



The Monthly Report on the
Israeli Violations in the Occupied City of Jerusalem
April- 2014

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The Fourth Month of the Eighth Year

Israeli violations in Jerusalem during April, 2014- by type and location:

Aggression	Location	Occurrence
- House demolition		
- Living tents for a Bedouin community	Al-Eizariya	4
- Two-storey building	At Tur	2
- Structure demolition		
- Agricultural sheds belonging to a Bedouin community	Al-Eizariya	3
- A building of two floors	At Tur	2
Demolition threats		
- An administrative demolition order	Shu'fat	1
Colonial attacks on residences		
- Shutting off part of a house	The Old City	1
- Excavations underneath houses	Silwan	6
Attacks on land		
- Carrying on working on road no. 21	Shu'fat	1
Colonial plans		
- A plan to make Arab companies of buses out of business	Jerusalem city	1
Attacks on religious sites		
Break ins, banishments, and refusal of passage	Al Aqsa Mosque	13

Violations of the Right to Residence... House Demolition

1. Demolition of residential structures belonging to Arab al Jahalin in Al Eizariya:

On April 03, 2014, the Israeli bulldozers of the Civil Administration leveled a 120m² shed used as residence, a 80 m² living tent as well as two other sheds used for animal husbandry and poultry; all belong to Mahmoud Jahalin (25) and his 5-member family, including 3 children by the names of Mariam, Ibrahim and Fatima.

Mahmoud told an LRC observer that:

The structures were built 8 years ago in 2007. We started receiving demolition threats 5 years ago. We found the latest of demolition orders hanged on one of our residential sheds two weeks ago.

On Thursday, April 03, large forces of the Israeli army riding a bulldozer and accompanied by workers who took furniture out after they kicked my family out. The set perimeters around the area while the bulldozer embarked on leveling the structures and ravaging the land.

It should be marked that Arab al Jahalin dwellings are located in the area allocated or reserved by the Israeli occupation authorities for the expansion of the Annexation and Separation Wall.

The Israeli bulldozers also demolished two residences and a barn belonging to Salim Bania. The area of the first residence is 100 m² in area while the second is 60 m² and the barn is 80 m². They are inhabited by:

1. Dawud al Jahalin (34), and his 7 children
2. Salim Bania (65) and his two wives and 9 children

Bania stated to an LRC observer that:

We have been living here for more than 10 years. The Civil Administration handed us several eviction and demolition orders; the latest of which was in February 2014. But despite the orders, we did not leave because we stay here and we will remain here.



Scenes of the damage inflicted on houses & structures in Jabal al Baba- al Eizariya

2. The Israeli bulldozers demolish a building in at Tur:

The heavy machinery of the Israeli occupation leveled a residential building, 700 m2 in area, located in Khallet al Ein in at Tur without any prior warning under the pretext of unlicensed construction. The building is comprised of two floors and four apartments, two of the latter belong to the owner of the property, Ghadeer Abu Ghalia, and are inhabited by 11 members of Ghadeer's family. The ground floor consists of a clinic and a mosque.

Ghadeer Abu Ghalia stated to an LRC observer that:

The building has been demolished before; 7 years ago (in 2007) the occupying municipality leveled the building for being unlicensed. Three years ago (in 2011) I rebuilt it. For over than 18 years, we have been trying to organize the area so it is considered residential but the Israeli Ministry of Internal Affairs refused that for reasons that have to do with the construction of a Talmudic Garden on at-Tur and Issawiyeh lands. We paid around NIS 100,000 ranging between fines and penalties.

Abu Ghalia Added,

At six o'clock this morning, a large force of the Israeli police riding two Hyundai bulldozers arrived at the place, besieged it and took furniture out before embarking on leveling the building.

