

# Human rights abuses and horror stories

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**Saturday April 20, 2002**  
**The Guardian**

The Israeli reoccupation of Palestinian cities and towns has seen a rise in incidents of alleged human rights abuses in the West Bank.

Most of these relate to the curfews imposed in places such as Nablus and Bethlehem. These incidents, normally unreported in the media, are collated by human rights groups such as B'Tselem, the main Israeli group focusing on the West Bank and Gaza, and by peace activists such as Gush Shalom.

Many of the incidents are in the city of Nablus, which, along with Jenin, has suffered most from the present Israeli offensive:

**Qossay Abu 'Aisha**, 12, was playing in his yard in the Askar neighbourhood of Nablus on Tuesday. The yard is surrounded by a two-metre high tin fence. Israeli soldiers, part of the force that has reoccupied the city, opened fire, punctured the fence and hit him with two bullets, killing him instantly. Source: B'Tselem

The curfew in Nablus was lifted between 2pm and 6pm on Sunday. **Mustafa Antar**, 40, a married father of four from A-Dahiya neighbourhood, went to visit his father and then bought some food supplies. He shared a taxi home with three others. At 5pm a group of soldiers opened fire and he was hit in the neck. According to doctors at the Rafidia hospital in Nablus, the injury will leave him partially paralysed. Source: B'Tselem

**Ibrahim Jabarin**, 18, from the al-Arrub refugee camp, was in Bethlehem on April 2 when the army imposed a curfew. He attempted to return home on Monday when it lifted the curfew for the first time for a few hours. At around 1pm, before the curfew was reimposed, soldiers shot Jabarin and other civilians who were out buying food. He is in hospital with a gunshot wound to the leg. Source: B'Tselem

**Dr Hameed Massri**, a neuro-surgeon at the Nablus special hospital, said yesterday that two patients had been buried the day before after bleeding to death because the curfew meant ambulances could not get through to them. Both had been shot but the wounds would not have been fatal if they had been able to reach hospital, he said. The dead, both from Nablus, were: **Amar Ali Salamah**, 32, a carpenter, and **Sakher Mohammed**, 23, a baker. Dr Massri said it was three days before the body of Mr Mohammed, who was at home when he was shot, was taken away by ambulance. And it was a week after Mr Salamah was shot before his body was removed. Guardian interview

**Four children**, two from Qalqiliya and two from the village of Qusra in Nablus district, suffer from a blood disorder that requires regular transfusions. Because of the curfew, the children have been unable to reach Al-Watani hospital in Nablus for treatment. The children, when last contacted, were still waiting to be taken to hospital. Source: Physicians for Human Rights Israel

**Tahani Ali Asad Fatouh**, a pharmacist from Al Msakan Ash Shaabiya in Nablus district, began having labour pains eight days ago. Her husband, Dr Ghassan Ali Nashat Shaar, called an ambulance to take his seven-months pregnant wife to hospital. Because of the curfew, the ambulance could not make it to the house and Dr Shaar delivered the baby with the help of a neighbour. The delivery went smoothly but 30 minutes later the baby's health rapidly deteriorated. Dr Shaar twice managed to resuscitate his son. On the third attempt, the baby died. Tahani Fatouh had become pregnant after four years of fertility treatment. The hospital is just over a mile away from the couple's home. Source: B'Tselem

**A general practitioner** from Bethlehem, who prefers to remain anonymous, and her husband, a gynaecologist, share a clinic in the al-Madabsa district. She said she received a call that Israeli soldiers had broken in this week. When the curfew was temporarily lifted, she went to check and found extensive damage, including to a computer, telephones, windows, a sterilisation machine, medical files and books, and a \$20,000 ultrasound machine. Source: **HaMoked - Centre for the Defence of the Individual**

**Detainees update** Israeli security forces are currently holding 2,521 Palestinians from the roundup in the West Bank over the last three weeks. Human rights organisations are protesting over huge number of arbitrary arrests. Source: **HaMoked - Centre for the Defence of the Individual**

## **Guardian | Human rights abuses and horror stories.**

**An inspection by staff at the Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre in Ramallah reveals extensive damage they claim was done by Israeli soldiers. The centre was set up to preserve Palestinians' cultural heritage. Staff say four offices were broken into and vandalised. Source: A Laldi, KSCC director**

**The stories above were put to the Israeli foreign ministry for comment. A spokesman said: "The Palestinians are spreading rumours about atrocities, rumours about the behaviour of the army that are completely fake and exaggerated.**

**"I am not claiming that there is no suffering to Palestinian people throughout this period and through Israeli activities. We are speaking about a war. We are not speaking about a crime situation in Harlem. It is war.**

**"The terrorists are operating in areas populated by Palestinians."**