then he was transferred to Al-Shifa Hospital, central Gaza, where it was found that his left eye was harmed as a result of the injury. The location of the injury swelled dramatically associated with severe redness in the left eye and lack of clarity of vision, which is why he was transferred to the specialized eye hospital, where the necessary checks were done for him to make sure of his eye’s safety. The



wound was stitched 5 stitches, and then he was taken back again to Al-Shifa Hospital, where he remained under observation until 10:00PM of the same day in anticipation of the occurrence of health complications, especially that he (journalist Karsou') suffers from diabetes. Karsou' was injured more than once during his work.

(11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The rt of French CBSP photographer (Charitable Committee for the Suppo Palestine<sup>6</sup>, Husni Salah, was injured by a gas bomb in the face while covering the events of the " peaceful return march in the area ofTal "Um Husni Bureij refugee camp in central -east of Al .Gaza Strip

According to the investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, journalist Husni Fuad Husni Salah, 26 years old, a photographer of the French CBSP, arrived at around 02:30PM on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, Al-Awda Camp, located in "Tal Um Husni" against the border fence with Israel, east of Al-Bureij refugee camp, to cover the events of the peaceful return march organized every Friday, with the participation of thousands of Palestinians, since 30 March last year in areas east of Gaza Strip. On the other side of the fence, the Israeli soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets at the demonstrators in a heavy and random manner. This day, a number of demonstrators were wounded, some of them with live bullets. At approximately 3:30PM, while Salah and his colleagues were at a distance of approximately 400 meters away from the border fence behind the demonstrators to cover the events, one of the soldiers apparently deliberately targeted the media group with a gas bomb that injured the journalist Salah in the face, in particular, in his chin, causing him severe bleeding, where he fell immediately to the ground. Then he was taken by an ambulance to the field hospital located close to the demonstrators. However, given his critical condition and the deep wound caused by the bomb, he was immediately transferred to Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza. According to the medical report, there was a fracture of the lower jaw in the chin area. He underwent a surgery to "place a platinum plate in the chin area" and then he stayed in the hospital for a full day under medical observation before leaving for the next morning. Until the present time, he stills suffers from severe pain and difficulty in eating and drinking and cannot speak.

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<sup>6</sup> The Charitable Committee for the Support of Palestine is a French Committee with a media section.

(11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Journalist Jafar Zahid Ishtaya was injured by a gas bomb directly in his foot while covering a demonstration in Kafr Qaddum village, Qalqiliya Governorate.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the French News Agency photographer, Jafar Zahid Hussein Ishtaya, 51 years old, has arrived Kafr Qaddum at around 12:30PM, on Friday, corresponding 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, to cover the events of the weekly march organized by the village families every Friday since seven years to demand opening the village entrance closed by the Israeli Army to serve the settlers. While the journalist Ishtaya was standing next to three of his colleague journalists, all wearing the blue uniform marked Press, and began filming the demonstration that came out of the mosque, four military patrols broke into the village and entered about 500 meters from the closed road, the soldiers went to the roofs of three houses of citizens and were stationed there. The demonstrators started throwing stones at the soldiers who were about 100 meters away from them, while the soldiers responded by firing gas and metal bullets randomly, injuring some of the demonstrators, and journalists who were covering these clashes and at about 1:45PM, while they were 20 meters away from the clashes, central the village, one of the 7 soldiers on the house roof pointed their guns directly at the journalists, and fired a gas bomb at Ishtaya injuring his foot (Metatarsal bones) which caused Ishtaya to fall to the ground immediately. Two of his colleagues (Palestine TV reporter Anal Al-Jada' and the photographer of the Al-Masirah website, Abdullah Al-Qadumi) approached to help him reach an ambulance in the area. The ambulance staff provided him with first aid and informed him that the injury is minor and that no critical wounds were caused to go to hospital. Ishtaya ceased covering the events because of the pain he was feeling.

(11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Israeli soldiers detained three of Palestine TV staff and used them as a human shield during a demonstration in Ras Karkar in Ramallah .

According to the MADA field researcher, Palestine TV staff composed of the TV reporter, Osaid Mohammad Abdul Rahim Subaih, born in 1993, the photographer Mohammad Abdul Rahman Dar Saleh (born in 1990) and the driver Ayman Mustafa Ibrahim (born in 1969), at approximately 1:30PM, on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, arrived at Ras Karkar in Ramallah, to prepare a TV report on the closure of the main road called "Tareq Al-Enab" by the Israeli occupation army since 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. It should be noted that it is a road linking the villages western Ramallah. They also went to cover the weekly march organized in Jabal Al-Risan, where a settler seized a large area of land there. As

soon as they arrived, there were clashes at the entrance to the village, where Palestinian demonstrators threw stones at the soldiers. The Israeli occupation soldiers stationed there seized the personal identity cards of the staff as well as their car keys. They seized them from 1:30PM until 3:10PM. In the meantime, the soldiers used them as human shields as they forced the staff members to stand in front of them (the soldiers) which made the staff subject to injury by the demonstrators' stones they were throwing at the soldiers during the clashes. At approximately 3:10PM, the soldiers allowed the TV staff to leave either inside the village or return to Ramallah. The staff went to the village to complete their work. After about 15 minutes, approximately 3:25 PM, they came back and this time, the soldiers detained them and seized the identity card of the TV reporter Osaïd Subaih. One of the soldiers addressed him in Arabic that he wants to punish them claiming that they are "inciting and they should protect the army from stones". He threatened the staff with detention if they spoke with anyone crossing the main street of the village where the soldiers were stationed, and at around 4:00PM, they were released.

(11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The photojournalist, Haytham Mohammad Jamal Al-Khatib was injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet fired by an Israeli soldier while covering a military operation of Israeli units in Bil'in, Ramallah.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the freelance photographer Haytham Al-Khatib, born in 1976, living in Bil'in, has heard at around 2:55AM, on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019 some people coming quickly and close to his house in the village. He went out and saw a white minibus and a number of people in civilian clothes were getting off of it. He immediately rode his car for a tour in the village and saw more than 10 military vehicles raiding Bil'in, from the side of the apartheid wall heading to the neighboring village Kafr Naama. He followed them to film the raiding of Kafr Naama. But at approximately 3:30, he received a phone call from his family telling him that great forces of the Israeli occupation army stormed houses surrounding his house in Bil'in, so he immediately returned to his house. He saw a military patrol parked in front of his house. About 40 minutes later, the soldiers started the flashlights of their guns at his vehicle to tell him to stop. Only then, he put on his press uniform and carried the camera, and addressed the soldiers, in Hebrew, that it was his house and he wanted to go there. The soldiers allowed him to go to his house, moved away from the house, and retreated to a place beyond the wall of Al-Khatib's house. From his house, Al-Khatib began taking pictures of a nearby house about 20 meters from his house.

The soldiers were surrounding the house and heard explosions of sound bombs and loud screams by the owners of the house. It is worth noting that 10 soldiers were stationed at a distance of 30 meters away from the photojournalist Haytham Al-Khatib who was taking photos. They pointed a red laser light at his face. The moment Al-Khatib heard one of the soldiers saying to the other soldiers “we have bothered this journalist ... shall I shoot him?” one of the soldiers replied “shoot”. Soon after that, Al-Khatib was injured by a metal bullet in his left thigh, fired at him by one of the soldiers. So he hid behind the wall of his house. After about 5 to 10 minutes, the army forces began moving and retreating. In the meantime, they fired more than 7 rubber bullets at Al-Khatib who was covering himself behind the house wall after his injury. He helped himself at home by placing ice on the injury.

(12<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Israeli occupation forces used journalists as human shields while they were covering an Israeli army incursion into the city of Ramallah.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, an Israeli occupation army force raided the area surrounding area of Ramallah Municipality, at 7:00PM, on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, and started seizing the camera records of some commercial shops. Dozens of young men started throwing stones at the soldiers, while the occupation soldiers were firing live bullets, rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas bombs at them which resulted in several injuries. At around 8:00PM, after one hour of the incursion, while a group of journalists and photographers were covering the incursion and clashes near Ramallah Municipality, a group of soldiers of “Israel Border Police” approached and asked the journalists to leave the place immediately. However, the journalists refused to leave the area surrounding Ramallah Municipality because if they do so, they will be exposed to danger. The soldiers surrounded them and used them as human shields. Then they started firing bullets at the young men throwing stones. The journalists were between the soldiers and the throwing of stones. Among these journalists: Palestine TV reporter, Ali Mohammad Dar Ali, the photographer Mohammad Al-Aroui, Al-Ghad Al-Arabi TV reporter Diaa Housheya, the photographer Monther Al-Khatib, the photographer Mutasem Saqf Al-Hait, the photographer Ramez Awad, the photographer Jihad Al-Qadi, the photographer Ashraf Al-Nabali, the journalist Imad Abu Sumaya, the journalist Ismat Mansour, the journalist Mohammad Jreir Hamdan, who works at the Public Relations Department at the Commission against the Wall and Colonization. The latter stressed that they remained in this position for 15 minutes and they were threatened during this period. Saqf Al-

Hait stated that they were assaulted and pushed them with their weapons not to mention that they threatened them with firing sound bombs at them. In the meantime, the 28-year-old freelance photographer Jihad Isma'il Al-Qadi was detained for about a quarter of an hour near the Royal Hotel, near Ramallah Municipality, and he was prevented from moving. A soldier fired a gas bomb at him, causing him severe suffocation.

(12<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Preventive Security Service arrested Al-Najah TV photographer Hazem Naser, who was abused and assaulted by some officers by beating.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, a security force, including several military jeeps and civil vehicles, arrived, at around 1:00AM, on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, to the house of Hazem Imad Naser, born on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1990, holding I.D. Card No. ( 852339761), living with his family, in Iktaba neighborhood, in Tulkarem. It is worth mentioning that he is also a photographer of Al-Najah TV, of An-Najah National University. When they arrived, they knocked on the main door, and Hazem's father got out. They introduced themselves as officers from the Preventive Security Service. They asked him to tell Hazem to come out and to bring with him all of his devices (cell phones, and laptops). They arrested and put him in one of the patrols, handcuffed his hands from the back. During his transfer, a member of the Preventive Security officers assaulted him verbally and threatened him. When they arrived at the headquarters, he searched him in a humiliating manner and hit Hazim's hand against the wall. He was taken to an underground cell and remained inside without being asked about anything. At around 8:00PM, on the same day, he was asked to exit the cell and he was released after An-Najah TV Director, Ghazi Murtaja, intervened in addition to other authorities, and they took him home.

(28<sup>th</sup> Jan.2019) Hazem received a phone call from a person who identified himself as an Intelligence Officer of Ramallah headquarters and asked him to come to the intelligence headquarters in Umm Al-Sharayet, next Sunday. The call was from "private number" and he was informed to come to the Office of Colonel Jamal Jabara.

The photographer Hazem Naser was arrested by the Palestinian security services on more than one occasion, where he stayed for 25 days prior to this arrest. He was also arrested during Ramadan in Tulkarem.

(15<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Preventive Security Service arrested the reporter of Quds News Network Media student at the Modern College Mutasim Samir Saqf Al-Hait (29 years years old) while filming a march in Al-Bireh and took him to the headquarters of the Service, deleted the material he photographed and questioned him.

According to the investigations conducted by "MADA" researcher, Mutasem Saqf Al-Hait, the 29-year-old media student at the Modern College, a reporter for "Quds News@ Network, and while he was at about 12:30PM on the afternoon of 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019 in Nablus Street, live broadcasting a march against the social security law, a person in civilian clothing who identified himself as a member of the Preventive Security Service approached him and asked for his phone, took him and summoned a patrol to take him to the Preventive Security headquarters in Ramallah. In the headquarters, one of the officers of the headquarters asked Saqf Al-Hait to speak with him apparently to take general information from him and open a file. He was also asked to delete the video records of the march. Later, another person introduced himself as a manager and spoke with Saqf Al-Hait about incitement against the authority, but Saqf Al-Hait told him that he was not inciting. The officer handed over Saqf Al-Hait his identity and his phone. But then he was transferred to the Preventive Security headquarters in Bitunia and it was then about 2:00PM. He was transferred to the interrogation center, handed over the belongings and underwent a medical examination. He was transferred to a cell where he stayed for about half an hour. He was then summoned and released at around 4:30PM. But his cell phone remained seized as the working time has ended provided he shall come back on the following day to take his phone.

(15<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Preventive security and intelligence officers arrested the photographer Mohammad Karout Idkaik while filming a march against the Social Security Law in Ramallah.

According to investigations conducted by MADA researcher, Mohammad Qarout Idkaik, born December 15, 1992, lives in Al-Issawiya, works as a photographer for Al-Jazeera Direct, has arrived in Ramallah at about 11:30AM on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, to cover a march protesting against the social security law. As he was passing through the yard of the parking and the Al Bireh Cultural Center, he saw members of the Preventive Security forces, so he lifted the camera to photograph them. He noted that they were ready to take the picture, they did not object or ask him not to photograph them. But after the photograph, they stopped him and took the camera and " tripod ", his personal phone (through which he was live broadcasting) and his personal card, and

detained him for about an hour and a half. He was threatened, insulted and cursed. They addressed him, "We are the Preventive Security Service, no one can photograph us" and "We will show you the Preventive Security in Jericho". The questioning also included asking him about the party he works for and whether he works for Hamas. Idkaik did not tell them that he works for "Al Jazeera" because of the "not so good relations" between them as he said. After that, a vehicle of the intelligence service arrived to arrest him. Before he was handed over, he asked the members of the Preventive Security to return back his equipment, which they denied having at first. He told them that the law does not forbid photography, and that he even films the Israeli security forces in Al-Aqsa Mosque. They told him that filming all the security services, whether police or preventive security or intelligence or other is "strictly prohibited" and when he entered the intelligence service vehicle at Al-Manara square to complete the investigation, and before going to the center, Mohammad showed his Israeli press card, only then they released him and gave him back his equipment.

(16<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Preventive Security Service arrested the journalist Yousef Mohammad Al-Faqih after security forces raided his house in Al-Burj village near Dura, Hebron . He is still being detained in Betunia Prison until the present day (28<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019). his detention was extended for 15 days.

According to investigations by MADA researcher, at 1:30PM, on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, 10 members of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, dressed in civilian clothes, raided the house of Yousef Al-Faqih in Al-Burj village in Hebron. When Yousef Al-Faqih, 38 years old, married with four children, holding ID card No. 936157866, a journalist working for the local radio "Freedom Forum" in Hebron and also for Quds Press, came out to the security officers, they informed him that the Preventive Security Director in Hebron wants to have a word with him for half an hour, and after that he can go back home, so Yousef went with them. At around 9:30PM on the same day, the preventive security officers came back to Yousef's house with a search warrant. They searched the house and seized the cell phone of Yousef's mother, and another one for his brother, in addition to an old computer for Yousef. During their search of the house, security officers were asking who had informed Al-Aqsa TV of Hamas that Yousef had been arrested. On 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, the journalist Yousef Al-Faqih was brought before the court and his detention was extended for a week on charges of "Stirring up sectarian strife", as his father reported. On 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, Yousef

was transferred from Hebron to the Preventive Security headquarters located in Beitunia, Ramallah. His family was unable to meet him or know anything about the circumstances of his arrest. On 28 January, Yousef Al-Faqih was transferred from Dura's prosecution office to Ramallah Prosecution office. Without an investigation, a request was submitted to Ramallah Magistrate Court to extend his detention for 15 days and he was presented to the court. After presenting the defence by the lawyer of MADA Center, the court decided to detain him for 15 days and he is still in detention at the Preventive Security headquarters and prison in Beitunia.

(18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) Mohammad Jamal Saeed Abu Qadoos, 23 years old, was injured by a gas bomb in the leg from the back while covering the events of the return march in Malka eastern Gaza .

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the photographer of Siraj Media Network, at around 2:00PM, on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, was heading to Malka, east of Gaza, to cover the events of the return march organized every Friday along the separating fence, and he was wearing the uniform marked Press (the helmet and vest). he was also carrying a camera in his hand, and while he was filming the events, at around 3:00PM, 400 meters away from the border separating fence, on the other side of which the Israeli soldiers were deployed and firing bullets and gas bombs at the Palestinian demonstrators, he saw a gas bomb coming the place where he was standing. So he turned back to avoid injury, but the bomb injured him in the back of his leg (behind the knee) and he was taken to the field point near the demonstrators, where he was given first aid and the wound was dressed (if there is a wound ... why there is no explanation of his injury, it might be a minor wound or it might require stitching?). His injury has been described as minor.

(18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Journalist Mohammad Saqer was injured by a gas bomb in his right foot fired by an Israeli soldier as he was covering the events of the peaceful return march in Malka east of Shujaiya, northern Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Mohammad Jawad Adel Saqer, (28 years old), a photographer of MFU, has arrived at 3:15PM, on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, to Malka, east of Gaza, against the border separating fence with Israel, to cover the events of the return peaceful march organized every Friday. He was wearing the helmet and blue vest marked Press, and a gas mask. There were crowds of Palestinians taking part in the march as part of the marches which erupted since 30<sup>th</sup> March last year. The moment he arrived, Saqer started working by filming



the events with his camera, while the soldiers were stationed on the other side of the separating fence, firing gas bombs, rubber bullets and live bullets heavily and randomly at the demonstrators which resulted in the injury of dozens with various wound, some of whom by live bullets. At approximately 4:40PM, while Saqer and a group of his colleagues were behind the demonstrators 250 meters away from the fence, the soldiers deliberately targeted the press with gas bombs to prevent them from covering. A gas bomb injured the journalist Mohammad Saqer in the right leg from the back. He fell to the ground and his camera was smashed. Immediately he was taken to the field hospital, and then transferred to Al-Shifa hospital central Gaza, where it was found through the medical diagnosis that there was fracture that had to be fixed. He was discharged at 7:30PM on that day. On the first week following his injury, Saqer suffered difficulty in movement which is why he underwent physical therapy sessions.

(18th Jan. 2019) The Journalist Ahmad Ghanem was injured by a gas bomb in his left foot fired by an Israeli soldier while covering the events of the peaceful return march in the area of "Malka" east of Gaza City.

According to the investigations by "MADA" field researcher, the journalist Ahmad Nabil Mohammed Ghanem, 31 years old, a reporter for Al-Mayadeen TV, has arrived at the area of "Malka" east of Gaza to cover the events of the 43rd return march, as part of the marches organized every week near the separation fence. He arrived at around 2:30 PM on Friday, January 18, 2019, to cover the events of the 43rd return march organized every week near the separation fence. He was wearing the Press safety helmet and shield, in the area, a large crowd of Palestinian demonstrators were present in the peaceful march. The Israeli soldiers stationed on the other side of the fence fired tear gas bombs, rubber-coated bullets and live bullets at demonstrators, which led to the injury of many demonstrators, some of them were seriously injured. At approximately 03:15, while Ghanem was among the demonstrators and the journalists, about 200 to 250 meters away from the border fence, on the other side of which the soldiers were deployed, as he was covering these events, he started preparing a report for the TV on the events. He was injured by a gas bomb fired by an Israeli soldier in the left foot which caused him to fall on the ground. Immediately his colleagues who were next to him called the paramedics to move him. However, and due to the rough terrain of the area the ambulance was unable to reach that point. He was transferred by a stretcher, for a distance of 300 meters where the nearest ambulance was located. Then he was transferred to a field medical point of the Ministry of Health. He received the first

aid and was taken to Dar Al-Shifa hospital, west of Gaza City. He underwent a radiograph, and it was found that he had bruises and damage to some tissues due to the strength of the gas bomb that injured him directly. At about 5:00PM, he left the hospital, provided he shall review the outpatient clinic later.

(19th January 2019) The journalists Samer Za'anin and Ahmad Qaoud were severely suffocated while covering the events of the peaceful return march in Abu Safiya area east of Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza Strip.

According to investigations conducted by "MADA" field researcher, the freelance journalist Samer Saadallah Abd Al-'Ati Al-Za'anin (29 years old), married, holding an identity card number: 801285149, arrived at approximately 2:30PM, on Friday, January 19, east of the Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza Strip, to cover the events of the peaceful return march. He was wearing the blue vest marked "press." Immediately after his arrival, Za'anin began taking photographs of demonstrators gathered at the separation fence, on the other side of which the occupation soldiers were deployed. The soldiers were firing tear gas bombs and metal bullets and a number of demonstrators were wounded, including Ahmed Ata Mahmoud Qaoud, a journalist in East Gaza Agency, born in 1997 and, works for "Barq Gaza" network, fainted due to inhaling the gas. He was transported by ambulance of the Palestinian Red Crescent to the medical point, about 700 meters away from the border fence, and he received the necessary treatment and was supplied with oxygen. At approximately 4:00PM, while Za'anin was working at a distance of approximately 400 meters away from the border fence, and next to the Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance staff, the Israeli soldiers fired dozens of poisonous gas bombs directly at him and the paramedics of the Palestinian Red Crescent. This resulted in severe suffocation, the other paramedics and volunteer nurses rushed to assist and treat them, Za'anin was transported by a civilian defense vehicle to the area where the tents were located, about 700 meters away, where they received the necessary help. Za'anin left to his home, but after about two hours he felt more affected by gas inhalation. He began to feel shortness of breathing and coughing all the time. At 8:00PM that evening he went to the hospital in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza Strip, where the doctors applied the inhalation of vapor for his chest and provided him with necessary treatment and he was discharged after about hour.

(22nd Jan. 2019) The Palestinian Intelligence Service in Nablus summoned the photographer of "Al-Najah" TV Ameer Istaita and questioned him.

According to the investigation of "MADA" researcher, Ameer Jamal Lotfi Istaita, 25 years old, a photographer in An-Najah National University TV went on Tuesday morning 22nd Jan. 2019 to the headquarters of the Palestinian intelligence in Nablus, after being summoned by the intelligence. He was detained from 8:30AM to 7:00PM in the office of the intelligence service. He was questioned about his work, his studies and his relationship with some people. He said he was a photographer and he worked under the instructions of the organization. He was released at 7:00PM but his own phone was still seized at the intelligence service

(25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The Intelligence Service has arrested the media student of Birzeit University, Hamza Mahmoud Ahmad Khader, from his family house, located in Tulkarem.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, a force of the Palestinian Intelligence Service, at around 2:00PM, on Friday, corresponding 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, went to the family house of the media student, Hamza Mahmoud Ahmad Khader (18) years old, student in Birzeit University. His family reside in Shwaika neighborhood, in Tulkarem. One of the Preventive Security officers searched the house without showing an official authorization. When asked by the family members about the search warrant, he replied that it is enough to receive the order through a phone call to do it. The search continued for an hour, in which a computer was seized, as well as a laptop, 5 cell phones, SIM cards, and a number of USBs the family could not identify. They asked Hamza about his ID, and after they made sure it was him, they arrested and took him to the jeep, and went to Tulkarem Intelligence headquarters.

MADA lawyer reported that he was following up with his case and defending him. on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, a decision was issued under which the media student, Hamza Khader, shall be brought before the Public Prosecution on Tuesday corresponding 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, after 3-days of detention without a proper legal warrant.

(25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The photojournalist, Hassan Al-Jedi, was injured by burns due to a gas bomb fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers while he was covering the events of the weekly return march, east of Buraij Camp, central Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Hassan Hussein Husni Al-Jedi, from Al-Nusairat camp, born on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1993, a photographer of Shams News Agency, has arrived, at around 1:30PM, on Friday, corresponding 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, to Malka, east of Buraij Camp to cover the events of the peaceful return march. He was wearing the Press helmet and vest, as well as a muzzle to protect himself from the tear gas. Upon his arrival, he started moving between the demonstrators who gathered in the area, against the (border) separating fence between Gaza Strip and Israel. At around 3:25PM, he was at a distance of 400 meters away from the separating fence, filming the demonstrators, with his back against the fence, on the other side of which the soldiers were deployed, one of the soldiers fired gas bomb directly at him. It injured the calf muscle from behind, and he felt burns. He went to the ambulance which was in the area, and it transferred him to the field medical point established in the area. The doctors found that there were burns in the palm of his hand. They gave him the necessary first aid and dressed his burns. They told him that he will be transferred to Al-Aqsa Hospital, in Deir Balah, but he refused as he felt better after receiving the aid. At around 4:30PM, he left and went home, but at around 6:00PM on the same day, he started feeling pain. He went to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where his injury was imaged. They placed a new bandage to his wound, and some burns medications. He left the hospital in an hour.

(25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019) The journalist, Nidal Abu Sharbi, was injured by two rubber bullets while he was covering the return peaceful march taking place in Malka, eastern Gaza.

According to the investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, the journalist Nidal Fawzi Sulaiman Abu Sharbi (31 years old), from Al-Shujaia, Gaza, married, a photojournalist at Nedaa PAL Team, carrying two cameras, arrived, at around 1:30PM, on Friday, corresponding 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, to Malka, east of Gaza, to cover the events of a return peaceful march, as part of the marches organized every week since March, 2018. He was wearing the vest marked “Press”, and the moment he arrived, he started taking photos of the demonstrators. At around 3:00PM, he went to film the occupation jeeps stationed along the separating border fence. He was at a distance of 100 meters away from the separating fence on the other side of which the Israeli occupation soldiers were stationed. One of the Israeli occupation soldiers fired a rubber bullet at him but did not injure him. At around 4:20PM, the Palestinian demonstrators approached the southern gate of Malka, along the border fence. Abu Sharbi was at a distance of 50 meters away from border fence, taking

photos of the demonstrators. He noticed that the Israeli soldier on the other side of the fence firing rubber bullets at demonstrators his weapon was falling down from him, so he took some photos of him. Only then, the Israeli soldier standing next to the one whose weapon fell, fired two rubber bullet at Abu Sharbi, one of them injured his forehead while the other hit the camera and crashed it. Abu Sharbi fell to the ground, and fainted for five minutes. The medical staffs immediately took him by an ambulance to the field medical point at a distance of 500-700 meters away from the separating fence. He received the necessary first aid, his wound was dressed and the medical staffs described his injury as minor. He stayed there for about half an hour, then left.

## **February**

(1<sup>st</sup> Feb.) The journalist Al-Mutasim Bellah Riad Abu Aser was injured by a gas bomb in the head fired at him by one of the Israeli occupation soldiers while he was covering the events of the peaceful return march taking place in Malka, east of Gaza.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the freelance journalist, Al-Mutasim Bellah Riad Saleh Abu Aser, (24 years old), has arrived, at around 3:00PM, on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 to Al-Awda Camp, against the separating fence (the border fence with Israel) to Malka, east of Gaza, to cover the events of the peaceful return march, as part of the marches which launched on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018, organized each Friday. Immediately after his arrival, he began to take photos of the demonstrators, who were on the other side firing gas bombs, rubber and metal bullets at them, wounding a number of them. At around 4:30PM, as he was covering the peaceful march, about 40 meters away from the separating fence on the other side of which the Israeli soldiers were deployed, Abu Aser approached to a group of demonstrators throwing stones at an Israeli jeep, some of whom were trying to cut the fence. About five minutes later, an Israeli soldier fired bullets into the air to disperse the demonstrators. Other soldiers also fired about 10 gas bombs directly at the location of the incident where Abu Aser was, one of which injured him in the head. He was immediately taken by ambulance of the Palestinian Red Crescent. He was taken to the field medical point located about 700m away from the separation fence. He was diagnosed with serious injuries and was given first aid. The wound was immediately dressed and he was transferred to Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. During his transfer to the hospital, the journalist Abu Aser lost

consciousness completely, and did not wake up until after about three hours in the intensive care unit.

He underwent a surgery in the head as the doctors found that the bomb caused him bleeding and fracture as well as rupture in the brain membrane. He stayed in hospital for two weeks, under medical supervision and follow-up. He periodically goes to the hospital to make a CT Scan for his head to check on his condition and responsiveness to medication, especially that the doctors have found a hematoma in his head.

(1<sup>st</sup> Feb.) The photojournalist, Abdelrahman Hani Abdelqader Al-Kahlout, was injured by a gas bomb in the left shoulder fired at him by one of the Israeli Occupation soldiers while he was covering the events of the return march taking place in Malka, east of Gaza.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, abdelkareem Al-Kahlout, (23 years old), a freelance photographer, at around 3:00PM, on Friday, corresponding 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2019, has arrived to Malka, east of Gaza to cover the events of the weekly return march. He was wearing the press uniform (the helmet and the vest marked PRESS). As the demonstrators approached the fence on the other side of which the Israeli soldiers were deployed, Al-Kahlout approached, with his colleagues, to photograph the events, while he was about 400 meters away from the fence and began to photograph hundreds of demonstrators. The Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition and tear gas bombs at demonstrators indiscriminately, (which the occupation soldiers have been doing since the start of the marches which launched on 30<sup>th</sup> March last year), and at approximately 3:30, while he was doing his job, a gas bomb injured his left shoulder, and fell to the ground as his colleagues began calling on ambulances in the location. He was taken to the nearest field medical point away from the location where he was injured about 300 meters away from the fence. He was given the first aid, and then he was directly transferred to Al-Quds Hospital, at around 4:00PM. In the hospital, x-rays were done for him and he was diagnosed by the Orthopedist for the treatment of his shoulder which was injured with third-degree burns, rupture in the shoulder muscle, and hairline fracture in the back. He stayed in hospital until the following day (Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2019) when he was discharged provided to review with the outpatient clinic doctors.

Al-Kahlout was injured on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018 by an explosive bullet in the foot while he was covering the return marches east of Gaza.

(4<sup>th</sup> Feb.) Psagot Settlement, located in Al-Bireh, West Bank, in every now and then, witnesses clashes among the occupation forces and groups of Palestinians throwing stones at the military tower located in the settlement. At around 10:00PM, on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019, the occupation forces were alerted near the military gate of Psagot Settlement after incendiary bottles were thrown at the military tower. Mutasem Samir Seqf Al-Hait, a 29-year-old media student at the Modern College, works for Quds News Network, accompanied with his colleague at the Modern College, Hadi Majid Sbarneh, a 20-year-old student, a volunteer at Quds News Network, went to film the clashes where a number of Palestinians were throwing stones at the Occupation soldiers. When they approached with their vehicle, the soldiers stopped them at gunpoint and forced them to turn off the engine. They searched the vehicle and checked their IDs and student cards indicating that they are media students and volunteers at Quds News Network. They detained them and seized the camera and telephones and their cards. They asked them about who they were working with and forced them to delete the materials they filmed and photographed through their accounts on Facebook. After about 45 minutes of detention, the soldiers returned the camera and cell phones and their cards and released them.

