

Arab Studies Society
Scientific – Cultural
Land Research Center
Jerusalem



جمعية الدراسات العربية
علمية - فكرية
مركز أبحاث الأراضي
القدس

The monthly report on
Israeli Violations in Occupied Jerusalem
During February 2015

Prepared by:

Team of Monitoring Israeli Violations

Land Research Center- Arab Studies Society



Eight edition of the ninth year

The following table shows the number and type of violations according to location in Occupied Jerusalem during February 2015:

Type of violation	Location	No.
Violation of the Right to Housing (Structures and residences)		50
Structures and residences demolition		5
Demolition of a one story residence	Silwan	1
Demolition of a building and stores	Al-Jib	2
Demolition of barracks for marble and stones	Al-Tur	2
Demolition threats		3
Unaddressed demolition threats	Silwan	3
Excavations underneath buildings		4
Cracks in residences and an office	Wad Hilwih-Silwan	4
House raids		38
- Raids for detention and tax collection	Old city, Al-Tur, Jabal Al-Mukabbir, Ras Al-Amud, Silwan, Al-Sheikh Jarrah, Al-Isawiya and Qalandiya	38
Lands confiscation for expansion		
Advertising the confiscation of lands to establish a waste dump	Al-Isawiya and Anata	546 dunums
Advertising the construction of 6 hotels	Jabal Al-Mukabbir	75 dunums
Ratifying of the establishment of new units in Ramot colony	Beit Iksa	65 units
Closures		3
Closing roads to secure a visit for PM Netanyahu	Ras Al-Amud and Al-Tur	2
Closing roads and shops to secure a rally for colonists	Old city	1

Colonists' attacks (in numbers)		4
- Assaulting a civilian	Western Jerusalem	1
- Attempt at child abduction	Al-Thawri-Silwan	1
- Shooting and injuring a kid	Wad Yasul- Silwan	1
- Running over a child	Ein Al-Luzeh-Silwan	1
Attacks on religious sites		27
- Torching a church	Jerusalem	1
- Isolating worshipers from Al-Aqsa mosque	Al-Aqsa mosque	9
- Arresting jerusalmites while in the mosque		2
- Raids and break-ins on Al-Aqsa mosque	Al-Aqsa mosque	15

Violation of the Right to Housing- Home demolition

Israeli Forces demolish a residence in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan

The occupation municipality's bulldozers on February 10, 2015 demolished the 200-square meters house of Ahmad Ma'moon Abbasi in the neighborhood of Silwan without prior notice and under the pretext of building without a permit.

Abbasi said:

"The family built the house last February and had recently moved in. The occupation forces raided the neighborhood of Silwan on Tuesday morning along with four bulldozers and demolished my house without even taking the furniture out; note that nobody was home at the time of the demolition."

Abbasi added that building the house cost the family nearly 700 thousand NIS.

The Israeli occupation authorities demolished the houses of Jerusalemites despite the discussion session appointed by the Supreme Court in this regard. Sometimes, the Israeli occupation authorities carry out demolitions before any legal action can be made such like a halt on demolition orders. This proves the law's complicity for the favor of the occupational plans against Palestinians of Jerusalem.

The dozers of the occupation also demolished a wall belonging to brothers Mohammad and Amin Abu Al-Hawa in the Jerusalem town of Al-Tur under the pretext of it being founded on green lands "Public Property".

Abu Al-Hawa said:

Demolition took place without any prior notice or warning despite being there since three years ago. Noteworthy, the wall (50 *3 m) cost the family around 80,000 NIS.



Israeli Forces demolish a residence in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Al-Khalaylih

The dozers of the occupation on February 11, 2015 demolished a two story building in the neighborhood of Al-Khalaylih, northwest Occupied Jerusalem on the claim of unlicensed construction. The residence is composed of a store (200m²) in the first floor and a residence in the second one (100m²); it is owned by Citizen Nour Al-Din Al-Matari.

Al-Matari told a researcher from Land Research Center the following:

“I built the house in 2013 to move in to it with my family and to start up my career in car maintenance in the store below the apartment. At time of construction, I received a demolition order from Israel Civil Administration. In the hearing session conducted in Beit El court, I was requested to submit a master plan of the house before February 2015. But the Civil Administration came today and demolished the structure, ignoring the court’s request”.

