



# ARIJ Daily Report

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## Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt

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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

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian farmers while they were working in their land, east of Al-Shaja'iya and Az-Zaytoun neighborhoods in Gaza strip. (RB2000 3 March 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed At-Tur high school for boys in At-Tur town in Jerusalem city, and searched a number of classrooms. (Maannews 3 March 2015)
- Mohammad Salah Hathnawi (20 years) was injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation during clashes that erupted between

Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Qabatiya village, south of Jenin city. The IOA fired metal bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. At the same time, the IOA invaded and searched two Palestinian houses owned by Omar Abu Zeid and his son Yousif. (Al-Quds 3 March 2015)

### **Israeli Arrests**

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested two Palestinians and summoned Hisham Abu Ziyad (56 years) and his three sons (Jamel, Nabil and Ali) to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police, after storming their houses in Al-Eaziriya town, east of Jerusalem city. The arrestees were identified as: Ali Adwan and Daoud Adwan. (Wafa 3 March 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained 5 Palestinians from Kisan village, southeast of Bethlehem city, while they were working in land near Al-Fureidis village, southeast of Bethlehem city. The Palestinians were identified as: Sobeh Hassan Abiyat, Mohammad Awad Abiyat, Omar Ayeshe Abiyat and his brother Aref, and Suliman Mohammad Abiyat. (RB2000 3 March 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Yousif Idries As-Swdani from Beituniya town in Ramallah governorate. (PNN 3 March 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Ihab Mahir Abu Ramliya while he was in his way to school in the old city of Hebron. (PNN 3 March 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Mohammad Sarhan (11 years) after raiding his family house in Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 3 March 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained three Palestinian children while they were near the Ibrahimi mosque in the old city of Hebron. (Al-Quds 3 March 2015)

### **Israeli Settler Violence**

- Israeli settlers assaulted and injured Nizar Ghalma and Ahmed Ar-Rajabi while they were in their way to school in the old city of Hebron. (PNN 3 March 2015)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its courtyard. (PNN 3 March 2015)

### **Home Demolition & Demolition threats**

## Israeli Military Orders

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out military order to demolish three houses and to stop the construction in five others in Ein Al-Balad area in Nahhalin village, west of Bethlehem city. The targeted houses are owned by: Ribhi Ibrahim Ghaiada, Maher Husni Najajra, Ibrahim Daoud Shakarnih, Malak Mahmoud Shakarnih, Mohammad Rebhi Fanun, Hussan Sobhi Shakarniah (his house consist of three floors), Salem Al-Nees (his house consist of two floors) and Hassan Nimir Najajrah (his house consist of three floors) (RB2000 3 March 2015)

## Other

- Video clip catches soldiers threatening Palestinian teen with their dogs. Israeli army responds it will investigate incident, stop using dogs to arrest demonstrators. A video clip caught Israeli soldiers threatening a Palestinian teen with their dogs, spurring a former MK to launch a social media campaign and the army to call for an investigation. The incident, in which the soldiers of the Oketz unit scared the teen with two dogs, happened 10 kilometers north of Hebron in December but only came to light with the video. In the background, an unidentified man can be heard saying to the boy, "Who's a chicken, eh? Who's a chicken? Great. Very good." Another man is heard telling a dog to "get him." After rightwing activist and former MK Michael Ben Ari learned of the video, he tweeted, "The soldiers taught the little terrorist a lesson!" He asked his followers to spread the video so that "ever little terrorist who plans to harm our soldiers learns the price." Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon told Israel's Channel 1 on Monday he would ask the army for a response and that that matter would be looked into. A senior officer serving in the territories said Monday the soldiers were engaged in a pre-approved ambush to catch firebomb throwers. He asserted that sending the dog was justified, and that it was a "measured step with a low risk of causing irreparable harm relative to shooting." He said the unit's behavior thereafter was unacceptable. The officer, who like others spoke to eyewitnesses, said he believed the off-camera voice belonged to a soldier, and that the army would take steps against him. The video documents the arrest of Hamzeh Abu Hashem, a 16-year-old Palestinian during confrontations near Beit Umar and the nearby settlement of Karmeit Zur. The family says the boy was treated in hospital after the incident for dog bites. The army announced it would investigate the incident in wake of the video's release. According to human rights NGO B'tselem, the soldiers had GoPro cameras on their helmets, and questioned whether the army didn't

