



ARIJ Daily Report

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem
Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966
pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 20 February 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) at predawn rolled into al-Issawiya village and turned it into a military barrack. Over 200 Israeli soldiers and intelligence officers stormed al-Issawiya and intensified their presence on all access roads to the village. The IOA broke into Palestinian homes and rummaged into the buildings using sniffer dogs. The Israeli soldiers further attacked the Palestinian anti-occupation youth with randomly-discharged spates of teargas canisters and acoustic bombs. (PALINFO 20 February 2017)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) seized a fuel-fill pump in the town of Beit Ummar, north of Hebron, south of the West Bank under the pretext of unlicensing. The Israeli Occupation Army accompanied by officers from the so-called Israeli Civil Administration broke into the shop owned by citizen Sabri Zamel Abu Maria, closed the shop, and seized the fuel-fill pump. The IOA asked the owner not to open the shop and threatened to impose deterrent penalties against him if he doesn't comply with the orders. (PNN 20 February 2017)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli Occupation army (IOA) arrested a Palestinian activist who earlier served time in Israeli jails, after breaking into Rummana village, west of Jenin, and brutally attacked another man who was in the scene at that time. (PALINFO 20 February 2017)
- One Palestinian, Saleh Abu Zeina, was arrested from Jenin refugee camp after raiding his family house and searching it. Several other houses in the camp were also raided and searched by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA). (PALINFO 20 February 2017)
- In Qalqilia Governorate, the Israeli Occupation army (IOA) stormed at dawn Azzoun town and arrested two locals after breaking into their houses. Five Israeli patrols stormed the town amid heavy fire of teargas bombs and broke into two local houses before arresting their owners. The two detainees were taken to unknown detention centers. (PALINFO 20 February 2017)
- In Nablus Governorate, the Israeli Occupation army (IOA) arrested two youngsters after breaking into their houses in Tel village west of Nablus city, including an ex-detainee. (PALINFO 20 February 2017)
- A young Palestinian man was arrested in al-Amari refugee camp in Ramallah Governorate. (PALINFO 20 February 2017)
- The Israel Ofer Court sentenced the Palestinian child Ahmed Khadour, 15, to three months imprisonment for an alleged stone-throwing attack, rights group revealed. A fine of 3,000 shekels was also imposed on the child. The court gave his family a year as a deadline for paying the fine. Khadour was detained on January 2, 2017 despite being previously diagnosed with blood cancer, and currently suffers from partial seizures and right hand paralysis. (PALINFO 20 February 2017)

Israeli Closures

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) imposed maximum security procedures at main Israeli military checkpoints in the central occupied West Bank Governorate of Ramallah, causing a major

traffic jam. The IOA "caused chaos" and backed up traffic while conducting thorough searches at the Qalandiya checkpoint that leads to northern Jerusalem, as well as at the nearby internal West Bank checkpoint of Jaba. Extensive searches by the IOA were conducted on vehicles leaving Ramallah at the Beit El checkpoint, northeast of the city. (Maannews 20 February 2017)

Demolition of Houses and Structures

- Israeli military bulldozers destroyed a drinking water pipeline that was funded by The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the Central Plains of the occupied West Bank. Israeli army jeeps and bulldozers invaded the area, during early morning hours, and destroyed a drinking water pipeline, providing water to Palestinian communities along the al-Hadeediyya and ar-Ras al-Ahmar areas. The pipeline provided clean drinking water to 47 families, and extended on 8.5 kilometers. The pipeline's installation and equipment costs were 12500 euros, provided by the UNICEF to enable access to clean drinking water, and added that the soldiers confiscated large sections of the pipeline. It is worth mentioning that this destruction is the second of its kind in one month. (PNN 20 February 2017)
- The Israeli Bulldozers demolished a residential caravan in Khan Al Ahmar Bedouin community east of Jerusalem under the pretext of unlicensed building. The Caravan is owned by Muhamamd Ali At Tabnah and was shelter for 9 people. The caravan was funded by the European Union. (RB2000 20 February 2017)

Other

- Education Minister Naftali Bennett (Jewish Home) spoke on Monday morning at the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in Jerusalem. Speaking about the two-state solution, Bennett said, "It's no secret that I believe we already have two Palestinian states, one in Jordan and one in Gaza. I want to see Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump think of new solutions. We need to try something new. I don't intend to annex two million Palestinians. "If we create a Palestinian state, everything we have built in Judea and Samaria will be destroyed. Can you imagine millions of refugees arriving in Judea and Samaria, sharing the space with their brothers? They'll tell them to go to Haifa. Soon Yitzhak Herzog (Zionist Union) will speak, ask him about his solution. My solution is to apply sovereignty in Area C and give the Arabs a choice of permanent residency or Israeli citizenship."