The policy of the Israeli occupation aims at placing severe restrictions on Palestinian space and development in the occupied city of Jerusalem. What is going on in Khallet al Ein is a living example of this policy. In order to establish a Talmudic Garden in the area, the Israeli bulldozers ravaged vast areas of land and demolished a number of houses under the pretext of lacking building permits. Such systematic moves aim at ethnic cleansing- kicking Palestinians out to seize the land



Right to Residence... Demolition Threats

3. *The occupying municipality issues a demolition order against anonymous*

At the beginning of April, the occupying municipality handed an administrative demolition order sent for 'anonymous' near a piece of land. The person who owns the land told to an LRC observer the following:
At 10:30 a.m. on Friday, two police cars arrived near my place in Shu'fat where an officer placed an administrative demolition order addressed to 'anonymous' on some pile of stones. There are several buildings in the area and since the order does not have the owner's name, we could not find out what building is threatened. The paper did not stay in place actually; the air took it away. What happened is considered a violation of the Israeli planning and construction laws that demand the necessity to hand the property owner the order or at least notify him. Neither happened. Besides, addressing the order to an anonymous implicitly means depriving the owner from his right to defend his right to housing; the right that is granted by all international conventions.

[illegible]

The Right to Housing- Colonists' Attacks

The occupying municipality shuts off part of a residence for the benefit of colonists:

The Planning and Construction Committee in the state municipality issued an order to close off a room, 16 m² in area and a square surrounding it for the benefit of the colonial group of "Ateret Cohanim". On July 29, 2010, the group took over a residential building consisting of two floors and 14 rooms and sheltering 9 families that are comprised of 47 people. In April 2014, the group embarked on carrying out excavations, demolition and ravaging to change the nature of the place, especially of a room and a square that are in the ground floor and used by the family of Abu Mazen. The Department of Dangerous Buildings ordered closing it though the excavations did not lead to cracks, depriving Abu Mazen family from taking advantage of it as a result. The colonists in complicity with the municipality did this on purpose in order to strangle the family and force them out. The municipality, it should be marked, did not take any punitive measures against the colonists who rendered the room 'dangerous'.



Excavations

The Israeli excavations cause collapses and cracks of houses in Wadi Hilwa:

A new collapse took place in Wadi Hilwa neighborhood in Silwan and is threatening the safety of 4 houses sheltering 6 families that consist of 31 people. The excavations are carried out by Alaad colonial group, encouraged by Israeli authorities and under the patronage of the Israeli Ministry of Antiquities.

The collapse that took place on February 26, 2014 is 3-5 meters deep and more than 37 meters high and appeared as a result of the heavy machines carrying out nonstop excavations in a 400-meter tunnel connecting Silwan to the Western Wall and passing through the houses of Nihad and Jawad Siam, Hamed Bakhtan, and Mohammad at-Taweel.

If Siam's and at-Taweel's broke down due to the relentless excavations, they would threaten the house of Ghaith family in the north and Bakhtan's in the south. The collapse threatens the lives of 45 citizens including children and the elderly.

More collapses are expected to occur due to:

1. Continuous excavations of the tunnel without paying any respect to the right to safety and secure residence.

2. Bad quality of the retaining walls constructed by the occupying municipality without any iron or cement reinforcing fitters and anchors. The municipality does not care about Palestinians' safety and international conventions that guarantee the wellbeing and safety of every human being. Some of the conventions are the Fourth Geneva Convention

and article no. 36/15 issued on

28/10/1981

that asks Israel to immediately withhold any excavation work that might change the nature of the archaeological and cultural sites of Jerusalem.



One of the houses affected by the excavations

Violations of the Right to Land

Attacks against humans, trees and stones in Shu'fat:

The Israeli Ministry of Transport and Road Safety in cooperation with the state municipality are carrying on with ravaging lands and uprooting trees to open road no. 21 in Shu'fat, north of Jerusalem after they are done with opening the western and southwestern sections of it, much to the dismay and objections of the landowners who took matters to court.

