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Last update - 10:52 15/06/2006

Huge rise recorded in number of houses IDF razes in arrest raids

By [Amos Harel](#), Haaretz Correspondent

A Haaretz inquiry reveals that the Israel Defense Forces has increased its use of home demolitions during West Bank arrest raids since a ban on the forced entry of Palestinian civilians into homes of barricaded fugitives.

When the High Court of Justice banned the "neighbor procedure" eight months ago, senior Israel Defense Forces officers warned that this would likely endanger soldiers' lives. Haaretz has learned that new arrest procedures are not any more dangerous to soldiers, but that is because the IDF is using more aggressive tactics during the actual operations.

IDF sources say that the ban diminishes the tactical options of the officers. "The result is that very quickly we escalate in means, in other words, we use the bulldozers," one officer says.

In early October 2005, the High Court justices accepted the petition of human rights organizations against the "neighbor procedure." This tactic, employed hundreds of times in the territories during the first intifada, involved forcing the Palestinian neighbors of wanted militants to enter the homes of the barricaded fugitives in an effort to convince them to surrender, and consequently, also bring out information for the army on the conditions inside the home.

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This forcing of Palestinian civilians to act as "agents" for the IDF drew intense public criticism, especially when a Palestinian from a village in the northern West Bank was shot and killed by his barricaded neighbor during the application of the "neighbor procedure."

The High Court ban forced the army to adopt new arrest methods, which do not endanger soldiers' lives as military sources had previously warned, says a senior IDF officer serving in the West Bank because "they take no chances. Not one of us will send a soldier to check a home in which it is known that a living, armed fugitive is barricaded, before we have carried out very aggressive action."

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It turns out that the end result of the decision is different from the original intention: both the army and human rights groups, who closely follow developments in the territories, agree that the risk to the lives of Palestinian civilians is greater today. Furthermore, the new procedures result in more extensive damage to Palestinian homes in the territories.

The operation is as follows: If the fugitive refuses to exit, warning shots are fired around the house and then at points in the home that appear suspicious. If the fugitive continues to refuse to surrender, a bulldozer is brought in and begins to pound the walls of the house. The final stage is for the bulldozer to raze the home with everyone in it. Only then are troops sent in to search for survivors.

In one incident, a 43-year old woman was killed when shots fired at a home of a fugitive strayed into her home. The soldiers say that the conditions at the site made accurate shooting difficult. An internal probe concluded that the soldiers violated safety regulations, but no Military Police investigation was initiated.

'Outstretched arm' tactic

After the initial High Court ban, the IDF employed a more complicated version of the "neighbor procedure," called "early warning procedure," in which the neighbor could not be forced to enter the house in question unless it was done with his consent, and similarly the neighbor could not be forced to wear an army bullet-proof vest and helmet.

To the chagrin of the IDF, the justices shot this procedure down as well.

Senior General Staff officers tried to convince the court of the necessity of the tactic, and even Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz volunteered to testify before the court, but the justices remained unmoved.

The current tactic is called "outstretched arm." This allows the army to use an interlocutor, someone who normally lives in the house, and only if they are still in the house at the time the soldiers arrive. In most cases the fugitives allow the civilians inside to exit the house, and in that case the army can ask a family member to use a bullhorn to call out to the fugitive to surrender, so long as this is done at a safe distance.

In conversations with Haaretz, officers to this day maintain that the court's decision reflects a certain dislocation from the operational realities in the territories, and that the moral argument accepted by the court has resulted in graver danger to the lives of Palestinian civilians and their property.

But there are those at the General Staff who say that "over and over [Supreme Court President] Aharon Barak has saved us from ourselves. Against rampant terrorism there were times when we lost our sense of judgment and brought excessive means to bear. The High Court, by intervening in matters such as the route of the separation fence and the neighbor procedure, brought us back to a rational state, even if the officers in the field may not like it."

Holocaust

11:26 Vice Premier: Israel to hold talks with Abbas in 'very short while'

08:19 Fertility rate among Israeli Arab women steadily declining

12:59 Settler leader rejects request to speak out against hitchhiking

22:19 Police in Frankfurt ready for protests against Ahmadinejad

10:56 Peretz gives IDF two weeks to prepare outpost pullout plan

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1. **Haaretz: "THE IDF USES MORE AGGRESSIVE TACTICS DURING OPERATIONS"** 10:15 | that`s NO NEWS 15/06/06
2. **#Those at General Staff" were or are helpless against Qassams** 10:15 | Absolute Sweden 15/06/06
3. **IDF Tactics** 10:33 | David 15/06/06

