

Quarterly Report

**Violations against PRCS Personnel, Premises and
Vehicles in the oPt during the period of
January – March 2009**

Introduction:

PRCS is a national humanitarian organization, which is operating under the umbrella of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Therefore its personnel, premises, vehicles and equipment are protected under IHL.

“ recognized National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies shall be able to pursue their activities in accordance with Red Cross principles, as defined by the International Red Cross Conferences.

...” Fourth Geneva Convention Article 63.

"Medical units shall be respected and protected at all times and shall not be the object of attack..." First Additional Protocol, para 1, Art. 12

Despite the MOU signed between the PRCS and the MDA which aimed at enhancing the humanitarian mission of both societies, through establishing a relationship between them that conforms to the Statute of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the rules of the International Humanitarian Law, there is no improving on the humanitarian conditions of the PRCS work.

During the first quarter of the year 2009, the Israeli Army, private security guards and Israeli settlers continued their violations against PRCS medical personnel, premises and vehicles, while on humanitarian duty searching for, removing and transporting of wounded and sick. These measures impede PRCS humanitarian mission, causing a negative impact on the health situation of patients and wounded persons.



Palestinian demonstration against targeting protected groups.

Shelling medical premises, vehicles and teams, shooting at them and at the ambulances and premises, and the physical and the verbal abuse of medical personnel, have become a widespread practice by Israeli soldiers and settlers during the Israeli military operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Moreover, during the first three month of the year 2009, 220 delay and denial of access

incidents, were reported, mainly in the Gaza Strip and at Israeli Military checkpoints in the Jerusalem area.

A total number of 101 cases of violations were recorded. This number includes 11 cases in which PRCS ambulances and medical teams were subjected to direct Israeli Army gunfire, in the areas of Nilin and Gaza strip. As a result, one PRCS volunteer was killed and seven medical personnel were injured. In addition, three PRCS ambulances were totally damaged and 20 others sustained partial damages.

Moreover, and in terms of delay and denial of access, a total number of 220 delay and denial cases were reported in Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, Jeircho, Hebron, Nablus and Qalqiliya areas.

Total number of attacks, casualties and damages of PRCS Medics & Ambulances					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	Jan – Mar 2009
PRCS Personnel Killed	0	4	0	0	1
Total EMT Personnel Injured	0	17	13	7	7
Total Attacks on Emergency Teams & Ambulances	29	30	56	20	11
Number of Personnel and Volunteers Detained	1	1	2	1	0
Number of Ambulances partially damaged	5	14	16	6	20
Number of Ambulances completely damaged (out of service)	0	2	1	0	3
Delay & Denial of Access	195	275	492	501	220

The Israeli practices against the PRCS medical missions constitute a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention which is legally applied to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The convention guarantees the protection and respect of persons who engage in the search for, removal and transport of and caring for wounded and sick civilians (article 20), and ensured the right of recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to pursue their activities in accordance with Red Cross principles, as defined by

the international Red Cross Conferences despite of temporary and exceptional measures imposed for urgent reasons of security by the Occupied Power (article 63).

Moreover, the First Additional Protocol of the Geneva conventions guarantees the respect and protection of Medical units at all times and that they shall not be an object of attack and shall have access to any place where their services are essential and should not be punished under any circumstances, for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics, regardless of the person benefiting there from (articles 12, 15 and 16).

Shooting Incidents:

27/02/2009, at 14:45 pm: the Israeli soldiers fired a gas canister at a PRCS ambulance while on humanitarian mission transporting a wounded Palestinian. Fortunately no injuries were reported but the ambulance received damage.

16/02/2009, at 14:45 pm: the Israeli soldiers fired a stun grenade at a PRCS ambulance while on humanitarian mission transporting a wounded Palestinian. Fortunately no injuries were reported but the ambulance received damage.



A Wounded PRCS volunteer in Nilin village.

07/01/2009, at 15:00 pm: the Israeli soldiers fired two gas canisters at a PRCS ambulance, while on humanitarian duty assisting the wounded Palestinians in Nilin village. Fortunately no injuries were reported but the ambulance received damage.

10/01/2009, the IOF opened fire at PRCS medical teams who were trying to enter to Al Atatra area to search for deaths and injuries. Fortunately no injuries were reported but one of the ambulances received damage. The teams could enter the area due to IOF obstacles and gunfire. It is worth mentioning that the PRCS medical teams proceeded to the area after the ICRC' coordination efforts succeeded to enter the area to evacuate the injuries and deaths.

08/01/2009, a convoy consists of three PRCS ambulances, 8 MOH ambulances, and one ICRC vehicle, was subjected to direct IOF gunfire, near Netsarim Junction, while on route to transport injuries to Rafah border. One ICRC staff was injured and his vehicle was damaged.