know about the soldiers' behavior well before the video came to light. Abu Hashem's father told Haaretz his son was arrested December 23 around Beit Umar for throwing stones. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment and fined 4,000 shekels (\$1000). His father said he was hospitalized at Hadassah hospital before being transferred to Ofer prison. "We, his mother and I, watched the video, and we couldn't believe what we were saying," he recalled. "My wife almost fainted. I don't know if there's a mother or father in the world who can be indifferent to such pictures. It pained us very much, especially the fact that the boy was helpless and the soldiers rejoiced over him." The IDF commented that it would stop using attack dogs to disperse demonstrations in the West Bank. The army decided in 2012 that the unit to which Oketz is attached would stop using dogs in demonstrations. The decision was made in the wake of a Palestinian demonstrator in 2012, who was injured after being attacked for several minutes by dogs from the unit. The army investigated the incident, in which the demonstrators needed medical care and stitches in his hand, deeming it an operational failure. The army spokesman's office commented that after receiving the video clip, the army ordered an immediate investigation of the incident. "Upon conclusion, lessons will be drawn and the necessary steps will be taken to prevent a recurrence of such incidents," the statement read. B'tselem commented that once again the army is calling to stop the frightening use of dogs to arrest unarmed civilians. "Urging dogs to attack humans is an immoral and illegal act that arouses horror." ([Haaretz](#) 3 March 2015)

- Gaza woman told to coordinate wedding date with Israeli army. IDF implies that close family members can leave for the wedding, but not the bride. Residents of Gaza who want to marry overseas are supposed to receive a permit in advance of the wedding date from the Defense Ministry and the Israel Defense Forces. That seems to be the message of a letter from the legal advisor to the District Coordination and Liaison Office in Gaza. The letter concerns a young woman who wants to leave Gaza and travel to Turkey via Israel and the West Bank in order to get married there. "There is something improper in that your clients have already made arrangements and set dates for the event, without receiving a permit from the proper authorities," the legal advisor — an IDF captain whose name is being withheld by Haaretz — wrote to the lawyer of the bride-to-be. The DCL is a hybrid institution, under the authority of both the IDF and the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) in the Defense Ministry. The head of the DCL in Gaza is Col. Fares Attila. The COGAT is Maj. Gen. Yoav Mordechai. The 23-year-old woman met her future husband — a

businessman from Gaza who lives in Turkey — when she visited family in that country. She returned to Gaza alone. In November 2014 the couple signed a marriage contract, with her husband represented by a power of attorney, and set a wedding date for December last year. Since the Gaza-Egypt border crossing is seldom open, the woman and her parents filed a request to leave for Turkey via the Erez checkpoint and the Allenby Bridge to Jordan. The request was filed with the DCL through the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee, a body under the authority of the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah. In early February, after not receiving a response, she turned to Gisha: Legal Center for the Freedom of Movement. On February 5 the DCL's rejection was received. In his response, the legal advisor not only criticized the woman and her fiancé for setting a wedding date before they had received a permit. He also maintained that the request for an exit permit to travel to Turkey did not meet the exceptional humanitarian criteria set by COGAT for the movement of people between Israel and the Gaza Strip. "The existing criteria on the matter deal with the participation in the wedding of a first degree relative only," the DCL legal advisor wrote. In other words, the close relatives of the person getting married can leave, but not the person herself. As an example, he mentioned a petition to the High Court of Justice by a woman who requested to leave Gaza in order to be married in the West Bank. The court recommended that the petition be withdrawn. That example is not relevant, Gisha says. While the criteria set by COGAT were intended to reduce to a minimum the number of Gaza residents leaving for the West Bank and to prevent them from staying there, the woman in question explicitly wants to move to Turkey and remain there. She simply needs to travel through Israel and the West Bank to get there. In requiring that wedding arrangements be coordinated in advance, the respondents have "clearly exceeded their authority," attorney Talia Ramati wrote in an appeal to the High Court of Justice. "The respondents may be able to limit the movement of the petitioners, as they do numerous times, while using the laconic justification of 'the petitioners have no inherent right to enter Israel,' but they cannot invade their lives and decide who they will marry, when they can marry and where." The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories responded: "In accordance with the policy defined since 2007, when the Hamas terrorist organization came to power in Gaza, Israel allows the passage of people through the Erez crossing point only in humanitarian cases. A wedding does not meet these criteria, which has also received legal force from the High Court of Justice. In the cases at issue, the family's request was received through the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee on January 1, 2015, and on January

