



christian peacemaker teams

**Palestine School Report:
Education under Military Occupation
November, 2018**

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Introduction

From November 4th to 27th, members of CPT Palestine documented the escalation in violence conducted by the Israeli military against Palestinian schools and schoolchildren in a portion of the H2 area in al-Khalil/Hebron. The recent escalation of violence has included the firing of tear gas and sound grenades, directly targeting Palestinian children, school compounds and civilians.

Over these three weeks, CPT Palestine documented 238 rounds of tear gas canisters and 51 rounds of sound grenades fired by the Israeli military when Palestinian schoolchildren were leaving school. The tear gas and sound grenades were fired into residential areas surrounded by seven schools, affecting more than 3,000 students.

As an occupying power, Israel is obligated under International Humanitarian Law (IHL) to ensure the welfare of the occupied population: civilians must be treated as protected persons, and are entitled to respect and humane treatment. Protecting Palestinian civilians from any form of violence, and ensuring their rights, and providing for their needs is a primary responsibility.¹

Even though Israeli military regulations reserve the use of tear gas and sound grenades only for self-defense or crowd control tactics, and explicitly prohibit the firing of tear gas and sound grenades directly at civilians, CPT Palestine has documented numerous incidents when the Israeli military fired ammunition against civilians.²

As described later in this report, CPT Palestine witnessed the Israeli military raiding two schools during this reporting period. At one school, on Monday November 5th, two students were removed from the premises and transported in a military vehicle to an Israeli police station. On Sunday, November 11th, firing tear gas and sound grenades into the school compound.

These observed acts of violence dispossess Palestinian children of their basic

¹See Diakonia's [fact sheet](#) on International Humanitarian Law and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

²Details on the regulation, use and physical effects of tear gas and sound grenades as reported here are taken from B'tselem's [report](#) on Israel's use of crowd control weapons in the West Bank, January, 2013.

rights as upheld by international law, including the right to education as stated in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the right to freedom of movement as outlined in Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.



Monitored Areas

CPT Palestine monitors Qitoun Checkpoint/209 and Checkpoint 160/29 in the H2 area of al-Khalil/Hebron. Both checkpoints are used to access the following Palestinian schools in the H2 area: Ibrahimi Boys School, Al Faihaa Girls School, Beit al-Maqdes School and Kindergarten, Hebron Public Boys School, Hebron UNRWA Boys School, Khadeejah Elementary School, al-Noorien School, al-Hajeryeh School, and Tareq Bin Ziad School.

32,000 Palestinians live in the H2 area. All are affected by the closed checkpoints, sound bombs and tear gas in the air. Most of the children who live in the H2 area attend schools in the monitored area.

Weapons Used by the Israeli Military

The use of tear gas is banned from warfare under the Chemical Weapons Convention. Many states continue to use this chemical weapon for assaulting civilian populations, including the State of Israel (see [this report in *The Atlantic*](#) on the use of tear gas).

As a chemical weapon, tear gas inflicts numerous injuries upon people, including the burning of eyes and skin, difficulty breathing, gagging and physical injury as tear gas canisters strike victims. Children, elderly adults, and people with respiratory disorders are particularly susceptible to injuries from tear gas. In addition to the use of tear gas, the Israeli Military uses sound grenades, which are explosive devices that emit a blinding light and loud noise when they explode. This form of weaponry has been reported to cause damage to the eardrum and to start fires.

Incident Report

CPT Palestine observed and recorded the following incidents of violence by the Israeli military against students and families between November 4 and 27, 2018.

Monday, November 5th

Salayme 160/29

Tear gas canisters: 6

Sound grenades: 4

Arrests: 2

Just prior to the conclusion of the school day, four soldiers stood outside the Al Shuhada Street side of the checkpoint. A settler arrived, who conversed with the soldiers and took pictures of school children passing through the checkpoint. Moments later, an army vehicle arrived and entered the H2 area through the security gate. Soldiers from that vehicle entered two schools and detained two boys. The soldiers escorted the boys to the army vehicle and drove away. Next, a second army vehicle arrived with five Israeli soldiers, who exited the vehicle and immediately fired tear gas canisters and sound grenades towards school children in the street. Soldiers then entered Hebron UN school. Soldiers continued toward Tareq Bin Ziad school. At this school, they fired tear gas and sound grenades toward the school children standing outside. During this incident, the checkpoint was locked and remained closed for more than 45 minutes.