(10<sup>th</sup> Feb.) Some settlers have prevented a number of journalists from filming or being present in Al-Shuhada' street, downtown Hebron.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, a group of journalists, including Mamoun Wazwaz, Hisham Abu Shaqra, Musab Shawer, and Hamza Al-Hattab, on Sunday morning, corresponding 10 Feb. 2019, went to Al-Shuhada' street, to film and cover how did and how will become the reality of daily life for the inhabitants of that area and school students as they go to their workplaces and schools, on the morning following the decision of the Government of Israel to end the work of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH). The photographer, Hisham Kamel Abu Shaqra, a 30-year-old photographer at Anatolia Agency, at around 7:30AM, has arrived to that area. As soon as he began installing the camera to photograph some scenes, he was attacked by an extremist settlement known by the residents and journalists with its continuous hostility, called Cohen. It pushed the Camera stand strongly and made it fall to the ground. It started pushing the journalist, Hisham, to prevent him from coverage. The photojournalist Musab Shawer was also pushed strongly by another settler and prevented from coverage. Dozens of settlers rushed and raised their hands against the cameras of journalists to

prevent them from coverage. The Israeli Police intervened to separate the settlers from journalists, and asked the journalists to immediately leave the location.

It is worth mentioning that the Israeli occupation forces have closed Al-Shuhada' Street in the city of Hebron to the residents of the city and the Palestinians since 25 years and it is under the control of the settlers, while the Palestinian population in the area suffer from continuous harassment and attacks by settlers. The citizens' concerns were raised there and throughout Hebron after Israel ended the work of TIPH, which was working to document violations in closed areas in Hebron, prompting a youth group against settlements to form a committee to protect students and ensure their access to their schools.

(8<sup>th</sup> Feb.) The journalist Wael Mohammad Al-Sharafi (wounded by an explosive fragment) was shot in the right leg by an Israeli soldier while covering the events of the peaceful return march in Abu Safiya area east of Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Wael Mohammad Rizk Al-Sharafi, 28 years old, married and works as a freelance photographer, has arrived, at approximately 2:30PM, on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, to Al-Awda Camp, against the separating fence (the border fence with Israel) east of Jabalya refugee camp, to cover the events of the peaceful return march organized every Friday. A crowd of Palestinian civilians were in the area. As soon as he arrived, Al-Sharafi started filming the demonstration and the soldiers stationed on the other side of the fence fired gas bombs and rubber-coated metal bullets at the demonstrators. At around 4:00PM, while he was about 30 meters away from the fence, Al-Sharafi moved forward to film the demonstrators who tried to cut and destroy the separating fence on the other side of which the Israeli occupation soldiers were deployed, an Israeli soldier fired an explosive bullet at Al-Sharafi, which resulted in injuring him by a fragment in the right leg causing an entry and exit (did not injury the bones). He was immediately transferred by an ambulance to the Palestinian Red Crescent to the field medical point, about 700 meters away from the separation fence. He was given the first aid and was taken to the Indonesian hospital in the northern Gaza Strip (Emergency Section) where he underwent examinations and the doctors found that is injury does not require any surgical intervention. He was given the pain killers and medications and was discharged after about an hour.



(10<sup>th</sup> Feb.) On 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the Government Information Office of the Ministry of Information in Gaza issued an announcement to all journalists in Gaza Strip, obligating them to issue a special press card from the Government Information Office to allow them to conduct any press meeting or obtain any information from any facility or public institution or ministry. This announcement will be effective as of 1 April 2019, which constitutes a serious violation of media freedoms and even of public rights and freedoms. This will reduce the margin of transparency and control over the functioning of the public authorities and their facilities. It also makes the public authority avoid its role towards the press, and it imposes further restrictions on the implementation of knowledge and information to the public. As it is a form of political partnership where the decision involves a clear violation of Palestinian law, especially articles (19, 26 and 27) of the Palestinian Basic Law guaranteeing every Palestinian the right to freedom of expression and opinion and the transfer of information and ideas, in addition to the freedom of Syndicate work and its independence without any interference or restriction from the public authorities. It also violates the Palestinian Publications Law and goes beyond its provisions which obligates the official authorities to facilitate the media work and the free access to information and searching the same in accordance with Article 6 of the same law. It also violates the International Legislation of Human Rights, in particular article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

(15<sup>th</sup> Feb.) The journalist, Mohammad Al-Za'noun, was injured by a gas bomb in the left shoulder while he was covering the events of the peaceful march in Malka, east of Gaza.

According to investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, the journalist Mohammad Imad Mohammad Al-Za'noun, 33 years old, a freelance journalist, has arrived to Malka, East Gaza to cover the events of the peaceful return march at about 3:30PM on Friday, corresponding 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019, and he was wearing a press uniform (vest and helmet), and he was carrying two cameras. Immediately after his arrival he began to filming the demonstrators who were present at the site, which is located 300 meters away from the separating (border) fence, behind of which the Israeli army jeeps were stationed, and at about 5:00PM, the IDF soldiers fired tear gas bombs and bullets heavily towards the demonstrators. At the time, the journalist Al-Za'noun was taking photographs, he was injured by a gas bomb in the left shoulder joint, which resulted in shoulder displacement. He also suffered from severe pain. The medical staff treated him directly by holding his hand

steady and placing his shoulder joint back to its location before his body chilled. He was taken by an ambulance to the field medical point located 500-700 meters away from the separation fence, where he received the necessary first aid. Then the journalist was transferred to Al-Shifa Hospital, west of Gaza Strip. He stayed in hospital for about an hour and half, then he was discharged at around 6:30PM, after his injury was imaged and he received the necessary medication. He is still under treatment, especially nerve treatment because of his inability to move his hand to a certain level.

It is worth noting that Al-Za'noun, who was wounded on Friday (3th July 2018) by an explosive fragment in his hand and feet during his coverage of the women organized at the separation fence in the border area east of Gaza, and he was wounded on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2018 by a rubber bullet in the right foot while he was covering the peaceful return marches in Malka, east of Gaza. On Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2018, he injured hit by a direct gas bomb in the back while he was covering the events of the return marches in eastern Gaza.

(18<sup>th</sup> Feb.) The reporter of Barq Gaza News Network, Mohammad Bureikh, was injured by a gas bomb fired at his left hand by an Israeli soldier while covering the events of the night disruption events, east of Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Mohammad Sami Jawdat Barbakh, 21 years old, from Khan Younis, a field reporter of Barq Gaza News Network, arrived at approximately 6:30PM, on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019 to Al-Awda Camp, east of Khuza'a to cover the so-called "night disruption" represented by demonstrations and clashes at the separation fence, where hundreds of citizens participated in these events at the call of the return marches commission. At approximately 8:00PM, while Barbakh was accompanied by a group of journalists standing dozens of meters behind the young men approaching the barbed wire, and while the soldiers were firing gas bombs, Barbakh was injured by a gas bomb directly in his left hand. He was immediately taken to the field hospital located in the area, where he received the necessary treatment and then left to home.

It is worth noting that Barbakh was injured with a fracture due to a gas bomb while covering the events of the fourth Friday of return marches on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

(19<sup>th</sup> Feb.) An Israeli soldier fired a rubber-coated metal bullet at a reporter for Quds News Network, the media student Mutasem Samir Saqf Al-Hait while he was filming from inside his car the events in Nablus and broadcasting the same directly via his Facebook page.

According to investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, at approximately 10:30PM, on Tuesday, 19 February 2019, an Israeli occupation force stormed the eastern area of Nablus, accompanied by buses of settlers to guard them and enable them to perform religious rites Joseph's Tomb, located in the center of a crowded neighbourhood in the eastern part of Nablus. During the course of the demonstration, dozens of female and male Palestinians have gathered and threw stones and empty bottles at the Israeli military vehicles while the Israeli soldiers fired rubber-coated metal bullets at them. In the meantime, a number of journalists arrived to cover these events, including Mutasem Samir Hamdi Saqf Al-Hait, a 29-year-old media student who works for Quds News Network, where he began a live broadcast of these events through his Facebook page, while he was in his own car, wearing the Press uniform of journalists not to mention that his car was marked Press. During this time, at about 11:30 hours after storming the area, Saqf Al-Hait was surprised by one of the soldiers approaching him and pointing his gun towards the car, and began shouting at him. The soldier broke the glass of Mutasem's car from the right side and fired a rubber bullet at him in the abdomen. Immediately, Saqf Al-Hait left the place with his friends to Rafidia Hospital, where he received the necessary treatment and was discharged immediately after his condition became stable.

(20<sup>th</sup> Feb.) An Israeli occupation force raided and searched the house of the journalist Alaa Jabr Ali Al-Titi, detained him and two of his brothers, one of whom is working for "Alam" Radio, and the other is a media student.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the journalist, Alaa Jabr Ali Al-Titi, born on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1982, married with four children, lives in Arroub Camp, northern Hebron, at approximately 1:30 at dawn, on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2019, and his wife, head strange sounds and movement on the stairs leading to their apartment on the fourth floor. So he went to the door to see what was happening outside. He heard the occupation soldiers speaking Hebrew which he was able to understand. The moment he opened the door of the apartment until he saw five soldiers, some of them were putting black masks. They approached him and pointed their guns at his face. They forced him to forcibly sit down on the floor. Three of them rushed into the apartment, and

two remained close to him pointing the gun at his face, and shouting at asking him not to move or talk. The soldiers were screaming inside the apartment "where is Hisham," Alaa's brother, who lives in an area far from the camp with his father. The soldiers raided Alaa's bedroom where his wife was, while Alaa asked the soldier to let him into the apartment when he heard the sound of his daughter Celine (10 years old) crying after the soldiers raided the apartment. But the soldier refused and continued shouting at Alaa asking him to be quite. The soldiers started knocking the wooden doors and checking the walls, and 115 minutes later, they took him to the second floor where his brother Thaer lived. The soldiers detained him in the living room with his three children (the eldest 9 years old) and his two brothers, Sameh, 28 years old, a freelance journalist and programs presenter at "Alam" radio, in addition to his other brother Shamekh, the media student at Palestine Technical University, as they were living alone in the second floor. In the meantime, a number of soldiers were surrounding them and pointing their guns at them to prevent them from moving. He knew from his brothers that the soldiers seized three of their phones. The soldiers started to search Thaer's apartment and filming it. After about half an hour, the soldiers asked Alaa to give them his ID and they photographed it. They made him stand against the wall and took several photographs of him holding his ID. They continued detaining them until 2:30AM, until one of the soldiers heard: "We arrested Hisham". They began retreating and closed the main door of the house, but Alaa and his brothers followed the soldiers outside the house to take back their cell phones even though the soldiers were shouting at them. When they stopped at the outdoor of the house, the soldiers fired four sound bombs and tear gas bombs at them, forcing them to return inside the house after being suffocated. They found one of the cell phones seized by the soldiers on the stairs of the building.

It should be noted that the occupation army has arrested Alaa on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 2017 until 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2017. he was released under bail of 10,000 NIS until the court's hearing. Following about 10 hearings in Ofer Military Court, west of Ramallah, in connection with his press work, he was then fined with 2000 NIS and a 30-month suspended imprisonment sentence for five years if he returned to the press. The decision included a trial for a certain period of time as follows:

1. 8-months imprisonment should he covers any marches
2. 12-months imprisonment should any media activity is seen in his Facebook page.
3. 12-months imprisonment should he return to working for Al-Aqsa TV

4. 6-months imprisonment should he covers any partisan activities (or activities for Al-Aqsa TV, which is deemed to be a political party)

(23-2) Three Israeli occupation soldiers beat photographer Mashhour Hassan Mahmoud al-Hawah while covering events in the city of Hebron.

Al-Wahwah, 36 years old, works as a photographer for the Palestinian official agency Wafa in the old town of Hebron

According to investigations by Mada researcher, Mashhour Hassan Mahmoud al-Hawah, 36, a photographer for the Palestinian news agency Wafa, arrived at the old town of Hebron at 4:30 pm on Saturday to photograph a weekly march organized by the settlers Under the protection of the occupation soldiers every Saturday in the streets of the old town of Hebron. After his arrival, he took some pictures, but soon one of the soldiers approached him and asked him in Hebrew what he was doing there and why he is taking pictures, and he asked him to leave immediately. The journalist showed his private press card and told him that he was doing his job. Three other soldiers approached the journalist and began to kick him with their rifles. The beatings focused on his chest, and it was accompanied by insults and lasted about 15 minutes. The officer of the unit then approached the journalist Mashhour and told him to leave in 10 minutes or else he would be arrested, and so the journalist did. The attack caused him bruises in the chest, where he felt pain for two days, although he did not go to the doctor after the attack.

(22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.) Midan Media photographer, Muneeb Sameer Ahmad Abu Hatab, was injured by a gas bomb fired directly at his abdomen by one of the occupation soldiers while he was covering the events of the return marches, east of Khan Younis, Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, Muneeb Sameer Ahmad Abu Hatab, 23 years old, lives in Khan Younis, works as a photographer for Midan Media, has arrived at around 3:00PM on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2019, to Al-Awda Camp, to the east of Khuza'a to cover the events of the return marches. There were thousands of demonstrators in the return marches organized every Friday since 30 March 2018. At about 5:00PM, while Abu Hatab was located 200 meters away from the border fence, on the other side of which 4 military jeeps were located, as he was filming the demonstrators, one of the soldiers stepped out the jeeps and fired at the (journalists) two gas bombs one of which injured him in the abdomen directly. He fell to the

ground, and parts of his camera were smashed, the ambulance staff took him to the field hospital about 700 meters away from the separation fence. There, it turned out that the bomb injured the liver area and caused a burn in the area of the injury. He was transferred to the European Hospital because he needed radiography and special examinations. At the European hospital, he was given treatment and placed under medical observation for 24 hours to avoid complications. On the following day (23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 2019), Abu Hatab was discharged from the hospital with a scheduled appointment few days later to review his condition.

It is noteworthy that Abu Hatab was injured on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018 with a gas bomb in the neck and is still suffering its complications so far.

(23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.) In parallel with the media campaigns and a number of field events, supporting President Mahmoud Abbas and demanding his removal, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Internal Security Agency, northern Gaza Strip, arrested the journalist Tawfiq Abu Jarrad for two days on the background of his posts and political positions and subjected him to ill-treatment amounting to torture during his detention.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, and based on the statement of the journalist Tawfiq Abdelaziz Mohammad Abu Jarrad, (37 years old), from Beit Lahia, a freelance journalist, a security patrol came to Abu Jarrad's house located in Beit Lahia, at around 11:30PM, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 2019, and handed his wife a summons in his name to immediately go to the headquarters of the Internal Security Service in Beit Lahia. At 6:00AM, on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019, the journalist Abu Jarrad arrived to the headquarters of the Internal Security Service where he was searched and taken to a small cell. Following Asr Prayers (at around 3:00PM), he was called to the investigation room where he was questioned for an hour about his posts on the social media websites and his political positions which the investigator considered incitement against Hamas, threatened and asked him "to stop incitement and supporting traitors" as he described the situation. He was taken back to the cell with another two detainees who were brought in the morning, and they were asked to stand up with their faces against the wall by one of the officers. They kept standing their (including the journalist abu Jarrad) for more than an hour and a half until Maghrib Prayers. On the following day, (25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019), one of the security officers asked them to stand up and not sit down unless under his order otherwise they will be beaten. The kept standing there until Asr Prayers, that is for more than two and a half hours. In the evening (about 6:00PM), the journalist Abu Jarrad was

released and again he was threatened and ordered to stop incitement “otherwise he would be arrested again”. After he was released, Abu Jarrad left the Internal Security headquarters, and went directly to the Indonesian hospital because of the severe pain in his back. The medical report showed that he suffered as he was feeling pain in his back. It was found through the tests and according to the medical report that he suffers from severe muscle contractions in the lower back as he was forced to stand for a long time without movement.

(22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.) On Friday, 22 February 2019, the Israeli occupation forces prevented a number of journalists from filming and covering a demonstration taking place in Bab Al-Zawiya area in the center of Hebron following a peaceful march organized by the residents of the city on the occasion of the 1994 anniversary of the Cave of the Patriarchs (Ibrahimi Mosque) massacre. The soldiers fired a sound bomb at the journalists which resulted in the injury of Wafa News agency photographer, Mashhour Hassan Mahmoud Al-Wahwah, (34 years old), by a fragment in his left leg. Not to mention assaulting other journalists which forced them to leave the area.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, a peaceful march launched in front of Sheikh Ali Al-Bakka Mosque, in Hebron, after the Friday Prayers, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2019, where dozens of civilians and foreign peace activists took part, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Cave of the Patriarchs (Ibrahimi Mosque) massacre carried out by the Israeli settler Baruch Goldstein against the worshipers at the Mosque in February 1994, also to demand opening Al-Shuhada’ street which is closed ever since. The demonstrators arrived holding high Palestinian flags and chanting national slogans in the square of the Old City, near the school of Osama Bin Al-Munqeth where there is a gate leading to the closed Al-Shuhada’ Street, and then moved to the checkpoint (Shoutir), or what the residents call the barrier of (Al-Shuhada’ Street entrance 56), in Bab Al-Zawiya where they arrived at around 2:00PM, and chanted in front of the barrier behind of which dozens of soldiers and Israeli Guard Police officers were gathered. After about 15 minutes (approximately 2:15PM), a number of demonstrators threw stones at the checkpoint. A number of Border Police officers rushed from inside the checkpoint and threw sound bombs and gas bombs at the demonstrators in the march who were throwing stones, and chased then in Wadi Al-Tuffah Old Street. Meanwhile, the border police officers approached the journalists who were in the area and surrounded them and began yelling at them and pushing them with their hands and rifles. Two of the soldiers pushed the European Agency photographer Abdelhafeeth Dhiab Abdel Muti

Hashlamoun, 55 years old, violently while he was standing on the stairs of a shop close to the checkpoint, trying to force him to move away. Another policeman attacked the photographer and reporter of Al-Hadath Newspaper, the journalist Musab Abd Al-Samad Shawer Al-Taimi, 28 years old, and put the gun on his chest and threatened to shoot him if he did not leave. The journalists were forced to move away from the location of the soldiers, but one of the border police offices threw a sound bomb among the journalists. This resulted in the injury of Wafa News Agency, Mashhour Hassan Mahmoud Al-Wahwah, (34 years old), by a fragment in his left leg, with minor wounds that did not require taking him to the hospital. Another number of journalists suffered suffocation due to the gas bombs fired heavily by the occupation soldiers, forcing most of them to leave the area as a result of the soldiers attacks.

(22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.) The journalist, Nidal Abu Sharbi, was injured by a rubber bullet in the right thigh while he was covering the events of the peaceful return march in Malka, east of Gaza City.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the journalist Nidal Fawzi Sulaiman Abu Sharbi (31 years old), from Al-Shuja'ieh neighbourhood in Gaza, a photographer at Nedaa PAL, has arrived, at around 2:00PM, on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2019, to Malka, east of Gaza, to cover the events of the peaceful return march organized weekly since 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018, and he was wearing the PRESS vest. Immediately upon his arrival, he began to take pictures of the demonstrators who were in the area, and he was 50 meters away from the border fence, on the other side of which the Israeli army forces and jeeps were stationed and firing bullets and gas bombs at the demonstrators. At approximately 5:00PM, on the same day, the Israeli soldiers opened fire on the demonstrators who were setting fire to rubber tires. Several of them (the demonstrators) passed through the fence so he followed them for some photographers. At that time, the Israeli army fired tear gas bombs and rubber bullets intensively from the Israeli jeeps, which were 20-30 meters away from the fence or from the demonstrators? Which resulted in wounding Abu Sharbi by a rubber bullet in the right thigh. He was immediately taken by paramedics from inside the separation fence. He was taken by the ambulance to the field medical point located 500-700 meters away from the separation fence, where he was given the necessary first aid and the injury was dressed by the medical staff who described it as minor. He stayed in the medical point for about a third of an hour then left.



It is noteworthy that Nidal Abu Sharbi was injured on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2018 by two rubber bullets, one of which injured the head and the other hit his camera while he was covering the peaceful return march in Malka, east of Gaza.

(24<sup>th</sup> Feb.) The Palestinian Intelligence Service in Bethlehem has summoned the journalists Nouraldin Mohammad Mahmoud Banat and Akram Ali Alan Deireh, both of whom work for Al-Haqiqa International TV, and detained them for 12 hours before being released after interrogation.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, at around 10:30AM, on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2019, Al-Haqiqa International TV reporter, in the WEst Bank, the journalist Nouraldin Mohammad Mahmoud Banat, (26 years old), from Arroub Refugees Camp, northern Hebron, received a phone call from someone who introduced himself as an officer from the Palestinian General Intelligence Service. He asked him to come to the headquarters in Bethlehem immediately, but the journalist Banat refused to talk to him and informed the caller that he will not go without the authorization of the Public Prosecution. He even told him that they can come to his house and arrest him and hung up the phone. He then told the director of the Al-Haqiqa TV in the West Bank, Wa'il Taqaqta (37 years old), what has happened by phone. Half an hour later, the journalist Banat was informed through a phone call from the director of Al-Haqiqa TV that he had contacted the intelligence service and some persons he did not mention and he was asked to go on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019 to the intelligence headquarters in the city of Bethlehem accompanied with the TV photographer, Akram Ali Allan Deireh (40 years old) resident of Beit Fajjar, southern of Bethlehem), who received a phone call from the General Intelligence Service on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, and he was told to come to the headquarters on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019. Both journalists Akram Deireh and Nouraldin Banat, went to the headquarters in Bethlehem, and upon their arrival at around 11:00AM, one of the guards accompanied them inside, and put each one of them in a room. Their belongings were taken from them, including their cell phones, money, belts, and shoelace, and they were asked to sign the receipt. They both noticed the word “arrested” on the receipt, and five minutes later, they were taken in a Hyundai with a number of officers to the Military Medical Services headquarters in Bethlehem, where a form was completed whether they had any chronic diseases, which is a procedure taken for detainees. When the journalist Nouraldin Banat tried to talk to his coworker Akram, one of the officers yelled at him, violently held his head

and hand and pushed him hard and said “no talking here”. After that, both journalists were then returned to the headquarters. The time was around 11:20AM, and they were taken to the ground floor where the cells were located. Each one of them was placed in a cell alone, and their descriptions were similar (2 meters length x 1.5 meters width, stinky smell, dim lights, no windows for ventilation except for 15 cm x 15 cm in the door, no bathroom, dirty floor). As soon as they were taken to the cells, the guards pulled out the bedding and cover from both of them, and minutes later, the food was brought to them. However, the journalist Akram Deireh refused to take the food and told the jailer that he was on hunger strike. The jailer brought a paper and asked him to sign it, while Banat accepted the food. At approximately 11:40AM, one of the guards came to the cell of the journalist Nouraldin Banat, carrying his cellphone (M-MAX-3), and asked him to open it by fingerprint, and he did open it. Few minutes after he left, the same guard came back carrying the cellphone and asked him to open it again as there was a lock application for all icons. Nouraldin refused to open it again, and said: this is my privacy, I will not open it without a judicial decision, but the guard insisted and they started shouting at each other. Another two officers came and one of them introduced himself with the family name (Abu Qais) and addressed him: (if you will not open it willingly, you will be forced to do it), and the three of them left. In the meantime, a jailer came to the cell of the journalist Akram Deireh, and said to him: “Do you want to contact any of your family?” and he later replied that he wanted to contact the director of the TV, Wael Tataqata, and he would know how to deal with it. The jailer closed the cell door violently and left. After that, both of them stayed in their cells until 5:30PM, and they were taken to the investigation room in the second floor at that time. They were questioned about the names of their family members, the nature of their work in the TV, how they receive their salaries, the party financing the TV, their political belonging, and about a report they both prepared about Mitara Crossing western Al-Thahriya, on the release of the prisoner (Iyad Abu Shaqra), who spent 17 years in Israeli prisons, and that this report was prepared for Palestine Today TV.

After both of them objected being questioned in this manner, they informed the investigator that such reports are prepared as part of their job and that they have no relation with Palestine Today TV. They also stated that what actually happened is that Palestine Today asked them to do an interview for the TV, and they consider this as kind of service to their coworkers. The investigators accused both of them of organizing a reception for the prisoner Abu Shaqra in his family house located in Wadi Mu’alla Village, in Bethlehem, and that they have to inform the Service of the

persons who were filmed in the location and appeared in the report wearing masks. The journalists denied the accusations of the investigator and informed them that their work does not require information about the persons who were at the reception. The investigators asked them both to sign on the statement that was written, after they read and adjusted it. The investigation session with both of them lasted until 7:30PM, and then they were returned to their cells. They remained in detention under the same circumstances until 11:00PM, when they were taken out from the cells, and released them, provided they must come back on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019, at around 10:00AM to the headquarters, to close the file as claimed by the officers and to take their cellphones which remained in detention by the Security Service of the headquarters for examination. On Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019, at 10:00AM, the journalists Akram Deireh, and Nouraldin Banat, arrived to the headquarters of the General Intelligence Service in Bethlehem, where they waited in an external room after they gave their IDs to the guard. After about two hours, a security officer arrived to the room they were waiting in, and informed them that they must return on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, at 11:00AM, in order to receive their cellphones that were “still in the security screening section” and that the file had been closed. Both of them left the intelligence headquarters at 12:30 PM.

It is noteworthy that the General Intelligence Service has summoned the journalist Akram Deireh during October 2018, four consecutive times, under written summons. In two times, he was taken to the waiting room for several hours without questioning him and he was asked to come back. He was questioned about the work of the TV, his role in the TV office, the financing methods of the TV, his political belonging and his previous arrest by the Israeli occupation.

## **March**

(1<sup>st</sup> of March) The journalist, Mohammad Al-Dwaik, was injured by a rubber bullet while covering the peaceful return march, east of Gaza.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Mohammad Wael Abdeljawad Al-Duwaik, (28 years old), a photographer of “Etihad Press” Agency, arrived at around 3:00PM, on Friday, corresponding 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2019, to Malka, east of Gaza, to cover the events of the peaceful return march, organized every Friday, at the separating fence, in the press uniform, carrying a

camera. At approximately 3:00PM, wearing the press uniform, carrying his own cameras, and when a witness saw the soldiers stationed on the other side of the border fence firing gunshots and rubber bullets and tear gas bombs at the demonstrators. Al-Dwaik stopped about 250 meters away from the fence to film the demonstrators and events. While he was there, he was injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the right foot. He fell to the ground while paramedics rushed towards him. They found that he was by rubber bullet; they dressed the injury and helped to leave the location and return home.

