

Palestine Red Crescent Society



جمعية الهلال الأحمر الفلسطيني

**Impact of the Israeli Military Invasion & Curfew  
on the  
Palestine Red Crescent Society's**

**Emergency Response and Relief Operations  
in the West Bank  
During March 29, – May 10, 2002**



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## 1. President's Statement

*The Mission of the Palestine Red Crescent Society is to provide Humanitarian and Social Welfare Services. One of our core functions is the provision of pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS). PRCS is the only national ambulance carrier in West Bank and Gaza operating a fleet of 100 ambulances from 28 stations. The ability of the PRCS to deliver programs and services including EMS has been greatly impacted by the on-going restrictions imposed by the Israeli Authorities on Palestinian civil society.*

*This report focuses on the recent Israeli invasion of West Bank cities and towns between March 29, and May 10, 2002. The intent is to highlight the unique challenges faced by PRCS in fulfilling its mandate under Israeli occupation and to document key incidents that would be a matter of concern under International Humanitarian law. In particular, these relate to the Geneva conventions that clearly state that the wounded and sick must be collected and cared for regardless of the party to which they belong. Ambulances and members of medical services must be respected and protected. They must be allowed to circulate unharmed and unhindered so that they can carry out their humanitarian services. All those who take part in confrontations must respect the medical services, whether deployed by the armed forces, civilian facilities, the Palestine Red Crescent or the Magen David Adom in Israel.*

Younis Al-Khatib



*Younis Al-Khatib was detained from an ambulance along with 8 other PRCS medics on April 2, 2002. Image shows Mr. Al-Khatib (L), at Kalandia checkpoint (south of Ramallah) upon release being received by Mr. Ola Skuterud, ICRC/IFRC delegate in Palestine. See also page 38-40 of this report*

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## 2. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Operational Status During the Israeli Army Invasion - March 29– May 10, 2002

### Key Issues

#### Intifada (Uprising)

- Denial of Service (No Access)
- Delay of Service (More than 15-minute delays by Israeli Army)

#### Invasion Impact (In addition to above)

- Complete shut down of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to West Bank rural areas-75 % of population in West Bank
- Increased delay of service Paralysis of services due to: complete curfews over cities/denial of access to communities/ significant number of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and Rescue workers detained.

### **Conditions during the 'Al-Aqsa' Intifada – September 29, 2000 up to the present**

PRCS's emergency operations have to cross Israeli checkpoints (see page 5) in order to provide services to communities in the West Bank and Gaza. This necessitates passage through Israeli controlled areas in occupied Palestinian territories. In terms of the level of services that the PRCS can realistically provide within the parameters of this imposed structure, PRCS and ICRC have agreed that an "acceptable" level of service will accommodate a period of 15 minutes for the Israeli army to check the ambulances<sup>1</sup>. If this set time period is exceeded, then PRCS and ICRC will consider this delay as a significant compromise in the quality of service to the population. When PRCS' ambulances do not have to go through checkpoints or searches, the average response time is 8 minutes.

During the 'Al-Aqsa' Intifada, the ability of PRCS to carry out duties effectively has been greatly restricted by Israeli army blockades, closures, and checkpoints. Frequently, ambulances are subjected to long delays due to several obstacles that EMTs face. This includes helping patients cross over earth blockades in order to transfer them to waiting ambulances on the other side. There have also been situations where EMTs have had to negotiate their way through hostile Israeli checkpoints. The response time for ambulances has been stretched to unacceptable lengths. In the West Bank, the response time of 8 minutes has been increased to 30 minutes or more. In Gaza, the situation is even worse.. For example, in Southern Gaza, an emergency response to a cardiac case can take up to 1 hour to transport a patient to hospital with the necessary medical equipment. Furthermore, the EMS Department is reporting a significant increase in the number of childbirths at homes, and at checkpoints due to delays caused at checkpoints and roadblocks. Since the beginning of the 'Al-Aqsa' Intifada, the Palestinian Ministry of Health has documented 36 cases of women who have delivered their babies at checkpoints, three of whom have died at these checkpoints, in addition to four deaths of newborns.

In addition to delayed services, there is clear proof that Israeli army has impeded and in some cases even denied access to medical assistance. PRCS's reports are supported by documentation by local and international human rights groups. Israeli roadblocks and concrete barricades have sealed off Palestinian homes and villages. PRCS ambulances cannot reach hundreds of thousands of civilians. Ambulance crews attempt many routes and back-

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<sup>1</sup> By comparison, in North America, the general standard applied to the level of service for emergency response time in an urban area, is 8 minutes from time of call to arrival at the location of the patient. In Europe (as well as Israel) 8 – 12 minutes response time in an urban area is considered the acceptable norm.

roads, at considerable risk to their own safety. They are often forced by Israeli soldiers to turn back even when they are sometimes only meters away from the sick and/or wounded. In addition, Israeli authorities have denied the transfer of patients abroad in order to seek further specialized treatment or rehabilitation.

### 3. Conditions during the period March 29 – May 10, 2002 – Invasion of the West Bank.

There was a complete shutdown of emergency medical services provided to the majority of the population in the West Bank.

In addition to increased incidents of delayed services, PRCS' operations were significantly curtailed during the Israeli army invasion of major cities and towns in the West Bank, during the period March 29, 2002 to May 10, 2002. First, the major urban centers/towns were completely cut off from rural areas, thereby denying 75 percent of the population access to medical services. Curfews imposed by the Israeli army during this period affected about 1 million people who were denied access to medical services. (They were also denied access to food, water, electricity, work and education).

During curfews, transportation was banned; medical vehicles and ambulances required clearance from the Israeli army to respond to calls which ICRC coordinated. There were occasions where approval to move within the cities would take hours to obtain; sometimes approval was never given. When approval was given, Israeli soldiers often ignored the clearance order and would not allow the ambulances to move. In a number of cases, ambulances were denied access to pick up the bodies of individuals who were shot dead in their homes by the Israeli army, or who died of other causes – families were forced to live under curfew for days with the dead body of their family member.

As a result of the invasion, the response time has increased to a minimum of one hour and up to 13 hours in certain cases. During the invasion, when PRCS ambulances were able to move, it was not unusual for them to take three hours to get to a patient and three hours for transport to the medical facility.

As to patient transfer and response to emergency calls during the invasion, PRCS has documented 80 cases of denial of access due to roadblocks or denial of authority to move.

For many days, the PRCS ambulance services operated at 10 –20 percent of the capacity normally available at its stations. This was due to the cumulative effects of curfews, attacks on ambulances and detentions of medical and rescue workers. Additionally, there were other obstructive measures employed by the Israeli army such as the confiscation of wireless devices, which were then used by the Israelis to disrupt PRCS's ambulance operations. The Israeli government randomly denied access to medical and humanitarian personnel (deportation at airports) who wanted to assist PRCS and other organizations with medical relief operations.

With respect to major cities such as **Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus** and **Tulkarem**, there were numerous occasions when an entire EMS operation would be blocked for hours or for days.

In **Ramallah**, on April 2, 2002, the Israeli army detained PRCS's almost entire team of EMTs who had been dispatched on simultaneous rescue operations. The detentions forced PRCS to suspend its EMS for 8 continuous hours. The Operations/Dispatch Room estimated that they were able to respond to about 20 percent of the demand initially. When ambulances were dispatched they encountered an average of 40-minute delays from the time they were initially dispatched till the time they reached their destinations.

As curfews continued, and as it grew more difficult for the EMS to respond to the hundreds of calls received daily, the EMS Department recorded a gradual drop in the volume of calls. It seemed that people just started to give up on any needed emergency service.

The Palestine National Authority President's Headquarters in Ramallah and surrounding areas were completely closed off to any medical services. For over a month, medical services were denied access, except for one or two instances, when ambulances were allowed to deliver limited medical and food supplies and to evacuate a dead body. They were allowed to remove a wounded person who was arrested by the Israeli army when the ambulance left the compound.

In response to the severe restrictions of movement in the West Bank, PRCS established a telephone hotline to provide medical and psychological consultations.

The City of Bethlehem was under a total 24-hour curfew from April 2, 2002 to May 10, 2002, with one or two hours of relief every few days. Medical services were denied to the area of Manger Square and to the Nativity Church. Ambulances were prevented from transferring the sick or wounded to hospital. The destruction of infrastructure resulted in the disconnection of the 101 emergency telephone lines in the Bethlehem area.

In **Jenin** Camp, PRCS was denied access into the camp for 10 days, from April 5 to April 14. During this time, some hundreds of refugees made their way to the Jenin PRCS Ambulance Station and used it as a temporary shelter. On April 10, 2002, the Israeli army detained 6 members of the PRCS medical team in the town of Jenin, thus disrupting the relief efforts. On April 15, 2002, a small EMS team was allowed into Jenin Camp. Relief operations were allowed for a limited time only.