Tuesday, November 6th

Salayme 160/29

Tear gas canisters: 5

Sound grenades: 6

Upon arrival, two soldiers crossed the checkpoint, prepared to fire tear gas. As the school children exited school, soldiers fired tear gas and sound grenades toward them. School children avoided the area due to the tear gas.

Note: the incident was monitored by an international human rights organization.

Wednesday, November 7th

Salayme 160/29

When the school children were returning home, the border police closed the checkpoint twice for more than five minutes each time. Four boys had their bags searched. After some rocks were thrown at the checkpoint, two soldiers exited

the checkpoint and aggressively shouted at the school children further down the street. An Israeli settler arrived and started filming while standing with the soldiers on the Al Shuhada Street side of the checkpoint. The checkpoint was closed for more than 30 minutes, even though no more rocks had been thrown during that time.



Wednesday, November 7th

Qitoun 2018

Tear gas canisters: 4

When CPT arrived to the area, a few Israeli Border Police were in front of the checkpoint firing tear gas in the direction of a crowd of school children. The checkpoint was closed for the time period the border police were present. When the children had dispersed, the border police returned to inside the checkpoint.

Thursday, November 8th

Salayme 160/29

Tear gas canisters: 2

Sound grenades: 1

At the conclusion of the school day, two soldiers walked from the checkpoint toward the schools. As they approached the departing group of children, the soldiers fired tear gas and a sound grenades. When a few boys started throwing rocks toward the soldiers, a soldier arrived and photographed the boys. After several photographs, the soldiers left.

Thursday, November 8th

Qitoun 209

Tear gas canisters: 3

As school ended for the day, eleven Israeli Border Police lined up behind concrete blocks in front of the checkpoint, watching a crowd of young school boys who had gathered down the street. A few boys threw rocks. The Israeli Border Police responded by firing tear gas towards the crowd of children. A few minutes later, four school boys were stopped, and directed to empty their backpacks on the ground in front of the Border Police. None of these four boys had thrown rocks. The boys were released and the border police returned to the checkpoint. CPT left but, from a distance, saw the Israeli military fire additional tear gas canisters in the direction of the school boys.

Sunday, November 11th

Tareq Bin Ziad School

Tear gas canisters: 5

Sound grenades: 3

On November 12, CPT visited Tareq Ben Ziad School. They met with several staff members to hear what occurred the previous day:

Shortly after school started, an Israeli army jeep arrived and parked inside the school

compound. Several soldiers entered the school and walked the corridors. Teachers asked them to leave, but they remained inside the school for 30 minutes. As they left, the soldiers fired multiple tear gas canisters and sound grenades back into the school compound. Paramedics were called to provide medical care to more than 100 students injured by the tear gas. One teacher experienced severe injuries.

Sunday, November 11th

Qitoun 209

Tear gas canisters: 12

Sound grenades: 1

From the checkpoint, Israeli Border Police fired tear gas toward schoolchildren returning home from school. In addition, three Israeli Border Police standing on a rooftop above the checkpoint fired multiple tear gas canisters towards schoolchildren. As they fired, they filmed each other. Five additional Israeli soldiers arrived and fired additional tear gas towards children. One soldier laughed as the canister landed on the balcony of a Palestinian home. An additional four Israeli soldiers joined the five present, totaling nine Israeli soldiers. The Israeli soldiers fired an additional round of round of tear gas. The checkpoint was locked for over an hour.

Monday, November 12th

Salaymeh 160/29

Tear gas canisters: 10

Before school ended, an Israeli army vehicle entered through a military checkpoint and parked above the school area. A second army vehicle arrived. Nine Israeli soldiers entered the neighborhood close to the schools. As the children walked home, the Israeli military fired tear gas canisters toward them. A number of people, including children, detoured the area to avoid the tear gas. The tear gas severely injured a municipal worker. The Israeli military remained in the area for two and a half hours.