07/01/2009, a PRCS ambulance was dispatched to Zamo area near Jabaliya to transport injuries. One Israeli soldier opened fire at one of the PRCS medical personnel while he was providing first aid medications to one of the injuries. The medical personnel get injury by a live bullet in the leg and he

was transported to hospital for treatment. Moreover, another bullet penetrated the head of the wounded.

07/01/2009 the IOF opened fire at a PRCS ambulance, in Al Jurn area, north of Gaza Strip, while attempting to transport injuries from the area. One PRCS medical personnel was injured in the leg and the ambulance was damaged.

06/01/2009, a PRCS ambulance was dispatched to Al Samoni area, south of Gaza Strip, after coordination was made with the ICRC and got the green light to proceed to transport one of the injuries. When the ambulance reached the location of the incident, and without any provocation, the Israeli soldiers opened fire at it. Fortunately no injuries were reported, but the ambulance received damage.

06/01/2009, a PRCS ambulance was dispatched to Al Atatra area, after coordination was made with the ICRC and got the green light to proceed to transport casualties. When the ambulance reached the location of the incident, the Israeli soldiers opened fire at it. Fortunately no injuries were reported.

01/01/2009 Two PRCS medical personnel were injured while on humanitarian duty due to an IOF airstrike in Deir Al Balah area. In addition the Ambulance sustained severe damages.

04/01/2009, a PRCS volunteer, Arafa Abdul Dayem, was killed while on humanitarian duty, after an Israeli airstrike attacked a location in Al Salheen area in Jabaliya. The volunteer with other medical personnel from Al Awada hospital were trying to evacuate a number of injuries when a second airstrike hit the same location. Two other medical personnel were injured in this incident.

Physical abuse of PRCS medical personnel:

05/04/2009, at 01:30 am: The PRCS Hebron Emergency Medial Station received a call from the Magan David Adom (MDA) indicating that there is wounded, a Palestinian worker in an Israeli factory, in MDA ambulance at the tunnels checkpoint south of Jerusalem and he needs to be transported by a PRCS ambulance. Immediately a PRCS ambulance was dispatched from the Beit Ummar station to the location of the incident.

When the PRCS ambulance reached the Beit Ummar junction, the Israeli soldiers stopped it and obliged the driver to step out of it. Without any provocation one of the soldiers hit the driver on the head using his weapon. The soldier said "what are you doing here in this time?" Another soldier forced the PRCS medic to get out of the ambulance and physically abused him. The medical team explained to the soldiers the urgency to reach the wounded. After 20 minutes had elapsed the soldiers allowed the ambulance to pass.

Detention of PRCS Personnel:

Not available.

Detention of wounded and sick from inside the ambulance:

Not available

Damage to PRCS Premises

Not available

Settler attacks on PRCS:

Not available

Taking PRCS medical teams as Human shields:

Not available

Others:

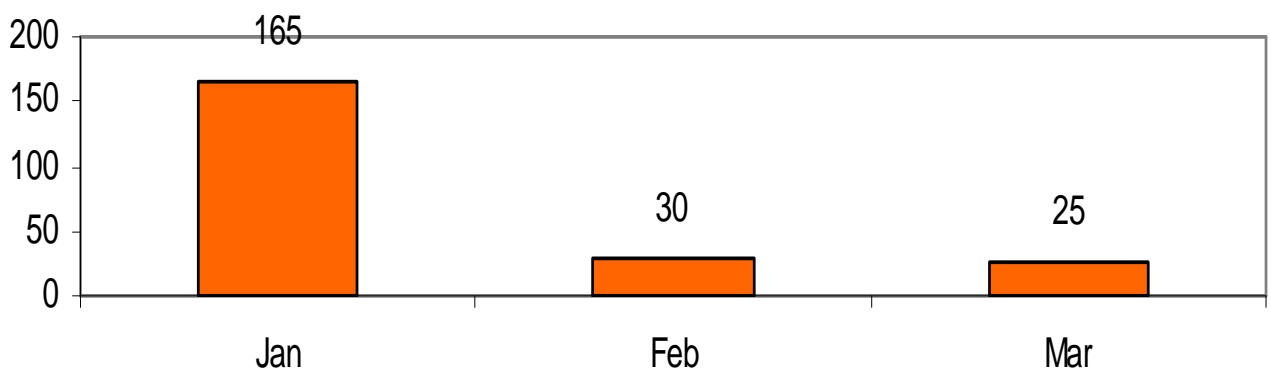
21/04/2009, at 22:30 pm: A PRCS ambulance was dispatched to Halhoul bridge to evacuate a wounded Palestinian due to car accident. When the crew reached the location of the accident they tried to get the wounded out of the vehicle, but they couldn't due to the lack of equipments. The crew asked the soldiers who were been there to call the Israeli civil defense by they refused. The ICRC was informed to coordinate. After 45 minutes had elapsed and when no body came to help the crew contacted the Palestinian civil defense in Bethlehem who immediately responded to the call and the wounded was evacuated.