(3<sup>rd</sup> March) The Palestinian Intelligence Service has arrested the journalist Hazem Nasser, from his house, located in Iktaba, Tulkarem, and transferred him to Jericho Prison where he stayed for 19 days during which he was cruelly tortured.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, at around 2:00AM, on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019, and while Hazem Imad Hassan Nasser, born on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1990, holding ID. Card No. (852339761), a photographer of An-Najah TV, was sleeping at his family home, located in Iktaba, north/east Tulkarem, a force of the Palestinian National Security officers (in their military uniform) with other officers in the civil clothing, raided the house and introduced themselves as officers of the Palestinian Intelligence Service. Some of them were masked, they searched the house and seized the cell phones of Hazem, asked him about the cameras, and he informed them they were at the TV Office in Nablus. They arrested him and took him in a vehicle of H1, used by the Intelligence Service, to the headquarters of the General Intelligence in Tulkarem. While he was being arrested, at the house gate, he was beaten by hand. One of the National Security Officers addressed him “I know you ..... you came a lot here, and were arrested”. At Tulkarem Intelligence headquarters, he was taken to an office inside of which there was a table and chair. He remained in detention until 7:00AM, when he was transferred to the Military Medical Services Headquarters, where the doctor examined him, and asked him to run some examinations but they were not done, and he was taken back to the same room at the Intelligence headquarters. At 12:30PM, one of the Intelligence officers gave him his belongings, and took him to a Getz, gray-civil vehicle. He was taken with four persons in civil clothing to Jericho Investigation Center, where they arrived at 2:00PM, on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019. The moment the vehicle entered the Center’s gate, two persons appeared and handcuffed Hazem with metal handcuffs, covered his head, and took him to solitary confinement. He found later that it is located on the opposite side of the Doctor’s office, at the Central Investigation Headquarters of the General Palestinian Intelligence Service. After

about half an hour, with his head covered, he was taken from the cell to someone who introduced himself as "Abu Abdullah", the Director of the Headquarters. He asked him about his relation with Hamas and his activity with the same, but Hazem denied any such relation or activity. Only then, Abu Abdullah removed the cover off Hazem's head, and the investigator threatened him with speaking about his relation and activity with Hamas, especially during the events which accompanied the death of Ashraf Na'alwa, otherwise he would be tortured, and that "eventually, he will speak". He told him that there is nothing to say, and that investigation session lasted about an hour and then he was returned to the cell. At Al-Maghreb, he was taken back to the same office of "Abu Abdullah", accompanied by two persons he saw in the first time, and Abu Abdullah asked the same questions to him "how do you have a press card and you do not hold a press degree". He continued questioning him this time for half an hour, and then returned him to the same cell and he was handcuffed from the back all the time. At around 12:00 midnight, on Sunday/Monday, they took him back again to the Administration's Office, but Abu Abdullah was not there. Instead, two persons he did not know were there. They addressed each other with "Abu Mohammad". They ordered him to turn against the wall, raise his hands. This lasted until 2:00AM, on Monday, and then they returned him to cell No. 3, where there was no mattress or blanket. He sat on the ground, and after two hours, they brought him a mattress and blanket. He slept until 10:00AM, when they came to his cell and transferred him to Jericho Prosecution Office, handcuffed from the front. He was taken in a white Savana, and they put him in the back closed trunk. In the Prosecution's Office, he was informed that he was accused of possessing and trading weapons, but Hazem denied this and asked to speak to a lawyer. The prosecution extended his detention for 24 hours and then returned him to Jericho's intelligence headquarters, where he arrived at 2:00PM, and he was taken to Cell No. 3, again, without a mattress or blanket. At about 10:00PM, he was transferred back to the Administration Office, and there was "Abu Abdullah" and another person. They ordered him to take off his shoes, and to distance his legs apart, raise his hands high. "they brought a black hose, beaten my legs, particularly, my knees, and my hands while they were lifted high for an hour and a half" while they were questioning him about his relation and activity with Hamas, especially, during the period when Ashraf Na'alwa died. They also asked him about his participation in a march that took place in Shweika Neighborhood, and then continued towards Na'alwa's house. He was also questioned about going with a group of persons from Shweika to Bushkar's family house in Askar Camp, where Na'alwa died. After the investigation session, they returned him to

Cell (No. 3). At about 1:00AM, on Tuesday, corresponding 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, he was transferred again to the Administration Office, and Abu Abdullah was not there, instead, three persons were there (Hazem refused to give their description). They addressed him “come on speak ... save yourself”, but he replied that he already said everything, only then, they handcuffed him from the back, and took him inside the toilets, where they hanged him on the window for fifteen minutes and he kept screaming in pain, until someone came and claimed that he came for ablution, put him down and transferred him to another office, and again questioned him about Hamas and his activity in it, as well as his relation with Al-Aqsa and Palestine Today TVs, and how to receives his salary, and who recommended him to work for Palestine Today TV, and then he was returned to the cell. At approximately 09:00AM, on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, he was transferred to the headquarters of Jericho Prosecution Office. He met with the lawyer of MADA, Firas Karajeh, who was defending him, and attended the interrogation of the prosecution. The journalist Nasser denied the charges against him, specifically those related to weapon and his relationship with Hamas. He informed the Public Prosecution that he was subjected to “Shabeh” and beating. The Prosecution asked him “have you ever browsed a weapons-website” but he denied that and said that it was not of his interests, and that his only weapon is his camera. He requested not to be arrested in accordance with an agreement between the Syndicate of Journalists and the Public Prosecution. He informed the Public Prosecution that he was on a food strike since the first day of his arrest. The Prosecution informed him that it has contacted the Syndicate and notified the later that “you were under arrest for the charge of weapon possession” and that it will go through his file and request evidences from Tulkarem Prosecution Office, and that it ordered (Jericho Prosecution Office) to extend his detention for another 48 hours. Hazem was taken back to the Intelligence investigation headquarters, and the news of his torture and “Shabeh” has spread. Abu Abdullah requested him to his office, and asked who has beaten him. Hazem replied “it happened right in front of you and in your presence” so he asked him “who hanged you?” and Hazem told him that “it happened in your absence yesterday”. The interrogator Abu Abdullah said to him, "This is not beating or hanging, you will experience more difficult days ..... I will show you what is beating or hanging, and you will confess, we have the evidences and proofs” and then they took him back to the cell. Then an officer from Tulkarem (who works at the same headquarters – Hazem refused to tell his name) took him to an office and asked him what had happened, told him that he does not accept torture and beatings, and that Hazem must stop his strike, and he will allow him to contact

his family, and transfer him to the section instead of the cell. Hazem approved, ended his strike, and contacted his family who happened to be in Jericho and indeed they visited for ten minutes, in the presence of intelligence officers, and he informed that he was fine and he was transferred to the section. At around 2:00PM, on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019, he was taken to the Administration's Office, where he was asked to unlock his cell phones, open his Facebook Page, but he refused, which is why someone beaten his face and addressed him "we're actually spoiling you, but you're pushing it". They took him to a cell instead of a section, with no mattress or blanket, where he stayed until the following morning (Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2019) until they brought him a mattress and blanket. On the same day, Sunday, at Al-Isha Prayer, they took him to the investigation room, and someone addressed him "I will draw you a sheep or goat on the wall, bring you a bucket, and you will milk it". He also ordered him to count the tiles of the room and the squares inside each tile. He assaulted him when he refused to do so, handcuffed his hands to the back and took him to the toilet, hanged him to the window. He deliberately tied his hand with his shoulders closer to each other which increased his pain. He remained hanged for an hour screaming in pain, during which he was beaten in the face and shoulders. He was also asked to talk and disclose the secret code of his cell phones "you will speak ..... come on now, talk, what are the secret passwords of your cell phones and Facebook...?? You will open them". After one hour of being hanged, another person came and put him down, held Hazem's hands and put them under water, as he could not lift them, because they were blue and swollen. Then he took him to the Administration Office again, where the Deputy Director, Abu Rakan, asked to be left alone with Hazem. So the others left, and he asked Hazem to unlock his cell phone and Facebook page, but he later denied, and then someone else came and inquired whether Hazem responded but Abu Rakan replied that he did not. Thus, again, he was taken and tortured in "Shabeh" position for fifteen minutes. After that he was taken to one of the offices, and he was asked several questions in connection to press work and transmitting news. This continued until dawn (Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019). His questioning and investigation lasted until Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019, as he was informed that his family will visit him and they asked him not to disclose any information, especially about beating and torture. When his family came to visit, Abu Rakan stayed with them, and the visit lasted for 10 minutes, during which Hazem did not disclose anything of the beatings or torture he was subjected to. Then he was transferred to the cell and stayed until Al-Isha Prayers when they took him to one of the offices, where three persons assaulted him with their feet and hands all over his body. This lasted

for half an hour, and then he returned to the cell. On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, he was not questioned or beaten. On Saturday evening, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 approximately around Al-Isha Prayers, he was taken to the investigation room where an investigator asked him to postpone his wedding scheduled in July, this year, because he will be detained until after that scheduled date. He was questioned and beaten on Tuesday, March 19, 2019. He was visited by Abu Yaman (believed to be Majed Faraj representative, the director general of intelligence in the West Bank) and an officer from Ramallah, who had sat with him when he was summoned to the intelligence of Um Al-Sharayet. He addressed him threatening “you have an hour starting from now to confess and save yourself otherwise you will stay here one year and no one will know about you”. One Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, Hazem was released after paying a bail of 500 JD (until the case is dismissed). The execution of his release was delayed until Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March due to the measures taken. His cell phones and his card were returned to him at the time of his release at the second hour of the day after he spent 19 days in detention.

(4<sup>th</sup> March) The Preventive Security Service has arrested Amer Abdelhakeem Abu Arafa after raiding his house located in Hebron, and transferred him to the Preventive Headquarters in Ramallah.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the Preventive Security Service has arrested the journalist, Amer Abdalhakeem Abu Arafa (33 years old), married, a reporter of Shihab News Agency, on Monday evening, corresponding 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019, while he was alone at his house located in a residential building, near Al-Sharawi square, in the Western Area of Hebron, at around 11:00PM, when 30 officers of the Preventive Security Service raided the house. The moment the force raided the house, and Amer opened the door to them, the officers gathered in the living room in the middle of the house. One of them asked Amer “where is your wife?” and he replied that she was visiting her family. The officer informed him that they want to search the apartment. Amer requested to see an authorization of the prosecution to do so. The officer showed him the prosecution search warrant under which they are authorized to search the house and look for “inciting materials or devices”. The officers started spreading in the house rooms, while Amer accompanied them to his bedroom where his office was. They started searching the room, seized two Apple Laptops, one for his wife, and they also seized a Macintosh, a gas mask, press vest, printer, three cameras, camera lenses, a tablet for his kid Obaida, flash USB with his marriage video stored on it, a set of papers, they took all of these and put them in the living room. One of



the officers tried to seize the photo album of Amer's wedding; however, he was able to take it from them, while one of the security officers took a look to it after an argument that Amer followed his orders, but did not allow them to take it. The search inside the house continued for an hour, and they searched the entire house rooms, as one of the officers messed up the rooms and kitchens. At around 12:00 midnight, before they exit the house, one of the officers seized Amer's (Samsung) cell phone, handcuffed his hands with metal straps, without showing him any arrest authorization issued by the Public Prosecution. They took him out of the apartment, and closed the doors, took him to the street where his brother, Anan (28 years old), was standing out there, and he was prevented by the officers to come up to the apartment of Amer. He asked them to take the key of his brother's apartment, and Amer was taken to one of the four vehicles of the Service which were parked in front of the house, and they transferred him to their headquarters in the City. The force arrived the headquarters at 12:10 AM, at dawn, on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Amer was taken to a room accompanied by one of the Service Officers, where all his belongings seized from the house were registered on a paper and he was asked to sign it. Amer requested from one of the Service officers a copy of the seizures, but the later rejected. After that, Amer was taken to a cell in the ground floor, with an area of 190cm\*1m, with a mattress and blanket in it, no stinky toilet smell, and dim light. Without being medically examined, he stayed in the cell until 12:00PM of Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, when one of the Service Security Officers came to Amer's cell and asked for the passwords of his and his wife's laptops, as well as his password to the Facebook account. Amer said he would not follow these orders without a court's decision, and not a prosecution's decision. The Security Officer left, and few minutes later, another security officer came to the cell, took Amer out, handcuffed his hands with metals straps, and then took him to a Volkswagen Caravelle of the Preventive Security Service with two other detainees, and four other security officers. They also brought all of the house belongings and put them inside the vehicle, to be transferred to the Preventive Security headquarters in Betunia, Ramallah, where he arrived at 3:00PM. He was taken to a room, and his personal belongings were taken (ring, watch, hat, jacket) and then he was taken to the Doctor's room in the headquarters. He was medically examined and the doctor informed him that he has sinus congestion, and back pain, but the Doctor did not care much about this, and before Amer was taken from the Doctor's room, he informed him that he was on water and food strike from that moment. The Security officer took Amer to Cell No. (2), where there was a mattress, blanket and toilet. He stayed there without having any meal until 10:00AM on the

following morning (Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2019). Then Amer was taken and handcuffed to Ramallah Magistrate Court, where he entered a waiting room, until 3:00PM, and then he was taken to the prosecutor's room, accompanied with his lawyer, Mohannad Karaja. The prosecutor told Amer that there was accused by Hebron Magistrate Court with the charge of "defamation and slander against the Palestinian Authority" according to the Cybercrimes Law. The prosecutor told him that if it was to him, he would accuse him with four charges instead of one. The lawyer Karaja requested the Public Prosecution Office to release the journalist Amer, as he is accused with this charge in connection to his work in the field of press. However, the prosecutor issued a decision of extending the detention of Amer for another 24 hours for investigation purposes, without considering the period of his detention as of the moment he was arrested. Before Amer exited the office of the prosecutor, Amer informed him that he was on a water and food strike, and the prosecutor registered this note. At around 4:00PM, Amer was taken back to the Preventive Security headquarters in Betunia, to the same cell, and few minutes later, the jailer brought him food, however Amer refused to take it. At around 10:00PM, Amer was taken from his cell to the Investigation Director's Room whom the jailer introduced as (Abu Falastin). The investigator asked Amer to sit down on a chair, and start talking about his social life, and his work for Shihab News Agency. The Director asked Amer to end his strike because in this way he is challenging the Service. The investigation session lasted until 12:00 midnight, and no charge was pressed to him by the investigation director. After that, the jailer took Amer to his cell, where he stayed until 8:00AM on the following morning (Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019), when he was taken to Ramallah Magistrate Court without handcuffing his hands. Signs of exhaustion and thirsty were evident on him and so the signs of strike. In Ramallah Magistrate Court, Amer was taken to the waiting hall where he stayed until 3:00PM, and then he was taken to the courtroom. The judge who was there (Ahmad Al-Ashqar) whom Amer told that he was on a strike, requested Amer to sit down, and brought lawyer Mohannad Karaja. The Prosecution Office requested to extend his detention for 15 days, for the same charge pressed against him, but the judge issued a decision after the defense of the lawyer to extend the detention for three days only, provided the prosecutor has to bring the investigation file and the medical file of Amer to the next hearing when the detention period expires. Then Amer was taken back to the Preventive headquarters, to the same cell until 8:00PM, when he was taken to a room with five persons inside, including two investigators. In this hearing, the investigators asked Amer to give them the password of all his personal devices and his

Facebook account, but he insisted that he will not until he sees a court's decision. The hearing lasted for about an hour on this topic, and then he was returned to the same cell. He stayed there until 8:00PM, on the following day (Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019), the Doctor came to the cell and measured the pressure, heart rate, and blood sugar, and informed Amer that his state of health is regressing and he has to end his strike, and then the doctor left directly. Few minutes later, Amer was taken by the jailer to the Investigation director's office (Abu Falastin). The investigator tried to convince Amer to end his strike, and that the case he is brought for has ended, but Amer refused to respond, and he was taken back again to his cell. At around 10:00PM, Amer was taken again to the same investigation room, where the investigator asked him to contact his wife and that he will transfer him to a group arrest room, to end his strike. After an hour of talking, Amer had a cup of yogurt, and then he was transferred from the investigation room to the group arrest room, where he stayed until Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> March 2019). During the morning hours, he was taken to Ramallah Magistrate Court, and detained in the waiting room until 3:00PM, then he was brought before the Magistrate Judge, who did not introduce himself, in the presence of the lawyer, Mohannad Karaja. In this session, the prosecution office did not present the investigation file or the medical file. But rather, requested 15 days of extension. After that, Amer was taken to the group arrest room inside the Preventive Security headquarters, where he stayed until Thursday, (14<sup>th</sup> March 2019), when one of the jailers came to him at around 11:30AM, and informed him that there was a decision of release for him. He took him to the waiting room where he waited for few minutes, gave him back his belongings except for this seized from his house. Amer asked the jailer to bring the rest of the seized belongings, but the investigator, Abu Falastin came and informed him they were in the Preventive Security Service headquarters located in Hebron, and that he has to come back to the headquarters again on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to recover them. After he was released, Amer went on the scheduled day to the Preventive Security headquarters in Hebron, and waited there from 9:00AM until 10:30AM. He was informed by one of the guards that the person he has to meet was in a meeting and he will be contacted later. He left the headquarters without recovering any of the seized belongings.

(8<sup>th</sup> March) The journalist Ibrahim Abu Marsa suffered severe suffocation while he was covering the events of the peaceful march, east of Jabalia Camp, north Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Ibrahim Nasser Hussein Abu Marsa, (28 years old), from Jabalia, north Gaza Strip, a field reporter of Sawt Al-Watan Radio, a volunteer photographer at the Public Relations & Media Department in Palestine Red Crescent, arrived at around 3:00PM, on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to the separating fence, east of Jabalia campy, to cover the events of the return peaceful march, and he was wearing Palestine Red Crescent Uniform since he has been a volunteer photographer for a year. He went to document the violations of the occupation and the injuries of the demonstrators caused by the Israeli soldiers. Once he arrived to the border area, he witnessed the Israeli soldiers stationed on the other side of the separating fence shooting gas bombs, live and rubber bullets heavily at the demonstrators. While he was at a distance of 150 meters away, noticed the participation of great number of women in the demonstration which coincided with the International Women's Day. The demonstrators were setting tires on fire and launching balloons, while the soldiers were targeting whoever attempts to approach the separating fence. Abu Marsa was filming and providing Sawt Al-Watan FM 105 with live messages of what was happening. At around 5:30PM, while he was at a distance of 100 meters away from the border separating fence, covering the events and the occupation soldiers who were firing gas bombs at the medical staff where he was located, he was injured and suffered severe suffocation, he passed out, and fell to the ground. He could not regain consciousness until he was taken to the field medical point at 500-700 meters away from the separating fence, where he received the treatment, and after he stayed for 15 minutes there, he left.

(8<sup>th</sup> March) The photojournalist, Sari Jamal Mohammad Mansour, was injured by gunshot fragments in both hands while he was covering the events of the peaceful return march, east of Bureij Camp.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Sari Jamal Mohammad Mansour, 27 years old, from Bureij Camp, a freelance journalist, has arrived at around 2:30PM, on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to Al-Awda Camp, located east of Bureij, Gaza Strip, to cover the events of the weekly return march, and he was wearing the PRESS helmet and vest. The soldiers were heavily firing gunshots at the demonstrators which resulted in the injury of several demonstrators. At around 3:30PM, while Sari Mansour was at a distance of 150 meters away from the separating fence on the other side of which the soldiers were deployed, filming the events behind the demonstrators, one of the soldiers fired live bullets which resulted in the injury of one of the

demonstrators, while Mansour was injured by fragments in both hands, when he was close to the paramedics who rushed and transferred him to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where he arrived at 4:30PM. The doctors found that a huge injury was in his left hand as a result of his injury with explosive bullet fragments and small wounds in his right hand. His hand was imaged, and his left hand was stitched with four stitches, and he was discharged.

(8<sup>th</sup> March) Both journalists, Yasser Mamdouh Al-Qadi and Hatem Saadi Omar, were injured by the occupation bullets while they were covering the events of the return peaceful march, east of Khuza'a, in Khan Younes.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Yasser Mamdouh Al-Qadi, 36 years old, a photojournalist of Kanaan News Agency, at around 3:00PM, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019, went to the separating fence area, east of Khuza'a, Khan Younes, to cover the events of the peaceful return march, along with his colleagues of the Agency. He was carrying a Canon 7D, a cell phone, and wearing the PRESS vest. He was at a distance of 100 meters away from "Jakar Street", and he started taking photos of the demonstrators who gathered in the location, live transmitting what was happening through Facebook. The Israeli occupation forces, stationed on the other side of the separating fence, were heavily firing gas bombs at the demonstrators. He had to move to the back, until he stopped at a distance of 150 meters away from Jakr Street, near the fence, because he suffered suffocation. He stood with one of his coworkers; they talked while they were taking photos. At around 4:00PM, Yasser was injured by a gunshot in his right leg, causing an entry and exit, he fell to the ground, the paramedics rushed to his location, transferred him by an ambulance to the field hospital, located 700 meters to the West of the Camp, where he received the first aid. After 15 minutes, he was taken to the Gaza European Hospital, east of Khan Younes, where he arrived at around 4:30. He underwent an operation that took two hours; the injury was cleaned and dressed. He was discharged from the operation room at around 7:00PM, he was still under anesthesia until the following morning (9<sup>th</sup> March, 2019). Until this moment, he is still in the hospital, he needs another surgery in which his wound has to be stitched and dressed as the doctor supervising his case decided.

In the east of Khuza'a, Hatem Saadi Omar, 39 years old, a photojournalist of Xinhua, he arrived in the area wearing a "Press" shield and carrying a Canon 5D camera to cover the peaceful return march of the day (8<sup>th</sup> March 2019). While filming the events, located about 50 meters away from

the fence on the other side of which the Israeli soldiers were deployed, firing dozens of tear gas and live bullets at the demonstrators, he was injured by a gas bomb in the upper thigh after hitting the ground, smashing the screen of his cell phone, which was in his pocket.

(8<sup>th</sup> March) The photographer, Hussam Saleh Ahmad Al-Adlouni, (31 years old), a freelance journalist, was injured by a gas bomb fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers while he was covering the events of the return peaceful marches, east of Khan Younes, southern Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Hussam Saleh Ahmad Al-Adlouni (31 years old), from Khan Younes, a freelance journalist, has arrived at around 3:30PM, on Friday, (8<sup>th</sup> March 2019), carrying his camera, to Al-Awda Camp, located in Khuza'a, east of Khan Younes, to cover the events of the return marches, organized every Friday, since they were launched on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The moment he arrived, he started taking photos, while he was hundreds of meters away from the demonstrators, who were dozens of meters away from the separating border fence. On the opposite side, the occupation soldiers were firing gas bombs and gunshots at the Palestinian demonstrators, which led to the injuries of a number of demonstrators, some of whom were injured with live bullets. At around 4:15PM, while Al-Adlouni was standing with a group of his colleagues, 50 meters away from the demonstrators who were approaching towards the separating fence. He was injured in his left thigh fired at him by one of the soldiers. Immediately, he was transferred to the field hospital, located in that area, and then to the European Hospital in Khan Younes. After medical diagnosis, it was found that he suffered rupture in the thigh muscle, and burns in the place of injury. He received the necessary treatment, stayed in the hospital for several hours under observations, and was discharged at around 7:30 on the same day. Later, Al-Adlouni started suffering from severe infection, the doctors informed him that he might need a surgery to open and clean the wound, if he does not respond to the medications described to him.

(8<sup>th</sup> March) The photojournalist, Ayat Arqawi, was injured by a rubber bullet fired at her by one of the occupation soldiers while she was covering a demonstration in Beit Sera, Ramallah.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Ayat Khaled Arqawi (28 years old), a photojournalist who worked for APA Agency, has went on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to Beit Sera, western Ramallah, to cover the march called for by the national and Islamic forces in the village,

to request the recovery of the dead body of both, Ameer Mahmoud Juma Darraj from Kharbatha Al-Mesbah, and Yousef Raed Mohammad Sulaiman Anqawi, from Beit Sera. They were shot dead by the occupation forces on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2019, near Kufr Neima, western Ramallah, while they were going to their work at dawn, and their dead bodies were seized. At 1:00PM, the march, which included 200 citizens, was launched in front of Beit Sera Mosque, and continued towards the wall where it arrived at around 1:30PM. Some demonstrators started removing the barbed wires off the wall, and in the meantime, an occupation force arrived and the soldiers started firing live bullets, rubber bullets, and tear gas bombs directly at the demonstrators and journalists. At about 2:00AM, the army broke into Beit Sera, where clashes broke out adjacent to the wall. While Arqawi was filming the events, one of the soldiers fired a rubber-coated metal bullet towards her in the left leg / below the knee. She was wearing the PRESS vest at a distance of about 100 meters away from the soldiers. Arqawi was taken to the Red Crescent vehicle that was in the area and was treated in the field.

(10<sup>th</sup> March) The security officers in Gaza have arrested the journalist Hamza Jameel Hammad while he was with a group of young men in Jihad Al-Arabeed's house, northern Gaza. According to the investigations of MADA researcher, a force of the security officers belonging to Hamas, Gaza, has raided, on Sunday, corresponding 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Jihad Al-Arabeed's house, located in Al-Alami area, northern Gaza, and arrested the journalist, Hamza Jameel Ibrahim Hammad, Watan Radio reporter, who was with a group of young men, (12 young man) in the house. They were all transferred to the Investigations Center in Jabalia military camp, where he (and others) was assaulted by security officers by beating with hands. Hammad was subjected to investigation, and then taken to a cell. On the following day, he was questioned again in connection to the "people's movement" promoted through his Facebook page. They took his statement, and he was filmed, and accused of "distrupting the order", and he was taken back to the cell. Suddenly, the Internal Security officers arrived to the investigations headquarters, and all the procedures were suspended and Hammad was taken to the Internal Security headquarters in the education area in north Gaza Strip. At around 1:00PM, (Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019), the Internal Security officers assaulted the journalist, Hamza Hammad, by beating, and he subjected to the investigation again and was questioned about the nature of his meetings when he was arrested, and the posts he publishes on his Facebook about calling the popular movement "that we want to live". On the

following day, (Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March), Hamza Hammad was temporarily released provided he shall turn himself in on Wednesday morning (13<sup>th</sup> March 2019) again to the Security. But after he was transferred to the Indonesian Hospital due to exhaustion, the doctors recommended him to have rest for 48 hours; however, the security officers called his family, and threatened him that if he did not come to turn himself in they will send a force to arrest him. At about 4:00PM, on Wednesday, he turned himself in to the security, and asked him to hand over his cell phone, and to disclose his personal Facebook account. He remained in detention until Thursday, 14 March 2019, when he was released. On Sunday (17<sup>th</sup> March 2019) he received a notification under which he was ordered to turn of himself in to the internal security, so he contacted with the spokesman of the Interior, Mr. Iyad Albzm and explained his health condition and the state of fatigue he was suffering, so as not to be detained again. However, on the following day, he received another notification from the Internal Security under which he was ordered to turn himself in. At around 6:00PM, on Monday, corresponding 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019, he went and turned himself in, and he was questioned for fifteen minutes about events he has taken part in, and comments he posted on his Facebook about the rising prices and living condition in Gaza. He was detained for three days, and released on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019, provided he shall turn himself in on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019. Indeed, he turned himself in at around 9:00AM, on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019, and remained in detention until 6:00PM. They asked him to turn himself in again on the following day. In the evening hours, it was announced that the problem of the detainees was solved and they informed him that his file was closed. On Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019, they gave him back his cell phone which was seized.

(11<sup>th</sup> March) A number of persons masked with covers of “ Hamas” assaulted the journalist Mohammad Al-Sawafiri, after he received threats for his posts on the "popular movement" protesting against the living conditions in Gaza Strip, and the journalist Ayman Al-Alul received threats to harm his son as well.

According to investigations of MADA field researcher, Mohammad Asaad Rasheed Al-Sawafiri, (34 years old), married, a reporter of Al-Kufiya TV, has received on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, through his Facebook, “a threat to his life and to his family after he posted on his own page "a poor policeman assaults a poor citizen so that the first demands the right of the second”, and a person called “Abu Al-Mutasem” commented “just stay out of this completely, so that you can still be



able to walk on your legs ... understood?!". On the following morning, 16<sup>th</sup> March, Al-Sawafiri published a post condemning the threat of "Abu Al-Mutasem". At about 12:00 midnight (16/17-March-2019), his nine-year-old daughter (Kinda) went to buy from a supermarket near his house in Al-Galaa, in Gaza City. He was attacked by a group of masked persons who were wearing a green band, marked " Hamas: the Islamic Resistance Movement", and they beaten him, and told him to stop posting against Hamas government in Gaza. His daughter panicked, and was wounded in her face and nose after she fell to the ground, while he was injured with bruises in his face, hands, and legs. On 19<sup>th</sup> March, Al-Sawafiri received a phone call threatening him "if you are one of them, you will go to them, therefore avoid making any disruption". On the same day, at around 10:00PM, he received another call addressing him "listen to Abu Al-Mutasem because you are a good man". After he was threatened, Al-Sawafiri posted "from now on, I will not talk about politics, that's it!" so that he can avoid any harm that may be caused to him or any of his family members.

On the other hand, Ayman Mustafa Ghazi Al-Aloul, (47 years old), a news producer of Al-Ghad TV, in Egypt, as he lives there, was subjected to threatening on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, through his Facebook messenger, by an anonymous person, who informed him that he will endanger the life of his son "Omar" because of his Facebook posts criticizing the arrests of the young men suspected of calling for the movement #we want to live, addressing him "without saying too much, I just to advise you to be quite for your own good, otherwise we will make you quit and not using a good way, no one wishes to see his son beaten and assaulted, I believe you understand me, may Allah protect your son Omar". In addition to threatening him through Messenger, his son Omar received a call asking him to tell his father to "stop criticizing Hamas government in Gaza" addressing him: "say hello to your father and ask him to be quite, or I will make him mourn on you".

The journalist Al-Aloul was subjected in 2018 to threat via a message on Messenger from a person named Yousef Al-Jamjoom. He addressed him: "Hajj Ayman, you have to be respectful, otherwise Omar will not sleep in the house tonight, this clear, try not to listen to us, and you will not be able to reach Omar's phone, I believe you can understand".

(12<sup>th</sup> March) The Jerusalemites opened Bab Al-Rahma (Gate of Mercy) after it was illegally closed for more than 16 years. As a result, the occupation forces started arresting dozens of Jerusalemites and citizens in the area accusing them of taking part in opening the Gate. Not to mention, they

have banished more than 140 Jerusalemites from Al-Aqsa Mosque and prevented the press agencies from covering any event. They even assaulted them as what happened after the fire of an Israeli Police Center, inside Al-Aqsa Mosque, at around 1:30, on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019, which is why the doors of Al-Aqsa Mosque were closed in the face of prayers and citizens. At 5:00PM, in the area of the cemetery of Bab Al-Rahma Gate, near Bab Al-Asbat (Lion's Gate), the occupation forces have arrested a group of journalists and prevented them to be in the area. They pushed some of them violently, and assaulted them. As in the case of the photographer of Al-Arz for Media Production, Firas Abdullah Al-Hindawi (28 years old) who fell to the ground after he was assaulted by security officers using their guns. He was also banished and prevented to approach the area between Bab Al-Rahma and the main street (Bab Al-Asbat) while he was filming the repressions against the citizens for Al-Mayadeen TV. This resulted in his injury with bruises around his body, especially in the back and feet. On the following day, Wednesday (13<sup>th</sup> March 2019) he went to a medical center to received treatment.

(13<sup>th</sup> March) Hamas police officers have arrested the freelance journalist, Bilal Ahmad Mohammad Khair Al-Deen, on the background of posting on his Facebook to call for participation in the movement of #we want to live, protesting against the rising prices and taxes.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, while Bilal Ahmad Mohammad Khair Al-Deen, (31 years old), single man, freelance journalist, was, at around 4:00PM, on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, crossing the street in Tal Al-Sultan, Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, he was arrested by someone in a civil vehicle and then he was taken to another vehicle "h1" of the Internal Security Service, which was parked in the same location, and it transferred him to the headquarters of the Internal Security Service. When he arrived, his cell phone was seized and he was assaulted and beaten. He was detained in a small room until 10:00AM on the following day, Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019. He was questioned under cruel and offensive circumstances. During investigation, he was beaten all over his body, and his head was stroked against the wall several times, not to mention that he was called with profanity and bad names. He was questioned repeatedly on the person in charge of the movement, the parties calling to the same, the persons he works with, and the mechanism of organizing the movement. After about two hours, he was released but his cell phone was still seized and he was asked to come back to the headquarters at 9:00AM on Sunday (17<sup>th</sup> March 2019). On this day, he went to the headquarters, where he was again questioned and

charged with inciting, disrupting public security, opposing public policies, communicating with outsiders and abusing technology. At around 6:00PM, the investigation was finished with him, he was taken to the solitary confinement until 3:00AA, at dawn, on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019, when he was taken to another bigger cell. At around 10:00AM, he was blindfolded with Fateh band, and taken to the investigation room, where he was beaten and assaulted by a number of persons all around his body, while he was sitting in a squatting position, with hands up. His head was also banged against the wall more than once, and the investigation continued with him about the same charges. At around 6:00PM, the investigation was completed with him and he was transferred to the cell. At about 11:00AM, on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019, a committee of the military prosecution met him, and decided to extend his detention for 15 days on remand for the charge of “fighting public policies in violation of Article 179 of the Revolutionary Penal Code”. While he was before the committee, the members of the committee saw pictures of his mother on his cell phone, and when objected, they assaulted him and took him back to the cell. On the following day (Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019), he was taken to a cell where a number of prisoners were transferred on a criminal background (addiction, drug trafficking and theft). At approximately 01:00PM on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019, he was released following pressure and intervention from the national and Islamic forces and the Journalists Syndicate. Provided he shall come back on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019. He indeed went to the security headquarters and upon his arrival he was again questioned and at about 4:00 PM he was released.