Tuesday, November 13th

Salaymeh 160/29

Tear gas canisters: 16

Sound grenades: 3

Prior to the conclusion of school, an army vehicle parked near Hebron Public Boys School. The appearance of the army vehicle provoked the students and some threw stones. An Israeli soldier exited the vehicle and proceeded to fire

tear gas and sound grenades towards the schoolchildren. A teacher spoke with an Israeli soldier. Other teachers encouraged the schoolchildren to go directly home. An Israeli soldier told CPT that their actions were proactive. This same soldier then continued to fire tear gas and sound grenades toward the school children returning home. Concurrently, sound bombs and tear gas were fired at Qitoun checkpoint.



Wednesday, November 14th

Salaymeh 160/29

Tear gas canisters: 29

Sound grenades: 4

At the conclusion of the school day, Israeli soldiers fired a total of 29 tear gas canisters and several sound grenades at the children returning home. This was in response to a few boys throwing stones. The soldiers alternated between firing from the checkpoint area to walking down the street towards the school area. A number of people were affected by the tear gas including men, women and children, who sought refuge in local businesses. Several young children were crying

as they reached the checkpoint.

Sunday, November 18th

Salaymeh 160/29

Tear gas canisters: 34

Sound grenades: 6

Just as school ended, three soldiers arrived in an army vehicle. Four boys threw rocks. Soldiers exited the vehicle and fired several sound grenades and rounds of tear gas during a span of 20 minutes. School days end at different times; Hebron Elementary School ended later than some others in the area. The Israeli military fired a tear gas canister into the school compound despite the fact that students and teachers were still present. About 10 minutes later, an army vehicle arrived with eight additional soldiers. The 11 soldiers proceeded to run down the road towards the schools. In less than four minutes, 28 tear gas canisters and three sound grenades were fired towards the children in the street. Laughing, the Israeli soldiers threw sound grenades directly into oncoming traffic. After returning to the outer side of the checkpoint, the soldiers back slapped each other and posed for camera shots. All this occurred in the span of one hour.

Sunday, November 18th

Qitoun 209

Tear gas canisters: 6

At the end of the school day, a group of boys gathered in the street. An army vehicle emerged from a side street and drove towards this group of boys. Four soldiers got out of the vehicle and fired four tear gas canisters. After returning into the vehicle, they drove towards the children and fired more tear gas. Then, they rapidly drove away toward Salaymeh checkpoint, breaking a large metal barrier gate on their way.

Monday, November 19th

Qitoun 209

Tear gas canisters: 4

Sound grenades: 1

Students were dismissed from school. As several of the boys walked toward the checkpoint, they began to throw stones. Three Israeli Border Police crossed the checkpoint and hid in an entrance of a Palestinian home. After hiding for 10 minutes, they emerged and proceeded to fire tear gas towards children before returning through the checkpoint. 20 minutes later, the boys threw rocks again.

The Israeli Border Police responded by firing a sound grenade and a tear gas canister. The latter landed on a rooftop of a Palestinian home.

Wednesday, November 21st

Qitoun 209

Tear gas canisters: 19

Sound grenades: 2

For two hours, tear gas and sound grenades were fired by a mixture of Israeli Border Police and Israeli soldiers. They shot between four and 11 canisters at a time, both from the street and rooftop of Palestinian building. The checkpoint was closed during this time. Palestinians (several families with small children) and others were caught between the soldiers firing tear gas and the closed checkpoint. Those waiting to pass through the check point became frustrated. After an hour, CPTers notified the International Committee of Red Cross of the closure and situation at the checkpoint. 10 minutes later, the checkpoint opened.

Thursday, November 22nd

Salaymeh 160/29

It is not every day that the children experience force, but rather, the children experience intimidation and fear personally from the soldiers. This was such a day. In response to students throwing rocks at the check point, three soldiers with their rifles pointing ran full force down the street toward the students who had gathered outside the school. Some students responded by throwing rocks. The soldiers responded with loud shouting. Two additional soldiers joined them. The group of five soldiers proceed to run shouting toward the students at Tariq Bin Ziyad Boys School. A teacher told the soldiers that their presence was not needed. The soldiers returned to the checkpoint but stood aggressively waiting for the boys to throw stones. The boys did not throw any more stones.



Thursday, November 22nd

Qitoun 209

Tear gas canisters: 39

Sound grenades: 3

As children were returning from school, a group of 10 boys gathered near the checkpoint. A confrontation developed between this group of boys and the Israeli military. For two hours, between four and 11 Israeli Border Police and Israeli soldiers fired tear gas from the rooftop next to the checkpoint. During the same time period, the Israeli military entered two Palestinian homes. From

these rooftops, the military tracked the boys and fired tear gas. During these two hours, 39 tear gas canisters were shot. The Israeli Military remained in the area for an additional 30 minutes after the group of boys were no longer present.

