



# ARIJ Daily Report

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## Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 19 January 2017

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

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Bani Neim town in Hebron Governorate, before storming and violently searching a home belonging to Fakhri Zeidat. (Maannews 19 January 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched homes in Taffouh town, west of Hebron, and interrogated several Palestinians. (IMEMC 19 January 2017)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) installed a roadblock at the main entrance of the Adh Dahriya town, south of Hebron, stopped and searched dozens of cars, and interrogated many Palestinians while inspecting the ID cards. (IMEMC 19 January 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Al Barriya area in Tequ village and detained the vehicle of Ahmad Kayed Jibreel, assaulted him and tried to confiscate the vehicle. (WAFa 19 January 2017)

### **Israeli Arrests**

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained Two Palestinian “youths” from Askar refugee camp in Nablus. The two Palestinians from Askar camp were identified as former prisoner Ahmad Saqer and Rami Abu Hweileh,
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained three Palestinians from Azzun village in eastern Qalqiliya. The three from Azzun village were identified as Kathem MufeedRadwan (24 Years), Mu’men Farouq Abu Haniyah (25 Years) and Muhammad Naser Al Jbour (55 Years). (Maannews 19 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided the Abu Arra family house in the Jenin-area village of Aqaba, detaining one and interrogating others, including former prisoner Sheikh Mustafa Abu Arra and his son Zaid Abu Arra. The detainee was reported to be Omar Walid Abu Arra. (Maannews 19 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained one Palestinian from the town of Beit Ummar. The IOA invaded the home of Montaser Wajeeh Shehda, 26, and violently searched it, before abducting him. (IMEMC 19 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained three Palestinians from Qalqilyia Governorate. The arrestees were identified as: Yousif Yaser Sweilem (23 Years), Abdel Raheem Bilal Radwan (23 Years), and Shaher Hisham Adwan (42 Years). (WAFa 19 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained two Palestinians from Jabal Al Mukkaber town in occupied East Jerusalem. The two were identified as Yaseen Al Qunber (20 Years) and Mahmoud Eweist (20 Years). Two others were arrested after the IOA raided their homes, searched the contents and confiscated their personal computers and cellphones. The two were identified as Shadi Sroor and Ahmad Rezeq. (WAFa 19 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained three Palestinians from Tulkarem Governorate. The three were identified as Ismae’il Adwan

- Mkahel (23 years). Mahmoud Muhamamd Shihada (31 Years) and Jad Abdel Rahman Yahya (38 Years). (WAFA 19 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained Mutaser Wajeeh Aby Ayyash and Muhammad Zeidat from Hebron Governorate. (WAFA 19 January 2017)
  - The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained Ahmad Saqer and Rami Abu Hweila in Nablus Governorate. (WAFA 19 January 2017)
  - The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained Abdel Haleem Abdel Haleem Hamed and Ja'far Abed Arbash from Ramallah Governorate. (WAFA 19 January 2017)
  - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested two Palestinians from Rummana village in Jenin Governorate. The two arrestees were identified as Muhamamd Younis Sbeihat (23 Years); he was arrested while trying to cross Barta'a military checkpoint; and Allam Bilal Nayef Jarban (29 Years). He was arrested after the IOA raided his workplace inside the 1948 lands. (WAFA 19 January 2017)
  - The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained one Palestinian from the village of Khirbet Yarza, located in the Jordan Valley district of Tubas. (Maannews 19 January 2017)
  - The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained Abdullah Hammad from Silwad in Ramallah Governorate. The detention was reported allegedly for finding "hunting weapons" during the raid in Silwad. (Maannews 19 January 2017)
  - The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) carried out raids in Husan village west of Bethlehem city and arrested three Palestinian youth. (Maannews 19 January 2017)

### **Israeli Settler Violence**

- Around 18 Israeli settlers raided Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city from Bab Al Magharbah (Al Mughrabi gate) under the cover of Israeli security Police and carried out provocative tours in the courtyard of Al Aqsa Mosque. (Safa 19 January 2017)

### **Expansion of settlements**

- Construction work in the Judean Hills community of Tzur Hadassah has spread over the pre-1967 border. In the eastern part of the community, which is under the auspices of the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council, extensive work has been underway to increase its size with the construction of a new neighborhood of 1,150 housing units. It has now emerged that some of the construction has spilled over the pre-