(13<sup>th</sup> March) The occupation army detained the photojournalist Amer Al-Shaloudi for an hour at Tel Rumeida checkpoint, central Hebron, while he was filming clashes that took place in the area. According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Amer Mohammad Al-Shaloudi, (39 years old), a freelance photographer, has arrived at around 4:30PM, on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to Bab Al-Zawiya, central Hebron, to cover clashes. When he arrived, Amer started filming while he was at a distance of 70 meters away from Tel Rumeida checkpoint, and he was wearing the PRESS vest. The Israeli occupation forces fired tear gas bombs at the young men. An officer approached Amer, spoke to him in Hebrew, which he did not understand. Amer asked him to speak with him in Arabic. So the officer took him to the Tel Rumeida checkpoint, and seized his (Canon 60) camera. He questioned him about the reason he was filming, and for which party he works. He

handcuffed him and kept him in detention until 6:00PM, when he was released, and his camera was returned to him without deleting any materials.

(14<sup>th</sup> March) The security services of Hamas in Gaza have arrested the journalist Noor Al-Najjar while she was covering a demonstration in Jabalia protesting against the poor living conditions in Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, nor Talal Al-Najjar, (22 years old), a freelance journalist, at around 3:30PM, on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019, went to Trans area, in Jabalia, to cover the popular movement demonstration. Upon her arrival, one of the security officers approached and prevented her from filming, so she had to secure her own camera at one of the shops in the area. Then she took it and went to a residential building close to the demonstration, after she took the permission of the owner of the building. She started taking pictures and videos via her cell phone. The first video she filmed showed some security officers assaulting a young man and beating him up. She posted the video on her Facebook page, the officers in the area knew the place from where the video was filmed, and noticed her on the roof of the building. A number of security officers gathered around the building, waited for her to come out. The owner of the building informed her and tried to make her out from another door. However, when she came out, she was surprised by another number of “Internal Security” officers, one of whom asked for her cell phone, and after an intense argument, he took her burse, emptied it on the floor, arrested and took her to the security vehicle to Jabalia Police Center. On the way they called her bad names and used profanity. Upon her arrival to the center, she was questioned and accused of “working for the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah”. She was asked about the sum of money she received for doing what she does, and she was transferred to the women police section within the same center, where she was searched and gave her cell phone to the police officer who told her (the police officer) coworkers in the security headquarters that there are no photos on the phone of the events. They seized the phone and the camera, and the journalist Noor remained in investigation for two hours (until 6:00PM) when she was forced to sign a paper they told her that it was her statement during the investigation, but turned out later to be a pledge not to be in any location of demonstrations and film the events. She was then released, but her belongings remained in detention in the security center. On the following morning, she came back again to the center to take back her phone and camera, but they informed her that they are in the office of a security

officer called “Abu Shorouq”. They told her that she was required to stop posting anything calling for demonstrations so that her belongings can be returned to her.

(14<sup>th</sup> March) The security officers, in civilian clothing, belonging to Hamas, have arrested the journalist, Sami Yousef Issa, while he was covering a demonstration in Jabalia, Gaza Strip, protesting against the poor living conditions and the rising prices. They seized his cell phone and deleted the photos in it.

According to investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, Sami Yousef Ibrahim Issa, 32 years old, editor in chief of "Al-Hadaf" News Agency, has arrived at around 4:00PM, on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip. Upon his arrival, he started taking photos through his cell phone of the peaceful demonstration which included about 700 citizens, organized by activists through social media to protest against the high prices and high taxes in the Strip, and to demand better living conditions. After about fifteen minutes of being in the location and taking pictures of the demonstrators and the banners they were raising, five individuals in civilian clothes approached him and tried to prevent him from filming. At the same time, the police, who were in the same location, also began to disperse the demonstrators with sticks and firing in the air. Issa escaped to one of the alleys to avoid any harm, but as soon as he reached the alley, about ten masked persons approached him and did not introduce themselves or the party they belong to, they beaten him with their hands and feet. They asked him to remove the photos he has taken of the demonstration and to give them his cell phone. Because he did not respond to them, they continued beating him, while someone took his cell phone by force from his hand, and asked him to come to the police center in Jabalia military camp if he wants his phone. Issa returned to his house in Beit Lahia, started to make some calls with close persons belonging to Hamas government so as to bring back his phone. In five hours, they managed to bring him his cell phone back.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) The security forces of Hamas in Gaza Strip have arrested the freelance journalist, Ahmad Nasser Sahnoud, on the background of his posts about demonstrations taking place in Gaza Strip protesting against the poor living conditions, rising prices and taxes.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the freelance journalist Ahmad Nasser Mahmoud Sahnoud, (22 years old), single man, has turned himself in to Shujaiya, Gaza, around 12:00, midnight, on Friday/Saturday night, corresponding 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> March, few hours after the

raiding of 10 police officers of his house at around 6:30PM, to arrest him, without an arrest or search warrant, and without disclosing the reasons for which they broke into the house as he was not in the house then. They arrested his brother Ibrahim, 19 years old, and seized Ahmed's laptop and his university bag. They locked Ibrahim in the Hashemite school in the area to pressure him to hand over his brother Ahmad. When Ibrahim was taken to school by security agents after his arrest, he was surprised to find dozens of detainees who had been held in school. At approximately 11:30PM, on the same day (Friday, 15 March), Ahmad Sahmoud turned himself in to release his brother Ibrahim, who was arrested as a means of pressure. Indeed, Ibrahim was released from the passports center at around 1:00AM, at dawn, and when Ahmad the security center, he was transferred to Ibn Al-Haitham School, located in the same area, and then transferred to the police center (In anticipation of the bombing of the police headquarters in light of the escalation in the Strip). Upon his arrival, he was searched and taken to a classroom that was turned into a detention room, where he slept on the tile because of the great number of prisoners and the lack of blankets and mattresses. At approximately 05:30AM, at dawn, on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, he was taken to a room in Al-Shujaiya police center, where about 42 prisoners were there with only 16 beds only. At about 9:00AM, on the same day, he was taken to a narrow and dark room of the Department of Investigation, where he was questioned about what he posted on his page via the social media, which they described as "incitement and call to criticize the government and participate in the existing movement". Before completing the investigation with him, the police center director came and started beating him on the face. Then he was taken to another room to take his statement and he was taken back afterwards to the cell. At around 1:00PM, he met his father for fifteen minutes, after the intervention and assistance of the prison director given his past relationship with his father. And when the visit with his father ended, he was taken back again to the cell. At around 2:30PM, he was called along with a group of detainees addressed "the movement prisoners" and they were ordered to go to a military jeep, parked at the center's gate, under heavy guard. They were taken to the military police headquarters, northern the Strip. When he, and the detainees, arrived the headquarters, the officer ordered them to go to a very narrow square (the break square), raise their hands, and one foot for about 20 minutes. Afterwards, he, and the detainees with him, was taken to a solitary confinement where a person was hanged from his hands with his screams very loud as well as the screams of other detainees. At about 4:00PM, he was taken to a jeep, at the center's gate, to be transferred to the internal security headquarters as he was informed. He

was scared, and when the jeep arrived, he saw the journalist Ahmad Al-Shunbary, inside the jeep, with his head shaved and he seemed in a very bad health condition. He found that the jeep arrived to the passports headquarters in Gaza, he and the the journalist Al-Shurnaby were taken to a room. Few minutes later, the journalist Osama Al-Kahlout was brought to the same room. Al-Kahlout was leaning on the police officers due to his poor health condition as a result of severe beating. After about ten minutes, Iyad Albzm, the media spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, and Taysir Al-Batsh, the police operations director, and the three of them talked about the movement as "suspicious and belongs to the Palestinian Authority and it is managed by persons living outside of Palestine, such as Ramzi Harzallah and others." They then took them to a large room, where they found some of the Palestinian factions, including Khaled Abu Hilal and the General Police Command, who told them about the importance of resistance and the important role of the government in Gaza. After half an hour of talking, they released them, and Sahmoud was surprised, along with coworkers, that Al-Aqsa TV of Hamas is filming and documenting the moment of their release from the center; however, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Interior, Albzm, prevented the TV staff to film the journalist Osama Al-Kahlout, who was suffering a poor health condition due to being beaten and tortured a lot.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) The security services of Hamas in Gaza Strip has arrested the journalists Mueen Mueen Muhsen, Fahed Faisal Al-Khaldy, Mohammad Abdelsalam Al-Ashqar, while they were near a demonstration taking place in Jabalia protesting against rising prices and poor living conditions in Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the freelance journalist, Mueen Mueen Muhsen, 24 years old, the reporter of Scatrama Online TV, the freelance journalist Fahed Faisal Al-Khaldy (23 years old), and the freelance journalist Mohammad Abdelsalam Al-Ashqar (24 years old), have arrived, at around 4:00PM, on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to Trens St., Jabalia, northern Gaza Strip, where a demonstration was taking place with the participation of hundreds of young men, protesting against the rising prices and poor living conditions. Ten minutes after they arrived the location, several military jeeps of the police service and law enforcement of Hamas have arrived and started dispersing the demonstrators using the batons, wooden and plastic sticks. Some of the security officers were carrying weapons, which is why the demonstrators ran away and started pushing each other. The security services continued their random attacks by beating

everyone who remained in place. About half an hour later, of being near the demonstration, around five of the security officers approached towards the three journalists, in their police uniform, and they assaulted them with guns and sticks. They asked them to get in the police jeep. During their transfer to Jabalia police center in the jeep, the police continued to beat the three journalists and using profanity, and they even prevented them to talk with each other, without revealing to them why were doing this or what was their offence. Upon their arrival to the police station, they entered the security room and seized their cell phones and identity cards. Their names, addresses and telephone numbers were registered. After about half an hour they were questioned about the reason for their presence in the demonstration, and they were referred to one of the rooms inside the center. At approximately 07:00PM, Al-Ashqar was released following family intervention. On the other hand, Mueen Muhsen and Fahed Al-Khaldy were separated and temporarily referred to rooms inside the center.

After about half an hour, their names and the names of those who were with them in the room were called and they were told to go out and walk in a queue with about twenty policemen standing on the sides. As they were walking, the security forces beat them with sticks and cursed them. They accused them of being behind the movement. They continued assaulting and beating them until the queue arrived to a military bus that was parked at the center's door. They were transferred to the military police center without stopping the beating. When they arrived at the military police center, they took them to a room where their heads were shaved (including the journalists Mueen Muhsen and Fahed Al-Khaldy) and forced them (and the rest of the detainees) to take off their upper clothes despite the cold weather, drowned then into cold water and ordered them to walk in a small yard (the break yard), standing with their faces against the wall, stripped of the upper clothes. Then came an officer and beat most of the detainees and was deliberately beating their heads against the wall. Then they transferred every 6 persons into a small room that could not accommodate more than two. They ordered them to remove all blankets and mattresses and to sleep on wooden beds with nothing on them (and they stayed without their upper clothes and without blankets or mattresses until the next day). When they asked for water and food they ordered them to fast. At 10:00 am the next day). When they asked for water and food, they were told to fast, at around 10:00AM, on the following morning (16<sup>th</sup> March 2019), the prison director issued an order to reduce the number of detainees and distribute them to the rooms. At approximately 1:00PM, as the rest of the detainees, they were allowed to call their families no



more than two minutes, to tell them that they were in the military police and to bring them clothes. At approximately 2:00PM on the same day, they put all 50 detainees in a room and gave them the first and only meal after all the period that has passed. It was about two bread packs and 3 cans of cheese. At about 8:00PM, they were released after the intervention of the national factions and forces, the human Rights organizations, the Journalists Syndicate and the Government Information Office.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) Some security officers, belonging to Hamas in Gaza Strip, attacked the journalist, Tayf Al-Buhaisi, and the journalist Mahmoud Allouh, while they were covering a demonstration in Der Al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Tayf Esam Ali Al-Buhaisi, from Der Al-Balahm central Gaza Strip, born on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 1999, a reporter of Sharq News Agency, and the Advocacy Association, at around 3:00PM, on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, started covering the events of a demonstration that was taking place in Der Al-Balah, as part of the popular movement protesting against the living conditions, through live transmitting on her Facebook page, and continued to broadcast from the street until 5:00PM, when the police started dispersing the demonstrators by firing in the air, attacking and assaulting some of them, until they fled to a place known as "Al-Monawar" in one of the houses. One of the police officers deployed in the location saw her, followed and beaten her with a stick on her hand, but she managed to escape and run to her house, without going to the hospital, due to imposing a curfew in the meantime. She suffered severe pain in her hand and it turned blue (it was found that her right hand was broken, especially in the area of the palm and arm) and she avoided going to the hospital for fear of being arrested or prosecuted as information spread about the attacks and arrests of some of those who were taken to hospitals. She had to stay home, and she received treatment by her uncle and her brother, two doctors, where they found that her hand was fractured and they placed it in a cast for fear of her safety in case she was transferred to the hospital. In the same place and demonstration, Mahmoud Omar Mahmoud Allouh, from Nuseirat Camp, central Gaza Strip, 29 years old, a reporter of Sawt Al-Shaab radio station, was covering the events, at approximately 4:40PM, while Mahmoud Allouh was relatively far from the demonstration and the throwing of stones by the demonstrators towards the security officers, there were meetings taking place with some citizens within the

coverage of the demonstration, about 10 jeeps of security services arrived to the area. Allouh went to the police and put his cell phone in his pocket, however some of the security officers followed him, and even though he introduced himself as a journalist, someone used profanity and called him by bad names, beaten him with a stick on his head, but he used his hand to protect his head which injured the palm of his right hand. Allouh went to the Red Crescent Center near the area, where his hand was imaged to make sure it was not fractured, and it was found that his injury is only severe bruises.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) The security services, in Shujaiya, Gaza City, arrested the freelance journalist of Palestine Today News Agency, Matar Al-Zaq.

According to investigations of MADA field researcher, Matar Jaber Sulaiman Al-Zaq, born on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1988, lives in Shujaiya, married and holds ID Card. No. 802113274, went to his wife's family home on Friday evening, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. After he learned of the arrest of the security services to his wife's father and her brother, and on his way back to home at about 8:00PM, from Baghdad Street in the area that is known as "Al-Bariyah" accompanied by a number of his family members, a number of police officers (some of whom in the military uniform and other in the civilian clothing) have created a barrier in the area. The police officers asked them about their identities and, when they knew that they were from Al-Zaq family, the officer on duty ordered to arrest him and the young men who accompanied him and forced them to board a police bus and took them to Al-Hashimiya school located in Shujaiya. When they arrived the school, and while Al-Zaq was getting off the bus, one of the police officers pushed him and told one of the officers in the school, "this is their Boss" – pointing to the journalist Matar Al-Zaq, they stroked him three times with batons in the thigh. When he told them that he was a journalist and introduced himself, a police officer punched him in the face and then took him to one of the classrooms in the school, where a great number of the family members were detained. At approximately 11:30PM, the Interior Ministry spokesman Iyad Al-Bazm came to the school and informed him that he would be released as a result of the interventions of several parties. He was released and returned home.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) the Intelligence Service in Khan Younes arrested the journalists Hani Al-Agha and Khaled Al-Agha, on the background of events of the popular movement "we want to live" which was launched in Gaza Strip on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to demand better living conditions and

protest against the poor conditions. They were detained for several hours, which included assaulting Khaled Al-Agha.

According to investigations of MADA field researcher, Hani Nabil Suleiman Al-Agha, 41 years old, a resident of western Khan Younes, editor-in-chief of Al-Nahar News Agency, and a member of Fatah Central Bureau of Journalists, received on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, a phone call of his cell phone, from a person who introduced himself as an intelligence officer, and asked him to attend the next day to the headquarters of the Intelligence west of Khan Younes. At around 10:00AM, on the following day (Saturday – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019), Al-Agha went to the intelligence headquarters west of Khan Yunes, where they seized his phone and personal belongings. They blindfolded him and then took him into a room where a number of persons were there but he could not tell how many. About an hour later, he was summoned for the first session of investigation. He was taken to an office, where he was questioned about the youth movement and "the role of the movement's office in incitement" as described by the investigator. He was repeatedly questioned for several sessions, ranging between 15 and 60 minutes, and was returned after each session to the detention room blindfolded. At around 6:00PM, they released him after warning him against participating in demonstrations of the movement or writing about the same. They also told him not to leave the house and to return to the intelligence services on the following Monday, which indeed Al-Agha did. On Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019, at approximately 10:00AM, he arrived the headquarters of the Intelligence Service again in Khan Younes for the second time. The same scenario was repeated in which his personal belongings were seized and he was blindfolded, and taken to the detention room, where he stayed for about an hour and a half before being taken to the investigation room, where he was questioned for half an hour on the same subject, the popular movement and its media role. Then he was released and given back his personal belongings at 01:30PM, and he was told not to participate in the events of the movement.

In a similar scenario, Khalid Nabil Younis Suleiman Al-Agha, 26 years old, from Khan Yunis, Al-Satar Al-Gharbi, a freelance journalist, who works for the Media Office of the Culture and Free Thought Association, received at approximately 02:00PM on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, a phone call from a person who introduced himself as a member of the intelligence service and asked him to come immediately to the headquarters of the intelligence service in West Khan Younes-the Sea. Khalid told him that he was "currently in his job in Gaza and that he will finish work in the

evening". The caller told him to come the next morning. At approximately 10:00AM, on the following day (17<sup>th</sup> March 2019) Khalid received a call from the same number and he was told to come immediately, threatening to send him a patrol to arrest him if he does not go. Thus Khalid left his work and went to the Intelligence Service headquarters, West of Khan Younes, where he arrived at 11:15. When he arrived, his personal belongings, cell phone, and password, were seized. One of the security officers asked him about the camera and laptop he usually carry with him, and asked him to bring them, but Khaled replied that these belong to the Association he works for, and he cannot bring them. Then he was taken to the detention room where three blindfolded and handcuffed persons to the chairs were. The security officer ordered him to stand up on one foot with his head against the wall. After fifteen minutes on this position, Khaled Al-Agha told the security officer that he wants a break because he suffers from a cartilage in his foot, but the security officer ignored Khaled's request and addressed him "switch with you other foot". Then one of the officers came and asked him to sit down on the chair, started questioning him about his posts and role in the movement. The officer brought Khaled's phone and searched it in front of him trying to prove that he has taken part in the movement in one of the areas in Gaza. He also asked him about his brother Hani Al-Agha and his press and governmental work. Then he ordered him to stand again with his face against the wall, started beating him with his hand and leg on the waist and legs for few minutes. Later, an officer came and told him that someone wanted to talk to him and took him to a place inside the headquarters where he saw three people digging the ground. A fourth person wearing a uniform introduced himself as Khan Yunes' intelligence director, addressed him saying "Khaled, next time this will not be the same, your endangering your life, and now I have orders to transfer you to Gaza, but you will be released under my guarantee." He was released at around 2:00PM and his belongings were handed over and he was not allowed to participate or write about the movement.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) At around 5:30PM, on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the journalist Loay Nahed Mohammad Al-Goul, (40 years old), the Director of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate in Gaza Strip, received a phone call from unknown caller who introduced himself as "Abu Ghanem" without telling the party he works for, but he is likely from the Internal Security Service. He warned him of posting and publishing about the events of the movement, otherwise he will be arrested. And he informed him that he is on the top of the list including the names of Al-Ghoul

family for arrest purposes in the event any demonstration took place in their area, and then he finished the call. On the following day, Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, at around 1:30PM, Loay Al-Ghoul received another phone call from the same person. This time he talked to him nervously threatening him “didn’t we warn you not to intervene or post about the movement?” and he was referring to the circulation published by the Journalists Syndicate which clarifies to the journalists numbers and centers for communication in case of being subjected to violation. Al-Ghoul explained to him that this circulation is a routine action carried out by the Committee of Freedoms in the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate in such cases to guide the journalists if any of them was subjected to any violation that may affect their press work, and that his name (Loay Al-Ghoul) and his number are included in the circulation to be reported in case any of the Journalists were assaulted, in his capacity as the director of the Journalists’ Syndicate. Then he was told not to participate in the demonstrations planned to be launched in the afternoon of the same day, in Al-Shate’ area. He ordered him to stay away from his house and the surrounding area, and hanged up the phone. Less than half an hour later, the same person, Abu Ghanem, contacted Loay Al-Ghoul and asked him to inform his cousin Zaher Al-Ghoul to come to them otherwise a security force will raid the house and arrest them.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) The Internal Security Service in Gaza arrested the free journalist Mahmoud Al-Shafei and subjected him to severe torture and house arrest for a month after his release as part of the campaign of arrests and repression that accompanied the popular movement demanding better living conditions in Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, in the context of the repressions and arrests carried out by security forces in Gaza against demonstrators demanding better living conditions in Gaza Strip, on Friday evening 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, a masked security force belonging to Hamas in Gaza raided the house of Mahmoud Hassan Al-Shafei, 28 years old, lives in Nuseirat, works as a freelance journalist, to arrest him on the background of his coverage of the events of the popular movement, "We want to Live", but Al-Shafei managed to escape. On the following evening, Saturday (March 16, 2019), a security force came back and raided the house again. Al-Shafei was not in the house. His family received a notice in his name from the Internal Security Agency. On Sunday morning (17 March 2019), the Mukhtar of Al-Shafei family received a telephone call from a person who introduced himself as a member of the Internal Security Service. He was threatened

that if Mahmoud Al-Shafei was not turned in, all the houses belonging to Al-Shafei would be raided and the family members will be arrested and assaulted as the case with other families before them, not to mention that Al-Shafei family received threats of kidnapping him by “Al-Qassam Brigades” of Hamas. Based on the aforementioned, and following the intervention of several parties, the journalist Mahmoud Al-Shafei turned himself in to the Internal Security headquarters in Deir Al-Balah at 3:30PM on Sunday (17 March 2019), and upon his arrival his belongings and cell phone, which he was asked to bring, were seized. Then he was taken blindfolded to a cell, where he spent four days in detention, during which he was subjected to a daily investigation about his press work and his coverage of the events of the movement, which included severe torture. On the first day of his arrest, Al-Shafei lost his consciousness due to severe beatings for long hours, in which security officers used sticks and iron bars. On the second day (March 18, 2019), Al-Shafei was severely beaten before being presented to the investigating officer who informed him of the decision of transferring him to the military judiciary in Gaza. However, he was retained by the Internal Security Service “for fear that “Al-Qassam Brigades” will kidnap him while being transferred” as the officer informed him. On the morning of the third day of his arrest (March 19, 2019), the officer gave him a written text and asked him to memorize it. After several hours the officer called him and asked him to present the text in front of the camera, which Al-Shafei refused to do because the written text condemns him for several crimes such as incitement, destabilization of order, intelligence. The officer decided to record the investigation with him (instead of the written text) and began to ask him questions about his media activity in the movement and his relationship with Palestine TV and forced him to admit that his motivation to join the movement and incite people is his hatred of Hamas. At the end of the video, he was forced to say that "he regretted what he did and advised the demonstrators to return to their homes." He was then taken back to the cell and ordered by the jailer to remain standing. At about 9:30PM on the same day, the jailer informed him that he would be deported to the military court. However, Al-Shafei refused, and succeeded in preventing his deportation despite being severely beaten while taken to the deportation bus. As a result, they left him standing for several hours in the external yard as a punishment before taken back to the cell. On the morning of the next day - the fourth day of his detention (20<sup>th</sup> March 2019), Al-Shafei was very tired because of what he was subjected to. At approximately 01:00PM on the same day (Wednesday 20 March 2019) he was released under house arrest for a month, and not to engage in any media activity, otherwise he will be fined by

20,000 NIS, if any of the conditions were breached. Furthermore, the Security Center Director threatened him to publish the video that was forced to record. What is it? Al-Shafei is still under house arrest and his cell phone and personal accounts are still seized by the Internal Security Service.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) The journalists were subjected to threats through phone calls more than once in connection to their work and coverage of the demonstrations which were launched in Gaza Strip to protest against the poor living conditions and rising prices.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Mohammad Sami Al-Aydi, (25 years old), from Gaza, a social program presented at Sawt Al-Sha'b Radio in Gaza, has received, at around 3:00AM, at dawn, on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, a phone call from a private number, that made him wake up; however the caller did not speak to him. At approximately 4:00PM, on the same day, he received a call from a person who claimed to be a "reform man" and wanted to give him advice and tell him that "the security services would arrest him if he did not stop talking about the social issues he discusses in his radio program" and asked him to participate in the movement calling for the departure of President Mahmoud Abbas or any movement against the Palestinian Authority and not to participate in the movement against Hamas in Gaza. Al-Aydi replied "I, as a journalist, transmit the events as they are, I speak about the issues of people without discussing any politics", the caller got angry and started threatening until he hanged up. On the following day (Saturday, March 16, 2019), at around 11:00AM, before the afternoon, Al-Aydi received a phone call from a "private number" threatening him with arrest and beating, using insulting and profanity words. Al-Aydi asked the caller about his capacity to address him like that and threat him with arrest, without the official and legal ways, but the caller did not answer any questions and hanged up. Al-Aydi called the media official of Hamas, Mr. Ibrahim Muslim, and informed him of all what had happened. Muslim promised him not to be assaulted again and asked him not to respond to any call threatening him. After this promise, Al-Aydi did not receive any calls or threats. He only informed the Radio Administration without filing any complaints.

The journalist, Nidal Suhail Al-Wahidi, 28 years old, resident of Gaza City, and a photographer of Al-Najah / Gaza office, received a phone call from a private number, at 5:00PM, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, and the caller introduced himself as "Abu Ahmad" from the intelligence of Gaza and

asked him to stop publishing news that calls for demonstrations, and not to be in the places of the movement. “Abu Ahmad” accused Al-Wahidi of working with “Ramallah Authority and serving an external agenda, also inciting against the resistance”. After a verbal dispute between them, Al-Wahidi replied that he works with professionalism in transmitting the news and events, and does not incite against anything. But the caller did not accept what Al-Wahidi said, and described him as “an occupation agent” if he continued transmitting the news. He warned him “this times it was a phone call, the next time will be an arrest” and then hanged up. The next morning, Nidal Al-Wahidi saw his name included in a list of journalists said to be "the names of those working for the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah and supporting the demonstrations." Among other names included in the list was: Mohammad Abu Sha’ar, journalist Hagar Harb, journalist Ghalia Hamad, journalist Ayman Al-Aloul, and names of other persons. However, Al-Wahidi continued to publish news and transmit events, but spent two days in his house, in anticipation of the arrests and repressions carried out by the security services. He then went with his colleague journalists whose names were on the list to the Independent Commission for Human Rights to file an official complaint for the threats he received.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) Some Hamas officers have arrested the photojournalist, Nour Al-Din Al-Kurdi, while he was near a demonstration taking place in Jabalia.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Nour Al-Din Abdelsater Ramadan Al-Kurdi, single man, 25 years old, works for Al-Quds News Network, at around 4:00PM, on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, was near Al-Huja conjunction, Jabalia Camp, northern Gaza Strip, during a demonstration of the youth movement “we want to live” to protest against the poor living conditions in Gaza. While he was there, a force of Hamas Police arrived to disperse the demonstrators, whereas Al-Kurdi was standing on the side road with his cousin (Hussam). Fifteen minutes later, a civil vehicle of Kia Soul arrived, seven persons in civil clothing got out the vehicle, and immediately assaulted Al-Kurdi, and his cousin Hussam, whose leg was broken. The journalist Nour Al-Din was also injured with bruises in the face, and he was taken by citizens to the Indonesian Hospital, northern Gaza Strip. Some Hamas police officers went to the hospital to arrest him, however the doctors confirmed to them that his health condition does not allow so. They transferred him to the Eyes Hospital as his injury in the face, near the eyes. After he was imaged, he was transferred to Dar Al-Shifa Hospital for a CT scan. He remained in the three hospitals for



6 hours, and then was discharged. When he arrived to his house, his father received a phone call informing him that the internal security officers will raid the house to search for and arrest Nour Al-Din, which prompted the journalist Nour Al-Din to leave the house. His father's efforts succeeded, through his connections, in persuading the internal security not to break into his house. The journalist returned to his home after the announcing the settlement of the file of the detainees completely by the Ministry of Interior of Gaza, on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Note: the hospitals refused to give the journalist Nour Al-Din a medical report, and informed him that if he wants a report showing that he was assaulted, he shall pay for the treatment costs for the three hospitals and the CT scan. They registered his case as an urgent health condition.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) The security services arrested the journalist Osama Al-Kahlut and subjected him to torture and severe beatings while he was detained due to publishing about the demonstrations protesting against the poor living conditions in Gaza.