Delay and Denial of access:

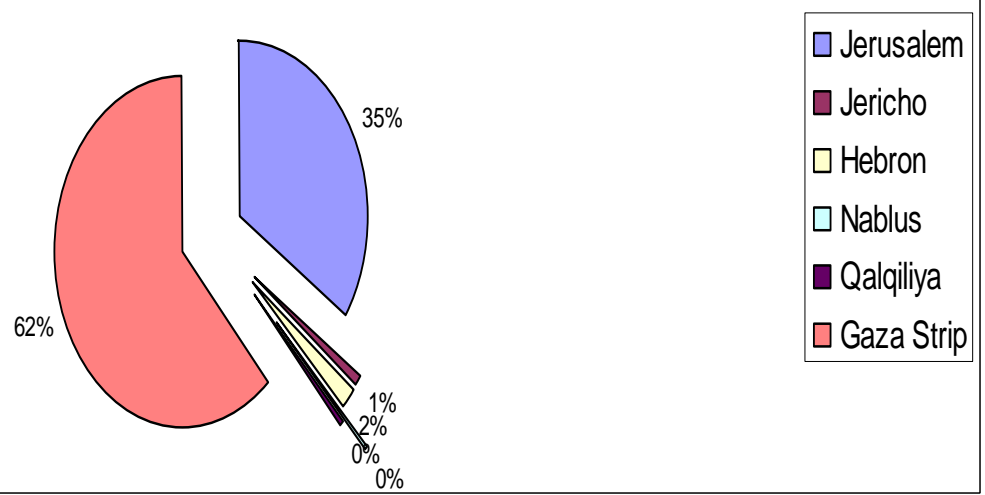
During the period of this report, a total number of 220 delay and denial of access incidents were reported in Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, Jeircho, Hebron, Nablus and Qalqiliya areas as the following:

- 132 cases were reported in Gaza Strip during the Israeli military operation.
- 74 cases were reported in the Jerusalem area, (41 at Qalandiya checkpoint and 33 at Za'aayim checkpoint)
- Two cases were reported at Al Alami Gate on the Jordanian Bridge,
- Four cases were reported in the Hebron area,
- In addition to two cases, one in Nablus and one Qalqiliya areas.

Delay & Denial of Access to PRCs Ambulances 1st Quarter 2009



Delay & Denial of access to PRCs Ambulances / District 1st Quarter 2009



Delay and Denial of Access incidents list:

No	Date	Location	District	EMS Station	Time	Delay	From	To	Denied access
1	1/1/2009	Nilin	Ramallah	Nilin	16:00	0:10	Nilin	Ramallah	Yes
2	1/1/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	3:10	0:05	Abu Dies	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
3	3/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	20:35	0:12	Ramallah	Hadasa .M.S Hospital	Yes
4	5/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	14:00	0:05	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
5	7/1/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	7:35	0:13	Nablus	Jerusalem	No
6	7/1/2009	Nilin	Ramallah	Nilin	15:00	0:00	Nilin	Ramallah	Yes
7	7/1/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	0:52	0:28	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
8	8/1/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	19:51	0:33	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
9	9/1/2009	Nilin	Ramallah	Nilin	14:00	0:00	Nilin	Ramallah	Yes
10	9/1/2009	Nilin	Ramallah	Nilin	12:45	0:10	Nilin	Ramallah	No
11	11/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	16:15	0:13	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
12	11/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	17:45	0:07	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes

13	11/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	17:45	0:07	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
14	12/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	12:22	0:10	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
15	12/1/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	4:00	0:10	Abu Dies	Al Makased Hospital	No
16	14/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	8:50	0:25	Nablus	Augusta Victoria Hospital	Yes
17	15/1/2009	Al Alami Gate	Jericho	Jericho	13:05	0:02	Jericho	Al Alami Gate	Yes
18	17/1/2009	Beita entrance	Nablus	Nablus	11:00	0:30	Ramallah	Nableas	Yes
19	17/1/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	3:35	0:17	Abu Dies	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
20	17/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	23:33	0:12	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
21	17/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	18:15	0:15	Ramallah	sant Jouzef hospital	Yes
22	18/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	24:18	0:12	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
23	22/1/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	1:27	0:13	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	No
24	23/1/2009	Nilin	Ramallah	Nilin	15:10	0:08	Nilin	Ramallah Hospital	Yes
25	23/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	13:23	0:19	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes

