



# ARIJ Daily Report

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## Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 20 May 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

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched a Palestinian house in Raba village in Jenin governorate, and questioned the residents. The targeted house is owned by Adnan Faez Bzour. (Pal Today 20 May 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in several areas and neighborhoods in Az-Zababda village in Jenin governorate. The IOA also, erected a military checkpoint near the American –Arab

University. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Pal Info 20 May 2015)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) staged 100 meters into the southeastern part of Deir Al Balah city in the central of Gaza strip, and opened fire at houses and land. (ARN 20 May 2015)
- Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing at As –Sudaiya shore, northwest of Gaza strip. (ARN 20 May 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian farmers while they were working in their land, east of Khan Younis and Rafah cities south of Gaza strip. (ARN 20 May 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up 50 military tents at Ad-Dawd hill near Aqraba village, southeast of Nablus city. (Safa 20 May 2015)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Jabal Al Mukabbir town, south of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. The IOA closed all the entrances of the town, and prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving it. (Safa 20 May 2015)
- Amran Omar Abu Dehem (41 years) from Jabal AL Mukabbir town, south of Jerusalem city, was killed after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at him while he was in At-Tur town in Jerusalem city. (Maannews 20 May 2015)

### **Israeli Arrests**

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Saber Mohammad Saber Abu Khdeir after storming and searching his house in Surif town, northwest of Hebron city. (Pal Info 20 May 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested five Palestinians after storming their houses in Al Khader village, southwest of Bethlehem city. The arrestees were identified as: Khalid Wale Issa (22 years), Mohammad Yousif Atwan (16 years), Amir Raid Al-Zayah (15 years), Karam Zaki Sobeh (15 years) and Mrwan Bajes Sobeh (15 years). (Mawwal FM & Wafa 20 May 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Sanad Azzat Salem Masalmah (20 years) after raiding his house in Beit 'awa town, west of Hebron city. (Wafa 20 May 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested two Palestinians after storming and searching their houses in Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The arrestees were identified as: Rasmi Jaber Al 'adra (39 years) and Nedal Sami Yousif Al Adra (25 years). (Wafa 20 May 2015)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested three Palestinians from At Tur town in Jerusalem city. (Al-Quds 20 May 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested two Palestinians while they were near the border fence, south of Gaza strip. (Al-Quds 20 May 2015)

### **Israeli Settler Violence**

- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in several areas and neighborhoods in the old city of Hebron city, and carried out provocative actions. (Pal Info 20 May 2015)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its courtyard. (Wattan 20 May 2015)
- Israeli settlers set fire in 90 olive trees in Sarta village, west of Salfit city. (PNN 20 May 2015)

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

- Israeli Occupation bulldozers demolished a 650 square meters Palestinian building (consist of three floors with 8 apartments), and a number of commercial structures in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. The targeted building is owned by Ahmed Fahme Abu Isninah. (SilwanIC 20 May 2015)

### **Other**

- Program to segregate Israelis, Palestinians on West Bank buses suspended following criticism. Lawmakers across political spectrum blasted program, with some cautioning impact on Israel's image and others branding it as 'apartheid.' President Rivlin: Separation would have been 'unthinkable.' Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon decided Wednesday to suspend a program to separate Israeli and Palestinian bus travel in the West Bank. The program, launched Tuesday, stipulated that Palestinian workers would have to return from Israel to the West Bank via the same checkpoint they left and will not be allowed to ride Israeli bus lines. Deputy Minister of Defense MK Eli Ben-Dahan (Habayit Hayehudi) said on Wednesday in the Knesset that he was "surprised" by the suspension of the program. Responding to a parliamentary question submitted by MK Ofer Shelah, Ben-Dahan said: "I didn't know. I wasn't updated. I only began serving as deputy minister this morning, it's not appropriate to send me to give an answer without me