At the beginning of April 2014, the Israeli ministry and municipality embarked on uprooting trees and excavating in search for antiquities in the western section of the road, near Shu'fat old mosque, west of Jerusalem's Old City. The road diverges into two ways. The first,



eastward and known as the scheme of road no. 22, intersects with Ramallah-Jerusalem historical road and meets with the road of Pisgat Zeev colony. The other is westbound and leads to the new bridge at road no. 404, known as Begin Road.

It is worth noting that the occupying municipality organized the road while left the rest of the land unregulated though it promised landowners to organize the area 16 years ago in exchange of their consent of the master plan of the road in 1998.

No wonder that the Israeli occupation only takes its share- 40% of Palestinian lands in every scheme, according to its claim- while it ignores the rest. The Israeli occupation and its representatives of ministries and municipalities have not opened roads in



Jerusalem or on Palestinian property, regardless of their names and numbers of 1, 9, 20, 21, 22, and 60 etc., unless they are for security reasons and for connecting colonies and outposts together as well as fragmenting Jerusalem and posing severe restrictions on Palestinian development and urban expansion. All what happens is a translation of Israel's policy that calls for "controlling residences to control residents."

Colonial Plans

The Israeli Ministry of Transport threatens to make Palestinian bus companies go out of business

On April 01, 2014, officials in the Department of Roads and Transport in the occupying municipality held a meeting with Arab owners of 17 bus companies that are licensed and function on the roads of Jerusalem. The municipality expressed its dissatisfaction at the large number of buses working in East Jerusalem and their small sizes and stressed on the importance that they all work within one legal body. The municipality also tried to convey a shrewd message, which all the owners refused, that the bus stations of the Arab buses in Sultan Solomon street, Samsoniya, Nablus street and al Mosrara should be turned into public gardens.

Since 1967, the Israeli occupation has been trying to pose obstacles on the freedom of movement and transportations to /from Jerusalem. The first intifada in 1987, put a stop of Israel's attempts at making all buses Israeli and taking over Arab bus stations. Yet, Israel is still persistent in attempting to blow a vital sector of the Palestinian economy (i.e. transportation) and distorting the Arabic identity of Jerusalem.

Since March 30, 1993, the Israeli occupation has militarily closed all the roads leading to Jerusalem in preparation for the construction of the Separation Wall and set up all kinds of checkpoints leading to a paralysis of about 300 bus companies.

The Israeli occupation also advertized used Ford Transit cars to the Arab audiences and allowed them to work in the transportation field causing damage to licensed and centuries-old bus companies. In 2004, the Israeli Ministry of Transport refused to acknowledge the long history of Arab bus companies. On the contrary, it complained of their being small and divided. Defying such claims, the Arab companies managed to renew their licenses that ended in 2009. After that, they were granted an acknowledgment and now they are working in line with the Israeli bus companies that often trespass on East Jerusalem.

Colonists' Attacks

Firing a rubber-coated bullet at a Palestinian young man celebrating the release of his friend

On April 22, 2014, Ihab Hamdan (20) was shot with a rubber bullet on his forehead during a festival celebrating the release of his friend from Israeli prison.

Ihab told an LRC observer that:

I was at the reception of the recently released prisoner, Omar ash Shalabi, in his house in as Siwana. We were so happy that we were chanting and holding Palestinian flags. We were 30 in number but did not cause any traffic jam. While celebrating, we were surprised to see board guards emerging from police jeeps. They surrounded us and I was so close to one jeep in particular. A door of the jeep opened and suddenly afterwards I felt a hard hit; an agonizing pain that I thought I lost my eyesight and I began screaming. People around me called an ambulance that transferred me to al- Maqasid Hospital where, after examinations, they told me I have a fracture in the skull that demanded a surgery. It took four hours and I remained in the ICU. Now I am better but I still depend on pain killers to lessen the pain. The relievers make me sleepy most of the time.

It should be marked that Ihab is a freed prisoner. He spent a year and a half in Israeli prisons, charged of 'defying occupation'.