4.	THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LAWYERS RUN THE COUNTRY	10:35 paul harris	15/06/06
5.	absolute sweden 2	10:42 Potobac	15/06/06
6.	Choices, choices	10:43 George W	15/06/06
7.	Keeping the pressure on terrorists is necessary.	10:43 Chana	15/06/06
8.	"IDF" RAISING THE WRONG HOUSES -- ERASE THE SETTLEMENT	10:44 FIFA	15/06/06
9.	This IDF aggression is unacceptable--get out of peoples homes	10:58 Dutch	15/06/06
10.	Is that a new HCJ ARGUMENT to JUSTIFY israeli INHUMAN OCCUPATION?	11:01 Yisrael Yok?	15/06/06
11.	"we use the bulldozers" War Crimes.	11:25 Elenor Weiss	15/06/06
12.	BECAUSE american CATERPILLARS are BUSH-GIFTS 2 DESTROY PALESTINE	11:30 BOYCOTT "CAT"	15/06/06
13.	#5 Razing houses produces "terrorism"	11:34 U got it all wrong	15/06/06
14.	Yawn...	11:35 David Teich	15/06/06
15.	Elenor Weiss, a French War Criminals groupie	11:36 Absolute Sweden	15/06/06
16.	# 6 George W Great ironic post!!!	11:38 Ronnie Wolman	15/06/06
17.	David Teich, et al	14:28 Jenna	15/06/06
18.	Please call them by name: "human shields"	14:40 mike	15/06/06
19.	A high Court of WHAT?	14:46 Noura	15/06/06
20.	nice summary, Ronnie	14:51 mike	15/06/06
21.	Let's take it to the next step	15:13 Gee	15/06/06
22.	#9 DORIS CALLS FOR CALM MOVE ALL ARABS OUT OF HARM	15:23 paul harris	15/06/06
23.	Jenna: Of course they read these postings	15:31 David Teich	15/06/06
24.	Mike: Problems with math, eh?	15:35 David Teich	15/06/06
25.	MASSACRE OF HOMES!!! MASSACRE!!! MASSACRE!!!	15:38 Boris	15/06/06
26.	Thank you Elenor, bonne chance!!	15:43 Yaakov Sullivan	15/06/06
27.	#25 come on boris even haaretz know you cant massacre a house	15:48 paul harris	15/06/06
28.	Would these IDF officers have condoned?	15:50 Yaakov Sullivan	15/06/06
29.	#11 as md of komatsu i am with ellen all the wa	15:51 paul harris	15/06/06
30.	No Zyklon B Showers with Hemlock Refreshments	16:26 Umm El Kul Naqba	15/06/06
31.	Doris doesn't even trust her own words	16:33 Jacob Blues	15/06/06
32.	3YAAKOV GOT IT WRONG AS USUAL WITH THE WRONG COMPARISON	16:35 paul harris	15/06/06
33.	Court of Law of Unintented Consequences	16:38 Jacob Blues	15/06/06
34.	Nice to know	16:41 Jacob Blues	15/06/06
35.	It is time we Learn from the Palestinians	16:43 Umm El Kul Naqba	15/06/06
36.	Jacob Blues and his caterpillars	16:52 Yaakov Sullivan	15/06/06
37.	to yaakov and elenor	16:53 SHIMON	15/06/06
38.	To Umm El Kul Naqba	17:16 Micheal	15/06/06
39.	Jacob Blues	17:16 Ibrahim	15/06/06
40.	To Shimon	17:17 Michael	15/06/06
41.	Shimon	17:19 Michael	15/06/06
42.	Take home demolitions to the Supreme Court	17:21 Ben Gurion	15/06/06
43.	Stick to the stage Yaacov	17:26 Jacob Blues	15/06/06
44.	Michael	17:37 SHIMON	15/06/06
45.	#36 yaakov do you really think thta not selling d9.s to israel	17:38 paul harris	15/06/06
46.	Michael, part 2	17:39 SHIMON	15/06/06
47.	ZIONIST TERRORISM	17:44 james	15/06/06

