

Chronology of Events in Israel and Palestine

March sees a resurgence of violence between Israel and the Islamic Jihad endangering the fragile truce agreement reached in November 2012 between Israel and Hamas, the ruling group in the Gaza Strip. Notwithstanding, in the first half of 2014, the US Secretary of State John Kerry's initiative to relaunch the peace talks continues to advance. Part of this process of rapprochement, also supported by Jordan, includes the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners held in Israel since late 2013, a decision that is put on hold in April following the PNA President Mahmoud Abbas' decision to apply to join 15 international UN treaties and conventions. This, together with April's announcement to form a Palestinian unity government between Fatah and Hamas, which comes to fruition in June, leads to the suspension of the rapprochement process. For Israel's part, the authorisation of new constructions in the Jewish settlements in Palestine-claimed territory and pressure from the ultra-nationalist members of the Israeli coalition government also contribute to hindering efforts to resume negotiations. The subsequent discovery on 30 June of the bodies of three young Israelis kidnapped days before near Hebron, followed by the murder of a young Palestinian in Jerusalem turns the stalemate into full-blown hostility with the breakout of armed fighting between Israel and the Gaza Strip. Thus, throughout July, Israel responds to the rocket launches from Gaza with the activation of Operation Protective Edge which includes a land offensive to neutralise Hamas and Islamic Jihad positions and destroy the network of secret tunnels along the border. The offensive continues until the

end of August, when Egyptian mediation achieves a ceasefire declaration after 50 days of conflict which leaves more than 2,100 Palestinians and almost a hundred Israelis dead. The final quarter of the year is marked by new recognitions by Western parliaments and governments of Palestine as a state, an increase in violence in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and the PNA's announcement in December of Palestine's formal request for full membership of the International Court of Justice. In Israel, the unstable coalition government breaks apart in December and early elections are called for March 2015 due to differences among members on practically all fronts, particularly with respect to relations with the PNA and November's approval of the Israeli Nationality Law.

January 2014

Israel

- On 5 January thousands of irregular immigrants, mostly Sudanese and Eritrean arriving in Israel through Egypt, call a strike and hold a mass protest on 8 January outside the Knesset building (Parliament) in Jerusalem to demand an end to the detentions and ask for their regularisation as political refugees.
- On 10 January four days after the US Secretary of State John Kerry leaves Israel following his tenth trip to Jerusalem and Ramallah to reactivate the peace process, the Israeli government announces the tender for 1,400 new homes in settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The decision, delayed until Kerry's departure to avoid

conflict with the US, is announced by the Construction Minister Uri Ariel, from the far right party Jewish Home (Habayit Hayehudi) and is met with criticism from the moderate members of the coalition government.

- On 11 January Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister of Israel between 2001 and 2006, passes away.

Palestine

- On 8 January the media reports new negotiations between Fatah and Hamas which have been in process since the end of 2013 to achieve a Palestinian unity government.
- On 9 January several residents of Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank set fire to tyres and set up road-blocks in protest over the consequences of the United Nations workers' strike in the area, which began in early December 2013 to demand a pay rise.

Peace Negotiations

- On 1 January the US State Secretary John Kerry arrives in Tel Aviv to begin his tenth visit to the region to reactivate the peace talks since he assumed the post on 1 February 2013. The visit comes to an end on 6 January without approval on a framework agreement.
- On 16 January the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu made an unexpected visit to Jordan to talk with King Abdullah II in an attempt to relaunch the US-brokered peace process. The visit comes a week after the PNA President Mahmoud Abbas's visit to Jordan to the same end.
- On 29 January Benjamin Netanyahu demands that the Economy Minister and

leader of the ultra-orthodox party Jewish Home, Naftali Bennet, publicly apologise for his criticism of the Prime Minister's declarations at the Davos Forum. Netanyahu had stated that if a peace agreement were reached between the PNA and Israel, the possibility may exist to consider Jewish settlers remaining but living under Palestinian sovereignty. Hours later, under the threat of Jewish Home's expulsion from the coalition government, Bennett retracts his criticism. For his part, the Palestinian Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat assures that the PNA would never agree to Israeli settlers remaining in Palestinian territory.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 13 January two rockets are fired from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel, hours before the funeral of former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, for which Israel employs full security measures.
- On 15 January a group of Israeli settlers try to burn down a mosque in Dir Istia, the West Bank, in response to the beating of two settlers who entered Kusra where, according to local residents, they attacked a teenage boy. This is the last case of so-called price-tag attacks carried out by Israeli settlers on Palestinians and even on the Israeli army itself. According to a UN report, this kind of attacks has multiplied fourfold in the last eight years.
- On 22 January two members of the Islamic Jihad accused of launching missiles into Israeli territory during the funeral of former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, are killed in an Israeli airstrike on Beit Hanoun, Gaza.
- On 29 January a Palestinian from the Jalazone refugee camp in Ramallah is shot dead in the vicinity of the Israeli settlement of Ofra, in the West Bank, by Israeli soldiers.

February 2014

Israel

- On 17 February Benjamin Netanyahu opposes the proposal of PNA President Mahmoud Abbas for the deployment of NATO forces in the territory of the future State of Palestine.

- On 24 February the Israeli Air Force fires on a target in east Lebanon, close to the border with Syria. Israeli defence sources admit to unusual aerial activity in the area, known to be a regular route for trafficking arms to Hezbollah.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 9 February Israel threatens Hamas with harsh measures if it fails to stop the Islamic Jihad firing missiles from Gaza into southern Israel. In response to the Gaza attacks, the Israeli army launches a missile that lands in the middle of the Strip injuring two members of the Popular Resistance Committees.