According to the investigation of MADA researcher, at approximately 4:00PM, on Friday, 15 March, 2019 a Hamas security force raided the house of Osama Sharif Muhammad Al-Kahlut, 34 years old, lives in Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza Strip, a full time reporter of "Al-Najah News Website", and a member of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate. In the meantime, he was hosting in his home, the director of the Independent Commission for Human Rights, Jamil Sarhan, the lawyer of the Commission, Bakr Al-Turkmani, and journalist Mustafa Al-Dahdouh, and transmitting live through his Facebook page the events of the popular movement "we want to live". The number of persons who have seen the video exceeded 30.00 in twenty minutes. Palestine Official TV, participated in this transmission. As soon as the house was raided and the door was smashed after 4:00PM, the journalist Al-Kahlut came down from the third floor where he was and his guests, when the security forces saw him, and about 10 persons attacked him and asked for his cell phone. They started beating him with sticks and took him to his room on the first floor of the building and asked for the camera. They started smashing the office (computer, LCD screen, battery, private UBS, Internet router), and they seized three of his own phones, PC Box, the Canon Cameron, the Foge, and a third camera was also lost. Then resumed beating him severely for about ten minutes until he could no longer stand up and tried to escape from the window of the room, but one of the officers grabbed him, and continued to beat him. Here his mother was attacked and

tried to protect him from them. He was dragged from his shoulder (because he was unable to stand up) and was taken to a military jeep in front of the house, amid accusations that he was broadcasting to Palestine TV. He was taken to Deir Al-Balah police center, where he was assaulted again. He was held in a cell alone before being transferred to another room with other detainees on the background of the popular movement for three days. During his detention, Al-Kahlut was subjected to three investigation sessions (two on the first day and one on the second day of his detention) on the nature of his work and the reasons for the live broadcast and his relationship with Palestine TV. The first session lasted about two hours, the second for half hour, and the third for half an hour. On the third day of detention (Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019), Al-Kahlut was transferred to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah. The doctor recommended that Al-Kahlout needs treatment for a long time to be able to walk on his feet. After and during his arrest, he suffered damage to his right foot as he lost the ability to move his toes, and the beating led to an increase in the liver functions from 30 to 130. At the end of the third day of his detention (17<sup>th</sup> March 2019), the journalist Al-Kahlut was transferred from the center of Deir Al-Balah, blindfolded and handcuffed to the passport office in Gaza City. There were the police director Tayseer Al-Batsh, the Interior Ministry spokesman Iyad Al-Bazm, and a number of officers and factions officials, they all heard what happened with him since his arrest. There were also two journalists Ahmad Al-Shanbari and Ahmad Sahmoud. The three journalists were released and the journalist Al-Kahlut was transferred to his home in Deir Al-Balah.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) A group of Hamas police officers in Gaza Strip assaulted the journalist Izz Al-Din Al-Ma'shar, seized his cell phone, and press card, while he was covering a demonstration in Rafah protesting against the poor living conditions in the Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Izz Al-Din Ayman Mutee' Al-Ma'shar, 18 years old, from Rafah/Tel Al-Sultan, a photographer of "Ruwad Al-Haqiqa" Network, at around 4:30PM, on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, went to Al-Nijma square, central Rafah, to cover a demonstration as part of the popular movement demanding better living conditions in Gaza Strip. Some officers of the security services, with the help of masked persons in civilian clothes, attacked the demonstrators using batons and fired in the air to disperse them, forcing Izz Al-Din to flee with the demonstrators towards the square near the place of the demonstration. At about 5:00PM, a number of officers in police uniforms assaulted him with batons and hands, Even though he

disclosed his identity as a journalist, they seized his cell phone, which he used for photography, and his press card. They tried to arrest him, but one of his relatives, who were from the police forces, intervened. Later, the police was contacted to recover the phone and the card. The reply was that the phone and card had been handed over to the Internal Security Services and the phone's password had been taken from him. A week later, at approximately 01:00PM, on the same day (24<sup>th</sup> March 2019), Izz Al-Din's father contacted a person he knew in the Internal Security Service to ask him to recover the seized items of his son. He informed him that there was an order from the head of the Service to arrest his son, because of the videos he filmed on the day of the demonstration of the popular movement, and the case of Izz Al-Din is still suspended and he is afraid of arrest at any moment.

(15<sup>th</sup> March) Some security officers of Hamas Government in Gaza have arrested the journalist Mustafa Al-Dahdouh, while he was in Osama Al-Kahlut's house, assaulted and beaten, while he was being arrested and detained for two days.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Mustafa Salama Salman Al-Dahdouh, 27 years old, single man, a reporter for the Turkish News Agency Hawar, a member of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, was arrested on Friday, 15 March, by security forces belonging to Hamas government in Gaza, while he was in the house of journalist Osama Al-Kahlut in the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza Strip, who was arrested as well. The protests of the popular movement (we want to live) began in that area, where a force of "interference and maintenance of order" raided the house of the journalist Al-Kahlut, while he was live broadcasting through his Facebook account some of these events, and assaulted Al-Kahlut with batons and arrested him. They also arrested Al-Dahdouh and the Director of the Independent Commission for Human Rights Jamil Sarhan, and the lawyer Bakr Al-Turkmani, who were in the house of Al-Kahlut the moment of his arrest. The security forces assaulted the journalist Al-Dahdouh and assaulted Al-Kahlut, Sarhan and Al-Turkmani during their arrest as well. After the arrest, they were transferred to Deir Al-Balah police station. The journalist Al-Dahdouh was assaulted by the batons. He was detained in the cell while Al-Turkmani and Sarhan were transferred to Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital. Al-Kahlut was questioned about the nature of his press work, the employer with whom he works, the videos and photos he has and his cell phone, and why he films the events? He told them that he worked as a journalist and did not film anything. He was beaten and several factions and tribal

groups intervened. They were able to release him from the center of Deir Al-Balah at 8:00PM on Sunday, 17 March 2019, while his cell phone was still seized.

(16<sup>th</sup> March) A force of the Internal Security Forces detained the freelance journalist Ihab Omar Yousef Fafous, 46 years old, from his home in Khan Younis. He was detained for two days in inhumane conditions, during which he was beaten and humiliated and did not receive any treatment.

According to the investigations "MADA" researcher, and based on the statement of the journalist Omar Al-Fafous, a security force composed of masked officers in black clothes and others in civilian clothes unmasked, have arrived at about 10:00PM on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 the house of the journalist Ihab Omar Al-Fafous. They introduced themselves as members of the Internal Security Service. They arrested him after they searched his house and seized his cell phone, a laptop and a Canon with two storage cards. When he was transferred to the headquarters of the Internal Security Service western Khan Younis, they took him to the detention room where other detainees were present. They gave him a mattress. He told then that he was a heart patient and that he has daily medication every few hours. On the following morning, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019, a security guard summoned him and took him to one of the rooms. He was beaten by a number of security officers and blindfolded, causing him bruises on his face and various parts of his body. After about an hour, the jailer took him back to another room. Two officers entered, assaulted and punched him on his face, causing bleeding from his nose and mouth. During this, they were asking him to confess that he received orders from Ramallah, which he denied, and explained to them that he was a freelance journalist with no factions he belong to. During his investigation, which lasted about two hours, he was asked about publications and investigative reports on his computer that he had prepared and published previously. After that they forced him to clean the toilets of the prison before being returned to the detention room at about 2:00PM, when he was in a state of severe fatigue due to beatings and the lack of treatment, where he asked the officer on duty more than once to be transferred to the hospital but the later did not respond. After the Aser prayer (about 3:00 PM), the jailer summoned him to the officer's room. His brother (the family Mukhtar) and another person from the area were present in the room. The officer told him that he would be released on his personal liability, provided that he does not tell anyone he was released, and to return on the following morning. He was also warned not to post anything on his social media

accounts “even if a Quran verse”. Immediately after his release on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019, he went to Nasser Medical Hospital. The doctors kept him under observation for two days, during which he was visited by the deputy chairman of the Journalists Syndicate, Dr. Tahsin Al-Astal, who informed him that his case had been resolved with the Internal Security Service. As of the date of this report, the seized objects had not been returned to his home.

(16<sup>th</sup> March) The Security Services in Gaza arrested the photojournalists Assem Shehada, and Bashar Ahmad Ahmad Taleb, while they were covering a demonstration organized in Jabalia.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Assem Mohammad Shehada, (32 years old), a photojournalist of the National Media Agency, at around 3:00PM, on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, went to Al-Huja in Jabalia, to cover a demonstration against the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, organized by Hamas, in parallel with the launch of the demonstrations of the movement “we want to live” protesting against the living conditions, in Gaza Strip, on the third day. Upon his arrival, he stopped at a distance of few meters away from the demonstrators, and was not wearing a uniform. A number of masked security officers approached him before he started filming, and they asked him to leave the area, started beating him, and calling him using profanity names “you are not a journalist, you are an agent, a spy who works for Abbas”. He was then taken to a vehicle belonging to the security services and transferred to Jabalia police station. On their way to the center, they beaten and cursed him again. He told him that he was a journalist of the National News agency, but they refused to respond. When they arrived the center at around 3:30 AM, they placed him in a room after they seized his personal phone, ID card and press card. They subjected him to interrogation and detained him for about 4 hours. He then released him after recovering his phone and personal belongings.

On the same day, his coworker, the photojournalist Bashar Ahmad Taleb, (29 years old), who also works for the National Media Agency, while he was in Trans area, Jabalia, at around 3:00PM, on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, was also arrested. He was arrested while filming a demonstration there which was suppressed by the security forces. When he left the area around 4:00PM, he was approached by a security officer and taken to a distance of a few meters from the demonstration. He was asked to give the camera to delete the photos but Bashar refused and there was verbal dispute between them. The security officer summoned a number of other security officers. The

camera was seized and transferred to the Jabalia police station. Upon his arrival to the center, at around 4:30PM, they put him in the cell for 15 minutes, then took him to investigation, where he was surprised that his coworker Assem Shehada was also arrested. He was subjected with his coworker Assem for investigation, about the party he works for, the photos he has taken, on what and whom they concentrated while filming. After that he was released around 8:30PM, and his camera was given back to him after all the photos were deleted. They were released under the guarantee of the Director General of the National News Agency, Mustafa Shehada, after they signed a pledge not to be in any demonstration or film any events.

(16<sup>th</sup> March) The internal security services arrested the students of the Faculty of Media and Mass Communication, Al-Azhar University, in Gaza, Amjad Riyad Hals, and Osama Abu Sakran, for four days, on the background of their posts on the Facebook under the movement #we-want-to-live.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, a force of the internal security service, arrived, at around 8:30AM, on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to the house of Amjad Riyad Rajab Hals (25 years old), located in Al-Rammal neighborhood, southern Gaza, and gave his brother Yazan Hals a summons in the name of Amjad to immediately go to the internal security headquarters in Gaza. After about three hours (at 11:36AM) Amjad posted on his Facebook “in a short time, while I am loaded with concerns of the nation, carrying the voices of the free, I will go to the internal security service after receiving a summons for immediate presence”. Indeed, at approximately 01:30PM, he took his personal ID and his cell phone to the internal security headquarters of Al-Qasr Al-Hakim, located in Ansar area west of Gaza City. His personal details (his name, address and mobile number, as well as the summons) were taken and he was asked to wait after he handed over his belongings. After about an hour, he was summoned to an office where an officer asked him several questions about his name, place of residence and profession, and ordered him loudly to give him the password of his personal Facebook page. So he did, and the officer published a news story on Amjad's page, saying, "Thankfully I am out of the internal security service in good health". Half an hour after posting the story, the post was shared by his father, Riyad Hals, who denied the news. After that, the police took him to the “bus” which is a hall with a metal surface, surveillance with cameras, and used for detention. And because of his conversation with his coworker, Osama Abu Sakran (who was also detained in the Bus), they were

punished for an hour and a half, by forcing them to stand with their faces against the wall. Then came a police officer and transferred Amjad to the investigation room inside of which four officers of the internal security started questioning him “do you work for the intelligence of the Authority in Ramallah? Do you make money from the posts you publish on your Facebook?” not to mention he was cursed with bad names. The investigation continued with him for about half an hour, then he was returned to the Bus. At about 9:00PM, Amjad and Osama were transferred to the cells. The moment they entered the cell, the policeman noticed that Amjad and Osama knew each other. Osama was transferred to another cell (2X5.1 meters) inside which was a small dirty bathroom. On the second day, Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019, at around 7:00AM, a police officer took the detainees out again to the Bus. At 11:00AM, the breakfast meal was distributed to them, including two bread loafs, and Feta cheese. At around 6:30PM, a police officer summoned Amjad Hals for investigation and used profanity with him, and asked about his father (Riyad Hals who was working previously for the Authority intelligence). He also asked him about his brother Ahmad Hals (Al-Shabiba Movement Coordinator, Fateh, Al-Azhar University in Gaza). The investigation lasted about half an hour and he returned to the bus where he stayed until about 8:30PM when the policeman took him back to the cell. On the third day (Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019), Amjad remained in the cell. At about 12:30, a policeman came and took him to the investigation office, where two officers were present, one of them was wearing military uniform and the other was wearing civilian clothes. A few minutes later, his coworker, Osama Sakran, was brought and the officer addressed them: "You are under arrest for 15 days. After that you will be transferred to the court." Then they were returned to the “Bus”. At about 7:00PM, Amjad and his coworker Osama were taken to one cell. At 10:00AM, on the fourth day (Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2015), the policeman was taken from the cells to the "Bus" and at 1:00PM Amjad and Osama were returned to the cell. Around 3:00PM, the investigators head came to the cells and took Amjad and Osama to the bus to prepare themselves for their release. After about half an hour of waiting, they were surfside by another police officer telling them that they would not be released and took them back to the cell. At 7:30PM, a policeman came to the cell and took Amjad out of the cell. He was released after his personal belongings were given back to him, except for the phone (it is still in detention until the date of this report - Monday, March 25, 2019).

As for the circumstances of the arrest of Osama Abu Sakran, it began on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, after he posted on his Facebook and tweeted #we-want-to-live. At around 3:30PM, on Friday, Osama went out with his brother Mohammad and his friend Ahmad Al-Zaim to Baghdad Street, east of Shujaiya where citizens gathered in marches demanding lower prices, taxes and collection. While Osama was about 10 meters away from the gathering of citizens, a great number of officers and jeeps of the security forces arrested some of the demonstrators and used force to disperse them using batons. He was surprised by a police jeep arresting his friend Ahmad Al-Zaim, who posted through his page about the arrest of his friend Ahmad Al-Zaim. About fifteen minutes later, the security forces continued to suppress the demonstrators. Osama returned to his house and began posting about the ongoing arrests of demonstrators. At around 10:30AM, on the following morning (Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019) a security force arrived to his uncle's house (that is about 50 meters away from their house because they do not know the house of Osama's family), located in Shujaiya, Al-Nizaz Street, east of Gaza City. The forces gave his cousin, Mountaser Abu Sakran, a summons in the name of Osama, to immediately go to the internal security service headquarters in Gaza. At around 11:45PM, on the same day, the journalist Osama turned himself in to the internal security service "Al-Hakem Palace" located in Ansar area, western Gaza City. He was immediately taken to an investigation office by person in civilian uniform. He asked him for his name, telephone number, identity, date of birth, place of residence and partisan affiliation. He was then transferred to the bus, a small metal-roofed room where little number of citizens was detained, equipped with cameras to prevent them to make any movement or contact with each other under penalty of punishment. In the bus, he noticed his colleague Amjad Hals and they both whispered, and the policeman noticed them through the surveillance cameras, punished them to stand for almost an hour and a half with their faces against the wall. Then Osama was taken to an investigation room, where he saw a hose (a plastic hose) about a meter long. The policeman started to turn around Osama and asked him in a low voice about his full name. He repeated the question more than ten times. After about ten minutes he ordered him to sit on the chair. Then he asked him the same questions that were addressed to his colleague Amjad: What is your full name? And who do you work for? Are they external agendas, or Palestinian intelligence in Ramallah? Do you make money of it? What is the most notable post you published through your profile?? What are your demands from the movement? And what are you demanding? The investigation lasted about half an hour. The investigator wrote Osama's testimony on the computer without letting Osama have a look at



it. Osama was then returned to the detention hall (the bus), where he noticed an increase in the number of detainees, which became about 25. After about half an hour (about 4:00PM), the investigator summoned him again and asked him the same questions, but with mockery, and there was a policeman at the door of the investigation office threatening with a loud voice “now Osama’s cell phone must be brought from his house or we will hear his scream in pain due to being beaten”. The officer asked Osama to give him a phone number of one of his brothers to tell the later to bring the phone. The officer indeed called his brother Mohammad to bring Osama's cell phone to the headquarters within ten minutes, and threatened him not to delete anything from the cell phone. Osama's brother actually went to the headquarters and gave the policeman at the entrance of the headquarters the cell phone. On the second day of detention (Sunday, 17 March 2015), around 7:00AM, the policeman brought the detainees to the bus without interrogation with Osama, and at about 8:30PM he was returned to the cell. On the third day (Monday 18 March 2019) Osama remained in the cell. At approximately 1:15PM, Osama was taken to the investigation office and his colleague Amjad was seen in the office. The policeman told them: "You are under arrest for 15 days and then you will be transferred to court”. On Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, at about 4:30PM, a policeman came to the cell and took Osama out. He took him to the Internal Security Office. There, Osama was surprised by the presence of his relatives. He was released and given his personal belongings except for his cell phone, which is still seized until the moment (25<sup>th</sup> March 2019) by the Internal Security Service.

(16<sup>th</sup> March) The Internal Security Services in Gaza imposed house arrest on the freelance journalist, Sameh Younis Hamed Al-Jedi for four days and warned him not to publish or write anything about the demonstrations organized in Gaza to protest against the poor living conditions.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, a security force, at around 7:00PM, on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, has arrived to the house of the freelance journalist, Sameh Younis Hamed Al-Jedi, (40 years old), located in Shujaiya/Al-Nazzar St., a member of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and the International Federation of Journalists. The security forces knocked the door, his nephew came out, and they told him to call his uncle Sameh, who responded and saw 12 security force officers spread out in front of his house, including 10 masked men in black clothing, and two unmasked in civilian clothing. He could tell that they were from the Internal Security Services, as he saw some of them in the Services headquarters while he was arrested

several times previously. When Sameh appeared, one of them addressed him "Sameh, there is a decision by the Internal Security Service to impose house arrest on you for four days. We wish you abide by this decision, otherwise you will bear full responsibility. I advise you not to publish or write about the movement". Then the force retreated from the place.

(16<sup>th</sup> March) The Police in Gaza arrested Amer Awni Ba'lousha claiming that he caused chaos and incitement against the government through posts on the social media calling citizens to participate in demonstrations against rising prices and high taxes.

According to investigations of MADA field researcher, Amer Awni Mohammad Ba'lousha, 26 years old, the reporter Ultra Palestine website, was, at around 12:00PM, Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, in the house of his friend, Mohammad Al-Bourno, 25 years old, northern Gaza Strip, where some police officers arrived to the house to arrest Al-Bourno (without clarifying the charge he accused with or following the legal procedures). Upon their arrival, the called for Al-Bourno, he replied and opened the door, and then asked to be given some time to go and put some clothes on. When he entered his room where Amer Ba'lousha was, they immediately entered after him, saw Ba'lousha, and asked him to come with them as well. In the beginning, he refused, as he did not commit any violation, and for not showing him any arrest warrant or summons. So they pulled his cell phone, by force, from his hands, took him and his friend to the Internal Security headquarters in northern Gaza, where Amer Ba'lousha was placed in the solitary confinement. Since then, he announced his open hunger strike. Ba'lousha was then subjected to investigation and was questioned about his role in the popular movement and how it was established, how the statements were formulated and how the meetings for members of the movement were organized. During the investigation, he was accused of causing chaos and drafting statements against the government and against public policies. Three days after he was arrested and questioned about these charges and continued his hunger strike, he suffered severe dryness and low blood pressure. He was taken to Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza Strip at around 1:00PM, on Monday afternoon. In the hospital, the police hid his identity card and all his statements and refused to register his name by the doctors in the patients' records. He was examined and given a nutritional analysis and returned about an hour later to the internal security headquarters in northern Gaza Strip. The investigation was resumed with him, and at around 10:00PM, on the same day, he was blindfolded and transferred to Gaza central prison "Ansar", where he was subjected to investigation for the same

charges, he was taken to the solitary confinement. Over the period of five days, he was transferred to solitary confinement and forced to stand on his feet in the so-called position "Shabeh" and then returned to investigation in a process that was repeated between the investigation and Shabeh about ten times a day. After five days, he was transferred to a cell with several prisoners. At about 4:00PM, on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, three days after his arrest, three persons were released on bail after seizing their ID cards, provided he comes back to the security headquarters, in Ansar, on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March. At about 11:00AM, on Sunday, his eyes were blindfolded and taken into a room. About an hour later, the blindfold was removed from his eyes and he was asked to sign the laws and policies applied in Gaza, not to incite and organize any movement for any purpose. He was released but his cell phone remained seized by the Security Service.

It is worth mentioning that the security services in Gaza have already arrested Amer Ba'lousha more than once, one of which was on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017, claiming that he "misused technology" after posting on Facebook asking those responsible for the fate of their children compared to the poor who sleep on the floor without electricity and a source of ventilation.

(16<sup>th</sup> March) At approximately 07:15PM, on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, a police force from Khan Younis, arrested the director general of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation in Gaza Strip, Ra'fat Hammad Abdel Majid Al-Qidra, 50 years old, from his house located in Al-Qarara, northern Khan Yunis. They searched the house and seized a laptop computer, a cell phone and Fatah flag. They took him to the Services headquarters in central Khan Younis. They took him to the detention place which is "an empty small hall". After about an hour, he was transferred to a small closed room where one of the officers was sitting but did not talk to him or ask him. Another hour later, he was transferred to the investigation officer who was in a nearby room. He was questioned about the news broadcast by Palestine TV, the terminology used by the TV, and his relationship with movement (protest demonstrations on the living conditions in Gaza). The investigator tried to accuse him of leading the movement under orders coming from Ramallah, which Al-Qidra denied. During the investigation, he was addressed "based on the numbers and calls registered on your cell phone, you might be transferred to the military court and be imprisoned for 15 days /peephole" as the investigator described it. After the investigation was completed, as it lasted about an hour, the investigator informed him that he would be released under instructions from the leadership, provided he shall sign a pledge not to participate in the popular movement and not to publish any

news about the same. At about 11:00PM, he was released, and his laptop and cell phone were given back to him.

(16<sup>th</sup> March) The Investigations of Beit Hanoun in Gaza arrested the journalist Ahmad Al-Shunbari. He was beaten and tortured by security forces during his detention which lasted his 18 hours because of his posts on the protest movement against the living conditions in Gaza.

According to the investigations of "MADA" researcher, Ahmad Hashim Suleiman Al-Shunbari, 28 years old, married, and works for several websites (Al-Najah news, Dunia Al-Watan) received, at about 9:00AM, on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, a summons from Beit Hanoun Investigation, where a police force arrived and handed over his family the summons. At about 2:00PM, on the same day, Al-Shunbari was taken to Beit Hanoun Investigation Center. Upon his arrival, they started questioning him, on the background of his press posts on Facebook about the movement #we-want-to-live. They threatened him and ordered him not to post anything about the movement or comment on any photo. They asked him about his relationship with the Intelligence Services in Ramallah, and he denied any kind of relationship with the same and replied that he posts only what is related to his press work, and in accordance with the law which guarantees the freedom of expression. The detention of the journalist Al-Shunbari continued until the following day, in Beit Hanoun Center. During this period, he was subjected to threats by the police officers addressing him (you must be beaten) (you must suffer). At around 07:00PM, on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, they informed him that he would be released, and he prepared himself for this. As soon as he left the cell door, he found a officers of the military police asking for him. He was immediately beaten by the military police on the neck, and they took him inside the bus, and transferred him to the 17<sup>th</sup> headquarters, located in Al-Taw'am area, northern Gaza, where the headquarters of the military police is located. Upon his arrival, he was asked to stand against the wall and was beaten on his back and neck. They prevented him to speak, and then took him to a cell with a number of citizens who were arrested on the background of their participation in the popular movement. After ten minutes, he was taken out, and they started investigating with him and questioning him "who do you communicate with? Who is the intelligence officer you contact?" and they asked him to confess "about the parties he communicates so he will be released". They promised him that they will behave with him if he confessed, but he insisted that he has no relations with any party, and he is only a journalist. As a result, he was placed in a military jeep and transported to the Passport

Office in Gaza City at about 5:00PM, on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019. He was placed in the room of a police official. Few minutes later, the journalists Osama Al-Kahlut and Ahmad Sahmoud were brought in the presence of the police official Tayseer Al-Batsh and the spokesman of the Ministry of Interior, Iyad Al-Bazm. They were told that “their opinions cause disorder and rage among the people in the street, and there might be victims due to your posts”. At around 8:00PM, the three journalists, Ahmad Al-Shunbari, Al-Kahlut, and Sahmoud, were released.

(17<sup>th</sup> March) The internal security services in Al-Nuseirat City, central Gaza Strip, summoned the Adviser of the Director General of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, Dr. Saleh Al-Shafei, against the background of the events of the people’s movement, which was launched in Gaza Strip to demand better living conditions. He was detained for several hours during which he was tortured and humiliated before he was released.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Saleh Salama Sabah Al-Shafei, 47 years old, from Al-Nuseirat, Adviser of the Director General of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, a holder of PhD in political science, at about 5:30PM, Sunday (17<sup>th</sup> March 2019), received a summons from the Internal Security Service to go immediately to the headquarters of the Services in Deir El-Balah. Al-Shafei indeed went to the headquarters immediately, where they took him to a room, and seized his personal belongings. In the presence of a doctor, his health condition was examined before he was blindfolded and taken to the detention place (the hall). He remained standing and blindfolded. At first, someone asked about his latest Facebook posts on condemning the arrest of Rafat Al-Qidra, Director General of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation. In the meantime, another person came and began to ask him questions. He slapped him on the face humiliatingly and insulted him, his family and the Fatah movement. When Al-Shafei said to them, "I am a doctor, please be respectful", one of them replied, "You are an idiot". He even forced to repeat “I am the idiot, Saleh Al-Shafei” but Al-Shafei strongly refused to do so. As a result, he was severely beaten on his feet, with batons, and on various parts of his body (the effects of which are still visible on his body at the time this report was prepared). A number of officers took turns asking him questions while he was standing blindfolded throughout the period. When someone asked him about his place of work, he replied that works for "Palestine TV". The interrogator called it the "prostitution TV" and forced him to say it under beatings. They tried to accuse him of incitement against the resistance, and that he leads the movement by orders

from Ramallah, which he denied completely, and explained to them that the works for Palestine TV in Gaza in preparing programs that have nothing to do with the news. Al-Shafei said that during his detention, he heard the screams of other people suffering from torture, including Mahmoud Al-Shafei, his nephew, a freelance journalist who was arrested for publishing a video showing the suppression of security forces in Gaza for a demonstration in Al-Nuseirat. Later, after Isha Prayer, they took him to a cell adjacent to the place of detention, where a detainee from Qarmout family was. They handed him a blanket and told him that he will spend the night there. In the meantime, he felt that his left hand thumb was broken, as the pain was severe. He informed the guard of the cell, and in turn the guard informed one of the officers. They decided to release him on the following morning. They warned him not to write or publish anything about the movement or what happened to him. At approximately 10:30PM, he was released. He called his son from a communications office in the area to come and pick him up to the hospital. He arrived at Al-Aqsa Hospital at about 11:30PM. The doctors found that there was a fracture in his left thumb, bruises all over his body as a result of the beatings and torture. His thumb was placed in a cast and the doctors prescribed him some medications and painkillers. On the following day (Monday – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019), after efforts and contacts with several parties, his case was resolved with the Internal Security Services in Gaza, without returning to turn himself in as he was asked when he was released the night before, but he was warned not to post or share anything that has to do with the movement.

(17<sup>th</sup> March 2019) The Security Services have arrested three journalists working for Al-Kufiya TV, while they were covering protesting demonstrations against the poor living conditions in Gaza.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Amro Ahmad Tabash, 21 years old, a resident of Khan Younis, works as a photographer in the social media department of Al-Kufiya TV, at around 3:00PM, on Sunday (17<sup>th</sup> March 2018), went to the central area of Khan Younis, and as he crossed a street saw a number of security officers deployed, one of whom asked him to identify himself and to what party he works for. Amro told him by his name and that he was a journalist and showed his identity card and work card. The security officer replied “you are wanted”. Amro told him that he did not film any event, but the officer replied that he "transmitted the events on the previous day" via a live broadcast on his Facebook page and accused him of receiving money from “Ramallah Authority” in exchange for that. But Amro denied that and

confirmed that he did not film any event, but with no use, where he was arrested by the security officer and taken to a police vehicle where he remained for about half an hour. Another white vehicle came, and it was for the “Investigations” Services, with five masked officers inside it, carrying weapons and wearing civilian clothing. They took him from the police vehicle to their vehicle and seized his cell phone. They punched him in the stomach and took him to the Investigation Services. When he arrived, at about 4:00PM, he was questioned. The investigator asked him to sit on the chair and asked him about his charges. He told the investigator that he did not know why he was arrested and what he was accused of, and narrated what has happened to him. Then he was taken to the cell (1\*1.5 meters, dark with no lights). The security officers started coming to the place of his detention, to curse him, and ask about his charges and that he "works for the authority in Ramallah and serves an external agenda". He remained in detention in the cell for about five hours. A security officer came and asked him to write his cell phone's password addressing him "If we find filmed events in your cell phone, you are not going home, but if there aren't any events, you will be released". After an hour, one of his relatives came to the Investigations Services, and asked what has happened with him and why would he film the events and publish news about the movement. He was told that he will be released under his personal guarantee provided he shall come back at 9:00AM, on the following morning. Indeed, Amro was released at around 11:00PM, on the same day, after six hours of detention. On the following day, before going to the Investigations Center as he was told, he called his relative to ask about what would happen if he goes to the center and asked to take back his cell phone and belongings. His relative told him to stay in the house and that he will bring his belongings to him after being checked. On the following morning, Tuesday, 19th March 2019, his relative gave him back his cell phone and belongings.

On the same day Amro Tabash was arrested, his two coworkers in Al-Kufiya TV were also arrested: Ahmad Ayman Helo, 25 years old, a producer in the TV, and the photographer Amer Abdulmuti Sultan, 26 years old, both of whom work for Al-Kufiya TV/Gaza Office. They were arrested at around 2:00PM, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 while they were in "Al-Remal" area of Gaza City, to film interviews with citizens on the street for the “Platform/Al-Manassa” program of the TV. According to MADA researcher, five people in civilian clothes arrived at the place where Ahmad and Amer were. They asked them to stop filming and turn off the camera. They

introduced themselves as "the Investigation Services". They arrested Amer and Ahmad and took them to the Investigation Services. They asked for their personal cards and cell phones and about the party they work for. When they arrived, at about 2:30, they were taken to a room where they were questioned, claiming that they were "inciting citizens to participate in the movement". The investigation lasted for about two hours, during which the camera and the filmed material were checked. Then they were asked by the investigator to sign a pledge not to film or be in any demonstration. They were released and left the center at around 5:00, with their camera and the TV microphone.