1967 border (which is Tzur Hadassah's boundary line) and have approached the lands of the village of Wadi Fukin in the West Bank. The situation was discovered by researcher Dror Etkes, who says that the work so far carried out across the pre-1967 border has added about 30 dunams (over seven acres) to Tzur Hadassah's area. The chairman of Tzur Hadassah's town council, Shlomo Magnezi, said that the community has no desire to take land from anyone else. "Somebody apparently spread across a line that's supposed to be there. If that happened we protest and want to pull back to the lines. We don't want to hurt our neighbors from Wadi Fukin." Wadi Fukin is a small village wedged between the pre-1967 border and Tzur Hadassah and the large settlement of Betar Ilit. In 1948, sizable areas that were owned by residents of the village were left within Israel and expropriated as absentee property. Additional areas were confiscated for the construction of Betar Ilit. In August 2014, the state declared another approximately 1,748 dunams of the village land as state lands. The confiscation was among the punishments imposed by the government after the abduction and murder of three Jewish teens from nearby Gush Etzion. "There are a few hundred dunams left between Tzur Hadassah and Wadi Fukin that can still be built on by Tzur Hadassah East," Etkes said sarcastically. ([Haaretz](#) 19 January 2017)

## Other

- The incoming Trump administration plans to reveal whether it will proceed with relocating America's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in the coming days, incoming White House press secretary Sean Spicer said. In a press conference one day before Donald Trump's inauguration, Spicer told journalists to "stay tuned" for details on the president-elect's plans. "There will be a further announcement on that," Spicer said. "The president has made clear that Israel has not gotten the respect it deserves." Spicer said that Trump had been consulting with his choice for ambassador to Israel, David Friedman; his Jewish son-in-law, Jared Kushner; and his nominee for secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, on whether to make the move, which outgoing US President Barack Obama warned against in his final White House press conference on Wednesday. ([IPOST](#) 19 January 2017)
- The State has not settled on a relocation site for the Amona outpost, which the High Court of Justice has mandated must be moved by February 8, Deputy Legal Adviser to the defense establishment Eran Ben Ari told politicians. "We're making every effort to find a solution," Ben-Ari told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee's sub group on Judea and Samaria, which met Tuesday to debate land status

in the West Bank, as well as the future of the Amona outpost. “We are not indifferent to the situation,” he added. The state is looking to relocate the Amona outpost to another area of the same hilltop outside of the Ofra settlement. To do this the IDF issued a military order changing the law regarding abandoned property to make it easier for the state to seize portions of the land. Many of the lots in question in the West Bank are owned in partnership. In the past, it was enough for just one or several partners to show proof of ownership to prevent seizure of the land. Under the new declaration, the state can use the law of abandoned property to seize portions of the lot for which there are no declared partners. The state believes this change will allow the state to relocate the 40 families of the Amona outpost to what is known as lots 28, 29 and 30. In the Knesset on Tuesday, Ben Ari made a brief reference to the idea of relocating the outpost to the same hilltop, but only gave further details about the plan in a closed door session. The Civil Administration for Judea and Samaria, however, has already declared its intention to use lots 28, 29 and 30. On Thursday, the Civil Administration dismissed a petition that the head of the Silwad Village Council and the Palestinian landowners of plots 28, 29, 30 and 54 submitted through the nongovernmental group Yesh Din, whose attorneys have represented the village of Silwad in matters relating to Amona. The Civil Administration told Yesh Din it would continue to dissolve the land partnerships but that it would no longer be working on lot 54. Attorneys Shlomy Zachary, Muhammad Shuqier and Michal Ziv said in the objection they filed that the state’s decision to force the dissolution of land partnerships in Area C of the West Bank contravened international law and local Jordanian law. They charged that it was a form of land confiscation that also violated past agreements to which Israel was party. They warned that, if Israel persisted with this course of action, they might turn to the International Court of Arbitration. Infringing upon the property rights of the residents of Silwad, protected persons living in occupied territory, as a precondition for executing the High Court of Justice ruling to evacuate the trespassers and lawbreakers of Amona from private land is no way to uphold the rule of law but rather to keep the current government in power,” Yesh Din said in its objection to the Civil Administration. “So many senior officials in the various government ministries, as well as the Israel Defense Forces, are participating in the effort to achieve this objective which would mark a moral transgression the likes of which we have not seen in recent decades – and all for the benefit of a handful of lawbreakers,” the objection states. ([IPOST](#) 19 January 2017)