Peace Negotiations

- On 19 February John Kerry and Mahmoud Abbas meet in Paris as part of Kerry's initiative for the peace negotiations to resume between Israel and Palestine and with the aim of establishing a new negotiating framework before the end of April 2014.

March 2014

Israel

- On 2 March around 400,000 people demonstrate in Jerusalem against the law that, as of 2017, will eliminate most exemptions of rabbinical students from compulsory military service, a move driven by Yair Lapid, Finance Minister and leader of the centrist party Yesh Atid.
- On 5 March the Israeli navy announces it has intercepted the Panamanian-flagged ship Klos C in international waters in the Red Sea, travelling from Iran and carrying Syrian-manufactured M-302 rockets to the Gaza Strip.
- On 12 March, despite a boycott from the opposition, the Knesset approves the electoral reform that raises the threshold for obtaining parliamentary representation from 2% to 3.25% and sets the maximum number of ministers at 18.
- On 13 March the government coalition receives parliamentary approval for the law introducing military conscription or civilian national service for Haredi

students (ultra-Orthodox Jews) of the Yeshiva (religious academies) with the only exception of 1,800 so-called Torah prodigies.

- On 19 March Israel authorises the construction of 186 new homes in East Jerusalem, 40 of which are in Pisgat Zeev and 146 in Har Homa.
- On 19 March the Israeli army bombs several Syrian military targets in response to the previous night's attack in the Golan Heights in which four Israeli soldiers are injured.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 3 March an Israeli air strike on the Gaza Strip kills two Palestinians preparing to fire a rocket into southern Israel.
- On 12 March, in response to the Israeli army killing three Islamic Jihad militants who fired a missile into southern Israel hours earlier, the terrorist group launches Operation Breaking the Silence and fires some 80 missiles into southern Israel. This is the most serious attack launched from Gaza since the truce agreement in November 2012. In response, the Israeli air force attacks 29 Islamic Jihad positions in Gaza.
- On 14 March six rockets fired from Gaza by the Islamic Jihad land in Shaar HaNegev, Ashkelon, Sderot and Eshkol without causing any damages.
- On 22 March Hamas' armed wing warns that it will avenge the death of one of its leading figures in the West Bank, Hamza Abu el-Hija, shot dead, together with Mahmoud Abu Zeina, from Islamic Jihad's armed wing, and Yazen Jabarin, from Fatah's al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, in a raid on the Jenin refugee camp.

Peace Negotiations

- On 6 March John Kerry meets Abdullah II of Jordan in Aqaba to advance the proposal of a new negotiating framework for the peace talks

April 2013

Israel

- On 9 April Benjamin Netanyahu orders legal action to be taken against a

group of pro-settlement activists accused of injuring several Israeli soldiers in the Yitzhar settlement, close to Nablus, after the army demolishes a series of unauthorised homes.

- On 10 April Israel launches its most sophisticated spy satellite into orbit, the Ofek-10.
- On 11 April Naftali Bennett, Economy Minister and leader of the ultra-nationalist party Jewish Home, warns Benjamin Netanyahu that the party will abandon the coalition if the government authorises fresh releases of Palestinian prisoners.

Palestine

- On 1 April the Czech police force announces that the death of the Palestinian ambassador in Prague Jamel al-Jamal on 1 January was not caused by the explosion of a security device installed in a safe located in the embassy, but rather the incorrect handling of explosives.
- On 1 April Mahmoud Abbas signs documents to request membership of 15 international UN treaties and conventions.
- On 23 April Fatah and Hamas announce a reconciliation agreement that includes calling elections in January 2015 and the formation, before July, of a unity government, in theory under the leadership of Mahmoud Abbas. Israel warns the Fatah-led PNA that any agreement with Hamas would be incompatible with the peace negotiations.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 23 April the Israeli air force bombs the north of the Gaza Strip, following the announcement of the formation of a Palestinian unity government. Six Palestinian civilians are injured.

Peace Negotiations

- On 1 April John Kerry tells Israel that the US will release the US-Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard imprisoned in the US since the eighties, in exchange for Israel releasing 400 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli prisons and freezing construction work in settlements in the occupied territories.

- On 3 April efforts to resume peace talks are on the verge of collapse after Mahmoud Abbas signs the applications to join 15 international UN treaties and conventions on 1 April. In response, the Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni announces that Israel will suspend the release of 26 members of the fourth batch of Palestinian prisoners out of a total 104 that Israel had promised to release in the summer of 2013. In addition, Jerusalem announces new economic sanctions against Ramallah.

- On 21 April Mahmoud Abbas threatens to dissolve the PNA and giving Israel a legal commitment as an "occupying power" if the peace talks fail again.
- On 23 April after the announcement of the formation of a Fatah and Hamas unity government, Israel cancels a negotiating session scheduled for the same day, although the Palestinian Negotiator Saeb Erekat assures that there was no such meeting scheduled.
- On 27 April in unprecedented declarations given on the eve of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Day), Mahmoud Abbas, describes the Holocaust against the Jewish people as the most horrific crime against humanity in modern times. Benjamin Netanyahu criticises Abbas for making a pact with Hamas reminding him that the terrorist group controlling Gaza continues to deny the holocaust and is committed to the destruction of Israel.
- On 29 April the nine months that the parties had set to reach a US-brokered framework agreement to reactivate the peace negotiations come to an end without results.

May 2014

Israel

- On 1 May the media reports the unprecedented mass protest on Facebook of tens of thousands of Israelis – many of them members of the army or undertaking compulsory military service – against the vulnerability of soldiers facing constant clashes with the Palestinian population and the lack of support from the Israeli authorities.