In **Nablus**, EMS access was denied to the old city for 10 days. However in one case, the Israeli army allowed the dispatch of 3 ambulances in response to an emergency call in the Old City. Just outside the Old City, the Israeli army stopped all 3 ambulances. The army detained 2 of the EMTs from one of the ambulances and ordered the other EMT's to drive the 3 ambulances away from the scene. The Israeli army used the two detained EMTs as 'human shields' to enter areas in the Old City. The detained EMTs were finally released after 45 minutes.

In **Kafar Labad, Tulkarem**, the Israeli army blocked one of the only two access roads into the village, and denied passage to all traffic, including medical emergency vehicles. Responses to most medical emergencies were systematically either delayed or denied by the Israeli authorities. For example, EMS received a call at 9:00 pm regarding a pregnant woman in labour. The Israeli authorities denied permission to dispatch an ambulance to transfer the patient to hospital. As a result, an EMT had to guide the caller on the phone to help with the childbirth. The woman suffered serious complications; an ambulance was authorized to go pick up the woman at 1:00 am. However, it was forced to turn back when Israeli soldiers started shooting at it. The emergency medical team tried again to gain permission for another dispatch. They did not receive approval until 11:30am the following day.

Although, the Israeli army has redeployed from the major cities, the impact of the 'Al-Aqsa' Intifada and the invasion continue to severely curtail services and are causing a deterioration of the health conditions throughout the West Bank and Gaza. With the destruction of homes and other infrastructure by the Israeli military actions in the territories, hundreds of people remain homeless. They have had no access either to emergency care or to regular, public health care in hospitals or clinics. Checkpoints continue to severely restrict travel and impede access to health and medical services.

Included in the Appendix is a summary table documenting the incidents of denial of access by the Israeli authorities to PRCS Emergency Response Teams

### 3.1. Map of Checkpoints in West Bank

#### CHECKPOINTS IN THE WEST BANK



[www.palestinemonitor.org](http://www.palestinemonitor.org)

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**April 7, 2002 PRCS ambulance attempting to cross Israeli checkpoint in Ramallah**



**Oct 24'02 – Denial of ambulance service to evacuate the injured in Beit Rima after an Israeli military incursion into the town**

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4. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and Rescue Workers under Fire During Invasion <sup>2</sup>(March 29 2002 to May 10, 2002)

Item	Totals	Comments
Total Attacks on Ambulances <sup>1</sup>	12	
Total Attacks on EMT <sup>2</sup>	39	
EMT Killed	0	
EMT Injured	39	37 beaten, tortured and used as human shields.
EMT Detained	52	
<input type="checkbox"/> EMTs Beaten	20	Of the 52 EMTs detained; 37 EMTs were beaten, 9 were tortured; 6 were used as human shields; 5 required hospitalization. A few were subject to death threats or mock executions.  The Israeli army did not indicated charges of any kind against these EMTs
<input type="checkbox"/> EMTs Beaten and Tortured	9	
<input type="checkbox"/> EMTs Beaten and used Human Shield	6	
Total Ambulances Damages (Some vehicles damaged more than once)	12	Some of the ambulances were crushed by Israeli Tanks, after the EMTs were forced to abandon the vehicle when they were detained.
Number of Ambulances beyond Repair	7	

<sup>2</sup> The Invasion is defined as starting with the incursion to Ramallah on March 29, 2002, and ends with the exit of the Israeli army from Bethlehem on May 10, 2002, terminating the curfew of the cities. At the writing of this report the Israeli army is still continuing with military operations and are on the outskirts of the cities.

5. EMT's And Rescue Workers Under Fire During the Intifada & the Invasion (September 29, 2000 – May 12, 2002)

Item	Totals	Comments
Total Attacks on Ambulances 1	188	
Total Attacks on EMTs <sup>2</sup>	209	174 killed and injured listed below
EMTs Killed	3	
EMTs Injured	171	
EMTs Detained	64	Includes 49 beaten, tortured and used as human shields.
EMTs Beaten	28	Of the 64 EMTs detained; a total of 49 EMTs were beaten, 15 were tortured; 6 were used as human shields; 6 required hospitalization. A few were subject to death threats or mock executions. Israeli army has not indicated charges of any kind against these EMTs.
EMTs Beaten and Tortured	15	
EMTs Beaten and used as Human Shield	6	
Total Ambulances Damages (Some vehicles damaged more than once)	91 (91 % of the total Fleet)	Some of the ambulances were crushed by Israeli Tanks, after the EMTs were forced to abandon when they were detained.
Number of Ambulances beyond Repair	26	

<sup>1</sup>Total Attacks on Ambulances includes attacks caused by Israeli military gunfire; stoning or vandalism by Israeli settlers

<sup>2</sup>Total Attack on EMTs is the cumulative total of incidents in which an EMT is injured in the line of duty as a direct result of attacks by (including beatings of EMTs in detention) and attacks by Israeli settlers.



**Mar 4'02 – Ambulance in which Dr. Khalil Head of Jenin EMS station was killed, & 3 EMT's severely burned.**



**Mar 8'02 – Israeli tanks crush PRCS ambulances in Tulkarem.**

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**Feb 24' 2001 PRCS EMT's under fire while evacuating the injured in Ramallah.**



**Jan 21 '02. EMT Firas Samah shot by Israeli army fire while rescuing casualty in Ramallah, undergoes surgery in Shaikh Zayed Hospital**

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## 6. Detention of PRCS Personnel - March 29<sup>th</sup> -May 10<sup>th</sup> 2002

During the **Invasion**, of the total EMTs and volunteers who were detained while on rescue operations, 37 EMTs/Volunteers were beaten and 9 were tortured. At least 6 were used as human shields on four separate occasions, 5 of whom required hospitalization. A few of the PRCS personnel were subjected to death threats or mock executions.

The Israeli Army has not filed any formal charges in any of the above instances. Often when PRCS staff were detained, requests for information from the Israeli army by the ICRC have repeatedly been ignored.

No	PRCS Emergency / Rescue Worker	Town	Date Detained	Date Released	Comments
52	Mohammad Hussnee Ahmmad Zeidan	Jenin	Apr 4 2002	Still detained to June 23, 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded.
51	Rabee Kalil Abd- Alrahmman Hammad	Qalqilia	Apr 24 2002	Released June 10, 2002 in Hebron	Handcuffed, stripped, beaten, blindfolded.
50	Luay Jawdat Radad	Ramallah EMS staff	Mar 29 2002	June 4, 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded.
49	Zeiad Ganem	Tulkarem	May 7 2002	May 7, 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded & used as human shield.
48	Dr. Younis Zulloum	Hebron	April 29, 2002	April 29, 2002	Detained
47	Azmi Alaqara	Qualiqila	April 22, 2002	April 22, 2002	Detained
46	Amar Saman	Qalqulia – EMS Staff	Apr 16 2002	April 23, 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded.
45*	Mamoun Saleh Ibrahim Manaseah	Ramallah EMS staff	Apr 17 2002	Apr 21 2002	Handcuffed, blindfolded.
44	Ziad Mahmud Atallah Al-Tarifi	Ramallah EMS volunteer	Apr 16 2002	May 3 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded.
43	Raffat Abu Hatab	Jenin EMS volunteer	Apr 10 2002	Apr 10 2002	Handcuffed, blindfolded, released remote area.
42	Saed Hoshiyah	Jenin EMS volunteer	Apr 10 2002	Apr 10 2002	Handcuffed, blindfolded, released in a remote area.
41	Ehab Ayyadeh	Jenin EMS staff	Apr 10 2002	Apr 10, 2002	Handcuffed, blindfolded, released in a remote area.
40	Saher Basharat	Jenin EMS staff	Apr 10 2002	Apr 10 2002	Handcuffed, blindfolded, released in a remote area.
39	Gassan Obied	Jenin EMS staff	Apr 10 2002	Apr 10 2002	Handcuffed, blindfolded, released in a remote area.