- After US President-elect Donald Trump is sworn in, Bayit Yehudi leader Naftali Bennett plans to start pushing for the annexation of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The opening shot will come in the form of a bill proposing to annex the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. The legislation proposal will put the different partners in the coalition in a difficult situation. On the one hand, many senior ministers have called to unilaterally apply Israeli sovereignty to settlements under dispute to make the most of the window of opportunity provided by the administration change in the US. However, making such decisions without the government having formulated its policy on the matter could lead to international anger and cause problems further down the line. Despite this, the heads of the Knesset's Land of Israel Lobby, MKs Bezalel Smotrich (Bayit Yehudi) and Yoav Kish (Likud) have already announced they will bring the Ma'ale Adumim annexation bill to a vote at the Ministerial Committee for Legislation on Sunday. It is yet unclear whether the bill has sufficient support to the first hurdle, and whether it will be eventually made into law. There is also a possibility the vote will be postponed and not take place on Sunday. Political officials said the Likud and Bayit Yehudi support of the bill makes it likely it will pass. But not all in the coalition support it. Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman has already spoken out against proposals of this nature, saying such bills were harmful to the settlement enterprise and will not resolve the complex issues in the West Bank. "Ma'ale Adumim is located in an area that has always been an inseparable part of historical Israel, the birth place of the people of Israel," the bill proposal states. "The city is located at a crossroads that has a strategic importance both to securing the road to Jerusalem and as a central junction connecting the Jordan Valley, the Judean desert, and Jerusalem." The bill proposal further states that "the right of the people of Israel to these areas has been recognized by world nations in the Balfour Declaration and in the San Remo Resolution, both of which provided international legitimization to the historical connection between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel, and their right to rebuild their national home there. This recognition of the United Nations in the Jewish people's right to establish their state in their land cannot be taken away. These statements, which appear in Israel's Declaration of Independence and define the people of Israel's historical and legal right to their land, are true for the city of Ma'ale Adumim as well." The proposal also notes that applying Israeli sovereignty on the city will not significantly change the demographic situation in Israel or harm the state's democratic nature. ([YNETNEWS 19 January 2017](#))
- The Jerusalem Municipality has begun erecting cement pillars along the promenade to prevent cars from veering off the road and onto the

boardwalk in Jabal Al Mukkabir town in East Jerusalem. This was done to protect passersby from further vehicular attacks and accidents. Protective measures were already taken the day after the attack, when a temporary fence was set up all along the boardwalk. ([YNETNEWS](#) 19 January 2017)

- The head of the Finance Ministry department that enforces planning and construction laws lives in an illegal West Bank settlement outpost. Avi Cohen, a lawyer, lives in Palgei Mayim, an outpost of the Eli settlement. Palgei Mayim was established in 2001 and has about 40 homes, some of them mobile homes. No master plan has ever been approved for Eli, because parts of the settlement are built on privately owned Palestinian land. Cohen's job includes issuing demolition orders for illegal construction inside Israel, though he has no authority over demolitions in the West Bank. He instituted the proceedings that resulted in the state's bulldozing of 11 homes in Kalansua last week. Eli was founded on the basis of a 1984 cabinet resolution. During the late 1990s, a series of outposts to Eli were created, including Palgei Mayim. All the homes in Palgei Mayim were served with demolition orders between 2001 and 2007. According to Israel's Civil Administration in the West Bank, about half these houses sit on privately owned Palestinian land, and the rest are on what it known as "survey land," meaning it hasn't yet been surveyed to find out whether it's state land or privately owned. In 2014, the state finally drafted a master plan for Eli, but it was put on ice after a petition to the High Court of Justice resulted in the court issuing an injunction against approving it. In any case, the plan doesn't include Palgei Mayim, which can't be legalized unless the Knesset passes legislation authorizing the confiscation of private Palestinian land. With legal building permits unavailable, Eli and other nearby settlements have issued "in principle" permits for buildings that comply with the still-unapproved master plan. These "in principle" permits have no legal validity whatsoever. Cohen was appointed head of the department two years ago. He had previous experience in the Planning Administration back when it was still part of the Interior Ministry, before it was transferred to the treasury in summer 2015. In 2016, according to treasury statistics, the department issued 152 demolition orders and demolished 51 buildings larger than 50 square meters. The comparable figures for 2015 were 24 and 16, respectively. These figures cover the entire country aside from the south, where demolitions are the responsibility of the Public Security Ministry. ([Haaretz](#) 19 January 2017)
- A revised version of a controversial draft law that would define Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people is to be discussed on Sunday by



