



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt

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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) attacked Palestinian activists following Friday prayers at the gates of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron city in the occupied West Bank, as hundreds had gathered to perform prayers as part of a demonstration called for by the international campaign "Dismantle The Ghetto, Take Settlers Out of Hebron." Israeli border guards had attacked several demonstrators, including local Sheikh Ziad Abu Heleil, activists Anan Daana and Muhammad al-Jibrini, and human rights activists Badie al-Dweik and

Imad Abu Shamsiyeh, after they shouted slogans calling for ending the military closure on Shuhada street in Hebron. (Maannews 17 February 2017)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the town of Hizma in the central occupied West Bank Governorate of Jerusalem. Israeli vehicles, border guards, and soldiers raided several areas of Hizma town from multiple entrances. The IOA stopped and searched passing vehicles and checked the ID cards of the Palestinian passengers. (Maannews 17 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the peaceful anti-settlement march staged weekly by local and foreign activists in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilya. Hundreds of Kafr Qaddum residents as well as some foreign activists participated in the march, which demands the Israeli occupation authority to open a main road annexed 14 years ago. A large number of Israeli troops with an armored bulldozer attacked and dispersed them, provoking young participants to clash with the soldiers, the activist said. No one was reportedly injured or arrested during the events. (PALINFO 17 February 2017)
- Four Palestinians sustained wounds in clashes with the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) in Bethlehem's eastern village of Tequ', in the southern West Bank. An Israeli military patrol stormed the village and attacked the Palestinian anti-occupation youth with heavy spates of rubber bullets and teargas canisters, leaving four protesters wounded. (PALINFO 17 February 2017)
- Dozens of Palestinians choked on tear gas after Israeli occupation Army (IOA) violently attacked the weekly march staged in Ni'lin village west of Ramallah, against Israel's segregation wall and settlement activities. The IOA showered the participants in the march with tear gas and stun grenades resulting in suffocation cases among dozens of Palestinians as well as three Israeli solidarity activists. (PALINFO 17 February 2017)
- A large number of Israeli police forces at dawn stormed Hizma town, east of Jerusalem, patrolled its streets and alleys and intercepted cars. The soldiers from the border police stormed aboard vehicles different areas of the town, stopped cars and checked IDs of passengers. The soldiers fired volleys of tear gas grenades, with no known reason, in the eastern district of the town, causing several citizens to suffer from inhaling the resultant fumes. (PALINFO 17 February 2017)

Israeli Arrests

- Israeli occupation authorities detained a Palestinian man for unknown reasons while the man was attempting to pass through the Erez border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The arrestee was identified as Majdi Muhammad Abu Taha from the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah. He was heading to a meeting at the US consulate in Jerusalem when he was detained. (Maannews 17 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested a Palestinian youngster after breaking into Barta'a village, southwest of Jenin to the north of West Bank. The arrestee was identified as Youssef Qubaha, 27. (PALINFO 17 February 2017)
- Three Palestinian detainees continue their hunger strikes in protest at being held administratively, with neither charge nor trial, in Israeli jails. Palestinian journalist Mohamed al-Qeiq has been on an open-ended hunger strike for 12 consecutive days in Gilboa prison in protest at his administrative detention. Prisoners Jamal Abu al-Leil and Raed Fayeze Mteir have gone on an open-ended hunger strike starting on the 16th of February 2017 in the Israeli Negev lock-up to protest their administrative prison-term. Mteir was arrested on February 14, 2016 while prisoner Abu al-Leil was arrested the following day. Both have been sentenced administratively three times, with neither charge nor trial, to six months each. (PALINFO 17 February 2017)
- 330 Israeli extremist settlers stormed over the past week al-Aqsa Mosque in total provocation to Palestinian worshipers, a Palestinian report revealed on Friday. According to Quds Press, 156 settlers and 85 Jewish students were allowed to break into al-Aqsa last week under Israeli police protection. 43 Israeli soldiers also stormed the holy site in their military uniform during the reported period. Meanwhile, Palestinian worshipers managed to confront Israeli police attempts to enter a mobile room into Al-Aqsa Mosque from Al-Magharibeh gate. As a punitive measure, Israeli police prevented Palestinian students from entering food into the site. Along the same line, Israeli police arrested two guards of Al-Aqsa and took them for investigation. They were later released.
- Al-Aqsa Mosque is subjected to such raids on a near daily basis, upon which settlers perform Talmudic rituals and desecrate the sanctity of the Mosque.

