



*The Monthly Report on the
Israeli Violations of Palestinian Rights
in the Occupied City of Jerusalem*

May- 2014

By:

Monitoring Israeli Violations Team
Land Research Center- Arab Studies Society



Fifth Month of the Eighth Year

**Israeli violations of Palestinians' rights to land and proper housing –
May, 2014:**

Aggression	Location	No.
House Demolition		4
- Demolition of a house	Jabal al-Mukabbir	1
- Confiscation of a living tent	Al-Eizariya	1
- Confiscation of two sheds	Al-Eizariya	2
Demolition of Structures		15
- Grocery shop	Shu'fat	1
- Shack for animal husbandry and poultry	Al-Eizariya	4
- Shack for animal breeding	Al-Eizariya	4
- Warehouse	Khan al-Ahmar	1
- Barn	Al-Kassarat	2
- Barn	Al- Jib	1
- Store	Al-Jib	1
- Carpentry workshop	Al- Jib	1
Closures		2
- Road barrier	Ras al-Amud	1
- Harassment of citizens and detentions	Silwan	1
Colonists' Attacks		1
- Festivals commemorating occupying Jerusalem	Jerusalem streets	1
Attacks on Religious Sites		11
- Break ins and abuses	The al-Aqsa Mosque	11

Tearing down a grocery shop in Shu'fat- Occupied Jerusalem

On Wednesday, May 14, the occupying municipality leveled a grocery shop located in al-Khansa' St., Shu'fat that belongs to Muhammad Awdat Allah. **The affected citizen asserted to an LRC field researcher the following:**

There was a room, 18 m² in area but without a roof that I decided to turn into a grocery shop after ceiling it with metal slabs. I was hoping it would provide a source of living to my 6-member family, including two children. Indeed I carried out the project only to be met by a demolition order two months ago. It was issued by the occupying municipality in Jerusalem stating the room lacks a building permit though it was built 65 years ago! I sought a lawyer who advised me to remove the roof and return the structure to its previous status.

On May 14, a large force of the Israeli police riding a bulldozer showed up at the place where they not only leveled the roof but the entire room with goods still in. They did not allow me to salvage anything. The commodities that cost me 15,000 ILS got all destroyed.

The Israeli occupation demolishes a house in Jabal al-Mukabbir

Early morning of Wednesday, May 14, the bulldozers of the occupying municipality leveled a house located at al-Sal'a neighborhood in Jabal al-Mukabbir, south of the occupied city of Jerusalem, under the pretext of unlicensed construction. The property belongs to Muhammad Shaqirat and used to shelter him and his 9-member family, including 4 children.

In an interview with Shaqirat, he stated that:

I built the house in 2012; it was 85 m² in area and consisted of two bedrooms, a kitchen and living room. It was built with stones and roofed with metal slabs. Eight months ago (that is September 2013) I was served a demolition order by the Israeli Civil Administration. I went to the court to follow up with the legal file. Few hearing sessions were delayed and the last took place on May 07, 2014 (i.e. one week before the demolition). The court decided to delay discussing the file until June 29, 2014. But early this morning I was shocked to see a large number of police officers and Special Forces riding a Hyundai bulldozer surround the house. They ordered us to go out and municipality officers took some furniture out before embarking on leveling the residence. The house was razed before the date set by the court to look into the matter. We are now homeless and helpless.

It is worth mentioning that Shaqirat had had his house demolished before. Three years ago, the municipality reduced his residence to rubble in the same location and under the same pretext. Shaqirat's loss is estimated to be half a million of shekels!

Razing shacks used for animal husbandry in different Bedouin communities:

On Monday morning, May 19, the Israeli occupation forces broke into al-Baba Mountain in al Eizariya where they embarked on destroying 4 shacks, each 150 m² in area, and used by their owners to breed poultry and cattle. Moreover, the forces confiscated a living tent donated by the Red Cross to citizen Mahmoud al Jahalin after his structure had been demolished. The tent was a shelter for the 5-member family of Mahmoud including 3 children by the names of Mariyam, Ibrahim, and Fatima. It is noteworthy to know that the demolition was not carried out by the bulldozer; rather, by a staff accompanying the army.

Not only that, the Israeli occupation also targeted Za'atra family, living at the entrance of al- Eizariya and consists of 14 members, by confiscating 2 living shacks and razing 4 barns.