being aware of it." President Reuven Rivlin welcomed the suspension of a move that "could have led to an unthinkable separation between bus lines for Jews and Arabs." "As one who loves the Land of Israel, I have nothing but regret for the discordant voices that we heard this morning, supporting the separation between Jews and Arabs on the basis of ideas that have no place being heard or said," he said. "Such statements go against the very foundations of the State of Israel, and impact upon our very ability to establish here a Jewish and democratic state," Rivlin added. "Such statements cause great damage to the State of Israel, and to the settlement movement. It is important we remember that our sovereignty obligates us to prove our ability to live side by side." Earlier on Wednesday, Zionist Union leader and opposition head Isaac Herzog said "separating Palestinians and Jews on public buses is a warrantless humiliation and a stain on... the country and its citizens." In a Facebook post, Herzog added that the move will fan the flames "of hatred toward Israel around the world." "This is another mistake by the prime minister, who... is giving in to a miserable decision that has nothing to do with the country's security," Herzog said, adding that such steps – which "cause unnecessary harm to Israel's image at such a sensitive time" – should have been avoided. "At this time, Israel needs cool-headed and responsible leadership, not haphazard, capitulating steps," he said. Former Likud Minister of Interior Gideon Sa'ar also criticized the program. The decision, he said, "causes great harm to the settlement [enterprise] in Judea and Samaria and to Israel's image around the world. It cannot remain in place." Sa'ar added that "since it's obvious this decision will be canceled" the program should be promptly scrapped to "minimize the grave damage to Israel and to the settlements." Zionist Union MK Shelly Yacimovich lashed out at what she called a "chilling" program: "There is no explanation that can erase the stain it casts on Israel," she said. "Dealing with security-related challenges is difficult, but such a blatant separation between Jews and Arabs is a violation of every international moral norm and will exact a heavy toll on Israel." Meretz leader Zehava Galon said that Ya'alon "gave in to pressure exerted by Jewish settlers, who complained over the large number of Palestinians on the buses." Ethnic separation on buses, she said, is "unacceptable in a democratic country." "This is what apartheid looks like," said Galon. "Separate bus lines for Palestinians and Jews prove that democracy and occupation cannot coexist." On the other side of political spectrum, Habayit Hayehudi MK Moti Yogevev – who also chairs the subcommittee on Judea and Samaria in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee – welcomed the launch, saying it provides "better service and security to both populations." Yogevev said Wednesday that the

previous decision to allow Palestinians laborers to ride the buses used by West Bank settlers "caused sexual harassment, theft and even feelings of insecurity," while the overcrowded buses made it impossible "for the elderly and the young [passengers] who require public transit." Yogev added that those who criticize the program "don't know the reality and their statements are "hypocritical, disingenuous and irresponsible." ([Haaretz](#) 20 May 2015)

- Israeli right-wing groups appeal planned Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem. Organizations appealed District Court decision not to reject plans for the Arab Al-Sawahra neighborhood, first stage of large-scale legal construction for city's Palestinian residents. Right-wing organizations are continuing their campaign against a plan to build a Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem. B'Tzedek, Green Now and the Legal Forum for Israel have appealed to the Supreme Court against a District Court decision not to reject plans for the construction of a Palestinian neighborhood in Arab Al-Sawahra. The plan, approved by the regional planning board, is the first plan to allow large-scale legal construction for Jerusalem's Palestinian residents. The land approved includes 1,500 dunams which will be zoned for 2,500 residential units, including existing buildings that will receive legal permits and public areas for schools, public buildings, green areas and more. Although it is considered the municipality's flagship plan in efforts to improve the lives of East Jerusalem residents, right-wing entities on the city council and planning boards, with the help of ministers and lawmakers, have succeeded in delaying the plan's approval for several years. Chief architect Senan Abdelqader said the political maneuverings have delayed approval of the plan by at least four years. The main claim by the right wing was that the plan damages open spaces without thoroughly examining the need for housing units and without drafting an overall plan for the region. In recent years, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat has pressed heavily for the plan's approval. When the plan was approved over the strenuous objections of right-wing city council member Aryeh King, Barkat removed King from the city coalition. However, King has recently returned to the coalition. In the appeal filed with the Supreme Court, the rightist organizations argue that the plan was approved by local and regional planning boards even though it damages green areas of great ecological importance and despite the fact that no construction reserves survey for the area was carried out to determine the need for residential units. City hall rejected the criticism and said the plan is a "clear expression of Israeli sovereignty over all the parts of the city and strengthens the unification of Jerusalem." The municipality added that "in a planning void from the city, a harsh and

dangerous reality could develop with the approval of localized plans under court orders without any comprehensive vision." Since 1967, the state has built about 10 new Jewish neighborhoods on land over the Green Line in Jerusalem, but no new neighborhoods have been built by the state for Palestinian residents. Even the Arab Al-Sawahra covers privately-owned land and does not involve the state building infrastructure and issuing tenders. However, land owners will be able to form an association and apply for construction permits under the plan. This means it will be a long time before the construction actually begins, and it is unlikely all the planned units will ever be built. ([Haaretz](#) 20 May 2015)