Sunday, November 25th

Qitoun 209

Tear gas canisters: 33

Sound grenades: 9

Arrests: 2

As students were returning home from school, over the course of two hours, Israeli Military Forces fired tear gas and sound grenades. Soldiers entered two Palestinian homes to use the roof for surveillance and firing. On the ground, soldiers intimidated families by aiming their rifles at them. The Israeli military's assault concluded with Israeli Border Police chasing the school children in the street. A border police grabbed a five year old boy who had slipped and fell. Two border police grabbed a 14 year old. Both were escorted to the inside of Qitoun checkpoint. Each was transported to separate locations. The five year old was released while the 14 year old was arrested.

Sunday, November 25th

Salaymeh 160/29

Tear gas canisters: 1

13 Israeli Military Forces arrived in armored vehicles at Salaymeh 160/29 checkpoint, where they gathered and walked through the checkpoint to go to Hebron Boys School. Once near the school, Israeli Military Forces threw a tear gas canister over a fence and into the playground of Hebron Boys School. After the military left, staff from Hebron Boys School notified CPT that nobody was physically injured, but two classes were sent home early because of the presence of tear gas in the schoolyard.

Monday, November 26th

Qitoun 209

Tear gas canisters: 4

Sound grenades: 5

Five boys threw stones at the checkpoint. In response, 11 Israeli Military Forces fired tear gas and sound grenades at school children. The Israeli soldiers entered a Palestinian home to position themselves on the roof. The military left after two hours of occupying the neighborhood.



Tuesday, November 27th

Salaymeh I60/29

Tear gas canisters: 6

Sound grenades: 3

After school finished, nine Israeli soldiers passed through Salaymeh I60/29 checkpoint to fire tear gas and sound grenades at a group of school children. The children fled from the street. Soldiers maintained a presence on the street for an hour. From a different road, boys threw rocks at the soldiers. Soldiers then fired more tear gas. Civilians and 35 schoolgirls were on the road; the girls school had just been dismissed. Multiple students turned around, waiting for the tear gas to clear before continuing their walk home. During this assault, Israeli Military Forces stopped families, including two boys, from approaching Salaymeh I60/29 checkpoint. Before returning to the checkpoint, soldiers fired one last tear gas canister into a crowd of boys gathered in a street.

Tuesday, November 27th

Qitoun 209

Israeli Military Forces maintained a presence in the neighborhood by the checkpoint for over an hour as children played in the street. Military forces occupied two buildings, one of which was abandoned, and also walked through the neighborhood, intimidating school children and civilians with their presence. The military presence was unprovoked, as Palestinians continued their daily activities.

Conclusion

As indicated above, a total of 238 tear gas canisters and 51 sound grenades were fired at Palestinian school children from November 4th to November 27th. This report documents the escalating Israeli military violence toward school children and civilians during those 15 days.

The use of ammunition, most notably tear gas and sound grenades, has especially proliferated for families who live in the neighborhood between Qitoun/Abu Reesh Checkpoint, Checkpoint 160/29 and Tareq Bin Ziad School. 3,000 school children have been affected by these assaults. CPT Palestine has documented that these recent acts of aggression are arbitrary, unprovoked, and specifically intended to target Palestinian school children, their schools, and their neighborhoods. To carry out this state violence, Israeli Military Forces have invaded every space of Palestinian life, including schools, homes, and streets. These acts perpetuate the military occupation.

As state violence proliferates against Palestinians, CPT Palestine publishes this report with the urgent desire to both document and advocate. It is urgent that we document the Israeli Military's escalation in violence, as this increased use of force in the H2 area of al-Khalil/Hebron must be witnessed and made known. It is urgent that we advocate, as such violence must cease for Palestinian school children and civilians to live life without fear.

CPT Palestine requests that this documentation be shared and utilized by human rights organizations and communities to bear witness to the state of Israel's unceasing military occupation of Palestine. Such witness will recognize and advocate for freedom for all Palestinians, especially the school children of al-Khalil, whose freedom continues to be restricted and dispossessed by the State of Israel.