- On 11 May stating that it violates municipal legislation, the Jerusalem City Council demands that the Catholic Church remove the poster located in the old city welcoming Pope Francis, who is visiting the Middle East at the end of the month. On 12 May the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Fouad Twal expresses his concern at the mounting acts of vandalism against the Christian community in Israel. The statement comes hours after ultra-Orthodox Jews call for holy war against an eventual agreement between Israel and the Vatican to share sovereignty of the Cenacle on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, whose ownership has remained unresolved since both states established diplomatic ties in 1993.
- On 13 May the former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is sentenced by the Tel Aviv District Court to six years' imprisonment for accepting bribes during his post as Mayor of Jerusalem, in the Holyland corruption case.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 15 May Israeli soldiers kill two teenagers in Beitunia, the West Bank, who were participating in a solidarity protest for the Palestinian protesters arrested without charges and on hunger strike in the Ofer military prison.
- On 30 May Israeli military sources claim to have prevented a suicide bomb attack at a military checkpoint in Tapuah, the West Bank, with the arrest of a young Palestinian man from Nablus.

Peace Negotiations

- On 25 May Pope Francis visits Israel and Palestine during his short tour of the Middle East. The Israeli and Palestinian presidents Mahmoud Abbas and Shimon Peres commit to going to the Vatican in the coming weeks to pray together for peace in the Middle East.

June 2014

Israel

- On 4 June the Israeli government announces the tender for the construction

of some 1,500 new homes in the settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, a decision that coincides with the announcement of Palestine's new unity government, which Israel opposes due to Hamas' classification as a terrorist organisation.

- On 10 June the Parliament elects Reuven Rivlin as successor to Shimon Peres as President of Israel. Rivlin, from Likud's more conservative wing, becomes the country's tenth President after defeating Meir Scheerit in the second round, from Justice Minister Tzipi Livni's centrist Hatnuah party.
- On 22 June a missile launched from Syrian territory leaves one dead in the Golan Heights. This is the first fatality in the area since the outbreak of war in Syria. In response, the Israeli army attacks several rebel positions in Syria and strengthens its positions in the area.
- On 28 June Jordan and Israel reach a defence agreement against the Jihadist threat spreading through neighbouring Syria and Iraq.

Palestine

- On 1 June a Fatah representative Azzam el-Ahmed announces on Hamas' official website Al-Rai that the new unity government agreed with Hamas will come into being on 2 June in Ramallah as an interim cabinet pending the holding of elections in 2015, in accordance with the reconciliation agreement reached in April.
- On 2 June despite opposition and warnings from Israel, Fatah and Hamas announce the composition of the new interim national unity government and its 17 ministers are sworn into their posts in Ramallah's Mukataa, before Mahmoud Abbas. The technocratic government is headed by the current Prime Minister in the West Bank Rami Hamdallah, who also assumes the position of Interior Minister. Riyad Maliki will continue as Foreign Minister despite Hamas' opposition. The Minister of Prisoners' Affairs will continue to answer to the PNA and not the PLO, at Mahmoud Abbas' request, to avoid possible criticism from certain donor countries.
- On 9 June Hamas blames Rami Hamdallah's new Palestinian recon-

ciliation government for the salary crisis in Gaza where Hamas civil servants are yet to receive salaries from May.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 3 June a Palestinian militant is killed and an Israeli soldier injured in Nablus during a shootout in the West Bank, which began when the Palestinian opened fire on a border patrol.
- On 12 June three young Israelis hitchhiking near the Gush Etzion settlement in Hebron are kidnapped. Benjamin Netanyahu blames Hamas and the security forces carry out widespread raids in the ensuing days in the Hebron area, making hundreds of arrests. On 17 June during the sixth day of Operation Return Brothers in search of the three kidnapped Israelis, Israel arrests a further 51 Palestinians, who were released in 2011 under the agreement reached between Israel and the PNA. On 18 June an intense fire-fight erupts in Jenin during the searches carried out by the Israeli army to locate the missing people. On 20 June another Palestinian is killed in fresh clashes during the search and arrest operation. On 22 June a further two Palestinians are killed in clashes during the raids.
- On 25 June a missile launched from Gaza to Ashkelon, misfires and hits a house in Beit Lahia, in north Gaza, killing a Palestinian girl. This is one of five missiles launched at southern Israel, two of which are neutralised by Israel's Iron Dome defence system, another two landing in Palestinian territory and a fifth in Sedot Negev causing material damages. Israel responds with an air strike on five underground launchers in north Gaza and an arms deposit in the south of the Strip.
- On 25 June dozens of Palestinians end a two-month hunger strike in protest against their administrative arrests after reaching an agreement with the Israeli government.
- On 31 June the three young Israelis who went missing on 12 June are found dead in the village of Halhul by Israeli soldiers. The ensuing military deployment ends in fighting with Palestinian protestors.

Peace Negotiations

- On 27 June the EU Special Envoy for Peace Negotiations Martin Indyk resigns a year after his appointment due to the collapse in negotiations.