He also added:

“I, for now, will reside in the area of Beit Safafa after getting my house and my source of income demolished”.

It should be marked that Al-Matari losses reached 250,000 NIS.



The Israeli occupation authorities demolish a stone-workshop in Al-Tur and confiscate its contents

The occupation on February 11, 2015 confiscated the contents of a stone-workshop in Al-Tur east of the Old City of Jerusalem. The structures are two barracks (73+ 30 m²) that are owned by Nidal Abu Sbitan

Abu Sbitan said the following:

“I had put two barracks in the family’s land five years ago and six families are living from this workshop. I couldn’t obtain a permit for the structures due to the high expenses. In 2013, we received a demolition order from the occupation’s municipality but we did not compel to it”.

Nidal Abu Sbitan, the owner, explained that a large Israeli force including Special Forces personnel surrounded the workshop along with a truck and a bulldozer. They started confiscating the goods (stones, electric machines and forklifts) without prior notice.

Abu Sbitan estimated the loss to be around 400 thousand NIS.

After the confiscation, the bulldozer demolished the stone-barracks and another barracks used for raising sheep and horses.

Violation of the Right to Housing- Demolition threats

Distributing administrative demolition orders in Silwan

A staff from the occupation's municipality accompanied by military forces on February 10, 2015 distributed administrative demolition orders in Silwan.

It should be marked the occupation municipality hung three administrative demolition orders on residential houses in the area of "Ras Al-Bustan" in Silwan. The orders did not have the name of the houses' owners and were randomly hung.

It was reported that the demolition order were hung on three houses where one of them has been established for 25 years and it is the fifth time where a demolition order is issued against this house, and two other houses that have been established for 7 and 10 years.

The method of distributing unaddressed orders contradicts and violates the law of planning and construction of the Israeli government, which stated that affected people should be notified through writing or verbally.

Violation of the Right to Housing- house seizures attempts

Ateerat Cohen” colonists attempt to take over a property owned by Sub Laban family in the Old City of Jerusalem

Ateerat Cohen” colonists on February 08, 2015 attempted to take over a house and storage owned by Mustafa Sub Laban in Oqbat Al-Khaldyeh in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Sub Laban family explained that a colonist from “Ateerat Cohen” organization along with an employee from the “Collection Department” attempted to enter inside the family’s house without any notice or prior warning but the family stopped them. The colonist then broke the lock on the storage and started removing some of the family’s belongings



Sub Laban added that family members arrived at the area and were able to derail the colonist’s attempt of taking over the property.

Sub Laban also explained that the family rented the house in 1956 and pay the rent as a protected tenant. Colonists filed a case to evacuate the family from the house under the pretext of “not using the property” and the Magistrate court ordered to evacuate the house but an appeal was submitted to the District court.

Violation of the Right to Housing- cracks and collapse

Cracks and collapse of structures in Silwan

The residents of Silwan; especially those who live in the neighborhood of Wad Hilweh are facing a constant danger of cracks and collapse in their houses for over a period of ten years due to the Israeli excavations, taking into account that rehabilitation is banned by the occupation municipality in the old city of Jerusalem.

Cracks and collapses on February 28, 2015 occurred in the walls and floors of a residential building and an “accounting” office in the neighborhood of Wadi Hilweh in Silwan.

It is reported that collapses occurred in a building owned by Bashir family and an accounting office owned by Siam family.

Mariam Bashir explained that light cracks started to appear on the wall of the family’s house and the entrance of the building nearly a month but wide cracks were revealed on Saturday in the outside courtyard and the house’s walls as well as the outside stairs. Also, cracks occurred inside the house of Mariam Bashir and her brother’s house Adel and she explained that she noticed the cracks on Saturday when she was unable to close the front door.

Land Research Center- Arab Studies Society, through field research and testimonies, documented similar cases of cracks and collapse in the neighborhood of Al-Qarmi ,Hosh Osila and the western passage to Al-Aqsa mosque. The occupation always denies such cases, which cause buildings to collapse as in the case of the houses of many families namely (Hamu, Murar and Idkeidik).