(19<sup>th</sup> March) The Israeli Occupation police arrested the journalist Ahmad Al-Safadi, detained him for two hours, questioned him, and re-summoned him claiming that "he harassed one of the police officers" while filming events in Jerusalem.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Ahmad Hussein Al-Safadi, 45 years old, a Jerusalemite, the director of the Elia Media Foundation, received a summons from the Israeli intelligence services to go to the headquarters on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. But he did not respond and go. On Tuesday, March 19, as he was passing by his house in Bab Al-Zahra area, Jerusalem, he was arrested by intelligence officers and transferred to Al-Qishla prison. They started questioning him (around 3:00PM) for the charge of harassing one of the police officers while Al-Safadi was covering the violations of the police against the citizens in Al-Aqsa mosque, on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019. It should be noted that Al-Safadi told them he was a journalist and he was doing his job only. He also showed them his press card, and asked them to show any photo or video that proves their accusation of harassing a police officer. However, they did not respond, and they seized his cell phone and the three camera plates. They asked him to give his password of the cell phone, but he refused. At around 5:00PM, on the same day, he was released and after two hours of investigation, he was released provided he shall come back to Al-Qishla police station again at 9:00AM, on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, but he postponed it to 7:00PM, as he works in a school in the morning in addition to his press work. He was asked to sign documents that abide him to go to the headquarters on time, but he refused. Indeed, on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019, he went to the police station on time, where he was informed that the investigator is not available, and he will be called as soon as the investigator comes back. Al-Safadi requested his cell phone back, but they refused. After an hour of waiting, he left the place.



(19<sup>th</sup> March) The journalist Thaer Abo Rayash was injured by a gas bomb in the neck and head, while he was covering the sea march organized in Zikim, northern Gaza, as part of the peaceful return marches.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the journalist Thaer Khaled Fahmi Abu Rayash, 24 years old, from Beit Lahia, northern Gaza Strip, a photographer of Shamal online News Network, at around 3:00PM, on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018, while he was wearing the PRESS vest, carrying his camera to cover the sea march announced by the High Commission of Return Marches, arrived near Zikim military site, northern Gaza, in Beit Lahia City. The place was crowded with peaceful demonstrators. The Israeli occupation soldiers deployed on the other side were firing gunshots and rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas bombs, causing the injury of a number of citizens, which made him stay far away, about 400 meters away from the border fence on the other side of which the Israeli soldiers were deployed. After about half an hour, at around 4:30PM, the Israeli occupation soldiers heavily and randomly fired gas bombs at the demonstrators. They also directly fired gas bombs at the journalist resulting in the injury of Abu Rayash by a gas bomb in the neck and head. He was taken by a Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance, parked at a distance of 400 meters to the a field paramedic center, one kilometer away from the demonstration, where he received the first aid, and then was transported by Al-Awda Hospital ambulance to Tel Al-Za'tar, northern Gaza Strip. His injury was described as average, and it was stitched with three stitches. He was placed under observation for fear that his neck veins were damaged. He stayed in the hospital until 8:30PM on the same day.

(19<sup>th</sup> March) On Tuesday evening, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Israeli forces have suppressed a number of journalists by sound bombs and rubber bullets while they were covering a siege of one of the houses in Obwen, northern Ramallah, 30 kilometers away.

According to investigations of "MADA" field researcher, a group of journalists arrived in the old town of Obwen, Ramallah, between 10:30PM and 11:00PM, on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to cover the siege of a house there. They approached a distance of 100 meters away from the besieged house amid the great number of spread Israeli soldiers and Israeli Special Forces wearing black shields. While the journalists were covering the event, five Israeli soldiers expelled the journalists from the place, prevented them from coverage, and threatened to arrest them despite their press cards. At

11:30, they fired rubber bullets and gas bombs at the journalists to keep them away. These journalists included: Issam Huda Al-Rimawi, photographer of Al-Hayat newspaper and the Turkish Anatolia Agency, Ali Dar Ali, a reporter for Palestine TV, Hisham Kamel Abu Shakra, a photographer of the Turkish Anatolia Agency, Ismail Khader, photographer of Reuters News Agency, Khaled Ali Sabarneh, photographer of Iran TV, Mutasem Saqf Al-Hait, photographer of Quds News Network, Jihad Ibrahim Barakat reporter of Palestine Today, Samed Baghdadi, photographer of Palestine Today, and Fadi Al-Jayyousi / Palestine TV photographer, and Ahmed Aruri / photographer of Al-Ayam newspaper. Even though the location did not witness any clashes with the occupation forces whose hundreds of officers were deployed in Obwen. According to the statements of the journalists who were present in the location, the process of suppressing them and firing tear gas bombs and rubber bullets at them occurred at 11:30PM, when the Israeli occupation forces removed the body of a young Palestinian man named Omar Abu Laila, who was killed by the soldiers in one of the houses after bombing the house in which he was located. This killing was confirmed by the Israeli army spokesperson, Avichay Adraee, in a press release circulated by the media on Wednesday morning, at 6:30PM in which he stated that an Israeli force has murdered a Palestinian young man claiming that he executed a shooting and stabbing of a soldier and citizen.

(22<sup>nd</sup> March) The journalist Hashem Al-Soudi, was injured by a gunshot fired by the occupation soldiers at him while he was covering a peaceful return march eastern Gaza.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Hashem Hisham Al-Soudi (29 years old), works for Al-Israa Radio, went, at around 3:30PM, on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, to Malka Camp, eastern Gaza, carrying a photographic camera of Canon D500, and he was not wearing the press shield. He stopped at a distance of 150 meters away from the separating fence to cover the demonstration organized weekly as part of the return marches. When the demonstrators approached the fence, he also approached but stopped at a distance of 30 meters away from the fence. After he took some photos while some of them were trying to cut the fence, he moved backwards, and stopped at a distance of 70 meters away from the fence while the army continued heavy firing of gas bombs and gunshots at the demonstrators. At around 04:00PM, he was wounded by gunshot fired by the Israeli soldiers. It entered from the left thigh and went out to injury his right knee, causing him to fall to the ground. He was taken by paramedics who were in

the area by the ambulance of the Palestinian Red Crescent to the medical tent located about 700 meters away from the fence. The wound was dressed, and after about half an hour, he was transferred to Al-Quds Hospital where he arrived at 5:00PM. He was immediately taken to the Radiology Department, and his injury was dressed again. After about half an hour, he was transferred from Al-Quds Hospital to Shifa Hospital where he arrived at around 6:00 PM. He was admitted to the hospital's orthopedic department. The doctors told him that he was slightly injured and there was no need to undergo any operations. He stayed in the hospital for three days and received the necessary medication. He was given two crutches for walking and he was discharged on Monday afternoon, while the doctor asked him to review the hospital on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to change the dressing of the injury.

(22<sup>nd</sup> March) The journalist Ismail Abu Omar was injured by a gas bomb directly in the foot while he was covering the events of the return peaceful march in Khuza'a, eastern Khan Younes. According to the investigations of MADA researcher, on Friday, 22 March 2019, the journalist Ismail Fareed Mohammad Abu Omar, 34 years old, from Khan Younes, the reporter of Al-Aqsa Radio in Gaza, arrived at around 3:45PM, on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, with one of his friends, to Al-Awda Camp, in Khuza'a, eastern Khan Younis, to cover the events of the return march organized weekly. Upon his arrival, thousands of peaceful demonstrators were standing opposite the border fence, while Israeli soldiers were deployed on the other side of the fence fired live bullets and gas bombs at the demonstrators. Many of them were wounded (some of whom with live bullets). When Abu Omar arrived Jakar Street, about 150 meters away from the separation fence, he started his work until he was injured by a gas bomb in his left foot, fired at him by one of the soldiers, causing him severe pain. Although he continued working, the pain did not stop and the place of injury was swelling. He had to leave to his house for rest, as he was recommended by the paramedics who checked his injury.

(22<sup>nd</sup> March) The occupation soldiers have arrested the journalists Jafar Ishtaya and Nidal Ishtaya while they were covering the weekly return march in Kufr Qaddum. According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Jafar Zahed Hussein Ishtaya, (51 years old), a photographer of the French News Agency, Nidal Taher Ishtaya, (49 years old), works for the Chinese News Agency Xinhua, and Mohammad Mahmoud Hassan Inaya, (27 years old) a

photographer of Palestine TV, have arrived to Kufr Qaddum, in Qalqilya, between 11:00PM and 12:00PM, on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, to cover the weekly march which were launched since eight years to protest against the closure of the occupation army of the town's entrance since 2003 for the interest of Qadumim Settlement, established on the territories of the town. The three journalists were wearing the PRESS uniform, including the helmet and the muzzle. When the citizens began their usual march at around 12:30PM, the journalists started taking photos, and when the demonstrators arrived the closed street at 100 meters away from the gate of Qadumim settlement and started sitting on fire rubber tires. An Israeli army force quickly came and started firing metal bullets and sound bombs. In the meantime, the journalists in the location (6) were standing on the right side of the closed street at a distance of 20 meters away from the demonstrators to transmit the events. While the soldiers attacked the demonstrators, five soldiers approached the journalists and started screaming at them to prevent them from completing their work. The journalists began to move back and the soldiers started beating the journalist Jafar Ishtaya, pushed him from the back, until his helmet fell to the ground. Moreover, one of the soldiers started also beating the journalist Nidal Ishtaya with his gun causing him severe bruises in the palm of his hand. The journalist Mohammad Inaya was pushed and threatened with gunshots in the event he films anything. All of the journalists moved back to a distance of 120 meters away from the soldiers, where Nidal Ishtaya received some first aid from the medical staff in the town.

(22<sup>nd</sup> March) The photojournalist Ali Jadallah was injured by explosive gunshot fragments in the left hand, fired at him by one of the Israeli occupation soldiers while he was covering the events of the return march in Malka, eastern Gaza.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the photographer of the Turkish Anatolia Agency, Ali Hassan mousa Jadallah, 29 years old, married, has arrived at around 3:00PM, on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019, to Malka, east of Gaza, to cover the events of the return march and break the weekly siege. He was wearing the PRESS uniform (helmet, vest). When the demonstrators approached the separation fence on the other side of which the Israeli soldiers were deployed, the photographer Jadallah, along with his colleague journalists, to film the events, and while he was 400 meters away from the separation fence, he started filming hundreds of demonstrators when the Israeli occupation soldiers were firing live bullets and gas bombs randomly at the them. At around 4:00PM, while he was doing his work, he was injured by

explosive gunshot fragments in his left hand fired by an Israeli soldier at the demonstrators near Jadallah, who was transported by a Red Crescent Ambulance to the field medical point 700 meters away. He received the first aid, and then was taken to Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza where he was imaged and underwent some medical tests which showed that there was a fragment in his hand. He received the necessary treatment and stayed in the hospital for an hour and then left provided he shall regularly review the doctors in the hospital.

(23<sup>rd</sup> March) The journalists, Mahmoud Allouh and Ahmad Allouh, were injured on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019, due to the bombing of an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft while they were covering a demonstration at the separation fence, eastern Bureij, central Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Mahmoud Omar Mahmoud Allouh, from Al-Nuseirat Camp, central Gaza Strip, 29 years old, a reporter of Sawt Al-Sha'b Radio, and Ahmad Baker Mahmoud Allouh, 34 years old, from Al-Nuseirat as well, a reporter of Al-Ribat Radio, have arrived, at around 4:00PM, on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019, to Al-Awda Camp, eastern Bureij, to cover the Israeli bombing targeting demonstrators who were getting ready to the night disruption events, near the separation fence in that area. They stopped at a distance of 500meters away from the fence to cover the events and the demonstration. They started broadcasting through their personal pages to the radios they work for. At around 4:30PM, the reconnaissance aircraft bombed the place where the journalists Ahmad and Mahmoud were located. They were injured and they fainted. After about half an hour, they found themselves at Al-Aqsa Hospital where the doctors informed them that they were transported after their injury. The doctors found that the journalist Mahmoud Allouh was injured by two fragments in the back, and bruises. He received treatment after his recovering consciousness, and all the fragments that injured his back were removed, leaving minor effects. Ahmad Allouh was wounded and bruised as a result of fainting due to the bombing. However, he was not injured by fragment. At about 5:30PM, they left the hospital after their health condition stabilized.

(23<sup>rd</sup> March) The Preventive Security Service in Hebron summoned the journalist Sari Shareef Jaradat and questioned him about his press work.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, at around 10:00AM, on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019, Sari Shareef Abdelghaffar Jaradat, 33 years old, from Saeer, Hebron, a photographer,

reporter and journalist of Al-Mayadeen TV, and the Turkish Agency Ikhlas, received a phone call from one of the Preventive Security Services officers who asked him to come to the headquarters in Hebron. On Monday morning, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019. At around 10:00AM, he arrived to the headquarters in Hebron, where the guard took his cell phone and accompanied him to the waiting room in the first floor, where a group of citizens were waiting, including the reporter of Al-Hadath newspaper, Musab Abdelsamad Shawer Al-Tamimi (27 years old), who was summoned as well. Five minutes after Jaradat entered the waiting room, one of the Service officer came, took his personal identity card, and left. After 40 minutes, the same officer came back and took Jaradat to the second floor, where one of the investigators was waiting for him at the stairs. He took him to an office, asked to take a seat, and started asking him questions about his name, his press work, and how he received his salary. Jaradat was answering the questions which he considered routine questions. But when Jaradat asked the investigator about his name, the later refused to reply. The investigator asked him whether he belongs to the democratic front, and Jaradat replied that he does not belong to any political faction. The investigator continued talking about local radios, and many of them work without journalism. He asked Jaradat about his previous job at (Lahtha) media agency. He told him that he worked there for about a month and left it because of differences in the nature of work and salary, and he did not know anything about it. The investigation lasted about 40 minutes, and no direct charges were pressed against Jaradat. After that, his cell phone was handed over and he left the headquarters.

(24<sup>th</sup> March) The internal security service in Rafah summoned both Palestine TV photographer, Bassam Abdullah (52 years old), from Al-Shaboura, and the Monitor of Palestine TV, Iyad Abu Zubaida (46 years old) from Yabna Camp.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Abu Zubaida and Abdullah have received a phone call from a person who introduced himself as an officer from the Public Relations Department in the Internal Security Service in Gaza. He informed them to come on the following morning, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to the service headquarters in Rafah. Abu Zubaida and Abdullah informed the administration of the TV and the journalists syndicate as well as other parties to intervene. On Monday morning, and before the scheduled appointment, they were informed by one of the parties that has intervened that their summoning has been suspended due to the security conditions Gaza Strip is witnessing caused by the Israeli occupation.

(24<sup>th</sup> March) The Palestinian Preventive Security Service in Hebron summoned the journalist Musab Shawer Al-Tamimi, three consecutive times and questioned him.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Musab Abdelsamad Mohammad Hamed Shawer Tamimi, 28 years old, from Qezon, Hebron, a reporter of Al-Hadath, received, at around 10:00AM, on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019, a phone call from a person who introduced himself as an officer from the Palestinian preventive security service. He informed him to come to the headquarters in Hebron immediately. When Musab asked about the reason, the caller told him that there was a decision for his arrest in the event he does not respond to the summons, and that he will know the reason of summoning him when he comes.

Musab went directly to the Preventive Security Service headquarters, and upon his arrival at 11:00AM, one of the security officers took him to a room in the first floor, seized his two cell phones, and informed him that he was arrested. After about 10 minutes, another security officer came and took him to the investigation room on the same floor. There was one investigator. He asked Musab to sit on a chair and began to talk to him about his social life, the nature of his work, his salary, how he receives the same, his news resources, and how he received the information. The investigator asked Musab to give him the password of his phone and the Facebook. Musab rejected what the investigator asked him, and told him that personal matters need a court order. The investigator considered this refusal that Musab “is hiding things that affect security and the law” on his cell phone, and that he (the investigator) wants only to see the posts on his Facebook. If there were correspondence with other parties (in Gaza and the West Bank), Musab agreed on that and gave him the passwords of the cell phone and Facebook. The investigation session continued until 3:00PM, where the investigator informed Musab that there were people intervening to prevent his arrest and that he would be released on the following morning, Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to complete the investigation and receive the cell phones that Musab knew from the investigator that they remained seized for security check. Musab left the house at about 3:00PM, and at around 10:00AM, on the following morning (Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019) Musab returned to the Preventive Security Service headquarters on time. Upon his arrival, a security officer took him to the waiting room where he saw a number of citizens, including journalist Sari Sherif Jaradat, a reporter and a photographer for Al-Mayadeen TV and the Turkish Agency “Ikhlas” and he learned from him that he was called by telephone. After about 20 minutes of waiting, a security officer

came and took Musab to the same investigator. As soon as Musab entered, the investigator took out a number of printed papers of correspondence taken from Musab's cell phone. He told him that he wanted to ask about some words he did not understand in the correspondence between Musab and his wife. Musab replied that these are special matters and have nothing to do with them. They do not affect security, and "there is an agreement to give you the password for Facebook to have a look at the posts and not to read my conversation with my wife". After a few minutes of questioning, the investigator asked Musab whether he belonged to Hamas. Musab denied that. The investigator replied "You are from the liberation party. We found a statement on your phone". Musab told him that as a journalist he was following everything and the statement "does not mean that I belong to this party". The investigator asked Musab several questions about his position towards the PA's policy and whether he supported or opposed it. The investigation session continued intermittently until 3:00PM. The investigator recorded everything Musab answered. Musab was told by the investigator to come back to the Service headquarters on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to complete the investigation and examine the remaining information on the cell phones. Musab returned to the headquarters, and after waiting for few minutes, he was taken to the same investigator, who questioned him about his friends and social relations, the reasons for his arrest and summoning him by the Palestinian Intelligence Service during the previous years, the session lasted for about two hours, after which Musab was handed over his cell phone and released at around 12:00PM.

(29<sup>th</sup> March) The Journalist Mohammad Abu Sultan was wounded by a live bullet fired by Israeli soldiers while covering a peaceful march east of Rafah in Gaza Strip.

According to investigations of MADA field researcher, Mohammad Sameeh Abu Sultan, 24 years old, resident of Rafah, works for the "Rowad Al-Haqiqah" Network, arrived with some of his colleagues working for the same network at about 6:30PM on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019, eastern Rafah, the border area, to cover the night demonstrations as part of the so-called "night disruption activities". He was wearing the PRESS vest and carrying a Canon 5D camera. At about 07:30PM, demonstrators began firing rubber tires and sound bombs at Israeli soldiers stationed behind the sand berms on the other side of the fence. Sultan came and stood about 100 meters away from the fence and began taking photos of protesters. After about half an hour, he approached a distance of about 50 meters from the fence. At around 8:30PM, he saw a number of Israeli vehicles quickly



approaching a distance where one of the demonstrators tried to sneak out. The soldiers began to shoot at the demonstrators in a heavy manner. Suddenly he felt very pain and then screamed. He was injured and saw severe bleeding from the chest area. The demonstrators quickly came and took him by the ambulance (and after that he did not know anything because he passed out). He was taken to the Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital, where he recovered consciousness in the intensive care unit. He was given oxygen to breathe and control the bleeding. The doctors found that he was injured by fragments of a gunshot. At around 10:00PM, he was taken to the European Hospital, where he was admitted to the ICU, where he was imaged (CT scan) of the place of fragment. It was not clear to them, as the doctor told him, and they asked him to stay in the hospital but he refused and left the hospital at about 1:00AM, on the next day (Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019) with his medications. About two hours after he left the hospital (at 3:00AM), the blood was renewed. Abu Sultan went to Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital again, where he was imaged a new CT scan without showing any fragments. The wound was dressed and they asked him to stay overnight again. He refused and left the hospital at about 5:00AM. At around 1:00PM, he went to the border area east of Rafah, (where a demonstration was organized marking the anniversary of the return marches and the Earth Day). But he felt dizzy and his bleeding was renewed so the paramedics took him to the medical point established there.

After about an hour, the doctors took him to Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital, as the bleeding was stopped and dressed. He stayed in the hospital until 7:00PM, but until the moment, the fragment was not removed from his body.

(30<sup>th</sup> March) Two journalists, Mohammad Abu Hayya and Mohammad Balour, were wounded by rubber bullets fired by the Israeli soldiers while covering the peaceful march organized near the separation fence east of Al-Bureij refugee camp on the occasion of the first anniversary of the return marches and the Earth Day.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Mohammad Ribhi Atallah Abu Hayya, (33 years old), Al-Nuseirat Camp, central Gaza Strip, a photographer of Social Media, Al-Aqsa Radio, at around 9:00AM, on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019, went to cover the return marches, in the central areas, specifically Al-Awda Camp, east of Bureij. He started taking photos and live broadcasting the arrival of demonstrators, until 4:00PM on the same day. While Muhammad Abu Hayya was about 400 meters away from the separation fence, and live broadcasting through Al-Aqsa TV from

the back of the demonstrators while the soldiers were firing gunshots, rubber bullets and gas bombs. He was injured by a rubber bullet in the upper left thigh. He was rushed to the nearest field medical point. Doctors found that he was bruised and swollen by a rubber bullet. He was given medications and cold water compresses. He left the house and returned home at about 5:00PM on the same day.

On the same day, Muhammad Mesbah Mahmoud Balour, 39 years old, a resident of Al-Nuseirat refugee camp, central Gaza Strip, a reporter and a photographer for Al-Aqsa Media Network, arrived at about 10:00AM (30<sup>th</sup> March 2019), wearing the PRESS helmet and a vest, and there he took photos and transmitted media messages to the network he works for. At around 02:00PM, while he was filming citizens from behind, he was injured by a rubber bullet in the right thigh (above the knee). He immediately went to the field medical field, which was located approximately 100 meters away, where he received pain killers and cold compresses to reduce the pain.

(30<sup>th</sup> March) The journalists Alaa Al-Namla and Mohammad Qindeel were injured by gas bombs fired by occupation soldiers at them while they were covering demonstrations on the occasion of the Earth Day, and the anniversary of the launch of return marches, east of Rafah, in Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Alaa Abdelfattah Al-Namla, 35 years old, a reporter of Al-Quds Media Network, at around 11:00AM, on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019, went to eastern Rafah, wearing the PRESS vest, and carrying photographic camera and tripod. When he arrived, he sat in the tent of journalists located 600 meters away from the separating fence, waiting for the events to begin. At about 1:00PM, he started photographing some of the events that were held in the camp yard and live broadcasting through his Facebook page. About half an hour later, he moved to the area of the gathered demonstrators who were about 100 meters away from the fence, on the other side of which the soldiers were deployed, firing gas bombs at the demonstrators. At about 2:30PM, the clashes intensified and the demonstrators approached about 70 meters from the separation fence. In order to avoid the occupation forces firing gas, he stepped aside from the demonstrators, whom he accompanied to this distance. He was filming and broadcasting live via his Facebook page. Three of the journalists stopped at a distance of 15 meters away from them, although his PRESS uniform was clearly evident to the soldiers, one of them fired a gas bomb directly at the journalist Alaa, at around 3:00PM, which damaged his tripod and smashed one of its angles. The bomb bounced to injury Alaa in his left foot, and then he fell to the floor. He was taken by an ambulance to the field medical point at 700 meters away from the fence.

He received the first aid and his foot was “fixed” so he does not move it. After 10 minutes, he was transferred to Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital, where he was imaged, and his injury was minor. He needed rest and he was given the pain killers after his wound was dressed. He was discharged from the hospital after half an hour.

On the same day, Mohammad Omar Qindeel, 30 years old, a photographer working for Al-Masdar News Network, arrived to the same location (east of Rafah) to cover the demonstrations, at around 12:00PM. He was wearing the PRESS vest and carrying a camera. At about 1:00PM, he began broadcasting live the events via Facebook a group of demonstrators, who were 150 meters away from the fence (in Jakar Street), using his cell phone. The soldiers were firing gas bombs at the demonstrators. At around 4:00PM, while he was covering the events, one of the soldiers directly fired a gas bomb that injured his right thigh. He was taken by an ambulance to the field medical point 700 meters away from the separation fence. The doctors gave him the necessary treatment; after they found that the place of injury was red and swollen. After an hour, he left the medical point.

(30<sup>th</sup> March) The journalist Mahmoud Fawzi Abdelghani was injured by a gas bomb while he was covering a march targeting the medical staff on the occasion of the Earth Day, organized near Howara barrier, at the entrance of Nablus City.

According to investigations of MADA researcher, Mahmoud Fawzi Mahmoud Abdelghani, 33 years old, a freelance photographer, went to the entrance of Nablus near the Israeli military checkpoint Hawara to cover a peaceful march held there on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 on the occasion of the Earth Day to protest against targeting the medical staff and paramedics, by the occupation. The latest of which was the death of the medic Sajid Mezher by the soldiers bullets in Bethlehem. The demonstrators gathered at a distance of about 100 meters from the army's military checkpoint and were lifting photos of medical workers who were shot dead by the Israeli army during their work. Since the first moments of the demonstration, the soldiers fired tear gas bombs at the demonstrators, injuring a number of them. At around 12:30PM (approximately half an hour later) Mahmoud and a number of his colleagues were in a distance of 70 meters away from the army checkpoint, wearing a press vest and muzzle, taking some photos. In the meantime, one of the soldiers fired a gas bomb from a distance of 40 meters that injured the journalist Mahmoud in the

mouth and hand, the moment he was injured. He was wounded slightly because he was putting a muzzle that reduced the gravity of the injury. He received the field treatment by the medical staff. (39<sup>th</sup> March) The photojournalist Bilal Al-Darbi was injured by a gas bomb fired by one of the soldiers while he was covering a demonstration, right across from the separating fence, eastern Rafah.

According to MADA researcher, Bilal Fawzi Sha'ban Al-Darbi, 20 years old, resident of Rafah, a photographer of "Rowad Al-Haqiqa" Network, arrived at around 10:30AM, on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to Al-Awda Camp, right across from the border strip east of Rafah, wearing a blue press vest and carrying his press equipment, to cover the march organized on the occasion of the Earth Day, and the annual anniversary of the return marches which were launched on 30 March 2018. Immediately after his arrival, Al-Darbi began taking photos of the crowds arriving at the camp, and then began to follow groups of demonstrators towards the border strip until it was about 10 meters away from the fence, on the other side of which was an army jeep and a number of soldiers. At around 2:00PM, while taking photos of the military jeep and the soldiers who were targeting the demonstrators with gas bombs, one of the soldiers stationed in a tower about 100 meters away fired a gas bomb at him in the head (on the right side of the head near the eye). Immediately he was taken by demonstrators to an ambulance that was nearby, he received the medical treatment from the field point in the camp, where he was given initial treatments for the burns and bruises caused by the bomb. The doctors decided to keep him under medical observation in the hospital until the following day 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 when his right eye was swollen and he was transferred to the European Hospital in Khan Younis to be examined by ophthalmologist. It was found that his eye was unaffected and the swelling was a normal symptom and it will go with time and treatments. He then returned to Al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah and the doctors decided to keep him under observation for another day. On the morning of the third day (1<sup>st</sup> April 2019), Al-Darbi left the hospital at about 11:00AM. The swelling of his eye and his suffering from the headache continued for several days.

(30<sup>th</sup> March) A gas bomb fired at the photographer Walid Abu Rock, while he was covering the march east of Khan Younis, led to the crash of his camera without causing any harm.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Walid Mahmoud Abu Rock (28 years old), from Abasan Al-Kabira, eastern Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, a freelance photographer, went

to Khuza'a, eastern Khan Younis, at around 1:00PM, on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019, to cover a demonstration organized on the occasion of the annual anniversary of the return marches. He was carrying a photographic camera and wearing the PRESS vest. When he arrived the location, he started taking photos of the demonstrators who began gathering in the camp located 300-350 meters away from the separating fence, on the other side of which the occupation soldiers were deployed. At around 3:00PM, he approached the fence, and stopped at a distance of 150 meters, taking photos of the demonstrators who started firing rubber tires, while the soldiers were stationed behind the sand berms near the military jeeps, firing gas bombs at the demonstrators. At around 3:30PM, the camera he was carrying was hit by the gas bomb without causing him any harm.

## **April**

(5<sup>th</sup> April) The photographer, Mohammad Abu Sa'adah and the photographer Saif Iyad Abdelghafour were injured by gas bombs while they were covering the events of the return march east of Khan Younes, on Friday, corresponding 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Mohammad Issa Abu Sa'adah (26 years old), from Bani Suhaila, east of Khan Younes, a photographer of "Nour News Network", has arrived at around 3:30PM, on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019, to Al-Awda Camp, in Khuza'a, along with his colleague, Hamza Al-Shami, to cover the weekly peaceful demonstration. Abu Sa'adah was carrying the camera, and at around 6:00PM, while he was at a distance of 250 meters away from the fence, filming the events, he started taking photos of the demonstrators. Then he approached the fence at a distance of 100-150 meters away from the fence to take photos of the demonstrators who were sitting rubber tires on fire while the Israeli soldiers were firing gas bombs. At around 6:30PM, while he was taking photos of the demonstrators and the suffocation cases of them, he was injured in his left leg by a gas bomb fired directly at him by one of the occupation soldiers. He was taken by the paramedics to the field hospital at a distance of 700 meters away from the separating fence where he was given an injection in the thigh and his injury was dressed. At around 7:00PM, he left the field hospital and went home. That night he was not able to sleep due to the severe pain. On the following morning (6<sup>th</sup> April 2019), he went to the European Hospital in Khan Younes, where a CT scan was done to his foot and he was given some pain killers for three days.

Saif Iyad Abdelghafour, (19 years old), from Al-Balad, Khan Younes, a photographer and reporter of “Ein News Network” has arrived to east Khuza’a, at around 3:30PM, on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019, to cover the return march. He was wearing the PRESS vest and carrying a camera. Upon his arrival, he started filming the events, and at around 5:30PM, he approached about 200-250 meters away from the separation fence to film the demonstrators who were deployed as groups near the fence. In the meantime, the soldiers were firing gas bombs at the demonstrators and some of them suffered suffocation. He was filming a paramedic, five meters away, who was injured by a gas bomb and fell to the ground. The soldiers continued to fire the bombs, one of which injured Abdelghafour in the right hand (in the wrist). He pulled out a “crepe bandage” from his pocket and placed it at the injury. Abdelghafour continued his work from the same location. When he left the area at around 7:00PM, he felt severe pain in his hand. He went to Nasser Medical Complex, west of Khan Yunes, where he arrived at 8:00 PM, and made some examination and images to his hand. There was a slight fracture and bruises in the nerves, which made him lose sensation in the thumb and pinky fingers. He was given some pain killers and informed to come again for check on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

(11<sup>th</sup> April) An Israeli occupation army force has raided and searched the house of the journalist, Raed Shareef Laila, without any justifications.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, an Israeli occupation army force, consisting of six soldiers, has raided, at around 11:00PM, on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019, the house of the journalist Raed Al-Shareef (29 years old), a reporter of “Al-Ghad” TV, and program presenter of “Orouba” Radio. They calculated the number of rooms of the house located in Hebron, consisting of three floors (as he lives with his parents). They asked about the persons staying in the house, without giving any reasons or explanations of raiding and searching the house. They left after about an hour. It was found later that the soldiers were asking to find the house and in that night they did not search another house.