July 2014

Israel

- On 24 July Reuven Rivlin takes over as President of Israel.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 1 July the Israeli Air Force bombs 34 Hamas and Islamic Jihad positions in Gaza, hours after the discovery of the bodies of three young Israelis murdered in the West Bank. The same day the charred remains of a young Palestinian who went missing in East Jerusalem are found west of the capital. The news triggers major unrest in East Jerusalem, which continues the following day while the Israeli army bombs Hamas positions in Gaza.
- On 8 July Israel begins Operation Protective Edge against the rocket launches from Gaza.
- On 9 July Hamas announces rocket launches aimed at Haifa which are intercepted by the Iron Dome system. Other missiles do reach parts of Jerusalem and areas near Tel Aviv and the Dimona nuclear plant.
- On 14 July 10,000 Palestinians evacuate their homes in Gaza at the close of the ultimatum given by Israel for Hamas to cease the rocket launches into Israeli territory. The Arab League asks the international community to protect the people of Gaza. The same day, 130 rockets are launched at Israel. Just 22 are intercepted by the Iron Dome system.
- On 15 July Israel halts its attacks on Gaza after accepting an Egyptian proposal for a ceasefire. For their part, Hamas rejects any truce prior to a complete agreement with Israel. Around a hundred rockets are fired from Gaza and Israel resumes Operation Protective Edge.
- On 16 July Israel unilaterally declares an end to the hostilities for five hours, a

measure requested by the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered to civilians in Gaza. Hamas accepts the ceasefire.

- On 17 July the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) finds 20 rockets in one of their refugee schools and reports that its facilities are being used by militias from the Strip for military ends, endangering the safety of the civilian population.

- On 17 July Benjamin Netanyahu orders the start of an immediate land offensive on Gaza in a new phase of Operation Protective Edge, after fresh plans are discovered for Hamas to attack the Sufa kibbutz through a secret tunnel. The aim of the land invasion would be to destroy the entire network of secret tunnels and bunkers.

- On 20 July 13 Israeli soldiers are killed during the land offensive. A further seven are killed by an anti-tank missile. On the same day, in Shujaiyya, the Israeli offensive leaves at least 100 Palestinians and 13 Israeli officers and soldiers dead.

- On 21 July an attack by Israeli forces on a hospital in Gaza leaves four dead and fifty wounded.

- On 22 July Hamas launches four M75 rockets at Tel Aviv, one of which lands in the vicinity of the Ben Gurion International airport and leads to the cancellation of the majority of international flights to Israel.

- On 24 July 16 people are killed and another 200 are injured in an attack by the Israeli Air Force on a school of the UNRWA in Beit Hanoun, Gaza.

- On 26 July Benjamin Netanyahu orders a second 12-hour humanitarian ceasefire, which is accepted by Hamas. After the 12 hours, shooting resumes despite a request from the international community in Paris to prolong the ceasefire. Hamas refuses to extend the truce if Israel does not first withdraw its units from the Strip.

- On 26 July a peaceful demonstration in Tel Aviv calls for an end to the land offensive on Gaza. In parallel, the nationalist right organises a separate march in favour of continuing the war and putting an end to the Hamas government in the Strip, forcing the local

police force to deploy officers in the surrounding areas to quell the unrest.

- On 28 July the day of Eid al-Fitr which marks the end of Ramadan, seven Palestinian children are killed by an Israeli missile that lands in a refugee camp in Gaza. On the same day, Israel bombs the Strip's main hospital, al-Shifa. In addition, at least four Israeli civilians are killed and eight injured in Eshkol by a Palestinian howitzer.

- On 30 July another UN school in Jabalia is bombed. At least 15 people are killed and a further 90 are injured.

- On 30 July the Israeli army unilaterally announces the opening of a "humanitarian window" between 15:00 and 19:00. The offer is rejected by Hamas, which continues with the rocket launches into southern Israel. The Israeli army attacks Shujaiyyah and Khan Yunis.

- On 31 July Mahmoud Abbas declares the Strip to be a "humanitarian disaster zone" in a letter of protest to the UN. Israel announces that it will not accept a truce that prevents its soldiers from completing their mission to destroy all tunnels built by Hamas.

August 2014

Israel

- On 5 August Barack Obama ratifies a law that allows the US to give an additional 168 million euros in emergency aid for the Israeli Iron Dome anti-missile system.

- On 26 August the ceasefire agreement reached between Israel and Hamas after 50 days of conflict in Gaza endangers the survival of the Israeli coalition government, whose more conservative members, headed by the Ministers of the Economy, Naftali Bennett; Foreign Affairs, Avigdor Lieberman; and Interior, Yitzhak Aharonovich, refuse to sign the agreement and demand greater force be used against the Palestinian militants in the Strip.

- On 27 August an Israeli civilian is injured by a missile fired from Syrian territory that lands in a kibbutz located in the north of the Golan Heights, just hours after an Israeli soldier is injured by a stray bullet from the fighting on the Syrian-Israeli border. Israel responds

with artillery fire into Quneitra in Syria, which is taken during the day by the al-Nusra Front after intense fighting with forces loyal to Bashar al-Assad, in which at least 20 soldiers and four jihadists are killed.

- On 29 August the Office of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denies agreeing to create a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, contradicting the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

- On 31 August Israel declares 400 hectares in the Gvaot settlement in Gush Etzion, Judea as state land, bringing into force a government decision taken in June in response to the kidnapping and murder by Hamas of three teenage Israelis who were hitchhiking in the West Bank.

Palestine

- On 7 August Hamas admits to having executed Palestinian militants in recent weeks accused of collaborating with the enemy after the body is found of Ayman Taha, Hamas' spokesman in the Gaza Strip, who was murdered for allegedly spying for Egypt.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 1 August a ceasefire enters into force agreed the night before by Israel and Hamas at the proposal of the US and UN, which is broken 90 minutes later. Fighting resumes after Israel accuses Hamas of new rocket launches and the kidnapping of Lieutenant Hadar Goldin during a screening operation in Rafah.