the Ministerial Committee for Legislation. The body will decide whether the government will support the bill. New to the latest iteration of the bill — and to Israel’s law books — is a clause guaranteeing equal rights to all its citizens. The softened version of the bill was drafted by MK Benny Begin (Likud), the son of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin. In addition to the guarantee of equal rights, the updated proposal also states that Israel operates under a democratic form of government — a fact that is not mentioned in the Israeli Declaration of Independence. The previous government failed in attempts to advance two separate versions of the nation-state bill. Habayit Hayehudi and the right wing of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s own Likud party demanded that the bill subordinate Israel’s democratic character to its Jewish identity in such areas as Supreme Court rulings. Another version, promoted by Netanyahu, simply stipulated that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people, as part of his demand making Palestinian recognition of Israel’s Jewish identity a precondition for resuming the peace negotiations. Begin’s draft, which he says is based on the Declaration of Independence, is seen as the most moderate version and could solve the disagreement in the coalition. The bill consists of two clauses. The first defines Israel as “the Jewish people’s nation-state, based on the foundations of liberty, justice and peace in the light of Israel’s prophets’ vision, and upholds equal rights for all its citizens.” The second clause says “Israel is a democracy.” Yesh Atid, currently an opposition party, said it would support this bill. MK Roy Folkman (Kulanu) said his party would object to any legislation that discriminates against Arab citizens or undermines the Supreme Court. ([Haaretz](#) 19 January 2017)

- The Jewish National Fund has acted as it pleases for years with little if any government oversight. In the comptroller’s first-ever report into the JNF, Joseph Shapira referred to the attorney general two instances of funding that raise suspicions of criminal behavior at the organization, known in Hebrew as Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael. In one case the JNF used offices at Ariel Sharon Park near Tel Aviv, allegedly in return for transferring funds to the park. The other case involved funding allegedly provided to the Shenkar School of Engineering and Design. The comptroller was particularly critical of Efi Stenzler, who was JNF world chairman from 2006 to 2015, and his cochairman, Eli Aflalo, who served between 2012 and 2015. The JNF was founded in 1901 to buy land in prestate Israel with money donated by Jews around the world. It later also assumed responsibility for preparing land for Jewish settlement. In 1961 an accord was signed to create the Israel Land Authority, which coordinated management of the land. Also created was the Land Development Administration, which became the



executive arm of the JNF's core operations. The accord called for the government to appoint a minister overseeing the agreement, but according to the comptroller, the government never appointed such an official. A joint state-JNF commission was established to oversee the Land Development Administration, but that body has not convened since the 1970s. "Since the commission has not been meeting in recent decades, the JNF has been setting its own policy," Shapira said in the report. "Israeli governments neglected their rights and public duties as stated in the accord to influence, via the commission, the JNF's priorities for developing Israeli lands, most of which are owned by the state." The JNF's gross income from its land came to 10.5 billion shekels (\$2.8 billion) between 2008 and 2014. Eight percent of that came from donations, but the bulk, around 8 billion shekels, came from managing the land it owns. "But during those years, the JNF used only around a third of its income, 3.5 billion shekels, to carry out its public duties in the realm of land development and forestation," Shapira said. "In contrast, some 43 percent of its income during those years (4.5 billion shekels) was used by the JNF to boost its financial assets," the comptroller said, adding that the JNF did this "without doing any staff work to determine the necessity of this accrual or to determine whether at least some of the money could be used to advance its main public purpose, redeeming barren land." Lacking government oversight, the JNF administration felt free to refuse to cooperate with the agriculture, tourism and defense ministries on projects, Shapira said, adding that this was felt most painfully at the Negev and Galilee Development Ministry. The JNF board had determined that two-thirds of the development administration's operating budget should be spent in the Negev and the Galilee, but there is no way to know if that's what happened because no one was auditing or overseeing spending, Shapira said. Decision-making at the JNF was also problematic, he said. To read full report, ([Haaretz](#) 19 January 2017)