



## Occupied Palestinian Territories Torn apart by factional strife

Growing lawlessness and political violence between Palestinian factions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) reached an unprecedented level in the first half of 2007, culminating in June with all-out inter-factional strife between gunmen loyal to the two main parties in the newly-formed coalition government. Some 300 Palestinians were killed in gun battles and attacks, with residents often caught in the crossfire as security forces and armed groups loyal to the President's Fatah party and to the Prime Minister's Hamas party battled each other recklessly across the Gaza Strip.

Having wrested control of all the Fatah-controlled security installations and other government institutions in the Gaza Strip, Hamas forces and gunmen have continued to hunt down Fatah supporters and other critics. Hundreds have been arbitrarily detained, torture is routine, protest demonstrations are violently suppressed, and journalists are attacked and intimidated.

In the West Bank the security forces under President Abbas' control launched a crackdown on Hamas supporters. Hundreds have been rounded up and detained outside the legal framework, and often ill-treated and at times tortured. Protesters, critics and pro-Hamas media have been attacked and intimidated by security forces and Fatah gunmen.

In the Gaza Strip the violence has taken a heavy toll on the civilian population, already debilitated by years of Israeli military campaigns, deteriorating humanitarian conditions and growing international isolation. Since June the situation has worsened markedly, with 1.5 million people trapped in the Gaza Strip by stringent Israeli blockades and international sanctions, and forced into growing poverty and despair.



## Occupied Palestinian Territories Torn apart by factional strife

18 October 2007  
AI Index: MDE 21/020/2007

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights to be respected and protected. It has more than 2.2 million members and supporters in over 150 countries and territories.

Published by:  
Amnesty International  
International Secretariat  
Peter Benenson House  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 0DW  
United Kingdom

© Amnesty International Publications 2007

All rights reserved. This publication is copyright, but may be reproduced by any method without fee for advocacy, campaigning and teaching purposes, but not for resale. The copyright holders request that all such use be registered with them for impact assessment purposes. For copying in any other circumstances, or for re-use in other publications, or for translation or adaptation, prior written permission must be obtained from the publishers, and a fee may be payable.

The text of this report is available to download at:  
[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

Title: *Occupied Palestinian Territories – Torn apart by factional strife*

All Index: MDE 21/020/2007

Original language: English

Printed by Amnesty International, International Secretariat, United Kingdom

*Cover image:* Palestinian bystanders look at a burning security vehicle during armed clashes between Hamas and Fatah gunmen and security forces in Gaza City, 13 June 2007. © Maan

*Back cover image (from top):* Gunmen of the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the armed wing of Fatah movement, driving in the center of Nablus, West Bank, 18 June 2007. © AP

Palestinians run for cover as Hamas gunmen take position during a gun battle with Fatah gunmen, Nablus, West Bank, 22 December 2006. © AP  
Wounded Palestinian in Gaza City's main hospital after he was injured during armed clashes between Hamas and Fatah gunmen and security forces, 13 June 2007. © Maan



WHETHER IN A HIGH-PROFILE CONFLICT OR A FORGOTTEN CORNER OF THE GLOBE, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS FOR JUSTICE AND FREEDOM FOR ALL AND SEEKS TO GALVANIZE PUBLIC SUPPORT TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Join Amnesty International and become part of a worldwide movement campaigning for an end to human rights violations. Help us make a difference.
  - Make a donation to support Amnesty International's work.
- Activists around the world have shown that it is possible to resist the dangerous forces that are undermining human rights. Be part of this movement. Combat those who peddle fear and hate. Join Amnesty International.

Together we can make our voices heard.

## I WANT TO HELP

I am interested in receiving further information on becoming a member of Amnesty International

name   
address   
  
  
country   
email

I wish to make a donation to Amnesty International

amount   
Please debit my  Visa  Mastercard   
number   
expiry date   
signature

Please return this form to the Amnesty International office in your country. If there is not an Amnesty International office in your country, please return this form to:

Amnesty International  
International Secretariat  
Peter Benenson House  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 0DW  
United Kingdom  
(donations will be taken in UK£, US\$ or €)  
[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