No	PRCS Emergency / Rescue Worker	Town	Date Detained	Date Released	Comments
38	Ms. Hala Jaber	Jenin EMS Vol	Apr 10 2002	Apr 10, 2002	Handcuffed, blindfolded, released in a remote area.
37	Taleb Talab Manasrah	Hebron EMS staff	Apr 10 2002	Apr 11 2002	Handcuffed, blindfolded, beaten, hospitalised.
36	Salameh Abu Sakout	Hebron EMS staff	Apr 10 2002	Apr 11 2002	Handcuffed and blindfolded for 16 hours, beaten, hospitalised.
35	Salem Jadallah	Bethlehem EMS Staff	Apr 8 2002	Apr 9 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded.
34	Jamal Abu Hamda	Nablus EMS staff	Apr 6 2002	April 6, 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded. Used as human shield. I.D, confiscated, by army; found after the invasion on the roof of the building where the EMTs were detained.
33	Kamal Hudhud	Nablus EMS staff	Apr 6 2002	April 6, 2002,	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded. Used as human shield. I.D. confiscated by army; found after the invasion on the roof of the building where EMTs were detained.
32	Samer Kamal Abu Seer	Nablus EMS staff	Apr 6 2002	April 6, 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded. Detained for 4 Hrs
31*	Bassam Rasem Hassan	Ramallah EMS Staff	April 5, 2002	April 5, 2002	Detained for 2 hours, beaten
30*	Sufian Abed Al- Jabber Qoraen	Ramallah EMS Staff	April 5, 2002	April 5, 2002	Detained for 2 hrs, stripped, beaten and forced to lie on the ground in the rain
29	Mohamed Abed Al-Mote	Nablus EMS staff	Apr 5 2002	April 5, 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded. Detained for 4 Hrs
28	Suhel Salem Nasal	Nablus EMS staff	Apr 5 2002	April 5, 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded.
27	Ahmad Mustafa	Nablus EMS staff	Apr 5 2002	April 5, 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded. Detained for 4 Hrs
26.	Mohammed Al- Ali	Tulkarem	April 5, 2002	April 5, 2002	Detained
25	Husni Barghothi	PRCS Maternity Hospital staff	Apr 4 2002	Apr 6 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, and blindfolded.

No	PRCS Emergency / Rescue Worker	Town	Date Detained	Date Released	Comments
24	Dr. Mohamed Najjar	PRCS Maternity Hospital Doctor	Apr 4 2002	Apr 6 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, and blindfolded.
23	Dr. Zugayer	PRCS Maternity Hospital Doctor	Apr 4 2002	Apr 6 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, and blindfolded.
22	Imad Jabazer	PRCS Maternity Hospital Staff Nurse	Apr 4 2002	Apr 6 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, and blindfolded.
21	Ayman Labad	PRCS Maternity Hospital Staff Nurse	Apr 4 2002	Apr 6 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, and blindfolded.
20	Moayad Abd El- Salam	Nablus EMS volunteer	Apr 3 2002	Apr 6 2002	Handcuffed all night, beaten, blindfolded.
19	Jamal Balbou	Bethlehem EMT	April 3, 2002	April 3, 2002	Handcuffed and blindfolded
18	Mohtadi Badran	Bethlehem EMT	April 3, 2002	April, 3, 2002	Handcuffed and blindfolded
17	Mohammed Gneim	Bethlehem EMS Volunteer	April 3, 2002	April 3, 2002	Handcuffed and blindfolded
16	Adnan Jaser Al- Soso	Nablus EMS staff	Apr 3 2002	Apr 7 2002	Handcuffed all night, beaten, blindfolded.
15	Ibrahim Mousa Hresh	Ramallah EMS volunteer	Apr 2 2002	Apr 2 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, and forced to crawl on the ground to the tanks. Blindfolded and kept in the rain for 4 hours.
14	Mohamed Ali Odeh	Ramallah EMS volunteer	Apr 2 2002	Apr 2 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, and forced to crawl on the ground to the tanks. Soldiers issued death threats, and fired above the head. Blindfolded, kept in the rain for 4 hours.
13*	Ibrahim Algholeh	Ramallah EMS staff	Apr 2 2002	Apr 2 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, forced to crawl on the ground to the tanks. Blindfolded. Kept in the rain for 4 hours.
12*	Majdi Ali Srouji	Ramallah EMS staff	Apr 2 2002	Apr 2 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, forced to crawl on the ground to the tanks.

No	PRCS Emergency / Rescue Worker	Town	Date Detained	Date Released	Comments
					Blindfolded, and kept in the rain for 4 hours.
11	Tareq Issa Abed	Ramallah EMS volunteer	Apr 2 2002	Apr 2 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, forced to crawl on the ground to the tanks, soldiers issued death threats, and fired above the heads. Blindfolded and kept in the rain for 4 hours. Hospitalized.
10	Nader Abed (Salem)	Ramallah EMS volunteer	Apr 2 2002	Apr 2 2002	Stripped, handcuffed, beaten, forced to crawl on the ground to the tanks. Blindfolded. And kept in the rain for 4 hours.
9*	Sufian Abed Al- Jabber Qoraen	Ramallah EMS Staff	Apr 2 2002	Apr 2 2002	Stripped handcuffed, beaten, forced to crawl on the ground to the tanks. Soldiers issued death threats, and fired above the head. Blindfolded and kept in the rain for 4 hours.
8	Bassam Rasem Hassan	Ramallah EMS staff	Apr 2 2002	Apr 2 2002	Stripped, handcuffed, beaten, forced to crawl on the ground to the tanks blindfolded, and kept in the rain for four hour. Shot at in mock execution
7	Younis Al-Khatib	(President PRCS)	Apr 2 2002	Apr 2 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, forced to crawl on the ground to the tanks. . Blindfolded, and kept in the rain for four hours.
6	Feras Ayoob Samara	Ramallah EMS staff	Mar 30 2002	Apr 7 2002	The crew and their ambulance were used for over one hour as human shields in front of a tank convoy, blindfolded, handcuffed, beaten
5	Khalid Abu Gosh	Ramallah EMS staff	Mar 30 2002	Apr 3 2002	The crew and their ambulance were used for over one hour as human shields in front of a tank convoy, blindfolded, handcuffed, beaten.
4	Zohdi Mustafa	Ramallah EMS staff	Mar 30 2002	Apr 7 2002	The crew and their ambulance were used for over one hour as human shields in front of a tank

No	PRCS Emergency / Rescue Worker	Town	Date Detained	Date Released	Comments
					convoy, blindfolded for 1 hour.
3*	Arkan Jihad Khedar	Bethlehem EMS Staff	March 30, 2002	March 30, 2002	Handcuffed, beaten, blindfolded
2*	Majdi Ali Srouji	Ramallah EMS Staff	March 30, 2002	March 30, 2002	Handcuffed, blindfolded
1*	Mamoun Saleh Ibrahim Manaseah	Ramallah EMS staff	March 30, 2002	March 30,2002	Handcuffed, blindfolded

## 7. Eyewitness Report: Mr. Ziad Mahmoud Al Tarafi, Volunteer First Aider Detained in Ramallah April 16, 2002 in Ofra Military Camp

On April 16, 2002, PRCS dispatch received a phone call that a little girl needed to be transferred to the hospital. On our way to pick up the patient, we were stopped by Israeli soldiers on the way to her house, and they told us to turn back, but since we were worried about the girl, we tried to find another route to her house. When we arrived at her house, we found that she was shot in her leg while she was playing with her brothers. We provided treatment to stop the bleeding, then we took her in the ambulance to the hospital.

On the way back to the station, we saw a lot of tanks, so to avoid them, we changed our route, but the other road also had tanks and soldiers. They pointed their machine guns at us and they asked us to leave the ambulance, and they asked us for our ID's. We were talking to the Israeli sergeant and he said he was an ambulance driver from the Magen David Adom, and he was called to serve in the army as a reservist. So I asked him "why do you keep detaining us and arresting us?" He said that he is just doing his job and he takes his orders from the military. After this, the soldier came and told me that they were going to detain me, and that Sofian (other EMT) could go back to the station.

They asked me to take off my bulletproof vest, and my PRCS uniform. Then a soldier tied my hands very tightly with plastic handcuffs. The soldiers took me in an APC (*armored personal carrier*) to another place which was beside the nursing college in Em Al Sharayet area in Al Bireh. Then they brought out two other civilian persons who were detained and blindfolded all of us. After about one hour, the soldier took us to a room inside this college, and we could hear the breaking of glass inside the building. The soldiers started to push us, and put guns against our heads, and they started to shout at us. The soldier took each of us to a corner and we were beaten for half an hour, and they also questioned us. Then the three of us were put together in the same room. I told the soldier I had to go to the bathroom, and after 15 minutes, he came to take me. The soldier refused to take my blindfold and handcuffs off, and it was very hard, but I managed to relieve myself.

He took me back to the room, and left us again. The soldiers appeared to be looking through the building. After they finished, they took us back to the APC, and took us to a military camp – I don't know which one. The soldier at the entrance of the camp refused to let us into the camp because he said it was the beginning of one of the Israeli days of festival. So we had to wait outside the camp – it was very cold. A soldier came and he lit some firecrackers around us, and we thought they were shooting at us, because we were still blindfolded.

We waited for a few hours, and the soldier at the gate took us inside the camp, and then they took off our blindfolds. The soldier took us to the head of the camp, and he wrote our names, and took our personal things – money, keys- and put them in the safe. Then they took us to the doctor's office. They took off our blindfolds. The doctor asked me why was I detained? I told him I was in the ambulance and that I worked for PRCS, and he was surprised to hear this.