Affected citizens and inflicted damage after the demolition operations:

#	Name	Area/m ²	No. of livestock
1	Khalil Za'atra	200	100
2	Hasan Za'atra	150	20
3	Muhammad Za'atra	100	60
4	Ibrahim Za'atra	20	pigeons and chickens
Total		470	180

*Source: Field Research- Monitoring Israeli Violations Team- Land Research Centre (LRC) .

Khalil Za'atra told an LRC observer that:

Five years ago, the community facing the colony of Maale Adummim was served an eviction and demolition order. People of the community sought a Jewish lawyer named Yousi who informed them that he managed to freeze the implementation of the order. Today, large forces of the occupation riding 20 jeeps broke into the place where they demolished the shacks while chickens and baby pigeons were still inside; they were all killed.

The Officer of the Civil Administration told the people that the structures were demolished in preparation of opening a road that will pass through the area

Still working within the frame of depriving people from their property, the Israeli occupation forces tore down a 60 m² warehouse that belongs

to Khalil Ara'ra inhabiting the Bedouin community of Khan al-Ahmar. The warehouse is a structure made of tin and used for storing fodder and barley. It should be marked that the demolition was carried out without prior warning. Ara'ra's losses are estimated to be about 5,000 JD as the storehouse contained 21 tons of barley to feed his 250 sheep.

In addition, the Israeli bulldozers razed two sheds used as barns (an area totaling 250 m²) that belong to the family of Abu Ghalia that is part of a Bedouin community in al-Kassarat, between Hizma and al-Eizariya.

Scenes of the damage entailed after the demolition operations carried out in the Bedouin communities, east of Jerusalem







The Israeli authorities unleash a large-scale demolition of structures

On Tuesday, May 20, forces of the Israeli army riding heavy machines broke into al-Khalila neighborhood, in al-Jib village near Givon colony, where they imposed a curfew before the bulldozers embarked on leveling the commercial buildings in the area. The Israeli authorities, represented by the Civil Administration, razed a shed used for animal husbandry and a store that sells construction supplies as well as a carpentry workshop; all leveled under the pretext of being built without a permit.

*** Demolition of a barn:**

A shed used as a barn for raising cattle and poultry belonging to Jamil as-Sous got demolished. The 50 m² shed was built with stone and roofed with metal slabs.

As-Sous had these words to say:

The shed was built in 1990, 24 years ago that is. Since then, we have been using it for raising cattle and poultry that provided us with a source of income. We had never received a demolition order before the arrival of large forces of the Israeli army today. Their bulldozer tore down the shed over the barley, fodder and chickens; most of the them passed away. I lost over 20,000 ILS as a result.



Demolition of a store:

The Israeli heavy machinery tore down a store selling building materials and supplies for construction that belongs to Hasan al- Bass.

Al-Bass asserted to an LRC observer:

The store was built in 2010 with an area of 40 square meters. It was built with stone and topped with a plastic shield. During all that time, we never received a demolition order on it but were shocked to see it destroyed by the Israeli bulldozers today after the Israeli authorities allowed us to take some items out.



Demolition of a carpentry workshop:

As part of the vehement demolition campaign, the Israeli bulldozers razed a carpentry workshop belonging to Muhammad al-Asmar. The workshop was built with stone, with a plastic cover as a roof two years ago with an area totaling 70 m². The Civil Administration demolished the workshop three years ago under the pretext of lacking a building permit. Al-Asmar rebuilt it only to be demolished today without any previous warning or order and for the same reason.

Scenes of the destroyed workshop:





Closures

* At around 10 p.m. on Friday, May 30, forces of the Israeli army raided Ras al-Amud neighborhood, east of Jerusalem's Old City, where they set up a military checkpoint.

* At about 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 31, the Israeli occupation army forces broke into Silwan, south of the old city of occupied East Jerusalem, where they stalled a military checkpoint in an area known as Ein al-Looza. Soldiers stopped pedestrians and harassed them. Before removing the road barrier, the soldiers detained Amer Zidane (19) and Hamza Siam (21) and took them to some unidentified area.

Colonists' Attacks

2. In memory of the occupation of Jerusalem, thousands of colonists roam the streets of the captured city under the protection of the Israeli police:

On May 28, more than 20,000 colonists organized campaigns and marches roaming around the streets and neighborhoods of the occupied city of Jerusalem in commemoration of the Israeli occupation and illegal annexation of East Jerusalem to the state of Israel in 1967.