Therefore, the occupation's municipality is held responsible of the following:

1. All physical and other losses that followed affected people
2. Rehabilitation and re-construction of every affected structure
3. Closing the tunnels that are opened below Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem.
4. Guaranteeing the right to proper safe accommodation for all Palestinian residing in Jerusalem according to Geneva Convention



Violation of the Right to Housing- Home raids

Land Research Center documented 38 cases of home raids for detention and/or tax collection ends. It was reported that 28 people, most of whom kids, were arrested during those raids. The following table shows the raided areas during February 2015:

Location	No. of raided houses
Old city	6
Al-Tur	5
Jabal Al-Mukabbir	4
Ras Al-Amud	12
Silwan	2
Al-Skeikh Jarrah	1
Qalandiya	4
Al-Isawiya	4
Total	38

Land confiscation

The occupation authorities on February 16, 2015 ratified a plan to establish a “Solid Waste” area between the villages of Anata and Isawiya on a 546-Dunom land.

It was reported that the plan has the number 13900 and includes the establishment of a landfill for solid waste which will be thrown in “Wadi Qasem” which is 745 meters deep and is located between the villages of Anata and Isawiya. The purpose of the landfill is to fill the valley with the remnants of construction. After it is filled up, the intention is to turn this area into a public park that will belong to the occupation’s municipality.

The researcher explained that nearly 150 citizens (30 families) live in this valley and they will be immediately evacuated in order to start with the infrastructure for this project which will include the establishment of roads and streets for the landfill.

Residents of the area submitted pleas to Israeli courts in regard to this problem but Israel Regional Committee rejected all of them and kept on the implementation of the project.

The Israeli occupation intends to confiscate vast area from Palestinians to implement the “E1” project from the northeastern side of Al-Isawiya village to reach Maale Adummim colony.

Colonial plans

An occupational plan to build six hotels atop Al-Mukabbir Mountain

Al-Aqsa Foundation for Waqf and Heritage on February 24, 2015 revealed an Israel plan to build six hotels comprised of 1330 rooms in addition to commercial centers, restaurants and halls atop a mountain overlooking Al-Aqsa mosque.

The foundation asserted that the occupation is continuing such Judaizing plans in the occupied city of Jerusalem; especially in the areas surrounding Al-Aqsa mosque.

The project was reported to be implemented in an area called “Tal Al-Qaser”. The place was named after a British governmental building in 1917.

The plan will be implemented on an area of 75 dunums, which was occupied in 1967 and confiscated later on. The built-up area is estimated to be 130,000m².

Lately, a tender was advertised to build three hotels (580 rooms) with the support of governmental bodies such like the Ministry of Tourism, Israel Land Department and Israel municipality of Jerusalem.

The project was described as “dangerous” for it is part of a comprehensive plan to build a colonial belt around the city on the claim of developing the tourism sector in Jerusalem.

The foundation explained that the tender is the first step to build a chain of hotels and touristic centers in areas mostly nearby Al-Aqsa mosque and the old city. The occupation made it clear that this project is a priority for the Ministry of tourism for the importance it has.

It should be marked that the plan dates back to 1994 but was focused on in 2010 to be ratified in 2011; bidding a tender was the first step to start the project up.

Specialists reported that there is no need for such a project in the targeted area, taking into account that the percentage of hotels guests ranged between 50 to 60% only.

The plan no. 4711 includes six hotels (129,550 m²) to be built on six different plots with a total area of 74,600 m².

It is reported that the six hotels will be comprised of 1330 rooms divided differently on each of the seven floors, some of which will be built under the ground.

Also, the plan will include commercial centers, restaurants, cafes, museum, public halls, bus station (up to 26 buses) and a parking that accommodates 500 vehicles.

If implemented, the project will uproot around 460 aging trees.

It should be marked that the aforementioned tender was advertised to build the first, third and fourth hotels. Tax reduction and financial aid were given as facilitation for the awarded winners.