They took me to the tents where there were about 130 prisoners and the tent was crowded. This is when I found out that I was in Ofra camp beside Betunia. The prisoners gave me some water, and at this time I noticed that it was 12 midnight. When the other prisoners found out that I was from the PRCS they started laughing, and said, "The Israelis did not leave anyone behind, they are even taking the medics". The other prisoners helped make a place for me to sleep on a pallet and a foam mattress. We were also given blankets. I was very hungry, but also I was very tired so I fell asleep.

At 6:00 am in the morning, the soldiers came and took all the prisoners out of the tents, it was still very cold, and it was raining. Then they told us that they were going to count us, and that we were not allowed to take our blankets with us. After they counted us, they brought us some food – yogurt, two pieces of tomatoes for each of us, and one cucumber to be shared with 5 prisoners.

At 12 noon, they counted again, at this time we got frozen raw chicken nuggets and pieces of bread. They counted us again at 10 pm. Inside the prison, there were three injured men, whom the Israeli army did not treat. One of the prisoners had lost his eye from a shrapnel, and the other had a broken leg. They treated the man with the broken leg in the beginning, but did not do any follow up treatment. I tried to help the injured as much as I could.

Three days after I was detained, they blindfolded and handcuffed me again and took me and other prisoners by bus to another place to be questioned. The investigator started asking me questions about my family, my mother, my father, and my brother, who had been killed by the Israelis six years ago. After that, a soldier came and took me to get my picture taken. They took my picture with a cardboard in front of me that had my name, my ID number, and prisoner number. Then they took me back to Ofra prison.

I was in prison for 16 days. On the 16<sup>th</sup> day, they took me back to the place where I was first questioned and the Israeli investigator asked me the same questions, in a more aggressive way, and the soldier then told me that I was to be released. He did not tell me when. They took pictures of me again, and took me back to Ofra military camp. So I waited there. I was very nervous and after two days from the time they told me I was to be released, the soldier came and told us to prepare ourselves and I am going to be released. Then the soldiers started to call us by name, and we got our personal things back, and then we were handcuffed and we were taken in a bus. We were 35 prisoners, and they dropped us off at Qalandia checkpoint and released us. We took taxis home. It was the happiest day of my life, because I was out of prison.



*April 19, 2002: Picture of Ziad Al Tarafi taken by the Israel army while he was in detention. The card has his name, ID number and prisoner number in Hebrew.*

## 8. Jenin Camp Operation Report

*By Shane Dabrowski, EMS Consultant / Trainer, E.M.T.-P/ 1001 Fire Fighter*

This report covers the PRCS Emergency response to the Jenin Camp from April 14/2002 to April 22/2002. The report raises the operational challenges we as a Humanitarian Organization faced. It will be from the view point of Incident Commander, which is the position I held during the above mentioned time period.

### APRIL 14/2002

I arrived in Jenin in the late afternoon. I had planned to arrive as early as possible, but with the restricted movement of personnel into the Jenin area this was not to be. With much of the West Bank under siege at this time travel was difficult if not impossible. My transport to Jenin was arranged through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC coordinated my entry to Jenin with the Israeli army. On arrival at the Jenin checkpoint in the ICRC vehicle in which I was passenger was stopped and our identification taken for confirmation. The soldier at the checkpoint stated that my entry to Jenin was not authorized and I would have to return to Jerusalem. The ICRC delegate began negotiating with the commander of the checkpoint stating my entry to this area had previous coordination. After one hour of negotiations we were finally allowed to pass into Jenin.

My first observation of Jenin town site was not shocking. The scene reminded me immediately of Ramallah. There was a heavy Israeli military presence throughout the municipality. Like Ramallah there was a large number of Main Battle Tanks, Armored Personal Carriers and Armored Jeeps present along with the infantry and support personnel that go along with them.

The PRCS EMS was stationed at the Patients Friends Society, a small hospital down the road from PRCS Jenin. The EMS Supervisor informed me that operations had been moved to this location for security and operational reasons. The security of the PRCS station was a large issue. The station is located approximately 200 meters from the Jenin Camp. I was told that it came under fire at times and was also directly under the helicopter gunship attack path. This was proven later when I was able to walk the grounds of the station and had to fight my way through the guide wires of the many missiles fired into Jenin Camp. Operationally it was more sound to stage crews and vehicles at the Patient Friends Society. At this location we were able to respond to Jenin proper without having to go through a major Israeli Army checkpoint. Had we stayed just 100 meters down the road at our station we would have been delayed by ambulance searches even when responding to routine medical calls in the municipality. Though these measures were proper, I still remained concerned due to the fact that we had a staff member present at our station 24 hours a day to man the dispatch center. At this time we were also sheltering and caring for a number of displaced camp residents in the station. Our station was also without running water and electricity.

I was briefed by the on scene PRCS commander that they had been denied access to the camp that day and that they were hoping that tomorrow would see them enter the Camp with coordination through the local ICRC delegate and the Israeli army commander.

One of our priorities now was to plan the following day's operation assuming we would be granted access into Jenin Camp. Being a substation, PRCS Jenin has only 3 ambulances. We had to plan around the contingency of there being other emergency calls within the municipality while we were out on our camp operation. We decided that 2 ambulances with

enhanced manpower in the form of volunteers would enter the camp, leaving one ambulance behind at the station to deal with any other calls that might come in.

One other concern was the safety of our crews once we entered the Camp. This was the site of heavy fighting. There was the possibility of unexploded ordnance, booby traps, or being caught in a crossfire. Another concern for rescuer safety was that of building collapse. Since we had no proper intelligence of the actual condition of the structures within the Camp, this was an area of great concern. One other unknown factor was the number of injured in the Camp, and also the number of the remaining population. Without even realistic estimates of these factors it was very hard to calculate the type of resources we would need to fulfill our mission.

The biggest problem I faced as Incident Commander was the morale of the staff. These EMT's and volunteers had been living under siege for a number of days and had also just suffered the line of duty death of their station supervisor, Dr. Khalil and the serious injuries to 4 other members of their crew during a coordinated evacuation of injured during a previous Israeli Army incursion into the camp. As well, during that incursion many of their number had been arrested and detained. Some of the staff lived in the camp or had family and friends in the camp. Trying to keep them focused on the mission and control their feelings was going to be a challenge. The fact that living conditions were not up to standard - no running water, no electricity, limited food, and limited sleeping space, were other morale breaking factors to deal with.

The plan devised to enter the camp was kept simple. If we were granted access we would use this opportunity to do a needs assessment, provide medical aid in a limited capacity, transport if necessary, distribute water, and gather intelligence on the conditions inside the Camp.

APRIL 15/2002

With 5 minutes warning our PRCS EMS teams along with the Ministry of Health doctors and ICRC escort, we were allowed entrance to the Camp for a period of 4 ½ hours. This lack of warning did not allow us to prepare our vehicles with the logistic supplies we intended to distribute within the Camp from the hospital which was on the other side of the checkpoint. It also did not allow us to go over our plan more thoroughly. I gave a 10-minute safety briefing and also reviewed our operation goals with the staff. Once the Israeli soldiers at the intersection leading to the hospital and camp checked our vehicles and staff, approximately 20 meters from our temporary base we advanced to the hospital where we picked up the MOH doctors and a supply of water.

We then drove another 20 meters to the entrance of the Camp where we were searched again. One hour of our 4-hour window had just evaporated. At the entrance to the Camp there was an Israeli Army staging area with a number of troops, tanks, APC's, and a large army bulldozer. It was at this point we were informed by the Israeli Liaison Officer that all of our movement in the Camp would be with Israeli army escort.

We immediately knew that this would severely hamper our operation, as the population would probably not announce their presence. The Israeli Army Officer tried to push us into removing the bodies of the dead. This was the Israeli Army priority as the bodies were in a decomposed state and were a potential health risk to its soldiers. The removal of bodies was a mission we would do but was low on our priority list. Our number one operational priority was to assess and provide aid to the living.

Due to the lack of notice before our entry, the PRCS and the MOH teams were not able to coordinate our operation and the head Doctor for MOH began giving orders to remove the bodies. With a lack of a clear command structure several minutes were wasted trying to set a

command structure and mission priorities. The fact that the general population was not coming out to meet us allowed us this brief respite to settle the plan. At this point, I could tell that this day would be useful as only an assessment of the camp.

Due to safety and security concerns I prohibited my teams from entering structures to search for injured or survivors. A large percentage of the buildings in the area were heavily damaged and structurally unsound. At one point shortly after entering the Camp, our Israeli army escort tried to get our teams to remove a highly decomposed body from the second story of a building which was missing two walls and had debris hanging from steel directly above it. It was at this point I decided we would not enter the structure due to the hazards of building collapse and falling debris. I ended up in a heated debate with the army commander. He stated that it was our job to remove the bodies. I stated that under the Geneva Convention it was his job, and that none of my crew was going to enter the building and do it.