Israeli Settler Violence

- A Palestinian man was injured after being hit by an Israeli settler's vehicle at the entrance of the town of Beit Ummar in the southern occupied West Bank Governorate of Hebron. The injured Palestinian was identified as 36-year-old Rafat Muhammad Shihdeh Abu Arrar Masalmeh from the Deir Samet town west of Hebron City. The incident occurred when Masalmeh stepped out of his car in order to talk to his brother, who had parked in front of him on the side of the road. He added that Masalmeh was talking to his brother when an Israeli settler in a private vehicle "deliberately" ran him over. Masalmeh sustained several injuries across his body and face. (Maannews 17 February 2017)
- A group of Jewish settlers stormed a historic site in Sabastia town near Nablus and provoked the Palestinian inhabitants. Settlers' incursion into the town was made under protection of Israeli soldiers who showered inhabitants with tear gas and stun grenades. (PALINFO 17 February 2017)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

- The Israeli municipality of Jerusalem decided to confiscate a land owned by Ghazlan-Abbasi family in Al-Ein Street in Silwan under the pretext of using it for "public benefit". Municipality crews raided the town of Silwan and hung a note on a piece of land in both Arabic and Hebrew saying: "Order to use an empty piece of land in order to do gardening work"; they also attached a map showing the location of the land. The 300-square meters land is owned by Ghazlan family and is classified as "green land" by the municipality of Jerusalem where building is prohibited. According to the municipality's order, the land will be confiscate and used for 5 years based on Article 2 of the law of "local authorities - temporary use of an empty land". Trees will be planted and irrigation systems will be installed as well as equipment and toys. According to the decision, the owner of the land can submit an objection to the order of confiscating the land within 90 days. (SILWANIC 17 February 2017)
- Israeli municipality ordered Palestinian families whose homes were demolished in al-Aqaba neighborhood in Beit Hanina town in northern Occupied Jerusalem to evacuate their belongings from their land lot. The Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) claim that the evacuation order was issued for the establishment of a municipality school over an area of 15 dunums in the land lot. Badwan al-Salayma, owner of one piece of land, stated that the municipality crews had put a fence around the land in preparation for the confiscation of the 15-dunum area. Badwan's piece of land has a small cottage and an old oven in

addition to plants and seedlings over which Israeli municipality put numbers and prohibited him to remove them. These land lots are owned by nine Jerusalemite families. (PALINFO 17 February 2017)

Expansion of settlements

- An Israeli plan to seize Palestinian cultivated lands in the area of Jalud village in favor of illegal settlement expansion. An announcement issued by Israel's Civil Administration to confiscate 141.12 dunums of Palestinian land in the area in order to develop infrastructure for Israeli settlers. According to the announcement, the Israeli occupation authorities endorsed a bid to alter the status of the cultivated lands so as to construct commercial buildings, open areas, and a network of access roads leading to Israeli settlement outposts. (ALQUDS, PALINFO 17 February 2017)
- Israeli occupation authorities declared intention to expand Benjamin settlement illegally built near Ramallah. New settlement homes are scheduled to be added to Benjamin illegal outpost at the expense of Palestinian-private lands near Ramallah. The decision to expand Benjamin settlement was not approved yet; however, its regional council has started working to establish a neighboring outpost to host the settlers recently evacuated from Amona settlement. (Haaretz 17 February 2017)

Other

- The Israeli Supreme Court rejected an appeal presented by Regavim, a pro-settler NGO, demanding the demolition of a mosque in southern Hebron after claiming it was illegally built, Hebrew-language sites reported. (Maannews 17 February 2017)
- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Palestinian refusal to accept Israel, not settlements, is the main roadblock to peace. Speaking with MSNBC's Greta Van Susteren, he was asked why both US President Donald Trump and former US President Barack Obama have pegged Israeli settlements as a roadblock to Israeli-Palestinian peace. Netanyahu responded that he thinks settlements are "an issue, but I don't think it's *the* issue." The interview comes the day after his first meeting with Trump at the White House, where Trump asking Netanyahu to "hold back on settlements for a bit." "The real core of the conflict is not this or that settlement or this or that community," Netanyahu told Van Susteren, "but rather the persistent and enduring Palestinian refusal to recognize a Jewish state in any boundary." He also said it was vital for Israel to "retain security control of the area

west of the Jordan River," referring to the West Bank. Turning to the topic of peace in the region, Netanyahu said there was great potential for a broader peace between Israel and Arab countries in the Middle East, saying that Arab countries are beginning to view Israel as an ally for confronting Iran and Islamic State. "That has been bringing us closer together and may also pave avenues for peace." When asked to specifically name a country that has been softening its stance toward Israel he said "who's not?" to which Van Susteren responded that "Iran's not." Netanyahu responded back that Iran is not an Arab country. (JPOST 17 February 2017)

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