(12<sup>th</sup> April) At around 2:00PM, on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019, dozens of young men gathered in Bab Al-Zawiya, central Hebron, and started throwing stones and empty bottles at the military checkpoint at the entrance to the closed Al-Shuhada Street, referred to as “Shoter” checkpoint or (56). As a result, a number of Israeli soldiers came out of the checkpoint and fired sound and gas bombs at the demonstrators who were throwing stones. They chased them in the area of Wadi Al-

Tuffah Street, while the young men continued throwing stones, while the soldiers continued firing rubber-coated gunshots. At around 4:00PM, a group of journalists near Hasouna Gas Station, close to the above mentioned checkpoint were filming the events, including the journalist Musab Abdelsamad “Mohammad Hamed” Shower Al-Tamimi, (28 years old), Al-Hadath Newspaper reporter. In the meantime, Musab went to the toilet next to the station. One of the soldiers followed him and opened the door, grabbed his shirt from the back and took him out of the toilet. He pushed him towards a wall of tinsplate and grabbed the gas mask that Musab had and threw it on the ground. He shouted at him, in Arabic, “what are you doing here?” and Musab replied “I am here in my capacity as a journalist”. The soldier tried to seize the camera Musab was carrying, addressing him “why are you filming, what did you film?” Musab grabbed the camera and did not allow the soldier to take it. In the meantime, two of the soldiers approached Musab, one of them grabbed Musab's left hand, while the same soldier hit the camera with the barrel of the gun. He broke the outer frame around the lens and hit Musab again on his chest. Musab began shouting at the journalists who were standing nearby. As soon as the journalists arrived, the soldiers went away and began to speak in Hebrew: “You have to leave the place” and then they returned to the checkpoint. The clashes continued until 06:00PM, while Musab left shortly thereafter.

(13<sup>th</sup> April) The General Investigations in Gaza arrested the journalist Hamza Hammad from his house and detained him for seven hours, questioned him not to mention that he was arrested about one month ago.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, a force of the general investigations arrived to GAZA at around 4:30PM, on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019, to the house of the journalist Hamza Jameel Ibrahim Hammad, Watan Radio reporter. The security officers asked him to come with them to the investigations headquarters, in Jabalia Camp, north Gaza Strip. However, the journalist, Hammad, insisted to go to the center in the family vehicle with his father driving behind the Police jeep. Upon his arrival to the security headquarters at about 5:15PM, the journalist Hammad was transferred to a cell where he stayed for about two hours. Then the director of the center came and interrogated him for about twenty minutes about his relationship with some people in Gaza Strip. Since Hammad denied any relationship with the people the investigator mentioned, the latter decided to detain him for 24 hours inside the center, on the grounds that he did not provide correct information. He was re-placed in the cell where he stayed until 11:30PM, when he was

taken out of the cell to the interrogation room, where he signed a pledge to refrain from writing on his Facebook account on the economic and political conditions in Gaza Strip, and then he was released.

It should be noted that the journalist Hammad was arrested on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019, for several days, on the grounds of the popular movement “we want to live” and he was beaten in the investigations center, in Jabalia Camp.

(13<sup>th</sup> April) Hamas Police executed several raids to the house of the freelance journalist, Ramez Mahmoud Abu Ghaben, to arrest him on the background of supporting the movement #we-want to live through his page, organized recently in Gaza Strip to protest against the high living costs and taxes.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, around 5 security officers who came in a military jeep, raided the house of the freelance journalist, Ramez Mahmoud Ameen Abu Ghaben, (25 years old), located in Al-Falouja, northern Gaza Strip, at around 5:00PM, on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019, to arrest him without even showing any written or legal notification of the arrest and without clarifying his charge. Abu Ghaben was not in the house, but he was in a street nearby and saw them raiding the house. He called his brother and the later informed him that they were looking for him to arrest him so he moved away to avoid being arrested. Since the day his house was raided until the present moment, some of Hamas security forces have raided his house almost on a daily basis in order to arrest him. Abu Ghaben and his family filed a complaint to the human rights centers and sought to engage mediators close to the security services and the national and Islamic forces to stop pursuing him. However, the security services refused to discuss his case and insisted on his arrest. In the meantime, Abu Ghaben received many letters of death threats through his account on Facebook from unknown sources on the background of his escape and being wanted by the security services.

It is worth mentioning that the journalist Ramez Abu Ghaben was arrested by the security services in Gaza on 10<sup>th</sup> March when he was in his friend’s house in Mashrou’, Beit Lahia, northern Gaza Strip. He was transferred to the Police Center of Jabalia military camp, where he was beaten and questioned for the charge of causing chaos and disrupting the public order as well as defaming Hamas. As a result of experiencing this terrible incident, he fled for fear of being subjected again



to the same practices, since he was arrested in 2017, and 2018 and he was tortured in connection to supporting the protests calling for improved electricity services.

(19<sup>th</sup> April) The journalist, Ahmad Wishah, was injured by a metal bullet, while the journalist Mohammad Allouh was injured directly by a gas bomb, on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019, while they were covering the events of the peaceful return marches, east of Bureij, central Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the journalist Ahmad Ibrahim Jameel Wishah, from Bureij Camp, (26 years old), “a volunteer photographer” and a media staff member of the Palestinian Red Crescent, has arrived at around 3:00PM, on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019, to Al-Awda Camp, east of Bureij, accompanied by a media staff of the Palestinian Red Crescent. He was wearing the Red Crescent uniform and carrying the camera in his hand. At around 3:30PM, while the occupation soldiers stationed on the other side of the separation fence (the borders) were firing tear gas bombs and rubber bullets at the demonstrators, he approached a number of paramedics 100 meters away from the separation fence, and started documenting the events while some paramedics strived to assist the injured persons. The soldiers fired a barrage of tear gas bombs, rubber and metal bullets. A rubber-coated metal bullet injured him in the head (behind his left ear), he felt humming in the ear, dizziness and pain in the head, and when he put his hand on the place of the injury, he felt swelling and blood. He went to the closes ambulance in the area, and they rushed to place a stretcher on the injury and directly took him to Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir Al-Balah. When he arrived at around 4:30PM, his skull was imaged and showed no fractures. He was injured with minor wound which was dressed and then he was discharged.

The journalist, Mohammad Baker Mahmoud Allouh, (31 years old), a photographer and reporter for Sawt Al-Watan radio at about 3.30PM, has arrived to the same location (east of Bureij). He was wearing the PRESS vest and helmet while he was covering the event. He was about 150 meters away from the fence with a group of journalists, while the soldiers stationed on the other side of the fence were firing gas bombs at the demonstrators. At about 5:45PM, a soldier fired a gas bomb directly at him, wounding him in the knee of his left leg. A number of demonstrators rushed him to the field medical point, about 50 meters away from where he was. He was taken to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital (where he arrived at about 6:20PM) where he made radiology images to his injured leg, and they showed no fracture in the left knee and laceration in addition to displacement of the knee. His entire leg was placed in cast, then he was discharged at around 7:30PM on the

same day provided he must review the hospital in two weeks to place platinum plates in the knee. (did he return and what happened with him – researcher Safa’).

(19<sup>th</sup> April) The photojournalist Yousef Mohammad Masoud was injured by a gunshot fragment in his left leg while he was covering the events of the return peaceful march, east of Khuza’a, Khan Younes, on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the freelance photographer, Yousef Mohammad Masoud, (27 years old), from Khan Younes Refugee Camp, arrived at around 4:40PM, on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019, to Al-Awda Camp, east of Khuza’a, to cover the events of the peaceful demonstration on Friday, and he was carrying a camera and wearing the PRESS vest. He stopped at a distance of 300 meters away from the security fence, and started taking photos of about 300 Palestinian demonstrators around the separation fence while three Israeli military jeeps were stationed on the other side of the fence and the soldiers were firing gas bomb and live bullets at the demonstrators. At around 5:20PM, he along with a number of journalists approached the security fence at a distance of 150 meters among the demonstrators. Few minutes later, he approached to a distance of 100 meters at around 5:30PM. From this distance, he saw one of the Israeli snipers on the top of a jeep while other soldiers were standing on sand hills firing gas bombs at the demonstrators. He continued taking pictures of the demonstrators, and in the meantime, while he was turning around, he heard a gunshot and saw dust half a meter away. Then he felt numbness in his left leg, his colleague, the photographer of Xinhua News Agency, Hatem Amr, who was close to him, told him that his feet was bleeding and he was transferred by an ambulance (at around 6:10PM) to the field hospital 700 meters away from the fence. It was found there that he was injured by a gunshot fragment in the left thigh, causing him a superficial wound lower the knee from a gunshot fragment. He was discharged from the field hospital with his brother Bassam Masoud, Reuters Agency photographer, at 6:30PM, and went to Nasser Medical Complex in Kahn Younes, at 9:10PM, to check on his leg where the doctors informed him that his wound was superficial and there is no need to be worried.

(19<sup>th</sup> April) The photographer Abdelraheem Mohammad Al-Khateeb was injured by a gas bomb in the thigh fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers while he was covering the events of the peaceful return march east of Rafah, Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Abdelraheem Mohammad Al-Khateeb, (42 years old), a freelance photographer of Anatolia Agency, went, at around 3:30PM, on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019, to east Rafah, and he was wearing the PRESS vest and helmet, carrying two photographic cameras. Upon his arrival to the tent of journalists, 600 meters away from the border fence, waiting for the events to begin, at around 4:30PM, the demonstrators started to come in groups and they gathered at a distance of 300 meters away from the separation fence. He approached them and started taking photos in the time the soldiers were firing gas bombs at the demonstrators. At approximately 6:00PM, while Al-Khateeb was traveling among the demonstrators, he was directly injured by a gas grenade in the left thigh from the back fired by an Israeli soldier. He fell to the ground, and some of the demonstrators approached to help him, but he refused as he believed that he was slightly injured and he continued working. Half an hour after the injury, he felt severe pain and swelling of the place of injury. He left the place and went directly to Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital with a colleague, where he arrived at around 7:00PM. He was no longer able to walk due to severe pain. He was taken by paramedics to the hospital and there was an X-ray done to him. It showed slight injury and he was informed that he needed rest only. His injury was dressed, and he was given some painkillers. He was discharged from the hospital at about 9:00PM and he went home.

On the same day, the photojournalist, Muath Fathi Al-Homs, (23 years old), works for the Media Office of Hamas, in Rafah, has arrived at around 4:00PM to east Rafah, wearing the PRESS vest and started live broadcasting the events and the gathering of demonstrators through the Facebook page. About half an hour later, they moved to the so-called "Jakar Street", which is about 150 meters away from the fence. After about an hour and a half of work, dozens of demonstrators were injured by gas bombs fired by the soldiers stationed on the other side of the fence. Al-Homs was injured in his left foot. Two paramedics approached him and provided him with the first aid, and dressed the place of injury. He decided to continue working but after about half an hour, he felt severe pain. He left the house and went to Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital, where he arrived at about 7:00PM. An X-ray was done to him and it showed no serious injury. The doctors gave him some painkillers and recommended him to have some rest. He was discharged after half an hour.

(23<sup>rd</sup> April) The Preventive Security Service arrested the journalist Khalil Khaled Thwaib from his house located in Beit Sahour, following several notifications directed to him.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Khalil Khaled Khalil Thwaib, born on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1997, single man, a freelance photographer, also works in a studio for his father in Bethlehem, was arrested from his house located in Beit Sahour by the Preventive Security Service at around 1:00PM, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019, following several interrupted summons which started on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019 (on the charge of receiving the prisoner Nouraldin Hamdan and whether he had any relationship with him as he assured them that he was then outside the country). The Preventive Security Service has summoned Thwaib on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019, at around 9:00AM, on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019, and when Thwaib arrived to the headquarters in Bethlehem (he arrived late at around 1:00PM), he was questioned about (the person who assigned him to film the families of prisoners) and he was asked to give the names of prisoners and the interviews he made as well as the questions he asked them (in connection to receiving Nouraldin Hamdan who denied the meeting). He was also asked about the amount he receives for each interview he conducts and the party he works for. He replied that he worked with the journalist Osaid Al-Amarneh and with agencies such as (the Arab TV, Al-Jazeera News, Quds Network, Palestinian Center for Media). His questioning continued for an hour and he was asked about students of Al-Quds Abu Deis University and his relationship with the same, in addition to the remaining period of his study in the University. After being detained for two hours following the investigation, he was asked to come back again on the next day at around 9:00AM, but Khalil informed them that he will not come back again because he will be busy with his studies. The investigator threatened him and told him to come back addressing him “don’t day words bigger than you”. He seized his identity card to force him to come back on the following day (Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April). Indeed, Khalil came back on schedule (at 9:00AM) and they placed him in a room for waiting for an hour. One of the security officers then told him to leave and come back at 10:00AM, on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April. Khalil refused to leave without taking back his identity card and one of the security officers called the investigator (Ali Hataba) and the later ordered that he takes back his identity card but to seize his personal phone, with allowing him to take the SIM Card. Khalil did not go on Wednesday, so he was summoned by the Preventive Security Service again on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to come on the following day, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2019, but he did not respond as well. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019, the Preventive Security arrested him from his house located in Beit Sahour, at 2:00PM, and transferred him to the headquarters in Bethlehem. At 4:00PM, on the same day, the investigation sessions began with Khalil, the first session took place on the presence of the investigators (Nabeel Al-Tarwa Abu Younes, and

Mohammad Shukri) by asking him about the reason why he did not show up according to the summons. Khalil replied that in the previous times he came, no topic was discussed because each time he was waiting for hours to be released. He was also asked about his press work and the investigators requested names of the pages he knows or he is (admin) in. They also asked him to give his cell phone but he did not have it then, not to mention that they asked him to open his Facebook account but he refuses. He was forced to open his account so he can come out of prison and to close his case. At 8:00PM of the same day, he was subjected to a second investigation session by the investigator Mohammad Shukri who started questioning him calmly about his work, his relationship with some journalists, especially the journalist Osaïd Al-Amarneh. He replied that Osaïd is the one who taught him how to practice the profession of journalism. On the following day, he was re-questioned and asked the same questions, he was also threatened to send a patrol to his house to take all of his personal and work devices. When he refused to respond, he was taken to the prison and he was told to stop posting on the Facebook. He was released on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

(23<sup>rd</sup> April) Some Hamas police officers in Al-Nuseirat prevented the journalist Muthana Al-Najjar to conduct interviews in the street with various citizens as part of Ramadan contest episode.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Muthana Suleiman Ibrahim Al-Najjar, (34 years old), married with four children, works for Jerusalem Radio, at around 3:00PM, on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019, was conducting interviews with citizens in Al-Nuseirat, Gaza Strip, for a special episode of his program on Ramadan contests. Two persons approached him in their military uniform; one of them introduced himself as the Investigations Director of Al-Nuseirat, in the central district. He ordered him to stop filming and prevented him to continue his work in conducting interviews with the citizens in the street. When Al-Najjar objected, the police officer asked for his press card, and so Al-Najjar gave him his membership card of the Journalists Syndicate. The officer ordered him to leave and Al-Najjar immediately contacted the Media Spokesperson of the Ministry of Interior in Gaza, Bader Bader. The later told him that the police officer's behavior "is correct and falls within the procedures of the Ministry of Culture". Al-Najjar contacted the Head of Public Relations in the Ministry of Culture, Mr. Aref Baker, who denied that. He also contacted the Government Media Official, Salama Maroud, who confirmed to him that no journalist is obliged to have a license to film TV episodes. Al-Najjar left the area without completing the interviews.

(26<sup>th</sup> April) The photographer of “Ein News” Network, Saif Abdelghafour, suffered severe suffocation while covering the peaceful return march, east of Khan Younes.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Saif Iyad Abdelghafour, (19 years old), from Al-Balad area, central Khan Younes, Gaza Strip, a photographer and reporter of Ein News Network, reported to MADA researcher that “at around 3:45PM, on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019, arrived to Al-Awda Camp, Khuza’a, east of Khan Younes, southern Gaza Strip, to cover the events of the weekly return peaceful march, carrying two cameras. From a distance of 300 meters away from the separation fence on the other side of which the Israeli soldiers were deployed, he started taking some pictures of the soldiers who were firing gas bomb at the demonstrators who approached the fence to a distance of 100 meters and some of them were injured. At around 6:20PM, he approached the separation fence to a distance of 120 meters to take photos of a demonstrator who was lifting three Palestinian flags on one stick walking 40 meters away from the fence. In the meantime, the mentioned demonstrator was injured by a gunshot in the thigh, the paramedics rushed to transfer him while the soldiers and the military jeeps were firing gas bombs which resulted in his injury of severe suffocation that led him to losing his consciousness. He regained consciousness at around 6:45PM, when he found himself in the medical point 700 meters away from the fence where he received the necessary treatment and left to his house. But he continued feeling shortness in breath during the night. On the following day, (Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019) he suffered a seizure for ten minutes.

## **May**

(3rd May) The occupation forces has arrested the photojournalist, Ahmad Sameer Al-Bath, and his colleague Abdelhafeeth Al-Hashlamoun, and detaining them for about ten hours while they were covering the events of rehabilitating the roads southern Hebron.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, at around 8:00AM, on Friday, corresponding 3rd May 2019, Ahmad Sameer Sameer Wasfi Al-Bath, holding ID Card No. (411559594), resident of Nablus, born on 31st Jan. 1993, a freelance photographer, arrived the area of "southern Hebron hills" in order to cover the rehabilitation of the roads leading to the ruins in that area, called for by Palestinian and foreign activists and citizens as well as local councils for which Al-Bath works as a freelance photographer. Al-Bath, a member of the Activestills, a group

of photographers, went there to cover the events for Mondoweiss Website. There were about 150 persons in the pink uniform. At approximately 9:00AM, approximately one hour after they began working in the land, several military vehicles of the Israeli occupation army arrived and declared the area as a closed military zone to prevent them from being there, and then began arresting a group of Palestinian and foreign activists, including the photojournalists, Ahmad Al-Bath, and Abdelhafeeth Al-Hashlamoun, even though Al-Bath has addressed the soldier, in Arabic and English, that he is a journalist and he hold a valid press card. The number of detainees reached 17 activists, only 10 of whom were handcuffed, and they all were transferred in the detention bus from the place of event to Kiryat Arba Police Center. They were detained for about 9 hours which included waiting, photographing, collecting fingerprints, and meeting with lawyers, and then questioning them individually for about 10-15 minutes of each detainee. They were questioned about the reason they were there and the events they were involved in. The main charge against them was "being in a closed military zone". When they completed the questioning, Ahmad Al-Bath signed a 15-day pledge not to be in "Mitzpe Yair", and to pay an amount of 2000 NIS in the event of disobeying the order. His statements were also presented to him but he refused to sign the same as it was written in Hebrew which he cannot read. All of the detainees were released at around 6:00PM.

(3<sup>rd</sup> May) The journalist Sari Jaradat, (30 years old), was injured by a gunshot in his right leg, fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers while he was covering a peaceful march in Beit Sira, western Ramallah.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Sari Shareef Abdelghaffar Jaradat (33 years old), from Sa'ir, northern Hebron, a photographer of Ikhlas Turkish Agency, went at 1:00PM, on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019, to Beit Sira, western Ramallah, to cover a peaceful march demanding the recovery of Palestinian martyrs corpses detained by the Israeli occupation. Upon completing Friday prayers, at 1:30PM, the citizens moved in the march towards the annexation wall established by Israel, western Beit Sira, only 300 meters away from the mosque. Sari along with another group of journalists were near the demonstrators while a group of the occupation soldiers were deployed in the form of foot patrols in the lands adjacent to the wall, while the military vehicles stopped at a distance behind the wall. Sari and the other journalists tried to go to the soldiers' location, but the soldiers refused to do so at gunpoint. They asked them to move away

and fired a barrage of sound and gas bombs randomly and heavily towards the demonstrators. Many of them were suffocated. The demonstrators started throwing stones at the soldiers who fired back at them gunshots, and rubber-coated bullets. After about 40 minutes of clashes, where the soldiers were hiding among the olive trees at a distance of 150 meters away from the journalists who were wearing the press vests distinguishing them from the demonstrators, carrying their cameras. At around 2:10PM, the journalist Sari Jaradat was injured by a gunshot in his right leg (from the front side). Sari grabbed his colleague, the photographer of Anatolia agency, Hisham Abu Shaqra, who was standing near him. He started shouting and calling “ambulance, ambulance”. One of the paramedics arrived with a group of young men and transferred Jaradat who was bleeding from his leg to a private vehicle that transported him to Ramallah Governmental Hospital while the paramedic was trying to stop the bleeding throughout the road. Jaradat was admitted to the ER at around 2:40PM, but he was unable to walk due to severe pain. The doctors took him on a wheelchair to the hospital. He made some tests and radiology and they showed the presence of fragments around the leg bone. The wound was stitched, and the bleeding stopped after it was cleaned from the fragments of the gunshots. At approximately 4:30PM, he left the hospital to his house.

(4<sup>th</sup> May) The occupation warplanes targeted Quteifan building in Gaza with five rockets, at least, in addition to Anatolia Agency in Gaza, which resulted in its complete destruction.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the director of Anatolia Agency in Gaza, Yasser Arafat Mohammad Al-Banna, (42 years old), received a phone call at around 7:30PM, on Saturday (4<sup>th</sup> May 2019), from one of the neighbors, at Quteifan building asking him to inform two of his colleagues at Anatolia Agency who were in the building to immediately leave as he received a phone call from the occupation army to evacuate the building in preparation for bombardment. Five minutes later, at about 7:35PM, Yasser Al-Banna contacted the photographer, Ali Jadallah, who was in Anatolia Agency office with his colleague Mohammad Dahlan, and asked them to vacate the place before the occupation army would target it. Consequently, the headquarters of Anatolia Agency was evacuated from the staff, and they left the building carrying a laptop and some cameras only. Around 8:00PM, the Israeli occupation planes completely targeted the building and bombed it with four rockets until it was destroyed. According to the director of Anatolia office in Gaza, Yasser Al-Banna, the agency's losses were estimated at \$ 20,000, at least.



As the office contained all of the press equipment, including three cameras, three tripods, three press vests, five gas masks, five camera batteries, memories and lenses of cameras (five), office furniture, and full kitchenware. The Office started operating in Gaza Strip in 2012, with 11 journalists working in 3 sections: news, pictures and videos. The office space is 140 square meters in size, and it is located in the first floor of the building.

At the same time, the warplanes destroyed Abdullah Al-Hourani Center for Studies and Documentation of the Palestinian Labor and Education Administration in the Palestine Liberation Organization, after targeting Al-Khazandar building which includes the center, with at least five missiles. According to the director general of Abdullah Al-Hourani Nahed Zaqout to MADA “the occupation aircrafts bombed Al-Khazandar building with three missiles, including Abdullah Al-Hourani Center, at about 10:00PM, on Saturday 4th May 2019 and few minutes later, it was targeted by two missiles, leading to the complete destruction of the building. It includes three apartments for the Center in the first and second floors, in addition to a huge hall at the building entrance, including 120 seats and ten big tables allocated for seminars, activities and meetings. The center organizes around 10-15 activities, in addition to hosting several activities from outside the center. The first floor includes two apartments; the area of each is about 120 meters, one of the apartments includes offices for the staff affairs, while the other includes offices and huge library that contains ten thousand books collected over 22 years ever since the center was established in 1997 involving rare Palestinian documents about history and heritage, in addition to the publications of the center estimated to 60, as to the second floor, it is an apartment for the center’s management officers and the studies director, noting that 17 employees work in the center.

(10<sup>th</sup> May) The photojournalist Mohammad Mahmoud Hassan Inaya, was injured by a metal bullet fired at him by one of the Israeli occupation soldiers while he was covering the weekly march in Kafr Qadoun, Qalqilya.

According to the investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, the photographer of Palestinian TV Mohammad Mahmoud Hassan Inaya, (27 years old), has arrived to Kafr Qadoun, east of Qalqilya, at 12:30PM, on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019, to cover the weekly march regularly organized by the residents since years to demand opening the entrance to the town, which is closed by the Israeli army for the settlers.

After the citizens finished prayer at about 1:00PM, they moved to their usual demonstration as the soldiers attacked the demonstrators and raided the village and stationed in a house about 500 meters away from the closed street. The demonstrators began throwing stones at the soldiers who were stationed about 100 meters away from the demonstration. The soldiers responded by firing tear gas bombs and metal bullets randomly, resulting in the injury of some demonstrators. In the meantime the photographer Mohammad Inaya and three of his colleagues were standing at a corner half way between the soldiers and demonstrators. All of them were in their press vest and helmet taking photos. One of the three soldiers stationed in the roof of a citizen's house, at around 1:45PM, fired several rubber-coated bullets directly at the journalists. One of the bullets injured the photographer Muhammad Inaya in his right leg. As a result, he fell to the ground, his colleagues and one of the paramedics helped him reach a vehicle where he received the first aid. After about half an hour, he was transferred to the Government Darwish Nazzal Hospital in Qalqilya, where it was found after imaging the injury that there were no fractures and that the bullet caused him bruises only.

(10<sup>th</sup> May) Two journalists were injured while they were covering the peaceful return march east of Rafah, one of whom was injured by a rubber bullet fired at him by one of the Israeli occupation soldiers while the other was directly injured by a gas bomb.

According to the investigations conducted by MADA field researcher, the journalist Abdelraheem Mohammad Al-Khatib (42 years old), a freelance photographer of the Turkish Anatolia Agency, went at about 2:00PM, on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019 to the area of East Rafah, wearing the Press vest and carrying a camera, in addition to the helmet and a muzzle, to cover a peaceful march as part of the marches organized each Friday. At approximately 03:00, the Israeli soldiers stationed on the other side of the fence began firing live bullets as well as gas and smoke bombs at the demonstrators, some of whom were trying to approach the fence, which resulted in the injury of several of them by live ammunition and suffocation. At approximately 04:30, while he was standing in a "relatively safe" area, as he described, approximately 250m away from the separation fence, opposite the red tower of the occupation, to the south of the demonstrators, taking photos, he was shot in the left leg and fell to the ground, and then the paramedics approached and gave him first aid but then he returned and completed his work. But soon he felt pain. He left the place

about half an hour later and went to the medical point about 700 meters away from the fence where he was given a syringe and rested in the tent for about half an hour before leaving for his home.

On the same day and place, the photojournalist of Rowad Al-Haqiqa Network, Ramzi Hatem Al-Shakhreet, (35 years old), was also injured while he was covering these events.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Al-Shakhreet was wearing the press vest and carrying a phone and "Tripod", at about 4:00PM, approached the separation fence towards the demonstrations, and stopped at a distance of 150 meters in a street called "Jakar". After about half an hour, he moved to the southern side but remained at the same distance from the fence (150 meters). At about 5:30 PM, a gas bomb was directly fired at him by a soldier stationed on the other side of the fence. The paramedics rushed and transferred him to the medical point 700 meters away from the separation fence, and there the swelling, redness of the place of injury was observed and given her some medications and pain killers and after about half an hour left for his home.

(12<sup>th</sup> May) On Sunday evening, the Israeli occupation forces detained seven journalists and human rights activists in the northern Jordan Valleys, northern the West Bank, and prevented them from covering deportations carried out by the army against Palestinian farmers and residents living there.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the journalists: Shadi Yasser Ahmad Jarara'a, (28 years old), a freelance journalist, Al-Ghad TV reporter, Khaled Salih Mahmoud Budair, (30 years old), An-Najah TV photographer, Hazem Imad Hosni Nasser, (29 years old), and Mahmoud Fawzi Mahmoud Abdul Ghani, (34 years old) freelance journalist, the Turkish Anatolia Agency photographer, Hisham Kamel Khaled Abu Shaqra (30 years), Ajyal Radio Network reporter, Ranin Rateb Sulaiman Sawafta (30 years old), Shatha Abdel Rahman Sharif Hammad (30 years old), a freelance journalist, the human rights activist Faris Fuqaha from the Al-Haq Foundation, have arrived at around 1:30PM, on Sunday (12<sup>th</sup> May 2019), to Khirbet Hamsa Al-Fawqa, southern valleys area, southeast Tubas, to cover the by the Israeli occupation forces of its inhabitants on the pretext of carrying military activity. As journalists tried to photograph the expulsion of families living in tents, one of the army patrols stopped the two journalists' vehicles, seized their ID cards and vehicle licenses, and forced them to catch them in the vehicles. After a distance of 12 km to the gate of "Mazokh" military camp as the Palestinians call it (Israelis call it

Om Zarqa) near Khirbet "Samra" in the northern Valleys, they were asked to unload the personal belongings off the vehicles and they were seized (the vehicles), while the seven journalists and human rights activists were detained there from 3:00PM to 9:00PM. They were prevented from using their mobile phones on the grounds that they were in an army military zone. At 9:00PM, the soldiers returned their personal ID cards and the vehicles' licenses and they were released but they kept the vehicles belonging to the journalists Hisham Abu Shaqra and Khaled Bader held until noon on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The Israeli Civilian Administration handed over the seized vehicles to "Mazokh" camp, in addition to an oral warning not to enter these areas claiming to be closed military zones.

(23<sup>rd</sup> May) Facebook closed no less than 65 pages and accounts belonging to Palestinian journalists and authors as part of a campaign it has carried out on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May.

According to the investigations of MADA female and male researchers, the Facebook Administration carried out, on Thursday night and early Friday (23 and 24 May 2019) a widespread campaign of closures targeting at least 77 pages, including pages for 65 journalists and authors in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The remaining pages belong to a group of activists and journalists. Those who were targeted were completely surprised they are removed and disabled by Facebook and at around the same time (between 9:00PM and 9:30PM on Thursday, 22 May 2019), without any clarifications or prior warning by the Facebook administration.