Since the early hours of that day, groups of colonists took a tour around the streets of the occupied Jerusalem and its old city until they reached the Western Wall (or Wailing Wall according to the Jewish narrative). They were raising Israeli flags and chanting anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian slogans. Not only that, they also attacked Palestinian Jerusalemites physically and orally as well as destroyed their properties. All was done under the protection of the Israeli occupation police that was spread all over the city and present throughout the provocative marches.

The Israeli police had already informed shop owners to close their shops before 4 p.m. and threatened to fine those who did not comply instead of

offering reparations for the closure imposed on them without having anything to do with colonists and their plans.

The Israeli occupation set up checkpoints on the roads leading to the old city and St. Sultan Solomon. It also deployed its forces all over neighborhoods and streets banning Palestinians from entering the old city even if their houses are located there and without paying any respect whatsoever to the elderly, women and children who had to wait at the checkpoints for four hours!

Not satisfied with that only, the forces also abused citizens present in the area by beating them with batons and fists. The citizens tried to protest at the Damascus Gate against the Israeli occupation's measures in a peaceful manner to which the Israeli occupation replied by violence, injuring 12 Palestinians, including 5 women beaten by the Special Forces. The latter also used sound bombs thrown sporadically at citizens, injuring some. In a flagrant violation of the sacredness of the doctors' mission, The Israeli forces attacked the medical staff of the Red Crescent Hospital with batons, fists, and obscene language under the pretext of "hampering the police's job." Even journalists were not spared from being abused as they were banned from filming and documenting Israel's maltreatment of Palestinians.

Clashes erupted between Palestinian young men and Israeli police officers; the latter attacked citizens in their very own houses and detained some under the claim of throwing stones at the roofs the Israeli soldiers were mounting. The Israeli occupation used sound bombs and rubber-coated bullets to diffuse the young men.

It is obvious that the siege around the occupied city of Jerusalem is getting tighter and the Jewish presence prevails over that of the Arab. The city is turning into a military base in preparations to ultimately announce Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Israel where Palestinians are only a minority.

Attacks on Religious Sites

An escalation of aggressions on al-Aqsa Mosque:

May 2014 witnessed a rise in the Israeli attacks on al-Aqsa Mosque by the allowing colonists to break into the Mosque while denying

Palestinian worshippers access to

it. The Government of Israel and

the Ministry of Public Security

(Intelligence body) as well as

extreme colonial groups led by

right-wing activists are behind

the systematic and organized

assaults on the Mosque; of which

LRC recorded some:

- On May 04, more than 50 extremists broke into the Compound of the Mosque between 7-11 a.m. The Israeli police imposed restrictions at the gates and Compound as a result.
- On May 06, over 100 radical colonists entered the Compound through the Dung Gate and took a tour around it.



- On May 08, more than 180 right-wing activists were allowed to get into the Compound by the Israeli police.
- On May 12, the Israeli police shut off the gates of the Mosque before worshippers who were denied access, unlike colonists who were admitted.
- On May 13, fistfight broke between Israeli police and worshippers as the latter were defying the presence of colonists who broke into the Compound. Two female citizens were detained as a result.
- On May 14, Israeli soldiers accompanied by colonists visited the Compound. A privilege denied to Palestinian worshippers.
- On May 18, colonists carried on with the series of break-ins. The Israeli police confiscated Palestinians' IDs at the gates of the Mosque.
- On May 19, members of the Knesset demanded the closure of Mosque before Palestinian worshippers.
- On May 21, detention of 6 Jerusalemites after being denied admittance to the Mosque.
- On May 27, the Israeli police attacked worshippers inside the Mosque by throwing sound bombs and beating them with batons after worshippers stood against the visit of radical colonists to the Mosque.

- At the dawn of Thursday, May 29, the Israeli occupation deployed its forces around the gates of the Mosque in the old city of the occupied East Jerusalem. The forces broke into houses in Bab Hataa, Bab al Majles, and the African Community neighborhoods. At 2 a.m., the Israeli soldiers raided 3 houses of al-Fakhouri family where they attacked an elderly woman named Umm Adeeb (72) by punching her in the chest. That led to her falling on the steps of the ladder. Soldiers also attacked Ahmad al-Fakhouri (57) by spraying pepper gas at his face while he was trying to object the arrest of his son, Abdul- Fattah (27) and his brother, Saeb (27).



A number of female soldiers broke into al-Aqsa Compound