At this point we made contact with some Camp residents and distributed water to them. They stated that they were without food and water for a number of days and that there was a large number of people still living in the Camp under the same conditions. As we continued forward, we found more bodies in the later states of decomposition. We located 14 bodies and were able to remove 7. The other 7 were left in place due to unexploded ordnance and other safety concerns. We came to the area of the Camp with a large Israeli army presence. The commander there told us we could not advance any further as it was unsafe. In the building right next to their position we heard a baby crying and so we called the family out. They had been without food and water for a number of days. We gave them a ration of water but we had no food. We then told the commander that under the Geneva Conventions it was his responsibility as an occupying force to provide for the local population. At this time the soldiers gave 3 small cans of beans to the family. With access restricted and the constant presence of an Israeli army escort we were accomplishing little and decided to terminate that days mission and return to base and appeal for unhindered access the next day. The whole time we were operating in the Camp Israeli press and army photographers were filming us to use in their PR campaign.

On arriving back at base, I ordered the crews to prepare for the next days entrance into the Camp. We required more water, food, and basic medicine for distribution. I also reported the days activities to PRCS headquarters and filed a report which included a request for international specialist teams. PRCS provides Emergency Medical Services and is equipped and trained to accomplish this mission; however, the situation in the Camp required specialists trained and equipped to deal with structural collapse, urban search and rescue, unexploded ordnance removal, disaster relief, and a system of massive food distribution, and construction to rebuild. At this time I also requested the proper personal protective equipment to allow my teams to safely work in that environment.

On that day we only had access to approximately 10% of the Jenin Camp. What I saw there convinced me that this was a disaster zone. The majority of structures were heavily damaged, or outright destroyed. The population had no access to potable water, or food. The sick and elderly had no access to medical aid or medications. With municipal services cut, the general sanitation of the area was horrible leaving the population vulnerable to disease. Add to this the presence of unexploded ordnance and you have a highly complex situation. At this point our intelligence led us to estimate the population of the Camp at 3000 to 5000. During a time of peace this would stretch PRCS resources. Add to this logistical problem the fact that PRCS warehouses in the West Bank were in areas under siege, and the lack of free movement and you can begin to see the complexity of the situation. Other disturbing information gathered from residents was that voices could be heard from under some of the destroyed homes within the Camp.

APRIL 16/2002

On this day we waited for the signal to enter the Camp. The previous night we were told that we would be entering at 10:00 hours . The official permission came at 14:10 hours. We again had to go through the checkpoint at the intersection 20 meters from our temporary base. After a search of our vehicles and staff we proceeded to the hospital. We picked up the Ministry of Health doctors and containers of water to distribute to the residents of the Camp. We then drove the 10 meters to the entrance of the Camp to be searched again by the soldiers stationed there, still within visual range of the first checkpoint we crossed. Our operation this day was severely hampered by time restraints due to the delay of the Israeli Liaison Officer. For safety reasons we had to exit the Camp by 16:10 since night operations in this environment would be a huge safety risk. This day we were escorted by the Israeli Army. Again, we headed to the same area we were in the previous day. We set up a small medical reception area. Due to Israeli army presence, we were only able to access a small number of residents and provide little medical aid. We distributed water to those we came across. We were disturbed by the continuing reports of people still alive and trapped beneath the rubble. At 16:10 hours we exited the Camp. With the light of day beginning to fade and our lack of unhindered access we pulled out.

APRIL 17/ 2002

At 11:50 hours we entered the Camp with 2 ambulances, 2 ICRC vehicles, and the Ministry of Health doctors. We finally had access to the majority of the Camp without an Israeli army escort. Our teams walked up past the area of the Camp which was bulldozed to the ground and into an area with inhabitants. The area had heavy battle damage but was still livable. At this time with the Ministry of Health Doctors we set up a mini clinic to assess and treat the sick and wounded. We were amazed at the lack of wounded. The majority of the 35 people we assessed were chronic patients and ailments from the living conditions. With lots of signs of heavy fighting in the area, it was unnerving to only find 4 actual injured persons. We distributed some prescription medications as well. Safety was still of great concern and a constant threat to our mission.

APRIL 18/2002

This day marked the beginning of the most hazardous and confusing state of the operation. With the lifting of curfew and withdraw from the area of the Israeli army, we found ourselves amidst a sea of humanity trying to assess the situation and also complete our medical mission. The people of the town and Camp of Jenin were out in full force searching for missing relatives and digging through the rubble looking for their belongings.

With the horrible state of a high percentage of structures and the amount of unexploded ordnance in the Camp I feared another disaster. With the municipality's infrastructure in ruins and the lack of security forces/police present there was no security present to keep people away from the Camp. The lifting of curfew did help us in the fact that people with chronic illnesses and ailments could now reach the hospital on their own. The population could now go and get food and water. Other concerns were those of the people reportedly trapped under the rubble. With the general public now in the Camp digging through the rubble I feared all hope of recovering anyone alive was lost.

Urban Search and Rescue is a highly technical field and requires intense training and proper equipment. At this point I found the head of Public works for the municipality directing a dig operation with some heavy equipment. I told him of my concerns and he agreed to do a slow work program since the masses would not allow a work stoppage. At 14:30 curfew was placed on the community and the tanks and infantry moved back into the area. At this point we were forced to leave the Camp.

APRIL 19/2002

After the withdrawal of the Israeli Army and the arrival of the international specialist teams work began in earnest. We still faced many operational challenges. There were many questions which had to be answered and with all the organizations present, who had operational control, and who were responsible for what mission and services. A cooperation center was set up at the UNWRA Boy's School in the Camp. This is where all operations were coordinated. PRCS continued to send one ambulance with crew into the Camp from then on with a Medical Aid to Palestine Doctor team to set up and provide medical aid to the Camp inhabitants from this day until April 25<sup>th</sup>. PRCS also provided medical personal for the International Unexploded Ordnance team. We also were prepared to respond to any medical emergency in the Jenin Camp and Municipality.

The days which followed the Israeli withdrawal were challenging to all organizations involved in the relief and rescue mission. PRCS kept its operations simple by continuing to send a medical team into the Camp to set up an aid post. We also made our staff and facilities available to the other international agencies requiring personal. Some examples of this cooperation would be: setting up a water distribution point for the UN at our station which was located only 40 meters from the Camp, assisting the Unexploded Ordnance team with medical support and volunteers to provide security and translators at their work sites. We also organized Kids days at the station where the volunteers lectured the children of the dangers of picking up objects on the ground(mine awareness). By providing our services to the other organizations, we increased the level of cooperation and information sharing throughout the operation.

For an EMS provider Jenin Camp presented a number of challenges. I believe we at PRCS provided medical services and relief services to the best of our abilities during this trying time with limited resources under wartime conditions. I believe as an organization we had successes, and at the same time found our weaknesses. We are currently working on eliminating these operational weaknesses and improving on our success so we can provide the Palestinian public with service they deserve.

## 9. Timeline for Jenin

\*The following timeline includes data collected and recorded by the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS). It reflects action taken by the PRCS Emergency Medical Services' (EMS') teams in Jenin for the period 3 April – 22 April 2002. (Note: the number of deaths and injuries may not necessarily correspond with those from Jenin Hospital or from other sources due to inaccuracies in reporting or missing data.)

Date PRCS Entry	Time PRCS Entry & Access Duration	PRCS Entry Description	Wounded Transferred to Hospital	Bodies Transferred to Hospital	Distribution of Food/Water/ Medicine	PRCS Ambulance Access	Deaths / injuries not transferred by PRCS or other
3 April 2002	3:00am-12:30 pm	-Entry w/o ICRC Coordination w/the Israelis -ICRC escort - Movement unrestricted	15 injuries	5 bodies	0 distribution	Access unrestricted	0
4 April 2002	Morning till 12:30pm	-Entry w/o coordination -ICRC escort  Access unrestricted	13 injuries	0 bodies	0 distribution	Access unrestricted	2 bodies
	12:30pm –end of day	PRCS Entry (After 3 hours of ICRC coordination/me diation)	0 injuries	0 (access denied)	0 distribution	<b>Access denied</b>	2 bodies: (access denied to remove)