- On 2 August UNICEF states that since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge, 296 Palestinian children and teenagers have died, representing 30% of the civilian casualties. According to the Health Ministry in Gaza, the total death toll exceeds 1,650 in the Strip. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay asks Israel to assume responsibility for the "growing evidence of war crimes" perpetrated by the Israeli army in Gaza.

- On 3 August at least 10 people are killed in an attack by the Israeli army in Rafah that affects a United Nations school-shelter.

- On 4 August the Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman proposes that the UN take control of the Gaza Strip once Israel has “defeated” Hamas.
- On 4 August Israel and Hamas accept a 72-hour ceasefire proposed by Egypt that will begin at 8:00 on 5 August. Israel announces that it will withdraw all its troops from Gaza once the truce begins.
- On 5 August the Israeli army withdraws from Gaza claiming to have completed its operations to locate and destroy all of Hamas’ tunnels between Gaza and Israel. At least 32 tunnels and dozens of access points have been destroyed.
- On 5 August Hamas is accused of firing several rockets minutes before the entry into force at 8:00 on 5 August of the 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire proposed by Egypt and accepted by the Israeli government and Palestinian factions.
- On 5 August the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas’ armed wing, assure that the “chapters of the battle against the Israeli entity” will continue “until Israel accepts the rights of the Palestinian people and their just demands.”
- On 5 August an Israeli delegation composed of Yitzhak Molcho, adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu, Yoram Cohen, head of the Shin Bet security agency and Amos Gilad, head of the political office of the Defence Ministry, arrives in Cairo to negotiate a definitive ceasefire with the Palestinian leaders of Hamas, Fatah and Islamic Jihad taking advantage of the 72-hour ceasefire currently in force.
- On 8 August at the end of the 72-hour ceasefire brokered by Egypt and with the parties unable to reach an agreement in Cairo for a definitive truce, the hostilities resume. Israel, which had agreed to extend the truce, attacks several positions in the Gaza Strip in response to rocket launches into Israeli territory. The same day, the Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman asks the EU to send inspectors to the Gaza borders to control Palestinian trade with the neighbouring territories. One of Hamas’ demands for extending the truce is the immediate lifting of the land and sea blockade on the Strip, an unacceptable request for Israel, which, for its part, demands Hamas’ demilitarisation.
- On 10 August the attacks between both sides intensify.
 - On 11 August at 00:00 a new 72-hour ceasefire is agreed between Israel and Hamas while both sides continue to look for a definitive agreement in Cairo under Egyptian mediation and assisted by the US.
 - On 13 August, faced with the lack of advances in the negotiations, Israel and Hamas agree to extend the 72-hour ceasefire, which began in the early hours of 11 August, for five more days –taking it to 18 August.
 - On 14 August Israel and Hamas mutually accuse one another of having violated the latest ceasefire after Benjamin Netanyahu orders the Israeli army to respond to an alleged rocket fired from Gaza at Eshkol, Netivot, Sedot Negev and Ashkelon. Such an attack would have meant a violation by the Gaza Strip government of their agreement to extend the truce just moments after it entered into force.
 - On 18 August Israeli soldiers demolish the homes of two Palestinians suspected of kidnapping and murdering the three Israeli teenagers in the West Bank in June.
 - On 18 August Israel and the Palestinian factions in Cairo agree to extend the truce in Gaza for another 24 hours while negotiations for a definitive ceasefire continue.
 - On 19 August the Turkish shipping company Karadeniz announces that it is sending a floating power station to Gaza in the next 120 days to ease the power shortages in the Strip caused by the current conflict with Israel.
 - On 20 August several rockets launched from Gaza, responded to with bombs fired at the Strip by the Israeli army, put an end to the 24-hour extension of the ceasefire leaving the indirect negotiations in Cairo on the brink of collapse.
 - On 20 August Hamas confirms that the wife and daughter of Mohammed Deif, commander of the armed wing of the al-Qassam Brigades, have been killed in the previous day’s air strike on the Gaza Strip.
 - On 21 August three commanders of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades – Mohammed Abu Shammala, Raed al-Atar and Mohammed Barhoum – are killed in an Israeli air strike on Rafah. Hours later, Hamas announces that it has executed three Palestinians and arrested a further seven for collaborating with Israel.
 - On 23 August an Israeli air strike destroys a 13-story residential building in the centre of Gaza city leaving 17 people injured. The Israeli army claims that the building was being used as the command centre for Hamas militias. According to Ashraf al-Qedra, emergency spokesman in the Strip, nine people have been killed and 20 others injured during a day of Israeli attacks. Israel warns that it will step up its offensive against Hamas and whoever provides its militants with protection, which includes planning air strikes on densely populated areas in Gaza. Israel warns the people of Gaza to evacuate areas close to launch sites used by Hamas and other Islamist militias.
 - On 23 August Hamas kills another four people accused of collaborating with Israel, bringing the number of extrajudicial executions in Gaza in the last 72 hours to 25. In Ramallah, the PNA describes the executions as illegal.
 - On 26 August the United States unveils a draft resolution to be presented before the United Nations in an attempt to reach a ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Palestinian factions in the Gaza Strip. This is a version in parallel to those presented by Germany, France and the United Kingdom and by Jordan that include the need to create an international mission to monitor the situation.
 - On 26 August the Israeli army reports the bombing of at least 30 targets in Gaza and 71 rockets fired from the Strip land in Israeli territory without causing any damages.
 - On 26 August at 19:00 the new ceasefire enters into force agreed by Israel and Hamas under Egyptian mediation and which puts an end to 50 days of conflict that has left more than 2,100 Palestinians and 70 Israelis dead. The key points of the agreement, as disclosed by Israeli and Palestinian leaders, are: the immediate halt of attacks by either side without exception; Israel’s opening of the border crossings with Gaza, the control of whose border with Israel will be passed over

to the PNA, which will also lead the coordination of reconstruction activities in Gaza with international donors; and the reduction of the buffer zone around Gaza from 300 to 100 metres and the extension from three to six miles of the fishing zone off the coast of Gaza for Palestinians. In addition, in a separate and bilateral agreement, Egypt agrees to reopening its border with Gaza and Rafah.

