



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 20 February 2015

The daily report highlights the violations behind Israeli home demolitions and demolition threats in the occupied Palestinian territory, the confiscation and razing of lands, the uprooting and destruction of fruit trees, the expansion of settlements and erection of outposts, the brutality of the Israeli Occupation Army, the Israeli settlers violence against Palestinian civilians and properties, the erection of checkpoints, the construction of the Israeli segregation wall and the issuance of military orders for the various Israeli purposes.

The Violations are based on reports provided by field workers and/or news sources.

The text is not quoted directly from the sources but is edited for clarity.

The daily report does not necessarily reflect ARIJ's opinion.

Brutality of the Israeli Occupation Army

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) near Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired live bullets and teargas grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of a Palestinian (Wattan 20 February 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Nilin village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at

Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 20 February 2015)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at participants, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds 20 February 2015)
- Five Palestinians were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqiliya city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at participants. (Al-Ayyam 20 February 2015)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided a non-violent protest demand to open Ash-Shuhada street in Hebron city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at participants. (Al-Ayyam & Wafa 20 February 2015)

Israeli Arrests

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Shadi Sanqrut after raiding his house in At-Tur town in Jerusalem city. (ARN 20 February 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Mujahed Said Tareq 'Akub from Nablus city after stopping him at Al-Karama terminal. (Al-Quds 20 February 2015)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Israeli settlers living in Susiya settlement and Avigal outpost assaulted and injured Jubrail Mohammad Ahmed Nu'man (55 years) at Qawawis area, southeast of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (NBPRS 20 February 2015)
- Israeli settlers living in Sursiya and Metzipe Ya'ir settlements uprooted more than 30 olive trees from Um Al-'Araees area, near Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted trees are owned by Abed Rabo family. (Wafa 20 February 2015)

Other

- WZO wrests control of Settlement Division away from state. Ynet has learned that the World Zionist Organization's executive committee decided to end the Prime Minister Office's oversight over the controversial division spearheading West Bank settlements, in move

that could in fact increase transparency, harm settlement funding. World Zionist Organization's executive committee decided Thursday morning to retake control over the controversial Settlement Division – which has recently inspired anger after a young MK and local media revealed that it had been indirectly receiving large amounts of funds for building West Bank settlements. For nearly half a century, the WZO's Settlement Division played a key role in managing land and infrastructure in the bitterly disputed settlements. The division is officially affiliated with the WZO, but is funded and run through the Prime Minister's Office. Although its funding comes entirely from the government, its finances are largely kept secret, a fact which has put it in the cross hairs of local media outlets and MK Stav Shafir, who claim that settlements and political pet projects are getting the lion's share of the budget. Coupled with reports of possibly illegal abuse of funds, the division has faced calls for reform from both the left and center, especially ahead of the March 17 election. The executive committee's decision is unorthodox and it remains unclear whether the state will fight the move. Regardless, the WZO vows it will work to increase transparency and make its records public. Moreover, the WZO said it will appoint a special comptroller to look into the division's workings. The move was led by left-wing party Meretz's faction in the committee, led by the party's director-general Dror Morag. The World Zionist Organization, an international body founded more than a century ago, promotes Jewish education and immigration to Israel. It serves as an umbrella group for a host of international Jewish groups and youth movements. The Settlement Division was founded with the goal of creating and supporting rural communities in the West Bank, Golan Heights and other areas in Israel proper. As part of the Israel Police's ongoing investigation into a large political corruption scandal, the Lahav 433 Anti-Fraud Unit recently raided the division's offices and seized various documents. The raids took place at the Settlement Division's northern, central and southern district offices. The investigation focused on tenders issued by the Settlement Division for projects that were carried out in the regional councils whose heads have been arrested as part of the wide-scale corruption probe – Shomron Regional Council leader Gershon Mesika, Tamar Regional Council leader Dov Litvinoff, and Megilot Regional Council leader Mordechai Dahman – all in the West Bank. Thus far, police haven't arrested any suspects from the Settlement Division, which every year receives several financial packages that significantly inflate its original budget. These monetary transfers, carried out with the approval of the Knesset Finance Committee, are often said to stem from the coalition agreements between the various political parties. The Settlement

Division is very closely linked to both Yisrael Beytenu and Bayit Yehudi, and the body employs several officials from these parties. As revealed by Ynet's economic sister website Calcalist some six months ago, the Settlement Division's budget has increased by more than 600 percent since the beginning of the year. Calcalist recently reported that the Justice Ministry soon would recommend the division's closure. Officially, Justice Ministry officials would confirm only that the issue was being investigated. Last year, the Knesset's Finance Committee, chaired by pro-settlement lawmaker Nissan Slomiansky from the Bayit Yeudi, increased the Settlement Division's funding for 2014 to about \$126 million, more than eight times the sum originally budgeted for the group, according to data from the oBudget.org transparency website. ([Ynetnews](#) 20 February 2015)

- Jerusalem District Planning Committee Rejects Objection to Planned Landfill and National Park on 'Anata and Al-'Issawiyya. Adalah and Civic Coalition: Plan serves political goals of the occupying power in violation of international law, and disregards development needs of Palestinian residents. The Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee has rejected an objection filed against a plan to construct a landfill and national park on approximately 500 dunams of private land belonging to Palestinians from the villages of 'Anata (pop. 20,000) and Al-'Issawiyya (pop. 12,000) in East Jerusalem. The plan will involve the confiscation of the land and the transfer of its ownership to the Jerusalem Municipality. This land is vital for the planning and development of the two villages. The objection to the plan was submitted by Adalah in cooperation with the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (CCPRJ) on 30 December 2012 on behalf of the 'Anata Local Council. The objectors argued that the plan would result in the destruction of large numbers of houses based on the pretext that they were built illegally and that they impeded the implementation of the plan. The planning committee based its decision on the claim that the land slated for confiscation is unsuitable for the development and planning of the two villages, since it is separated from them by main roads and infrastructure previously approved by the committee. The objectors stated that if implemented, the plan would block the development of 'Anata and Al-'Issawiyya, cutting its residents off from the Palestinian territories. It would simultaneously ensure contiguity between Jewish settlements in the West Bank, the E1 area, and the Jerusalem municipality. The outlines of the plan correspond to the path of the Separation Wall, which divides the residential areas of 'Anata from the village's lands that fall within the confines of the plan. Commenting on the decision, Adalah Attorney

Myssana Morany stated that the planned committee had completely ignored the inconsistency of the plan with international humanitarian law, as the plan causes harm to private property without any urgent military necessity. Attorney Morany added that the plan serves the political goals of the occupying power in the area, and thus its basic goal is illegitimate and in violation of international law. The planning authorities have also disregarded, over the course many years, the development needs of the people of the two villages, and drafted plans for the area that seek only to tightly restrict their Palestinian population under the guise of 'development'. She concluded that the decision constituted a new chapter in the planning authorities' colonial policy of land confiscation in East Jerusalem. Zakaria Odeh, the director of the CCPRJ, described the decision as "one of the systematic policies that the Israeli authorities have pursued since the beginning of the Occupation in 1967, which aim to establish Israeli control over the city of Jerusalem and to expel its indigenous population. The plan is designed to appropriate hundreds of dunams of land and forcibly displace hundreds of the Palestinians who live in the area." He added that: "The strategic importance of the plan lies in its targeting of an area that is regarded as the eastern gateway to Jerusalem, since it constitutes a continuation of the plan for the E1 settlement bloc, which extends to the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. If fully implemented, the plan will cut off the southern West Bank from the north and preclude the establishment of a Palestinian state." ([Adalah](#) 20 February 2015)