Attacks on Religious Sites

Israeli attacks on al Aqsa in April 2014:

Threats of al-Aqsa Mosque are spoken about more loudly and openly In celebrations of the Passover, the Israeli occupation desecrates al-Aqsa and attacks worshippers

April witnessed the most ferocious attack on al-Aqsa Mosque since the beginning of the year because of the Passover, a Jewish festival, where right wing activists called on radical colonists to go to Al Aqsa to celebrate at the Temple, according to their allegations.

Break-ins have also increased in number this month. Colonists, rabbis, members of the Knesset and right wing activists broke into al Aqsa where some of them attacked worshippers and denied them access, especially those under 50. Besides, the Israeli forces detained many young men in Jerusalem's Old City.

A few days before the Passover, extreme colonists hanged brochures at the gates and entrances demanding Muslim worshippers' eviction from the mosque so Jews could build the Temple and offer sacrifices to God.

The brochures were deemed by worshippers an obvious threat to break

into and demolish al-Aqsa so they decided to organize a sit-in in al Aqsa Compound during the days of Passover, banning radicals from desecrating the Mosque.

* On April 01, colonial groups broke into Al Aqsa Compound under full protection of the Israeli police.

* On April 02, colonial groups broke into Al Aqsa Compound, fully protected and covered by the Israeli occupation police.

* On April 07, the deputy head of the Knesset along with radical colonial groups broke into Al Aqsa Compound.

* On April 09, a radical Jewish group and intelligence officers broke into Al Aqsa Compound.

* On April 10, radical Jewish colonial groups broke into Al Aqsa Compound and desecrated it.

* On April 11, Israeli occupation forces detained 3 worshippers and excluded 8 from the Mosque, including Ala' Abu Shikheidim, head of an orphan school.

*On April 14, at al-fajr (dawn) prayer, the Israeli occupation police placed checkpoints and disseminated its forces in the old city and closed all gates and roads leading to Al- Aqsa and prohibited both genders from performing prayers.

At 7:30 a.m. of the same day, the Israeli police allowed tenths of colonists access to the Compound but the worshippers did not allow that and closed the Dung Gate, leading to clashes and tensions that lasted for two hours and ended with the decision of the Israeli forces to not let colonists in. However, the forces tightened the siege around the Mosque and did not allow any food in.

*On April 15, the Israeli occupation authorities excluded six citizens from the Al Aqsa for various periods. The banished are: Husam Sider, Mahmoud Abdul Latif, Musbah Abu Sbeih, Rami al Fakhouri, Hamza Rowaidi, and Dalal al Hashlamoun.

*On April 16, Special Forces of the police broke into Al Aqsa Compound and besieged al Qibali Mosque where the sit-in was taking place. Violent clashes between protesters and the Israeli police erupted. The Israeli forces used sound bombs, tear gas canisters, rubber bullets, electric shock

weapons, and pepper spray to disperse worshippers. Journalists were also beaten and were banned from filming and more than 30 worshippers injured and some jailed.

*On April 19, the Israeli police imposed a siege around the Mosque and the old city where it set up checkpoints at the entrances and inspected IDs. They also threw sound bombs and rubber-coated bullets at the citizens in an attempt to get protestors out and get colonists in. One colonist, it was found, was disguised in Arabic garments and sneaked into the Compound. The Israeli police immediately took him out, fearing he would be attacked by worshippers.

*On April 20, the Knesset Member Moshe Feiglin broke into Al Aqsa under the protection of the police. Clashes took place between protesters and forces of the police. The latter used weapons, injured few worshippers and destroyed some valuables of the Mosque. It also banned ambulances from arriving at the place.

*On April 22, radical colonial groups desecrated the Mosque. The Israeli occupation court decided to banish Journalist Amjad Arafa from the old city for 15 days with a bail of 5,000 NIS.

*On April 30, extreme colonial groups broke into the Mosque and closed the roads in the face of worshippers under official protection of the Israeli police.