September 2014

Israel

- On 14 September the military leadership and a wide range of political forces in Israel criticise 43 reservists that signed a letter refusing to serve in Israel's largest military intelligence unit, the 8200, alleging that it "spies on innocent Palestinians" and "serves to deepen the occupation of the West Bank."
- On 23 September the Israeli Air Force shoots down a MiG-21 fighter jet from the Syrian air force in the province of Quneitra, in the Golan Heights, after the plane enters Israeli airspace. According to Haaretz, this is the first time since 1989 that the Israeli Air Force has intercepted an aircraft from the Syrian regime. The Syrian regime confirms Israel's downing of one of its fighter jets, described by Damascus as "an act of aggression."

Palestine

- On 7 September Mahmoud Abbas threatens to stop collaborating with Hamas, if the latter does not allow the Palestinian unity government created in June to exercise its authority in the Gaza Strip.
- On 25 September Fatah and Hamas reach an agreement enabling the Palestinian unity government to also assume control of the Gaza Strip, one of the requirements of the August agreement with Israel to end Operation Protective Edge.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 4 September Israel arrests eight Palestinian citizens connected with the murder of three young Israelis close to Hebron in June.

- On 4 September the Palestinian government and the UN believe it will cost 9 billion euros to reconstruct the Gaza Strip in the wake of the conflict with Israel during July and August.
- On 7 September groups of Palestinian demonstrators clash with Israeli soldiers in East Jerusalem after it is revealed that a young Palestinian from Wadi al-Joz has died from wounds suffered in a clash with Israeli police at the beginning of the month.
- On 10 September a Palestinian is shot dead by Israeli soldiers carrying out a raid in the al-Amari refugee camp, close to Ramallah, in search of a Hamas militant. The soldiers are met with some 50 Palestinians throwing stones and firebombs.
- On 17 September a missile is fired from the Gaza Strip and lands in the Eshkol Regional Council without causing any damages. Although Hamas denies being behind the missile launch, the attack raises fears of an Israeli reprisal, thus ending the ceasefire and breaking the agreement reached between the PNA and Israel hours earlier in Cairo for the creation of a mechanism to allow the reconstruction of Gaza to begin.
- On 23 September Israeli soldiers kill Marwan Qawasmeh and Amer Abu Aisha in Hebron, both Hamas members and the prime suspects in the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli students on 12 July near to Gush Etzion, the West Bank.

Peace Negotiations

- On 2 September, speaking at a UN press conference, Mahmoud Abbas' adviser Hanan Ashrawi announces the PNA and PLO's intention for Israel to abandon the Palestinian occupied territories in the next three years. The declaration explains efforts to raise international support, including in the United States, in the hope that the UN Security Council – or failing that, the General Assembly – approves a resolution that supports this timetable for the end of occupation.
- On 3 September a Palestinian delegation formed by the negotiators of the ceasefire with Israel holds a meeting with John Kerry in search of the latter's

"clear commitment for the 1967 borders to be respected and for the end of the Israeli occupation in a specified time-frame."

October 2014

Israel

- On 5 October the Israeli Foreign Ministry summons the Swedish ambassador, Carl Magnus Nesser, after Sweden's new Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announces that his country will recognise the Palestinian State.
- On 22 October Israeli soldiers are shot at on the Egyptian border.
- On 26 October a new directive issued by the Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon will ban Palestinians from travelling on Israeli buses in the West Bank as of November.
- On 27 October Benjamin Netanyahu orders the planning of 400 homes in Har Joma and 600 in Ramat Shlomo, both in East Jerusalem, as well as new infrastructure to be built in the West Bank.

Palestine

- On 9 October the first meeting of the Palestinian unity government takes place since the 2007 conflict between Hamas and Fatah, amid tight security measures. The Palestinian factions agreed in September that the unity government would assume immediate authority in Gaza before the International Donor Conference is held in Cairo on 12 October.
- On 13 October the British Parliament approves a non-binding, symbolic resolution with 274 votes in favour and 12 against in support of the United Kingdom's recognition of the Palestinian State.
- On 22 October the Irish Parliament approves a non-binding resolution asking the government to recognise Palestine as an independent state.
- On 30 October Sweden recognises Palestine as an independent state as a necessary measure to relaunch the peace process, according to the Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 12 October the International Donor Conference in Cairo, co-hosted by Egypt and Norway, raises 5.4 billion dollars for the Palestinian government towards the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip in the wake of Israel's Operation Protective Edge. The countries gathered in the Egyptian capital say the efficiency of the aid money relies on Israel lifting its embargo on Gaza and the resumption of peace talks between Israel and Palestine, culminating in an agreement to end the Israeli occupation and the creation of two states in the region. Egypt asks Israel to reconsider the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative by which the grounds for an Arab recognition of Israel would be the Jewish State returning to the 1967 borders. The United States announces the immediate delivery of 212 million dollars in addition to the 190 million already pledged. Both the US Secretary of State John Kerry and the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon reiterate the importance of reaching a definitive peace agreement beyond the current temporary ceasefire. Qatar announces a billion dollars in aid and the United Emirates 200 million. The UN, Israel and the PNA agree on a mechanism to give shelter to the thousands of displaced persons, which guarantees that reconstruction material is not used by Hamas to rebuild the tunnels. In addition, the PNA offers the reconciliation of Hamas and Fatah as a guarantee for the international donors. The PNA will assume immediate control over the Erez and Kerem Shalom border crossings.
- On 16 October the unrest on the streets intensifies, ongoing since the beginning of the month in Jerusalem and Ramallah, with the death of a Palestinian child who was shot by Israeli security forces in Beit Liqya, a town close to Ramallah. According to Israeli army spokesmen, the soldiers responded with gunfire to a Molotov cocktail attack launched at a distance of 20 metres by a group of young Palestinians. The clashes in Jerusalem, which are becoming increasingly frequent, come after a violent summer marked by the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers, the subse-