Date PRCS Entry	Time PRCS Entry & Access Duration	PRCS Entry Description	Wounded Transferred to Hospital	Bodies Transferred to Hospital	Distribution of Food/Water/ Medicine	PRCS Ambulance Access	Deaths / injuries not transferred by PRCS or other
5 April 2002	All day	-PRCS entry restricted to Jenin Camp borders (after 3 hrs of ICRC coordination/mediation),-Forced out of Camp borders by Israeli army -PRCS re-entry at 11:30	-5 injuries -1 case of illness transferred from Camp (borders or Camp perimeters)	0 (access denied)	0 distribution	<b>Access denied</b>	2 bodies
6 April 2002	All day	Access denied	-5 cases of illness transferred from Jenin City to Hospital	1 body removed from Jenin City to al-Jalama checkpoint (w/ICRC) coordination	Food & medicine transfer (from Sabah el-Khair neighborhood to Jenin City)	<b>Access denied</b>	2 injury cases in Jenin City(access denied to remove) .
7 April 2002	All day	Access denied	-0 injuries from Camp -Transferred 21 cases of illness from Jenin City	-2 bodies removed from Jenin City to al-Jalama checkpoint (w/ICRC) coordination	0 distribution	<b>Access denied</b>	Many cases reported (PRCS access denied )

Date PRCS Entry	Time PRCS Entry & Access Duration	PRCS Entry Description	Wounded Transferred to Hospital	Bodies Transferred to Hospital	Distribution of Food/Water/ Medicine	PRCS Ambulance Access	Deaths / injuries not transferred by PRCS or other
8 April 2002	All day	Access denied	-1 injury -1 case of illness transferred from Camp borders to City (both patients forced to walk from inside Camp to its borders)	0 bodies	0 distribution	<b>Access denied</b>	-Many cases reported (PRCS access denied) -Estimate of reported cases unknown
9 April 2002	All day	Access denied	0	0 bodies	0 distribution	<b>Access denied</b>	Many cases reported (access denied to PRCS)
10 April 2002	All day	Access denied	A number of injuries transferred from Camp borders to Jenin Hospital (w/ICRC coordination)	0 bodies	0 distribution	<b>Access denied</b>	Many cases reported (PRCS access denied)
11 April 2002	All day	- Entry w/ICRC escort - Forced out of camp by army - Escort convoy fired at by Israeli army	-0 -4 cases of illness transferred	1 body transferred from Jenin City to Jalama checkpoint (w/ICRC coordination) -	0 distribution	<b>Access denied</b>	-Many cases reported (PRCS access denied) -2 cases of illness (PRCS access denied to remove)
12 April 2002	All day	Access denied	-0 injuries -1 case of illness transferred from	0 bodies	Food rations supplies distributed in (Jenin City)	<b>Access denied</b>	Many cases reported (PRCS access denied)

Date PRCS Entry	Time PRCS Entry & Access Duration	PRCS Entry Description	Wounded Transferred to Hospital	Bodies Transferred to Hospital	Distribution of Food/Water/ Medicine	PRCS Ambulance Access	Deaths / injuries not transferred by PRCS or other
			Jenin City to hospital				
13 April 2002	All day	Access denied	0 injuries	4 bodies transferred from Jenin Hospital to al-Jalama checkpoint (w/ICRC coordination mediation)	Food rations & medicine (Jenin City and surrounding neighborhoods)	<b>Access denied</b>	Many cases reported (PRCS access denied)
14 April 2002	All day	Access denied	0 injuries	0 bodies	Food rations & medicine (Jenin City and surrounding neighborhoods)	<b>Access denied</b>	Many cases reported (PRCS access denied)
15 April 2002	8:00am- 12:30pm	-PRCS & ICRC teams entry into Jenin Camp w/ Israeli army escort -Relief operations begin -media banned, -severe restrictions on movement -PRCS work concentrated in one area(10% of Camp) -Work situation	Civilians in Camp afraid to approach ambulance teams fearful of Israeli army escort	7 bodies recovered (7 others could not be recovered)	-Residents report great shortage of food and water supplies	Access severely restricted	Many cases reported (PRCS access denied)

Date PRCS Entry	Time PRCS Entry & Access Duration	PRCS Entry Description	Wounded Transferred to Hospital	Bodies Transferred to Hospital	Distribution of Food/Water/ Medicine	PRCS Ambulance Access	Deaths / injuries not transferred by PRCS or other
		hazardous due to unexploded ordinance (work requires international recovery teams)					
16 April 2002	-10: 00am-2:10pm PRCS awaits permission for entry into Camp -2:51pm-PRCS entry -4:10pm-PRCS teams leave	-PRCS entry w/ Israeli army escort	Teams can provide only limited care for the ill (due to time restrictions)	Not able to perform search & rescue operations (?due to time restrictions; or: ?denied access)	Distribute Water rations	- Access Restricted Access (due to presence of Israeli army escort)	No search & rescue teams operating in Camp (access denied to teams)
17 April 2002	11:50am	-PRCS entry with w/ ICRC coordination. - ICRC escort -No search & rescue teams allowed in for 3 <sup>rd</sup> day in a row	- 0 injuries -2 cases of illness transferred from Jenin Camp to City -35 cases of illness treated on site	0 bodies	Food, Water & medicine (Jenin City)	Access restricted	0 reported
18 April 2002	9:00am-2:30pm	PRCS entry into Camp w/o ICRC coordination.  -Relief	-0 injuries	2 bodies of children recovered from rubble	Medical supplies distributed to the sick	2:30pm – Suspension of relief operations (Israeli tanks move back into	0 reported

Date PRCS Entry	Time PRCS Entry & Access Duration	PRCS Entry Description	Wounded Transferred to Hospital	Bodies Transferred to Hospital	Distribution of Food/Water/ Medicine	PRCS Ambulance Access	Deaths / injuries not transferred by PRCS or other
		operations begin at 11:00am				Camp)	
19 April 2002	12:30 pm – end of day	-PRCS Relief Mission entry into Camp -ICRC rescue team of 7 (Norwegian & Swiss specialists)	-1 person found alive under rubble -2 injuries transferred from Wadi Burqin to Jenin City -37 cases of illness treated, supplied w/medicine & released on site (in Camp)	-Explosion reported in Camp while rescue teams present -1 body removed by residents (from Camp to Jenin Hospital)	Food, water & medicine (Jenin Camp & City)	Access unrestricted	0 reported
20 April 2002	All day	-Search & Rescue operations diffuse many unexploded devices	0 injuries	1 body transferred from Camp to Jenin Hospital	Food, water & medicine (Jenin Camp & City)	Access unrestricted	0 reported
21 April 2002	All day	-Entry into Camp w/o ICRC co-ordination -Search & Rescue teams continue to work in camp	-4 injuries transferred from Camp to Jenin Hospital -15 cases of illness transferred (as above)	0 found	Food, water & medicine (Jenin Camp & City)	Access unrestricted	0 Removed

<b>Date PRCS Entry</b>	<b>Time PRCS Entry &amp; Access Duration</b>	<b>PRCS Entry Description</b>	<b>Wounded Transferred to Hospital</b>	<b>Bodies Transferred to Hospital</b>	<b>Distribution of Food/Water/ Medicine</b>	<b>PRCS Ambulance Access</b>	<b>Deaths / injuries not transferred by PRCS or other</b>
			- Mine explodes in Camp, causes 3 injuries (transferred to hospital)				
22 April 2002	All day	Entry w/out ICRC coordination mediation	-1 injured transferred from Camp to Jenin Hospital -16 cases of illness transferred to Jenin Hospital	0 found	Food rations (Jenin Camp)	Access unrestricted	0 Removed

*(AP) Apr '19 – Jenin Refugee Camp*



*April 10, 2002, Ambulances waiting for clearance*



## 10. APPENDIX

### 10.1. Press Statement: Cardiac Patient Denied Access to Hospital/ PRCS EMT from Bethlehem Detained by Israel Army

May 12, 2002 - Bethlehem

Today, a PRCS ambulance was stopped on its way from Bethlehem Hussain Hospital to Jerusalem. It was transporting an emergency cardiac case to Makasad Hospital in Jerusalem for specialized emergency treatment. The ambulance left Bethlehem at 10:05 am, and was stopped on the Gillo checkpoint. The Israeli army checked the ambulance, and gave it clearance. The ambulance proceeded to Jerusalem. At 10:30 a.m., at the entrance to Taliput, a police jeep stopped the ambulance and did another extensive search of the ambulance, forcing the patient to leave the ambulance. The Israeli police did not find anything of concern. They handcuffed one EMT, Arkan Khedar and detained him. They did not allow the ambulance to pass, and returned it to Bethlehem. The patient condition continued to deteriorate, and the ambulance returned her back to Hussain Hospital in Bethlehem in an attempt to stabilize her condition.

This is the second time, Mr. Khedar has been detained. He was detained previously on March 30, 2002 until April 2, 2002, when he was handcuffed, beaten and blindfolded.