8, 2015 they were provided with a written response.” ([Haaretz](#) 3 March 2015)

- The Israeli government's twilight zone that helps settle the West Bank. The World Zionist Organization's Settlement Division, which isn't a government agency, helps the state get around its own laws. If you weren't able to get through the 300 pages of the [state comptroller's report](#) on the housing crisis, you could peruse the 14-page summary published at the end of last week by the Justice Ministry. The ministry wasn't actually dealing with the housing crisis, but with the Settlement Division of the World Zionist Organization. Still, the two reports address the same thing: the almost ludicrously amateurish way the state does business. Most Israelis, whether or not they live in rural communities in the Negev or Galilee or in the West Bank, are apparently unaware of the existence of the Settlement Division. If people know about it, it's because it's being mentioned so often in the media lately. It's being mentioned because of the government's strange custom of funding the Settlement Division to the tune of at least 50 million shekels (\$12.8 million) annually. Most of this is transferred to the division at the end of the year, of course with the massive support of right-wing MKs in the Knesset Finance Committee. The heads of local councils in the West Bank even took the trouble in December to appear before the committee to make sure the money got shifted. A few days later, a number of these council heads found themselves under highly publicized arrest, on suspicion of paying bribes to senior officials in the Yisrael Beiteinu party in order to transfer funding to their bailiwicks. Two weeks later, the police raided the offices of the Settlement Division, which did not respond to Haaretz queries for this report. Although none of that agency's employees were arrested, the suspicion was that the division was a main channel by which senior Yisrael Beiteinu officials transferred funds to local authorities in the West Bank and the south, allegedly in exchange for bribes. **No tenders, no transparency:** It's no coincidence that the Settlement Division is suspected of being a main conduit in the Yisrael Beiteinu affair. There are two main explanations. The first is the simple fact that the Settlement Division is the state's key conduit for investment in the West Bank. In fact, the state has virtually privatized management of settling the West Bank (and the Negev and Galilee) by placing it in the hands of the Settlement Division. The division is fully responsible for rural settlement in Israel — including planning, land allocation, infrastructure, construction of public buildings, security and the allotment of resources to encourage industry or agriculture. In short, all settlement policy in rural Israel is in the hands of the Settlement

Division, an agency that's not a government entity. The Settlement Division is a completely private entity. It's an arm of the World Zionist Organization, which pays the salaries of all of its employees, usually on some sort of party-affiliation basis. But funding is entirely from the government — funding that starts at 50 million shekels and often ends at 500 million to 600 million shekels. This budget is managed outside the government and receives almost no government oversight. The government has an accountant at the division, but he has no employees and is basically in the dark. Moreover, the Settlement Division's legal adviser is not subordinate to the government, no tenders are required for the division's projects and no transparency is required — the Freedom of Information Law doesn't apply to the division, and ethics rules don't apply. This anomaly — a private entity that decides public policy with government funding but without ample oversight — drives the Justice Ministry crazy. It's what Deputy Attorney General Dina Zilber has called “the governmental twilight zone.” “The division is not an operative entity, but it sets policy and implements broad discretion and the allocation of significant resources .... It is hard to dispute that these powers are included in the government's core powers that should not be deployed by others,” Zilber wrote in a position paper. ([Haaretz](#) 3 March 2015)