quent raids, the revenge killing of a young Palestinian from Shuafat and the 50-day war between Israel and Hamas; as well as the tension around the Temple Mount, which Israel and Palestine both claim as their own. These clashes are being reproduced on the diplomatic level between Israel and Palestine before the UN General Assembly over Palestine's request for the UN to approve a resolution that sets the deadline for ending the Israeli occupation and allowing the creation of its State.

- On 22 October the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announces that he will establish a commission to investigate the Israeli attacks on the UN facilities in the Gaza Strip during the Protective Edge offensive.
- On 23 October an Israeli baby is killed and another eight people are injured in an attack carried out by a Palestinian driver from Silwan, East Jerusalem, who intentionally ran over the pedestrians while they were waiting for a tram in Givat HaTachmoshet, in north Jerusalem. Hamas assumes responsibility for the attack as a response to the Israeli occupation of territories claimed by Palestine. Benjamin Netanyahu issues a statement blaming Mahmoud Abbas for the attack citing his alliance with Hamas in the unity government. This serious incident ignites tensions, provoking clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli security forces in the West Bank, which raise fresh fears of a third intifada.
- On 30 October Israeli police shoot dead a Palestinian wanted for his alleged involvement in the assassination attempt of Yehuda Glick, a prominent ultra-nationalist Rabbi. Glick, who demands greater Jewish presence at the Temple Mount, was seriously wounded when leaving a conference the previous night by shots fired by a man who fled on a motorbike toward West Jerusalem. The clashes intensify in Jerusalem between Palestinian demonstrators and the police, who proceed to close the Temple Mount for the first time in 40 years to prevent a major outbreak of violence. Hours later, Israel reopens access to the Temple Mount, but only to those over 50 years old.

November 2014

Israel

- On 2 November the Council of Ministers approves a reform of the Penal Code under which anyone throwing stones or other objects at cars is punishable with up to 20 years in prison, a measure that aims to put a stop to the unrest in recent days in Jerusalem between the police and Palestinian demonstrators. On the same day, the Israeli government reopens access for Jewish visitors to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.
- On 3 November Benjamin Netanyahu orders plans to go ahead for the construction of 600 homes in the Ramat Shlomo settlement north of Jerusalem, and a further 400 in the Har Joma settlement in the district of Bethlehem.
- On 4 November Israel reopens the Erez crossing, which borders Gaza, after a four-day closure for security reasons due to rising tensions in the area.
- On 12 November the Israeli authorities give preliminary approval to the construction of 200 new homes in a Jewish neighbourhood in Ramot, East Jerusalem, amid rising tensions in the city. To these 200 homes are added a further 174 in unspecified Arab neighbourhoods in the city.
- On 14 November Israel lifts the age restriction for entering the Temple Mount for prayer, stepping up security measures throughout Jerusalem and other sensitive areas.
- On 20 November the Mayor of Ashkelon, Itamar Shimoni, imposes a partial ban on hiring Arab workers, faced with mounting tension in the area.
- On 20 November the Israeli government agrees to cooperate with the United Nations investigation into the war crimes allegedly committed during Operation Protective Edge, headed by the Canadian judge William Schabas, with Senegalese lawyer Doudou Diene and US judge Mary McGowan Davis.
- On 21 November Israel reveals the results of a joint operation of the army, police and Israeli security agency Shin Bet, which succeeded in bringing down a Hamas commando unit accused of plotting to assassinate the Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman during

the summer of 2014, during Operation Protective Edge. The four members of the cell and residents of Harmala, a town close to the Israeli settlement of Nokdim, where Lieberman's family lives, remain under arrest.

- On 23 November the Israeli Council of Ministers approves with a majority of 14 votes to seven the so-called Israeli Nationality Law, an initiative that declares Israel as "the home of the Jewish people," despite the vote against by two centrist parties in the coalition.
- On 29 November General Gadi Eizenkot is appointed Israel's new Chief-of-Staff, considered a moderate regarding Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as the Iranian nuclear plan, but also known for his tough measures in the face of serious threat.

Palestine

- On 9 November Mahmoud Abbas announces that the acts of commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the death of Yasser Arafat scheduled for 11 November are suspended in Gaza after Hamas states it is "not in a position to be able to ensure security."
- On 18 November the Spanish Parliament gives almost unanimous approval to a bill urging the government to recognise Palestine as a state, reaffirming its conviction that the "only possible solution" to the conflict is the coexistence of two states.
- On 26 November Egypt orders the opening of the Rafah border crossing with Gaza, which had been closed for a month due to instability in Sinai, allowing thousands of Palestinians stranded outside the Strip to return to their homes.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 5 November intense clashes break out between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli security forces in the vicinity of the Temple Mount, which spread throughout the Old City and East Jerusalem.
- On 8 November the Israeli police shoot dead a young man of Israeli-Arab origin who had allegedly been trying to attack police officers in the town of Kafr Kanna, Galilee. The death sparks new

clashes in the West Bank. On 9 November Israel goes on heightened alert shortly after an Israeli driver survives a lynching attempt in Taibe.