48.	War crimes	17:57 Janice	15/06/06
49.	PAUL HARRIS	18:01 Janice	15/06/06
50.	#42 IDF has given Israel a cruel face	18:11 Dutch	15/06/06
51.	No Ibrahim, CAT's stock price has nothing to do with peace	18:14 Jacob Blues	15/06/06
52.	Fiduciary responsibility 101 (part II) for Ibrahim	18:20 Jacob Blues	15/06/06
53.	Israeli Supreme Court to IDF and Jews - SUCK IT!	18:24 pace306	15/06/06
54.	Hide behind innocents, the arab way	18:29 peter	15/06/06
55.	Buy stock in Caterpillar - support Israel and the US !	18:32 pace306	15/06/06
56.	#48 IF YOU WISH TO MAKE POINT JANICE DO SOME STUDY	18:33 paul harris	15/06/06
57.	#48 IF YOU WISH TO MAKE POINT JANICE DO SOME STUDY	18:33 paul harris	15/06/06
58.	#12, boycott cat	18:34 vladimir	15/06/06
59.	Jacob, worried about CAT workers?	18:45 Ibrahim	15/06/06
60.	`neighbour procedure` nothing new	18:58 Josh Goldman	15/06/06
61.	Janice, some information please	19:03 peter	15/06/06
62.	Self-Destructive Behavior	19:22 Mark Lincoln	15/06/06
63.	pace306 - calm yourself about Barak	19:26 peter	15/06/06
64.	IDF Cowards Engaged In Ethnic Cleansing	19:32 Mr. Knowitall	15/06/06
65.	#60 MORE PERVERTED HISTORY FROM JOSH	19:37 paul harris	15/06/06
66.	#62 wahat you have watched mark is 58 years of anti israel propag	19:43 paul harris	15/06/06
67.	Paul Harris, Get a Grip on Reality	19:47 Mr. Knowitall	15/06/06
68.	Mark Lincoln writing to Bush again	19:56 Absolute Sweden	15/06/06
69.	#63 Non publicly elected left wing judges HURT Israel	20:03 pace306	15/06/06
70.	Yes, PAUL HARRIS, we agree!!	20:06 Josh Goldman	15/06/06
71.	#67 MR KNOWITALL KNOWS FA LL	20:06 paul harris	15/06/06
72.	#70 the anti zionist lives in a zionist state	20:18 PAUL HARRIS	15/06/06
73.	mr. knowitall can help janice	20:32 peter	15/06/06
74.	#70-yeled tov m`yerushalaim is in a strange place	20:36 peter	15/06/06
75.	Ibrahim, if you are going to quote me, do so	20:40 Jacob Blues	15/06/06
76.	Jacob, you are incorrect.	20:48 Ibrahim	15/06/06
77.	more heartbreak for Lincoln boy ? -:-)	20:55 Mike	15/06/06
78.	#31 Jacob Blues , My response	21:14 Dutch	15/06/06
79.	#2 sacrosanct dwellings	22:11 hollingsworth	15/06/06
80.	#34 well, hey!	22:15 hollingsworth	15/06/06
81.	IDF destroys Palestinian houses, while helping settlers steal	22:19 El-Birawi	15/06/06
82.	Yaakov Sullivan-- caterpillars	22:58 Gina	15/06/06
83.	#67 Mr Knowitall, The Mandate	22:59 Dutch	15/06/06
84.	Conservatives and the law	00:50 Mark Lincoln	16/06/06
85.	Mark Lincoln #84 oh really?	02:33 peter	16/06/06
86.	A plea to the people of Israel	02:52 Jenna	16/06/06
87.	A plea to the terrorists	02:54 Jenna	16/06/06
88.	Place blame a the true source	03:27 Dr David i. Gross	16/06/06
89.	Paul Harris, you are still making excuses.	03:27 Mr. Knowitall	16/06/06
90.	Answer to Peters Questions	03:37 Mr. Knowitall	16/06/06
91.	#89 know nothing overreaches himself with ignorance	05:23 paul harris	16/06/06
92.	Re#90 Mr. Insane it all	05:58 Meir Weinstein	16/06/06
93.	Re#83 Dutch	06:09 Meir Weinstein	16/06/06
94.	Thanks Mr. Knowitall	06:26 Janice	16/06/06
95.	mr. knowitall #90 to Janice`s rescue, oops	06:31 peter	16/06/06
96.	# 91 LOL, Everyone !!!!!!!	06:44 Observer	16/06/06
97.	So nice to see Janice back, nu have the answers?	07:27 peter	16/06/06
98.	#78 The confusing Dutchwoman	08:02 Goober	16/06/06
99.	It is not the point Peter	08:05 Janice	16/06/06

100. ICAHD & house demolitions	10:03 Jeff Halper	16/06/06
101. #98 janice has it upside down as usual	10:31 PAUL HARRIS	16/06/06
102. When Will ISRAELIS' Homes Be Demolished?	11:12 Proud Pal Defender	16/06/06
103. #91 Paul - Stop Defending Terrorism	21:59 Mr. Knowitall	16/06/06
104. Meir Weinstein - And the Typical Zionists Dodge	22:13 Mr. Knowitall	16/06/06



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