## 10.2. PRCS Doctor Killed Mar 4 2002

### **Press Statement**

#### **Debriefed March 5 & 6 by PRCS**

- 1) There was no roadblock (as Israeli army falsely reported)
- 2) Soldiers were stationed on the second floor and fired at ambulance from close range
- 3) Siren of ambulance was on and car was nearly stopped when it was fired on firstly with live ammunition/bullets, then the grenade launcher
- 4) Dr. khalil had his hand out the window and was calling upon the soldiers saying "ambulance, ambulance" when he was hit
- 5) Most residents in the narrow street confirmed seeing first hand the launch of the grenade
- 6) Soldiers prevented access to "screaming" Dr. Khalil as camp residents attempted to rush to the burning vehicle and pull him out - by shooting at the residents
- 7) The paramedics that were able to jump out the vehicle and rush to nearby homes all sustained severe burns - and screamed at residents to call for a second ambulance for help
- 8) Fire dept and rescue ambulances were fired upon as well. Access was not permitted until 1.5 hours after the incident.

**March 6:** Later reports confirmed that a grenade fired by Israeli soldiers from a grenade launcher (as the car was stopped) directly at the front windshield (passenger side, where Dr. Khalil was seated). Soldiers fired at camp residents and a second ambulance who attempted to rescue him from the burning wreckage. This is in complete contradiction to the "official" version the Israeli army has put out. The facts around this case constitute a war crime committed by the Israeli army.

10.3. PRCS Doctor Killed by Israeli Army, 5 Paramedics Injured, March 4,  
2002 2:30 PM

Dr. Khalil Sulieman, age 58, head of PRCS Ambulance Station in Jenin was killed today as the ambulance he was riding in while evacuating an injured young girl in the Jenin refugee camp suffered a direct hit from an Israeli tank. Four other paramedics (two in Dr. Khalil's vehicle, and two in a second ambulance) Mohamed Jamal, Mohamed Assad, Mahmoud Sada, Saher Bashart, and Taher Sannori (volunteer) sustained burns and injuries. The status of the injured patient is not known at this time.

PRCS ambulances had been under fire all morning while attempting to provide emergency medical care to tens of victims of the Israeli invasion in the area.

PRCS condemns this most cowardly attack on its staff and ambulances. The attack, in broad day light from an Israeli tank and its crew that must have seen the vehicle and chose to directly aim their fire at it, will not stop PRCS from continuing its work and mission.

PRCS remains committed to providing humanitarian aid and emergency care to all in need. We offer our condolences to Dr. Khalil's his family.

**To-date 2 PRCS personnel have been killed, 129 injured and 71 ambulances attacked and damaged.**



**Dr. Khalil Suleiman, 58 years old.  
Ambulance Station Director, Jenin  
branch.**

#### 10.4. Press Statement Apr 8 '02

Israeli Attacks on Security Compound in Beitunia, the Night of 2 to 3 April.

PRCS President and Medical Missions Prevented from Rescuing the Wounded  
PRCS Ambulances Stopped and Blocked, 6 Medics and PRCS President Arrested  
PRCS Staff Used As Human Shield for IDF Soldiers

ICRC Delegates and Journalists Prevented from Access to the Scene

**Context for Medical Intervention:** PRCS medical missions were prepared to provide services to Ramallah hospital at 1.00 AM during Israeli attacks on the security compound in Beitunia. Coordination with ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) confirmed that the situation during the night was extremely dangerous and recommended the PRCS emergency service wait until early morning. At 8.00AM seven staff members including the President, Younis Al-Khatib, headed for the security compound in three ambulances.

**Ambulances and Staff Stopped - Detained by Israeli Army:** Not more than two kilometers from their starting point, the ambulances were confronted by 5 tanks and personnel carriers. One of the tanks moved behind the ambulances to block a possible retreat. Several soldiers surrounded the vehicles, pointing their weapons at the medical team. They aggressively ordered them out of the ambulances, and confiscated the batteries from their radios and telephones, and forced them to lie on the ground. One by one they were directed to lift their clothing to prove they were not carrying weapons or explosives. PRCS President, Younis Al-Khatib was ordered to go with the soldiers to inspect the ambulances. The inspection proved that PRCS was in full compliance with regulations as an emergency medical service on route to rescue the wounded.

Accordingly, it would be anticipated that PRCS staff would be permitted to continue their medical mission. Unfortunately, this was not the case.

#### **ICRC Delegates and Journalists Prevented from Approaching the Area:**

After 20 minutes without communication from the mission, two PRCS personnel and two ICRC delegates were dispatched from the EMS centre to the area at approximately 8.30AM. The second team was confronted by the tank stationed behind the ambulances. As weapons were pointed at them, they were ordered out of their vehicles and their phones were disabled. When one of the ICRC delegates tried to negotiate with the soldiers, he was ordered not to speak. The two ICRC delegates were then forced to leave the scene. The two PRCS employees were then searched as their colleagues had been previously. They were then forced to crawl along the ground to join them. Four journalists present at the scene were also detained, their film and cameras destroyed. Two were subsequently released as they had Israeli identity cards. The tanks moved to block the area completely so that journalists and others could not see what was happening to those arrested.

#### **PRCS Staff Humiliated and Forced To Act Used As Human Shield for Soldiers:**

At this stage, there were nine PRCS members in the custody of the soldiers. What occurred next is in violation of Geneva Conventions. PRCS medical staff was systematically positioned so that they were in place to act as a human shield to the Israeli soldiers. Initially most of the staff was forced to crawl approximately 50 meters toward the tanks. It was raining heavily and the road was covered with dirt and rubbish. All of them were ordered to sit on the wet road between two IDF tanks. Soldiers issued repeated threats indicating that if they spoke or made any movement they would be shot. During this time, shots were fired over their heads. Any attempt made to speak to the soldiers resulted in further death threats or

shooting toward the medics, just over their heads. After all identity cards were collected, PRCS staff had their hands cuffed with plastic straps. They remained sitting in the rain as rainwater and rubbish from the streets flowed toward them. This humiliating and inhumane situation lasted for two and a half hours, during which the army positioned them in order to shield Israeli soldiers from a building they planned to destroy. The explosion in the building resulted in flying glass and debris, hitting the PRCS medical team.

**Staff Members Transferred, Blindfolded, and Ill-Treated:** Now blindfolded, the arrested PRCS staff members were transported in three IDF tanks. Several members continued to be morally and physically assaulted. Soldiers in two of the three tanks pointed weapons at the medic's heads and threatened to kill them. Additionally, they shouted obscenities and beat them physically. In the third tank, blankets were put around them. Once again, every member was forced to walk outside in the rain and mud for half an hour. They remained blindfolded, handcuffed, and weak, often stumbling as they walked. They were all ordered to sit down on their knees with their heads down. The PRCS staff reported this to be the most difficult part of the ordeal as their hands were still tied behind their backs. They were held outside in this position for nearly two hours.

**Staff Members Listed as Prisoners, but Later Released:** They were led into a building in two groups. Though they desperately asked the soldiers to untie their hands, only when they entered the office were the handcuffs cut. They were then immediately restrained again but this time in front. Following a manual body search and then one using a metal detector, the blindfolds were removed and they saw that they were in an office with an intelligence officer sitting at a desk with a computer. The officer asked why they were cold and shivering and offered a tissue. He asked when they had been arrested and proceeded to ask about their families and their work with the emergency ambulances. The medics were told repeatedly that they were being treated like VIPs. After leaving the office, most of the medical team were photographed while holding a sign with their name, ID number, and prison number written on it. They were then released.

They then notified the EMS Centre that they had all been released, and requested ICRC pick them up. The ICRC was stopped at Kalandia checkpoint, and prevented from reaching them at the prison. A taxi coming from Jerusalem transported the medical team to the Kalandia checkpoint. Following intense negotiations by the ICRC the soldiers allowed the arrested staff members to pass through the checkpoint one at a time. They were transported back to PRCS Headquarters in Al-Bireh. Three emergency medical technicians required hospitalization for hypothermia.

Three PRCS staff members currently remain in custody, their whereabouts and condition unknown to PRCS and ICRC.

10.5. Eyewitness Account: Nader Salem's statement, April 4, 2002, EMS  
Volunteer Worker

At 8:30 pm on April 2, 2002, a man called the PRCS headquarters to alert the PRCS that our 3 ambulances were stopped by the Israeli army and that they had taken the medics. PRCS contacted the ICRC and Ibrahim and I went with the ICRC cars to the location where the crews were being detained. We were ordered out of the cars and told to remove our clothes and hand in our IDs and they ordered the ICRC people to go. Bassam Rasam was talking to Mohamed Ali and the soldier fired a warning shot beside their heads to make them stop talking. We all thought that Bassam had been killed. The soldier ordered us to remain silent and not move.