26	24/1/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	4:26	0:30	Abu Dies	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
27	25/1/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	2:27	0:13	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
28	25/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	20:07	0:19	Ramallah	Augusta Victoria Hospital	Yes
29	26/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	13:33	0:32	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
30	26/1/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	20:30	00:60	Al Ezariyeh	Augusta Victoria Hospital	Yes
31	27/1/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	5:35	0:10	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	No
32	28/1/2009	Al Alami Gate	Jericho	Jericho	11:30	1:30	Jericho	Jordanian Bridge	No
33	31/1/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	10:19	0:10	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
34	2/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	11:55	0:05	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
35	3/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	20:43	0:13	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
36	3/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	4:00	0:34	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	No
37	4/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	5:43	0:16	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	Yes

38	4/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	21:55	0:15	Al Ezariyeh	Hadasa .M.S Hospital	Yes
39	7/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	22:05	0:10	Al Ezariyeh	Augusta Victoria Hospital	No
40	8/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	13:37	0:13	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
41	9/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Ramallah	13:25	0:30	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
42	12/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Ramallah	13:35	0:10	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
43	13/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Ramallah	22:09	0:29	Al Ram	Hadasa .M.S Hospital	Yes
44	16/2/2009	Nilin	Ramallah	Nilin	14:45	0:02	Nilin	Nilin	Yes
45	16/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	21:50	0:30	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
46	17/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	20:17	0:33	Ramallah	Augusta Victoria Hospital	Yes
47	17/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	20:17	0:33	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
48	18/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	10:46	0:15	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
49	18/2/2009	Jayous	Qalqiliya	Qalqiliya	11:50	0:25	Qalqiliya	Jayous	Yes
50	19/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	14:40	0:45	Ramallah	Sant Jozeaf Hospital	Yes

51	19/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	10:50	0:15	Al Bireh	Augusta Victoria Hospital	Yes
52	20/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	1:40	0:10	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	No
53	20/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	10:17	0:18	Ramallah	sant iozeaf hospital	Yes
54	22/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	4:50	0:05	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	No
55	22/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	13:37	0:13	Alraam	Augusta Victoria Hospital	Yes
56	23/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	13:45	0:07	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
57	23/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	4:50	0:10	Abu Dies	Al Makased Hospital	No
58	24/2/2009	Al Mhawel checkpoint	Hebron	Hebron	15:50	1:00	Hebron	Hebron	No
59	25/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	4:40	0:05	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
60	26/2/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	0:28	0:05	Ramallah	Hadasa .M.S Hospital	Yes
61	27/2/2009	Nilin	Ramallah	Nilin	11:45	0:05	Nilin	Nilin	Yes
62	28/2/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	3:05	0:30	Abu Dies	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
63	3/3/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	19:24	0:05	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	Yes

64	4/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	10:20	0:08	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
65	4/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	16:20	0:10	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
66	5/3/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	6:25	0:27	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
67	6/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	12:15	0:10	Ramallah	Sant Jozef Hospital	Yes
68	6/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	7:20	0:20	Alraam	Hadasa .M.S Hospital	Yes
69	6/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	22:54	0:20	Al Ram	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
70	7/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	10:33	0:12	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
71	7/3/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	21:40	0:25	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
72	10/3/2009	Hebron old city	Hebron	Hebron	8:30	1:00	Hebron	Tel Rmeda	No
73	12/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Ramallah	8:40	0:23	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
74	14/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Al Ezariyeh	Al Bireh	17:03	0:17	Rafat	Hadasa .M.S Hospital	Yes
75	15/3/2009	Hebron old city	Hebron	Hebron	18:48	0:46	Hebron old city	Hebron hospitaal	Yes
76	15/3/2009	Al Kartina checkpoint	Hebron	Hebron	22:15	0:25	Hebron	Hebron old city	Yes

77	17/3/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	23:42	0:13	Abu Dies	Al Makased Hospital	No
78	17/3/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	23:42	0:13	Abu Dies	Al Makased Hospital	No
79	21/3/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	19:05	0:02	Abu Dies	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
80	21/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	12:15	0:05	Al Ram	Hadasa .M.S Hospital	Yes
81	22/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	11:20	0:30	Ramallah	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
82	24/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Bireh	10:48	0:42	Al Bireh	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
83	24/3/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	0:55	0:10	Abu Dies	Al Makased Hospital	No
84	25/3/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Al Ezariyeh	Jerusalem	5:56	0:15	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	No
85	27/3/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	1:30	0:13	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	No
86	27/3/2009	Za'ayim checkpoint	Jerusalem	Al Ezariyeh	19:48	0:20	Al Ezariyeh	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
87	30/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Ramallah	Jerusalem	14:00	0:13	Al Bireh	Al Makased Hospital	Yes
88	31/3/2009	Qalandiya Checkpoint	Ramallah	Jerusalem	3:20	0:08	Al Bireh	Al Makased Hospital	Yes