The occupation's municipality pledged to provide all facilities to speed up the contraction process where the idea owners pledged to offer 15 million dollars as per the infrastructure and other services for the winning bidder.

Ratifying the construction of 64 new residential units in Ramot colony:

The Planning and Construction Committee- Jerusalem Municipality on February 08, 2015 ratified the establishment of 64 residential units in the colony of Ramot, which is founded on confiscated lands from Beit Iksa. The decision was made during a meeting held in the municipality's headquarter.

A member from the political party "Mirts" Bibi Allo said:

"The municipality will allow construction outside the armistice line of 1967, which will exclude any chance of political agreements with Palestinian"

Closures

Israeli police close roads of Jerusalem to secure Netanyahu's visit to Ras Al-Amud cemetery

At time of Jewish celebrations, festivals and rituals in addition to official visits to Jerusalem, the occupation police close all roads leading to Jerusalem and secure the area with checkpoints and soldiers.

The troops of Israel police on February 02, 2015 closed the neighborhood of Ras Al-Amud in Silwan by metal nets and red ribbons since the early hours of morning to secure Netanyahu's visit to a rabbi's tomb in the cemetery of Ras Al-Amud

The closure was reported to last until 4:00 in the afternoon of the day; people and students were forced to take substitute roads to reach our houses.

Israeli police close roads and shops in the old city of Jerusalem to secure a rally for colonists

A group of fanatic colonists on February 18, 2015 organized a rally named "gates" through the streets and alleys of the old city. The march was launched from the Wailing Wall through Souq Al-Qattanin and ended at Lion's Gate. Thus, police closed all shops throughout the route of the march, set up checkpoints and deployed many soldiers in the area.

Colonists' attacks

Assaulting a Jerusalemite driver:

A group of fanatic colonists on February 15, 2015 assaulted driver Ibrahim Badir when he was in the western side of occupied Jerusalem. Badir was taken to hospital to receive proper medical care after sustaining different bruises.

Colonists shoot a kid grazing sheep in Silwan:

Jerusalemite kid Mohammad Burqan(17) was shot by a colonist on February 11, 2015 at time he was grazing sheep in the area of Wad Yasul in Silwan. Mohammad was there with his cousin Suhaib (16), who told asserted the following:

“After school, I went with my cousin Mohammad to graze the sheep in the area next to our house. While I was going back home to use the bathroom, I heard gun shots so I immediately went to check on Mohammad to find him shot on the ground and surrounded by colonists”

He also added:

“I tried to approach him to offer some help but one colonist pointed the gun in my face and threatened me of shooting. Other colonists cursed and used profanity. When my older brother arrived to the place, colonists fled the scene and we were able to take Mohammad to hospital. Reports said that Mohammad sustained a fracture in his leg due to a bullet”.

Attempt to abduct a kid on his way to school in Silwan:

A group of fanatic colonists relative to “Price Tag” gang on February 21, 2015 attempted at kidnapping the kid Ibrahim Ghaith(14) while he was on his way to school in the neighborhood of Al-Thawri in Silwan.

A vehicle runs over a kid in Silwan:

A vehicle relative to colonists' security on February 24, 2015 ran over kid Meryam Danaa(10) when she was playing next to her house. The colonist hit Meryam and came back to run over her leg, proving his attempt at killing this little girl on purpose.

Meryam was taken to Hadasa hospital in Al-Isawiya to receive medical care. Reports said that the girl sustained fractures in her leg in addition to some bruises in the neck and the back.



Attacks on religious sites

Colonists' burn parts of a Greek School south of the Old City of Jerusalem

Colonists on February 26, 2015 burned parts of the Greek Orthodox School in Mount Zion south of the Old City of Jerusalem and also wrote abusive slogans of Jesus and the Christian religions.



It was reported that the fire targeted the Greek Christian Theological Seminary building as a toilet and a shower room used by the clergy of priests, monks and others to study the Christian religion.

The attack was carried out by colonists of the “Price Tag” gang, which is known to implement such attacks against religious sites.

Many attacks have been reported to be carried out by such gangsters; religious sites were not only Islamic but also Christian. Churches, mosques and other archaeological and theological sites were violated by burning or writing abusive and hatred-inciting slogans on them.

