

In **Lebanon**, thousands of Palestinian refugees and Lebanese activists marched towards the Israeli border at Maroun al-Ras. A Lebanese army statement said that 10 were killed and at least 112 were injured, some of them critically, by Israeli forces. The Israeli military has acknowledged that IDF troops opened fire towards demonstrators, but claimed that Lebanese army troops also fired on demonstrators and were responsible for some of the casualties. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which patrols the Israel-Lebanon border, confirmed that live ammunition had been used at Maroun al-Ras. Israeli authorities reportedly prevented Palestinian citizens of Israel from reaching the Israeli side of the border with Lebanon for a planned solidarity demonstration. The Israeli Knesset (parliament) signalled its growing disapproval of events commemorating the Nakba by passing the Budget Foundations Law (Amendment No. 40) 5771 - 2011 on 22 March 2011. This law allows the Minister of Finance to reduce state funding to institutions organizing any activities “commemorating Israel’s Independence Day or the day of the establishment of the state as a day of mourning.” It is only one example of legislation recently passed or pending in the Knesset which together constitute a major assault on freedom of expression in Israel. Amnesty International is particularly concerned that the law targets institutions serving Israel’s Palestinian Arab minority and threatens these citizens’ rights to preserve their history and culture.

Palestinian and Druze protesters in the **Syrian-administered part of the Golan** succeeded in breaching the UN-patrolled border and entering the town of Majdal Shams in the Israeli-occupied part. Israeli forces opened fire, killing two demonstrators and injuring more than 20, some of them critically. The IDF and Israeli police sealed off the town and conducted house-to-house searches for “infiltrators”, who were forcibly returned to Syria.

In the **West Bank**, up to a thousand Palestinians demonstrated near the Qalandiya checkpoint, which separates Ramallah from occupied East Jerusalem. Some protesters reportedly threw rocks at Israeli troops and attempted to attack parts of the wall/fence near the checkpoint. Israeli forces responded by firing rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas canisters, and sound bombs at the demonstrators, and there are also reports that Israeli troops used live ammunition. Dozens of civilians were injured, some of them critically, with medics reporting that the majority were injured in the upper body. Over 100 people were treated by Palestinian medics for gas inhalation, with at least 20 reportedly suffering from seizures. Israeli forces arrested at least six people, including one who was reportedly badly injured after being hit in the head by a rubber-coated bullet. Smaller demonstrations took place across the West Bank, and met with similar Israeli responses in several cases. Israeli forces have also arrested dozens of people in East Jerusalem since 13 May 2011, following clashes on Friday afternoon in Silwan, Issawiya and the Old City. Seventeen-year-old Milad Said Ayyash was shot in the abdomen, allegedly by a private security guard at the Beit Yonatan settlement in Silwan, and subsequently died from his wounds. His father testified to the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) that he was walking down the road when he was shot, and that the immediate area was calm at the time.

In the **Gaza Strip**, hundreds of Palestinians marched from the northern town of Beit Hanoun towards the Israeli border and the Erez border crossing, which has been completely closed to Palestinians since June 2007, except for urgent medical cases receiving special Israeli permits. Israeli forces fired artillery shells, live ammunition, gas canisters, and sound bombs at protesters. PCHR reported more than 100 civilians were wounded, including 31 children, three women, and three journalists, some of them critically. Israeli forces also fired on a demonstration near ‘Abasan village, east of Khan Younis in the central Gaza Strip, resulting in further injuries. Finally, in a separate incident, 17-year-old Khamis Salah Mesleh Habeeb was killed by an Israeli artillery shell in the “buffer zone” near the Nahal Oz crossing east of Gaza City.