Al-Hadath Newspaper reporter in Gaza, Muthana Al-Najjar, stated to MADA researcher that the Facebook Administration has closed his page followed by "44,000 users, without any warning, indicating that it was about a month ago, another account for him was closed and it was followed by 135,000 users, after a message popped up in the browser account saying "violation of privacy" by the Facebook administration, without being informed of the nature of this violation. As to Al-Aqsa TV reporter, Ahmad Qudaih, his account was closed noting that he created it 10 years ago and it is followed by around "30,000 users without receiving any message or clarification" as he stated to MADA researcher.

The reporter of Amad Media Website, journalist Safinaz Allouh, stated that Facebook closed her page, which was created three years ago and followed by about 14500 users without warning,

noting that a previous account for her was deleted and it was followed by 24,800 persons also without warning or justifying the causes.

The media professional, Abdelaziz Nofal, stated to MADA researcher “that his Facebook page has been disabled since Friday morning, corresponding 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019, and after he attempted to figure out why, the Facebook administration asked him for his personal identity card, and after he sent it, he received the reply “there is an unknown error”. On the following day, Nofal created a new personal account on Facebook, with his personal photo as profile picture, but only with a slight change in his name by one letter only. The Facebook Administration immediately blocked him which is what happened with the journalist and programs presenter at Al-Quds Radio, Mohammad Qatania, as his account was closed on Friday noon, and he created two other accounts which were blocked as well.

The journalist, Ahmad Qudai, who works for Al-Aqsa TV, stated that his account he created on Facebook ten years ago was closed for the first time without knowing the reasons and without receiving any messages that clarifies why the Facebook page was closed especially that it is followed by more than 30 users. The freelance photographer Hassan Eslaih said that his page, which is followed by 95,000 users, was closed without prior warning. He said that 11 previous pages had been closed since 2014, most of which were closed without warning, and the most recent was closed a month ago. It was followed by 90,000 users. As to the journalist, Nour Al-Najjar, the Facebook administration closed her page, which is followed by 27,000 users.

According to the investigations of MADA female and male researchers, all of whom pages have been closed have received the same notification on Facebook: “Hello, Thank you for your response, we will ask you to reply with a photo of yourself with one of your personal identification items” to the link. After they sent their IDs, they received the response “An unknown error has occurred”. The journalist Wael Abu Amro, Head of Smart for Media Services in Gaza, has received a message that his account has been ultimately disabled. He created a new account from a cell phone and a location outside Gaza Strip, and it has not been closed.

The campaign included the closure of personal pages of the following journalists: Abdel Aziz Nawfal, the programs presenter of Ma'an TV and Orouba radio station in the West Bank, Hafeth Tallahmeh (programs creator and coordinator at Alam Radio / West Bank), the journalist Amani

Al-Hawarin (programs presenter in Siraj Radio/West Bank), journalist Mueen Tayseer Al-Dabbah/Gaza Strip, Mahmoud Al-Sharif/West Bank, Ihab Adas/Gaza, freelance photojournalist Hassan Islaih/Gaza, Al-Hadath Newspaper reporter, Muthanna Al-Najjar/Gaza, the journalist Safinaz Allouh/Gaza, the journalist Jamal Younes/Gaza, the sports programs presenter of Palestine Sports TV and Al-Quds Radio in Gaza, Alaa Salama, Mohammad Al-Amour, Ali Hirzallah, Abdullah Hirzallah, Ahmad Siam, Sawt Al-Asra reporter, Hani Al-Shaer, Osama Labad, Hussein Shajaiya, Khamees Abu Haseera, Wael Abu Omar, Al-Ghad TV Director in Gaza, Ahmad Awda, Baladna TV announcer, Abdelhameed Abdulmuti, Al-Aqsa TV correspondent Ismail Abu Omar, Al-Aqsa TV journalist Ahmad Qudaih, Chairman of the Youth Media Council Iyad Al-Qamra, the anchor of Palestine Today TV, journalist Reem Abu Hasira, the Media professional of Itihad Press Website, the journalist Hassan Shahin, the Media professional Mahmoud Al-Sherif, Dr. Mahmoud Baroud, the Journalist Osama Al-Kalhout, the journalists Israa Al-Bahisi and Nour Al-Najjar, Yacoub Abu Ghalwa, the media professional Hussein Khrais, the journalist Rami Abu Taima, the media professionals Rami Al-Najjar, Saed Abu Muhsen, and Mohammad Al-Haddad, the media professional Amal Al-Bahabsa, the author Iyad Al-Qamara, Sami Hussein, Yasser Abdelghafour, the photographer Alaa Hamouda, Hammam Al-Hattab, the photographer Ihab Fafous, Anas Al-Sharif, Iyad Qudaih, the staff member of Al-Aqsa Radio, Iyad Abu Raida, Farhan Abu Hadayed, Yasser Abu A'thra, "Masdar" Network staff member Mohammad Qandeel, the staff member of Palestine Today TV Mohammad Jodah, Dr. Jawad Al-Dalo Media Faculty of the Islamic University, Palestine Today TV photographer Dauod Abu Al-Kas, the author and political analyst Dr. Adnan Abu Amer, Dr. Hasan Abu Hashish, professor of media in the Islamic University and the former undersecretary of the Ministry of Information.

These closures also included closing the pages of a group of activities: Osama Al-Safadi, Mohammad Shukri, Muath Ragab, Tareq Khalaf, author Hossam Al-Dajny, Ali Nasman, author Nisreen Mousa, Mohamed Al-Soury, Ashraf Abde Jodah and Mazen Arshe. This also included closing the page of the Spokesman of the Ministry of Health in Gaza Strip, Dr. Ashraf Al-Qudra, the Journalist Mohammed al-Tawil, Mohammad Haniyeh, the media professional Mahmoud Bassam, the author and political analyst Wajih Abu Thareefa, the journalist Khaled Khattab, the journalist Ibrahim Al-Sheikh Ali, and the journalist Majdulin Hassouna.

(24<sup>th</sup> May) The photojournalist Atta Hadayed was injured by a rubber bullet while he was covering the events of the peaceful return march east of Gaza.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Atta Bassam Hadayed (24 years old), a photojournalist of Palestine News Agency, went, at around 4:00PM, on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019, to the border area east of Khuza'a, along with his colleagues to cover the events of the weekly peaceful return march. He was carrying a camera and wearing the Press vest. He stopped at a distance of 100 meters away from Jakr Street and started filming the demonstrators in conjunction with the heavy firing of gas bombs by the Israeli occupation forces. At around 5:00PM, he was injured by a rubber bullet in the palm of his right hand and the camera fell and broke. He was transferred by the paramedics in an ambulance to the medical point 700 meters away from the western cam where he received the first aid. Ten minutes later, the doctors recommended that he shall be transferred to the military hospital, eastern of Absan, east of Khan Younes, for suspected broken fingers, and upon arrival at the hospital at about 5:30PM, it was found that the bullet caused fractures in two fingers, and his hand was placed in cast. He was given pain killers and left the hospital after about an hour to his house. Until the time this report is prepared (29<sup>th</sup> May 2019) he is still suffering from pain in his hand.

(26<sup>th</sup> May) "Al-Hayat Al-Jadida" was prosecuted by the Ministries of Interior and Information of Hamas in Gaza Strip, to prevent publishing the daily newspaper issued in the West Bank and prevent distributing the same in Gaza Strip under the pretext that the newspaper "publishes inciting material which provoke violence, hate, and sedition as well as assaulting public and private property which leads to harming peace and security and stirring sectarian strife against the people of a single nation" as stated in a complaint filed by the Ministries of Interior and Information to Gaza Court of Magistrate in this regard.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, one of "Al-Hayat Al-Jadida" staff member has received, during mid April 2019, a phone call from the Government Media Office of Hamas in Gaza, and he was informed that there was a case initiated against the Newspaper by the Ministry of Interior. The Media Office, in its capacity as the link among the media agencies and the police, contacts the newspaper to inform it of the need to hear its statements in the subject of the filed case without referring to the nature of the complaint directly. At the time, the employee of Al-Hayat Al-Jadida informed him that the director of the newspaper in Gaza, Dr. Tahsin Al-Astal, was

traveling, and that he will be informed when he returns. On April 17, Dr. Tahsin returned to Gaza Strip, and a week later, he was contacted by the government information office to attend to the prosecution office. He went to the prosecution office in the presence of Mahmoud Al-Farra from the government media office. He found out that the newspaper was accused of “libel and defamation” due to filming the issues of Al-Hayat Al-Jadida of (leave Hamas leave), a shout chanted by demonstrators in the popular movement "We want to Live", which was released in March 2019 in Gaza. On Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019, a letter from the Public Prosecution Office was received by the headquarters of the newspaper in Gaza / Al-Rimal neighborhood / Al-Shorouq Tower / 9<sup>th</sup> floor, signed by the Attorney General of Gaza, Mr. Diaa Al-Deen Al-Madhoun. And that based on the complaint of the Ministries of Interior and Information filed against the newspaper, accusing the newspaper of “defamation and publishing inciting materials which provoke violence, hate, and sedition as well as assaulting public and private property which leads to harming peace and security and stirring sectarian strife against the people of a single nation”. The Attorney General (Diaa Al-Madhoun) recommended that Gaza Magistrate Court “shall issue a fair decision in the presence of a single party under which the newspaper must be prohibited in Gaza Strip”. Furthermore, another letter was received from Gaza Magistrate Court under No. 450/2019, stating the need of the presence of the director general of the newspaper, Majid Al-Rimawi, resident of Ramallah, court of Gaza, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

It is interesting to note that the petition submitted by the two ministries calls on the Attorney General to prevent the entry of the newspaper "Al-Hayat Al-Jadida", which is based in Ramallah and distributed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, demanding that the Attorney General to issue his decision to prevent the newspaper from entering Gaza Strip "in the presence of a single party" as stated in the petition, which is considered a pre-emptive of what will happen as the director general of the newspaper Majid Al-Rimawi, the resident in Ramallah, will not attend the court session scheduled for the tenth of June to be tried in Gaza.

(31<sup>st</sup> May) The photojournalist Ahmad Salah Al-Najjar by a rubber bullet in the back fired at him by the occupation soldiers while he was covering the peaceful return march east of Khan Younes.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Ahmad Salah Al-Najjar (21 years old), from Bani Suhaila, east of Khan Younes, southern Gaza Strip, a photographer of Nour Media Network, has arrived at 3:35PM, on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019, Khuza’a, east of Khan Younes, to cover the



peaceful return march. He was wearing the blue vest marked press, carrying a cell phone to use it in covering and documenting the events. He stopped at the berm looking toward the separation fence, eastern the camp, 350 meters away from the fence. At approximately 04:00PM, he approached the fence. He saw two Israeli jeeps firing rubber bullets at the demonstrators who were suffocated. At approximately 4.40PM, he approached a distance of approximately 100 meters away from the separation fence. He began filming the Israeli soldiers firing tear gas bombs and rubber bullets at the demonstrators and took some photos of the injured ones. In the meantime, a soldier was firing rubber bullets from the top of a military jeep. At approximately 5:20PM, while he was filming these events, he was injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the right side of his back. Some volunteers from the Palestinian Red Crescent rushed and transferred him to the medical point, 700 meters away from the separation fence, and there he received the necessary aid.

(31<sup>st</sup>-5) The Israeli occupation forces prevented Munther Al-Khatib from filming scenes of crowds of citizens heading to Qalandiya military checkpoint to Jerusalem for the last Friday prayers of Ramadan and threatened to destroy his camera forcing him to leave the place.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the photographer Munther Mohammad Shahada Al-Khatib, of Al-Ghad TV, arrived, at around 10:00AM, on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019, to film the crowds of Palestinians heading to Jerusalem through Qalandiya checkpoint, separating Ramallah from Jerusalem, where the Israeli occupation forces conducts searches and inspections of worshipers heading to the occupied Jerusalem on the last Friday of Ramadan. At approximately 12.45PM, the Israeli soldiers prevented him from coverage. Two Israeli soldiers pushed and dragged Al-Khatib from his shirt, and a hird soldier violently took the camera from the photographer Al-Khatib amid threats to destroy it if the he did not return. He stood above one of the cement cubes located about 30 meters away from soldiers to photograph the crowds at the checkpoint. The soldiers forced him to move away even though he immediately showed them the Israeli press card he was carrying and told them that he was going to leave immediately upon completing his work in few minutes. However, one officer threatened him to destroy the camera if he continued filming which forced him to leave.

## June

(9<sup>th</sup> June) The Israeli occupation authorities banned the member of the General Secretariat of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate Omar Nazzal from traveling while he was heading to Tunisia to represent the union at the International Federation of Journalists conference held there on June 10, The journalist is still a member of the Committee to supervise the elections of the President and members of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Journalists. The occupation authorities have prevented Nazzal from traveling since 2014, and in April 2016 he was administratively detained for 10 months without charge and has been barred from traveling for nearly five years.

(10<sup>th</sup> June) Unidentified gunmen have threatened Watan Network and the journalist Nizar Habash, who works for the Network, after he published a press investigation on some beauty salons. According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Watan Media Network published and broadcasted through its website, on the 10<sup>th</sup> June, an investigation prepared by the journalist Nizar Habash titled “Price of Beauty ... distortions and illusions” which addressed some of the illegal and unhealthy practices caused to several women. Few hours after the investigation was published, Watan Media Network received threats through the phone, some of which were sent to the board member of Moamer Orabi Foundation, and others were sent to the person who prepared the investigation, journalist Nizar Habash, Director of Investigative Journalism Unit at Watan Media Network. After publishing the investigation, Orabi, in the beginning, received more than one phone call where he was informed that “the investigation will affect the Palestinian economy, and will stop people to make living”. They asked him to stop publishing it, however Watan administration refused. The phone calls continued with Orabi and journalist Nizar Habash from phones with known numbers and others with unknown numbers (no called ID). Orabi received a call from a private phone (unknown caller), he and the employees where threatened that they will pay the price of this investigation if they do not delete it, and that they will be prosecuted under the Cybercrime Law. Furthermore, the journalist Nizar Habash (who prepared the report) received a threat by phone from one of the beauty salons’ owners after the investigation was published. He was threatened personally and she also threatened the foundation “I will take my right from your house” and she was shouting at him and that he caused damage to her house which made him worried

especially she threatened him and his family directly. Watan Media Network has published a statement for public opinion on these threats in which she stated its refusal of these ongoing threats.

(17<sup>th</sup> June) An Israeli Army force has stormed the house of journalist Mohammad Al-Shoaibe located in Deir Ghassana, western Ramallah, searched the family houses looking for a journalist the occupation authorities wants to arrest without a charge or justification.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, an occupation army force, at 2:00AM, on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019, has stormed the house of Mohammad Sharaf Al-Shuaibe, born in 1988, a freelance journalist, lives in Deir Ghassana, in Ramallah, while Mohammad was not at his house then. The soldiers searched the house, and one of them threatened Al-Shuaibe family and asked them to hand over Mohammad otherwise they will be punished by withdrawing their work permits. One of the officers asked Al-Shuaibe mother to call him from her cell phone and she did. The Israeli soldiers spoke with Mohammad and asked him to give himself up immediately to the army. At 3:00AM, the soldiers stormed the house of Tawfiq Al-Shuaibe, Mohammad's uncle, and they also raided the houses of Mohammad's brothers, and cousins for believing he was in their houses. At 5:00AM, the soldiers retreated from the village, amid threats to Al-Shuaibe family that they will return to arrest him if he did not give himself up. At 9:00AM on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019, journalist Mohammad Al-Shuaibe went to the Israeli Ofer camp near Ramallah, where he gave himself up. He was detained alone until 2:00PM, then he was transferred to meet one of the investigators who questioned him for fifteen minutes. According to Mohammad, he was questioned about his disobedience to the Israeli orders by not coming to the Israeli intelligence service when he was summoned in mid-April of this year by Captain Thiab by telephone. The interrogation ended with threatening him of arrest and withdrawing all of the family permits once again. He was summoned and did not go again, and the he was released.

(24<sup>th</sup> June) An Israeli occupation army force has arrested the journalist Amer Tawfiq Mousa Abu Halil after raiding his house located in Dura, West Bank.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, an occupation army force, at around 1:40AM, on Monday, corresponding 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019, has surrounded the house of freelance journalist Amer Tawfiq Mousa Abu Halil (25 years old), located in Al-Namous Block, Dura, southwest Hebron. The soldiers heavily knocked the main door leading to Amer's apartment and

the apartment where his family lives. His mother opened the door to see who's out there, once she opened the door, a number of soldiers burst the house and detained her with her son Ammar (18 years old), started questioning her about her children. Once she said Amer, the soldiers asked her to show them the way to his apartment, they escorted her to the apartment of her son, journalist Amer, adjacent to theirs. The moment Amer opened the door, the soldiers burst into the apartment, detained him with his wife and mother in the living room. One of the soldiers asked Amer to bring his personal identity card, and they started searching the rooms. Five minutes later, one of the soldiers handcuffed Amer's hands from the back and took him outside the house. At around 2:15AM, the force left the house, and arrested Amer.

(25<sup>th</sup> June) No less than 17 journalists of those working in Palestinian, Arab, and foreign media agencies were injured with suffocation and vomiting, after the occupation forces deliberately fired gas bombs at them while they were covering a condemning demonstration protesting against Bahrain workshop. It was taking place at the northern entrance of Al-Bireh, near Beit El Israeli military barrier.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, dozens of Palestinian citizens, at around 12:00PM, on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019, have demonstrated and protested against Bahrain Workshop in the Manama, after they marched in front of the medical company, which is about half a kilometer away from Beit El military checkpoint. When the march approached the checkpoint at approximately 12:30PM, the occupation soldiers fired tear gas bombs towards the demonstrators which forced them to move back towards (City Inn square and the Fuel Station) close to the checkpoint, and only then the place returned quite. In the meantime, as the journalists were getting ready to leave the area at around 12:45, after the silence fell over the area, an Israeli military jeep approached, and in one minute, fired dozens of tear gas bombs directly and deliberately towards journalists, causing many of them severe suffocation and vomiting. Among the journalists who were injured with severe suffocation: Firas Ahmad Tunaina, Director of An-Najah TV in Ramallah, An-Najah TV photographer Amjad Al-Arabeed, TRT TV reporter Ibrahim Al-Rantisi, WAFA photographer Baha Nasser, Associated Press photographer Imad Mohammad Isaid, the journalist and reporter Jane Ferguson, the photographer Matthew McGarry, the producer and journalist Fatima Abdelkareem, and the three of them work for PBS TV, Anatolia Turkish Agency, the photographer Hisham Kamel Abu Shaqra, the Photographer in the French Press

Agency Abbas Momani, Reuters photographer Mohammed Turkman, Sky News photographer Firas Lutfi, and his colleague photographer Abdul Rahman Khabisa, and the freelance photographer Ramez Awad, and the reporter of Roya TV Hafez Abu Sabra, and Al-Ayam Newspaper photographer Ahmad Al-Arouri, and the freelance photographer Hadi Sbararna, and the medics were in the place and provided field first aid for female/male journalists who were injured, even though all journalists were in the PRESS and TV uniform.

The journalist Fatima Abdelkareem Al-Etifat, has stated that she has arrived with two non-Arab journalists working for PBS TV (the reporter Jane Ferguson, and the photographer Matthew McGarry) late (at around 1:00, after the march was over) and that the place was quite except that some young men were sitting tires on fire near the checkpoint and the clashes. She approached the gathering of the journalists and asked them about a secured place for the journalists. She noticed some occupation soldiers approached the journalists and asked her colleagues to put on the Press vests, even though the situation was not that serious. About fifteen minutes later, a patrol approached the gas station near City Inn Square and began firing tear gas bombs, wounding the them and the rest of the journalists with suffocation and vomiting.

Associated Press Agency photographer Imad Mohammad Isaid, who was standing behind the City Inn Square Bus stated “it is a place far from the clashes and he wasn’t there when the Israeli patrol fired a barrage of gas bombs towards the press, and that he was suffocated and fainted for about ten minutes”.

(28<sup>th</sup> June) The journalist Nidal Shafiq Ishtaya (49 years old) was injured by two metal bullets fired at him by the occupation soldiers while he was covering a demonstration in Kufr Qadoun, Qalqilya.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Nidal Shafiq Taher Ishtaya (49 years old), the photographer of Xinhua News Agency, has arrived at 12:20PM, on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019, to Kufr Qadoun to cover the weekly demonstration requesting to open the town’s entrance which has been closed for years and to recover the town’s lands confiscated by the Israeli Occupation authorities for the benefit of “Qadounim” Settlement established above the town’s lands, and he was wearing the Press uniform and helmet. When the residents launched the weekly march after Friday prayers from the mosque, the Israeli occupation forces broke into the village at approximately 1:15PM, followed the demonstrators and surrounded the houses. They began firing

rubber-coated metal bullets and live bullets at the demonstrators which resulted in the injury of 9 demonstrators by metal bullets. In the meantime, the journalists, including Nidal, were stationed at a corner about 200 meters away from the clashes in the center of the village to take some pictures. The soldiers suddenly fired live bullets in different places. The demonstrators fled to hide behind the walls and started throwing stones. In the meantime (approximately 1:40), Nidal was standing at a distance of 200 meters away from the demonstrators, taking some pictures and he was injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the left armpit. A number of demonstrators rushed and took him to the village clinic near Omar bin Al-Khattab Mosque where he received the first aid. After about half an hour, Nidal returned to complete his work as the clashes between the demonstrators and the soldiers of the occupation ended. Again, Ishataya was injured by a metal bullet in the left thigh and was taken back to the village clinic where he was given first aid, then he was taken by an ambulance of the Red Crescent at 2:30.

(28<sup>th</sup> June) The photojournalist Ahmad Riad Al-Amoudi was injured by severe suffocation while he was covering the weekly return march east of Khan Younes in Gaza Strip, causing him to lose consciousness.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Ahmad Riad Al-Amoudi (29 years old), from Khan Younes Refugee Camp, a photographer of Palestine Breaking News TV, has arrived at around 3:40PM, on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019, to Khuza'a, east of Khan Younis, to cover the weekly return march. He was carrying a camera and wearing the Press vest. At around 3:50PM, he went to the medical point of the Ministry of Health, 700-800 meters away from the separation fence to take pictures of the medical staff. He was watching the soldiers deployed on the other side of the separation fence firing tear gas bombs and rubber bullets at the demonstrators. At around 4:00PM, he approached the demonstrators and stopped at a distance of 30 meters away from the fence taking pictures of the events, he was moving around between 30-100 meters away from the fence. At around 5:46 PM, he saw a young man falling to the ground five meters away from the fence after he was injured (it was found later that he was injured by a gunshot), he ran with the medical staff towards the injured person. Before he arrived the injured young man, seven meters away from the fence, the Israeli soldiers were firing gas bombs at him and the medical staff, one of which fell near his leg, causing him severe suffocation and loss of consciousness. He woke up

inside the ambulance which was transferring him to the medical point 700meters away from the separation fence where he received the first aid and left at 7:10PM.

(28<sup>th</sup> June) The photojournalist Raed Yousef Abu Mathkour was injured by a gunshot in his leg fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers while he was covering a demonstration at the separation fence, east of Rafah, in Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Raed Yousef Abu Mathkour (33 years old), a photographer of Rowad Al-Haqiqa Network, has arrived at around 4:00PM, on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to eastern Rafah, to cover the weekly demonstration organized by the separation fence, and he was carrying a photographic camera. There were clashes in the area and at around 5:00PM, the soldiers stationed on the other side of the fence started firing live bullets and smoky gas bombs at the demonstrators who attempted to approach the separation fence, a number of the demonstrations were injured by live bullets. After about half an hour, he approached to a distance of 100 meters away from the fence while he continued taking photos of the events. Ten minutes later, he was injured by a gunshot in his left leg fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers. He fell to the ground, and the paramedic rushed to the location to help him. They transferred him by the ambulance to the medical point established 700 meters away from the separation fence, where he received the first aid and was taken to Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital. He arrived the hospital at around 7:00PM, where he was imaged and it showed a fracture and fragments from the gunshot in his leg. The doctors could not take it out due to its small size, and they decided to put his foot in cast. He stayed in the hospital for three days and was discharged on 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

(28<sup>th</sup> June) The volunteer journalist Ikhlas Al-Qrenawi was injured by a gunshot in her foot while the journalist Mohammad Kassab was injured by a gas bomb directly in his neck.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Ikhlas Ahmad Mohammad Al-Qrenawi (23 years old), from Bureij Camp, a media volunteer at the Palestinian Red Crescent in Deir Al-Balah, has arrived at around 6:00PM, on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 east of Bureij, Gaza Strip, to cover the weekly return march, and she was wearing the Red Crescent uniform. At around 6:10PM, while she was with the Red Crescent staff at a distance of 300 meters away from the separation fence, she was injured by a gunshot in the heel of her right foot. The paramedics took her to the medical point and then she was taken to Al-Aqsa Hospital at Deir Al-Balah where she arrived at 7:20PM

and was imaged. The x-ray image showed not exit of the bullet, but the doctors stitched the wound of the injury. Less than hour upon her discharge from the hospital, at around 8:00PM, she noticed blood on the other side of the injury, and she also saw the exit of the bullet. On the following day she went to a private doctor, and again imaged the place of injury. The doctor gave her antibiotic so the wound may heal. Since her injury until the present day (2<sup>nd</sup> July), she is still in her house and cannot stand up on her injured leg.

In the same location (east of Bureij), Mohammad Omar Abdullah Kassab was also injured, a freelance journalist from Deir Al-Balah, who arrived to eastern of Bureij to cover the events of the return marches at around 4:30PM on that day (Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019). Two hours later, the occupation soldiers started firing gunshots and gas bombs at the citizens who arrived there for the purpose of peaceful demonstration. A number of citizens were injured, and at around 6:20PM, while he was filming the events, one of the occupation soldiers fired at Kassab a gas bomb even though he was wearing the Press uniform. His injury was on the left side of his neck and caused him bleeding. Immediately, he fell to the ground and lost consciousness for a moment. The paramedics took him to the field medical point where he received the first aid before he was taken to Al-Aqsa Hospital where he arrived at 7:00PM, made some tests and images for the head which showed no fractures. However, the bomb caused him a wound which was stitched with 7 inner stitched and one outside stitch. He was given the medications and left the hospital after one hour and a half (at around 8:30PM). After he returned home, and on the following day, he felt intense dizziness. On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, he returned to the hospital for checkup, and he was transferred to Al-Shifa Medical Complex, the Brain and Nerves Department. He was scheduled on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to come back for the necessary tests.

(28<sup>th</sup> June) The freelance journalist Saleh Qarmout was injured by a gas bomb in the head while he was covering the events of the return peaceful march in Abu Safiya, Jabalia Camp, northern Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the freelance journalist Saleh Abedrabu Abdullah Qarmout (28 years old), married with two children, from Jabalia, northern Gaza Strip, continuously covers the events of the return marches and breaking the siege imposed on Gaza Strip, went at around 4:00PM, on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to Al-Awda Camp, Abu Safiya, northern Gaza Strip, to cover the events of the peaceful return marches organized each Friday since the 30<sup>th</sup>



of March 2018. When he arrived, the place was crowded with demonstrators, he approached to a distance of 150 meters away from the separation fence to cover the events. He watched the Israeli occupation soldiers firing gunshots, rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas bombs heavily. After about half an hour of being there (at around 4:30), the Israeli occupation soldiers fired gas bombs randomly and heavily at the demonstrators and journalists who were standing close to Qarmout which led to the injury of Qarmout by a gas bomb in the left side of his head (above his ear). Immediately, he was transferred by an ambulance of the Palestinian Red Crescent 300 meters away to the south, where he received the first aid (including artificial respiration) inside the ambulance as he felt shortness in breath for inhaling great amount of gas and for losing vision clearly and feeling imbalance. He was taken by the ambulance to the field medical center one kilometer away from the demonstration, where he received the necessary first aid. After that he was transferred to the Indonesian Hospital to Al-Sheikh Zayed Hospital, northern the Strip, where he made some tests and CT scan which showed that his injury was minor to medium. Due to the absence of a neurologist, he was transferred to Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza City. After being examined by a specialist, he left the hospital at about 8:30PM.

(28<sup>th</sup> June) The journalist Rajai Mahfouz Abdelhafeez Al-Khatib, from Wadi Al-Joz, Jerusalem, born on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019, a reporter of “Eyn ala Al-Quds/Eye on Jerusalem” TV Show broadcasted on the Jordanian Television, and a photographer of several other agencies including RTL and BBC, not to mention he is one of the most active Palestinian journalists in Jerusalem.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, the journalist Al-Khatib, at around 3:00PM, on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019, arrived to Al- Issawiya which was witnessing clashes between the families and the occupation forces after the occupation soldiers killed one of the town’s residents. An Israeli officer called (Ofir), in charge of the Traffic Unit, stopped him even though this officer knows that journalist Al-Khatib who travels on his motorcycles always comes to these events and he has stopped him more than once before as he always used to witness the events in Jerusalem which made him known to the Israeli police especially after his activity in filming the events in Al-Aqsa Mosque upon placing the electronic gates. When he arrived, officer Ofir called him and told him he would issue him a ticket even though he did not do anything wrong. Al-Khatib stated in this regard “I knew that (the officer) would stop me, as this is not the first time he does so, I put my helmet and prepared my driving license, and was aware that my speed was

not high so I leave no excuse for the police to stop me”. When officer Ofir stopped the journalist al-Khatib and informed him he would issue him a ticket, the later objected and said he did not do anything unlawful. The officer replied “you film and defend the saboteurs” Al-Khatib replied “you are the saboteurs, you killed the young man when he was standing in front of his house” referring to the martyr Mohammad Obaid who was killed by the occupation forces in front of his house in Al-Isawiya, which made him extremely angry. The officer issued the traffic ticket claiming that “he endangered the life of the officer” with an amount of 1000 NIS (about 280 USD) then Al-Khatib was referred to field investigation to the Intelligence. He was questioned whether he received a phone call from any of Al-Isawiya residents about any clashes, and other questions about the reasons why he was there.

The journalist Rajai Al-Khatib says that he will not pay the amount of the ticket and he will assign an attorney for the charge of “an officer exploitation of his position for revenge”. According to him, he believes the mentioned officer incites his colleagues against the active journalists – did not mention any of their names except for his brother Rami – and that he can distinguish their motorcycles, and he tries to stop them each time deliberately claiming that what journalists do moves the Palestinians and incites them to execute operations” and for knowing that media has great role in exposing the violations of the occupation in Jerusalem.