Israel Hangs “Temple Mount” Sign near Jerusalem’s Al-Aqsa

The Israeli Municipality of West Jerusalem set up on February 18, 2015 a sign reading “Temple Mount” in reference to the nearby al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

The sign, which was placed near the Al-Nather Gate of the compound, was made available in three languages: Hebrew, Arabic and English.

This step comes within the occupation’s policy aiming at Judaizing the city through giving Talmudic names for some locations and changing roads and cities’ names. All of the new names get introduced to tourists according to the Jewish narrative.

According to the brain washing policy, here are some examples about how places are introduced to foreigners:

1. Al-Aqsa mosque as Temple Mount
2. Ommiad Palaces as the Temple Ruins
3. Al-Bustan neighborhood as Solomon Gardens
4. Al-Quds Castle as David Castle

Raids and break-ins on Al-Aqsa mosque:

The Israeli occupation authorities kept on its violations and attacks on Al-Aqsa mosque through pushing big numbers of colonists, heads of political parties and fanatic rabbis to enter the mosque amidst intense protection of police.

During February 2015, raids and break-ins were documented as follows:

- February 01, 2015: Israeli Police allow tens of colonists to break into Al-Aqsa mosque
- February 02, 2015: Tens of colonists to break into Al-Aqsa mosque and wander through the compound

- February 03, 2015: escalation of break-ins on Al-Aqsa mosque under the army protection
- February 05, 2015: Israeli police ban worshipers from entering Al-Aqsa mosque while colonists were allowed in.
- February 08, 2015: Israeli police assaulted the guards of Al-Aqsa mosque and worshipers stationed there
- February 09, 2015: Israeli police detain female worshipers after getting out from the mosque
- February 10,2015: Israeli police allow tens of colonists to wander the compound of Al-Aqsa mosque
- February 15, 2015: Israeli police ban worshipers from entering Al-Aqsa mosque while colonists were allowed in.
- February 18, 2015: 58 colonists and 20 policemen broke into Al-Aqsa mosque through Dung gate; a girl was assaulted during the act.
- February 19, 2015: Israeli intelligences conduct a tour in Al-Aqsa mosque compound and took photos of the mosque from inside
- February 22, 2015: Israeli police ban Palestinians from entering Al-Aqsa mosque and allow colonists instead
- February 23, 2015: Israeli police detain female worshipers after getting out from the mosque
- February 24, 2015: Escalation of break-ins on Al-Aqsa mosque under the army protection
- February 26, 2015: Israeli police ban Palestinians from entering Al-Aqsa mosque and allow colonists instead

Isolation policy and detention in Al-Aqsa mosque:

Isolating Jerusalemites from Al-Aqsa mosque is becoming a policy within the agenda of Israeli occupation authorities. The following table shows information about the affected people by such policy:

Name	Date	Isolation	Detention	Remarks
Latifa Mukhaimer(56), Khadija Khuais, Jihad Ghazzawi (30), Fatima Elayyan (24) and Jiad Al-Razim	February 25, 2015	4		Khadija was detained for 60 days and a 1000 NIS bail. Jihad was detained for 30 days with a 1000 NIS bail. As for Fatima, she was detained for ten days.
Wisal Idris (53)and Sinaa Shaikha (37)	2015/02/24	2		Isolated for 45 days
Mohammad Abu Al-Humous	2015/02/22	1	1	Was released on a 2000 NIS bail with home stay. He was also isolated from his house in Al-Isawiya until February 26, 2015. Not only that, Mohammad was isolated from Al-Aqsa mosque for 60 days and was detained for a day.
Shaymaa Shraitih (16)	2015/02/22		1	Was detained right after getting out from Al-Aqsa mosque
Sanaa Al-Rajabi	2015/02/18	1		Isolated from Al-Aqsa mosque for 15 days
Diala Ali, Hiba Al-Hussein and Ranya Abu Al-Hawa	2015/02/16	1		Was detained right after getting out from Al-Aqsa mosque and was isolated for 15 days.
Total		9	2	

Source: Department of Monitoring Israeli Violations- Land Research Center-2015