After 30 minutes, they started calling us one by one and we were told to put our hands on the tanks. They took our hands and bound them together behind our backs and blindfolded us and told us to sit between the 2 tanks. It began to rain heavily and we were quickly soaked. Because we were not wearing many clothes, we started shaking and we couldn't feel our hands because the plastic strap binding our hands was very tight. We started screaming and they began hitting us on our heads. We stayed 4 hours under the rain. They then took us in 3 tanks to the camp and there, the soldiers were hitting us and screaming at us. I asked "Why you are doing this to us? We did not do anything. Please kill us and put us out of our misery." We stayed there in the camp more than 3 hours, all that time exposed to the rain and the cold with our eyes covered and our hands bound. Then they took all of the medics except me. I became very afraid because I was alone so I started crying. After 1 hour, the soldier came. I asked him why they took all my friends and left me here. I told him again I had not done anything and to please help me. After 15 min, they talked to me and then released me. I was very happy that I was not going to be killed.

It was very hard for all and I still feel sad and I can't sleep. I am always thinking about what happened to us.

  
April 4, 2002

Nader Salem



**Apr 2 '2002 – Nine PRCEMTs detained by the Israeli army. The EMT's were beaten, and some used as human shields as part of an 8 hour detention**

Press Statement: Patient Dies After Delay at Army Checkpoint, *January 25, 2002*

The Israeli Army continues to impede ambulance access resulting in gross violations of a civilian population's access to medical care and a basic right to human dignity.

On January 24, 2002, Mr. Kayed Sabri Sroojy was being transported from Ramallah Hospital to his home in Tulkarem after receiving his regular dialysis treatment. The patient was transferred from the Ramallah ambulance-to-ambulance 6-3234. in the Nablus area and they arrived at the Der Sharal Checkpoint just outside of Nablus at 16:15 hours. The Israel army did not allow the ambulance to pass, and delayed it for 2 hours at the checkpoint. The long delay resulted in complications to the patient's condition. Mr. Sroojy continued to weaken until he started to vomit blood. At this point, 18:55 hours, the ambulance crew decided to return to Nablus, Al Watany Hospital in Nablus. Mr. Sroojy was pronounced dead at 18:55 hours. He was 45 years old, and leaves behind a wife and 5 children.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society continues to stress that the delays and denials imposed on Israeli army on medical services and the civilian population is a gross violation on International Humanitarian Law which protects the rights of civilian population right under military occupation.

No	Date dd-mm-yy	ICRC coordination	Location	Ambulance #	Repairable/beyond repair	Comments
1	29-03-02		Ramallah	62161-90	REPAIRABLE	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance. 2 EMTs with minor injuries + access denied.
2	29-03-02		Ramallah	62390-90	no damage	Ambulance blockaded by two tanks+ access denied. 1 EMT detained+ access denied
3	29-03-02		Ramallah	62161-90	no damage	access denied.
4	30-03-02		Bethlehem	62348-90	no damage	Access denial, Confiscation of mobiles. 1 EMT detained+ access denied.
5	30-03-02		Bethlehem	61533-90	no damage	Access denial
6	30-03-02	with ICRC coord.	Ramallah	62161-90	no damage	3 EMTs detained + access denied.
7	30-03-02		Ramallah		no damage	Ambulance & 2 EMT staff detained.
8	31-03-02		Nablus	63380-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance + access denied.
9	31-03-02		Ramallah	62161-90	no damage	2 EMTs with minor injuries + access denied.
10	31-03-02		Ramallah	62390-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance+ access denied.
11	31-03-02		Ramallah	61923-90	no damage	access denied

12	31-03-02		Ramallah	61923-90	no damage	access denied
13	31-03-02		Ramallah	62161-90	no damage	access denied
14	31-03-02		Ramallah	62161-90	no damage	access denied + Body search
15	31-03-02		Ramallah	62161-90	no damage	access denied + Body search
16	31-03-02		Ramallah	63235-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance + access denied.
17	1/4/2002		Qalqilia	62161-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance + access denied.
18	1/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Qalqilia	58504-96	no damage	access denied.
19	1/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Qalqilia	62155-90	no damage	access denied.
20	1/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Qalqilia	48800-93	no damage	access denied.
21	2/4/2002		Ramallah	62161-90	no damage	9 EMTs Arrested + access denied.
22	3/4/2002		Bethlehem	62348-90	no damage	3 EMTs detained+ access denied +EMTs forced to abandon the ambulance.
23	3/4/2002		Nablus		no damage	2 EMT's detained
24	3/4/2002		Bethlehem	63377-90	beyond repair	Completely damaged by Israeli Tank
25	3/4/2002		Bethlehem		beyond repair	Completely damaged by Israeli Tank

26	3/4/2002		Jenin	58501-95	no damage	Access denied + Ambulance searched.
27	4/4/2002		Tulkarem	58509-94	Repairable	Attack on Ambulance by Israeli Tank.
28	4/4/2002		Tulkarem	62194-90	Repairable	Attack on Ambulance by Israeli Tank.
29	4/4/2002		Tulkarem	58500-96	beyond repair	Attack on Ambulance by Israeli Tank.
30	4/4/2002		Qalqilia	61884-90	Repairable	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance + access denied.
31	4/4/2002		Tulkarem	48402-94	beyond repair	Attack on Ambulance by Israeli Tank.
32	4/4/2002		Ramallah		no damage	Israeli Army raided Al-bireh Hospital & 5 EMT's detained + blind folded
33	4/4/2002		Ramallah		no damage	Denied access
34	4/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	Denied access to camp (3 hours). Unable to transfer bodies + 1 EMT detained.
35	5/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Ramallah	623090-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance+ access denied..
36	5/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Ramallah	623090-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance+ access denied.
37	5/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Ramallah	623090-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance+ access denied.
38	6/4/2002		Nablus		no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance+ access denied.
39	5/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	Denied access to camp (3 hours). Unable to transfer bodies all day.

40	5/4/2002		Jenin		no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance+ access denied.
41	5/4/2002		Ramallah		no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance+ access denied.
42	5/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Tulkarem	63236-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance+ access denied.
43	6/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	All day: Access denied to Jenin Camp
44	6/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	Unable to transfer 2 injuries from Jenin city+ access denied.
45	6/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Ramallah	61931-90	no damage	Injured arrested from ambulance+ access denied.
46	6/4/2002		Nablus		no damage	4 EMTs detained+ access denied.
47	6/4/2002		Nablus		no damage	3 EMTs and 12 injured detained+ access denied
48	7/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	All day: Access denied to Jenin Camp
49	8/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	All day: Access denied to Jenin Camp. Many cases reported but unable to reach.
50	8/4/2002		Salfeet		no damage	Access denied for Labor case
51	8/4/2002		Bethlehem	63138-90	no damage	Access Denial(45 min.) + 1 EMT detained.
52	9/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	All day: Access denied to Jenin Camp. Many cases reported but unable to reach.

53	9/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Bethlehem	63138-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance + access denied + patient died.
54	9/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Tulkarem	63236-90	no damage	Access denied. Unable to reach 2 cases.
55	10/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	All day: Access denied to Jenin Camp. Many cases reported but unable to reach + 6 detained
56	10/4/2002		Hebron	61882-90	no damage	Access denied + 2 EMTs detained
57	10/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Tulkarem	63236-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance + access denied.
58	10/4/2002		Tulkarem	63234-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance + access denied + ambulance searched.
59	11/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	Entry with ICRC escort but forced out of camp and escort convoy shot at.
60	11/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Tulkarem	63234-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance + access denied.
61	12/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	All day: Access denied to Jenin Camp. Many cases reported but unable to reach.
62	13/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Ramallah	62160-90	no damage	access delayed for 1:30 hours
63	13/4/2002		Bethlehem		no damage	access denied to Nativity Church to rescue wounded .
64	13/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	All day: Access denied to Jenin Camp. Many cases reported but unable to reach.
65	13/4/2002		Qalqilya	62155-90	no damage	access denied + EMT stripped + ambulance searched.

66	14/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	All day: Access denied to Jenin Camp. Many cases reported but unable to reach.
67	14/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Hebron	88501-95	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance + access denied.
68	15/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	access severely restricted into camp.
69	15/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Ramallah	62160-90	no damage	access severely restricted into camp.
70	15/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Ramallah	62390-90	no damage	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance + access denied.
71	16/4/2002		Qalqilya	63234-90	no damage	1 EMT detained & access denied.
72	16/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	Restricted access due to Israeli escort
73	16/4/2002		Ramallah		no damage	1 EMT detained & access denied.
74	17/4/2002	with ICRC coord.	Jenin		no damage	Restricted access.
75	17/4/2002		Ramallah		no damage	1 EMT detained & access denied.
76	22-04-2002		Qalqilya	58504-96	no damage	1 EMT detained+ access denied
77	24-04-2002		Qalqilya	61884-90	no damage	1 EMT detained+ access denied
78	24-04-2002		Hebron	60370-90	REPAIRABLE	Fire directed at PRCS Ambulance + damaged.+ access denied
79	29-04-2002		Hebron	6324190	no damage	Access denied + 1 EMT detained

80	7/5/2002		Tulkarem		no damage	1 EMT detained.