- On 10 November a Palestinian man from Hebron armed with a knife murders a young Israeli woman and injures three others close to the Alon Shvut settlement, in the south of the West Bank. Hamas and Islamic Jihad describe the attacks as "legitimate action." Hours earlier, a Palestinian Hamas supporter from Nablus stabs an Israeli soldier in southern Tel Aviv.
- On 11 November a young Palestinian is shot dead by Israeli soldiers in clashes in the Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron. New clashes also break out close to Ramallah and in the south of the West Bank.
- On 12 November a mosque in Al-Maghir, close to Ramallah, and a synagogue in Shfaram, northern Israel are set on fire amid rising tensions between Palestinians and Israelis.
- On 17 November a Palestinian bus driver found hanged in his vehicle in Jerusalem sparks fighting between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli security forces, despite an autopsy describing the death as a suicide.
- On 18 November two Palestinian attackers from East Jerusalem linked with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine murder four people in a synagogue in the orthodox Jewish neighbourhood of Har Nof, West Jerusalem, before being shot dead by police. On 19 November an Israeli police officer dies from injuries suffered in the attack.
- On 18 November Israeli forces demolish the home of the Palestinian citizen who on 22 October ran over several people in Jerusalem leaving two dead and five injured.
- On 18 November a young Palestinian is injured after being shot by an Israeli following a demonstration held by Jewish settlers on the outskirts of Beitin, close to Ramallah. The incident comes hours after a Palestinian is stabbed by a group of Israelis in the north of East Jerusalem.
- On 23 November a young Palestinian is shot dead by Israeli soldiers in Jabalia, on the border between Israel and the north of the Gaza Strip. According to the Israeli army, the young man

and another person ignored warnings from the soldiers to leave the security area and move away from the border fence.

- On 24 November the Israeli police arrest three Palestinians suspected of stabbing several Israeli students as they were leaving a religious academy in Jerusalem's Old City. In recent days, both Palestinians and Israelis report attacks on the city's streets.

December 2014

Israel

- On 2 December Benjamin Netanyahu dismisses two of his main centrist members, the Finance Minister and leader of Yesh Atid (There is a Future) Yair Lapid and the Justice Minister and leader of Hatnua Tzipi Livni, making the coalition government crisis official and forcing early elections to be scheduled. The dismissals are followed by the resignation of the four remaining Yesh Atid ministers.
- On 3 December the Israeli political parties agree to hold early parliamentary elections on 17 March 2015.
- On 10 December the leader of the opposition and labour party Yitzhak Herzog and the leader of the centrist Hatnua party Tzipi Livni agree to form an alliance for the elections on 17 March 2015 to defeat Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud. If the labour-centrist coalition wins in the elections, Herzog would be the Head of Government for the first two years, after which Livni would take over.

Palestine

- On 2 December the French National Assembly supports the recognition of the Palestinian State with 339 votes in favour and 151 against; a decision that is non-binding for the French government.
- On 17 December the EU Court of Justice orders the European Council to revert its decision on 27 December 2001 to include Hamas in the list of terrorist organisations, which was drawn up on the same date. The court establishes that the inclusion of Hamas in the list "is not based on acts examined and confirmed in decisions of

competent authorities, but on factual imputations derived from the media and Internet.”

- On 17 December the European Parliament votes in favour of adopting a symbolic recognition of the Palestinian State within a two-state (Israel and Palestine) solution and linked to the peace process.

Conflicts between the Parties

- On 1 December Israeli soldiers shoot a Palestinian linked with Fatah who, according to witnesses and the army, had stabbed and slightly injured a civilian close to the Gush Etzion settlement bloc in the West Bank. The attacker remains in critical condition in Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem.

- On 3 December the Israeli security forces arrest three Palestinians following an attack in the West Bank in which one of the men stabbed two Israelis in a supermarket close to the Maale Adumim settlement, on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

- On 10 December Ziad Abu Ein, a Palestinian minister without portfolio who headed a department dealing with the settlements and East Jerusalem and West Bank separation fence, dies in Turmus Aya after clashes with Israeli soldiers and border police.

- On 16 December Israeli soldiers shoot dead a Palestinian during a raid on the Qalandia refugee camp in the West Bank, in which various explosive devices are captured and another Palestinian is arrested.

- On 19 December Israel responds to a rocket launched into southern Is-

rael by bombing a cement factory suspected of producing material for reconstructing the smuggling tunnels destroyed during Operation Protective Edge.

- On 20 December in response to a missile fired from Gaza at Eshkol, the Israeli Air Force attacks a training camp of Hamas's armed wing in the south of the Strip. Neither attack causes any personal injury.

- On 24 December Tayseer Asmairi, leader of Hamas' armed wing in the south of Gaza and in charge of border observation points, is killed in the most serious fighting on the Israeli-Gaza Strip border seen since the end of the Protective Edge offensive in August. The incident, in which an Israeli soldier is injured, comes after an Israeli army patrol responds with artillery to an attack by an unidentified sniper in the area of Khan Yunis.

Peace Negotiations

- On 17 December Jordan, a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, submits a draft resolution on behalf of Palestine and the Arab countries that establishes a one-year period to conclude the peace negotiations, aimed at establishing two democratic and prosperous states based on the 1967 borders and with Jerusalem as the capital for both, and sets 2017 as the deadline for completing the Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territories. On 30 December the resolution is rejected with votes against from the United States and Australia and abstentions

from the United Kingdom, Lithuania, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Korea.

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