Regarding Amona, Bennett said, "I am sure Netanyahu will keep his word." ([INN](#) 20 February 2017)

- Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman (Yisrael Beytenu) spoke out Monday morning, reiterating his party's Arab-Jewish land swap plan regarding the potential separation of large portions of Judea and Samaria from Israel, arguing that if Israel is to separate itself from the Arab populations over the Green Line, it must also disengage from Arab communities within the Green Line that identify as Palestinian Arabs. In an interview with *Israel Radio*, the Defense Minister cited the Arab city of Umm Al-Fahm as an example of Israeli-Arab communities that he believes should be included in a future Palestinian state.
- "There is no reason whatsoever that the residents of Umm Al-Fahm, who identify as Palestinians, should continue to be citizens of Israel," said Liberman. Liberman emphasized that he was not endorsing the traditional formula of land-for-peace promoted by advocates of a two-state solution. Rather, the Defense Minister says he favors an exchange of territory and population – bringing the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria under Israel sovereignty while transferring large Arab population centers inside pre-1967 Israel to the Palestinian Authority. The Defense Minister also argued that an arrangement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority would only be a small part of a larger regional agreement with moderate Arab states. Regarding the government's assurances to former residents of Amona that a new community would be built in Samaria to house them, Liberman suggested that Israel did not need the approval of the United States, but nevertheless it was important for the two allies to reach a comprehensive understanding regarding Israeli policy in Judea and Samaria. ([INN](#) 20 February 2017)
- Palestinian Bedouin plan to petition the High Court of Justice to halt the pending demolition of the herding village of al-Khan al-Ahmar. In a surprise move, the IDF issued stop work orders against any further construction or expansion of the 44 sheds and shacks that make up the village. According the village's attorney, Shlomo Lecker, the notices will become demolition orders in five days. The community, which is made up of 35 families, is located right off Route 1 in between Ma'aleh Adumim and Kfar Adumim in Area C of the West Bank. According to Lecker, such demolition orders can only be issued if there is a relocation plan for the families. To the best of his knowledge, no such option exists at this time. Bedouins in the area have long complained that very few building permits are issued to them, and none in al-Khan al-Ahmar. Settlers living nearby argue that the placement of the village, adjacent to Route 1, poses a security hazard. ([IPOST](#) 20 February 2017)

- The Shiloh industrial zone, adjacent to the settlement of that name in the middle of the West Bank, is spread over 500 dunams (125 acres). But a visit to the site shows that it isn't exactly a humming industrial enclave with masses of workers coming and going from its factories and businesses. The few small factories at the zone take up only 28 dunams (seven acres, or 5.6 percent of the area) and a total of 36 workers. Most of the land is empty. Several dozen prefab homes were placed there recently for the evacuees of the illegal Amona outpost, but they refused to move there and the structures stand vacant. This industrial zone is one of 14 that Israel has set up beyond the Green Line. While some are successful and flourishing, with high occupancy rates, others are mostly empty, producing nothing, certainly not jobs. But these industrial zones, of which more are planned, and their area, which could reach several thousand dunams, will enable Israel to boost its presence in the territories, including in areas where no home construction has been approved. When it was proposed to house the Amona evacuees on such lands, Civil Administration sources said that only a short procedure was necessary to permit the building of homes on open land originally zoned for industry. "We're talking about areas in which Israel, with its ravenous hunger for land, is prepared to invest millions to develop," says Dror Etkes of the left-wing organization Kerem Navot, who researches Israeli land policy in the West Bank. "We can see this clearly in the Gush Etzion industrial zone, where there are lands where nothing has been built, but the state is rushing to build extensions there that are standing empty and will stay empty for years." Indeed, of the 200 dunams that have been allocated to the Etzion industrial zone, only 60 are in use. This didn't stop the planning bodies from expanding it by another 17 dunams last year. "The amount of industry that you'll find in these areas is in inverse proportion to the piggishness of them," adds Etkes. While the left criticizes, the settlements welcome and justify these land allocations. The Gush Etzion Regional Council stressed that there is a demand for space in the area and they are negotiating with a number of interested parties. But there's more to the story than any specific industrial zone. While the establishment of industrial zones in the West Bank are reported separately and are not part of any official plan to move commerce and industry eastward, the facts and plans seem to indicate a trend. According to the Economy Ministry, there are 91 industrial zones that it helps fund, so the 14 in the West Bank constitute more than 15 percent of the total. Slowly the West Bank is becoming a more significant region in terms of its production capacity. The Mishor Adumim industrial zone, which covers more than 1,600 dunams and is only a 10-minute drive from Jerusalem, employs more than 1,300

people, and there will be more, since there are still 500 vacant dunams there. The Barkan industrial zone, near Ariel, is pretty full, with only 14 of its 728 dunams vacant, while the 203 dunams of the Shahak-Shaked industrial zone in northern Samaria are all occupied. A few dozen meters from Route 443, east of the separation barrier and near Modi'in, the 15th West Bank industrial zone is due to be built. The Civil Administration refers to it as the Kharbata industrial zone due to its proximity to the Palestinian village of that name and it will occupy 310 dunams. Kharbata is to be joined by three other West Bank industrial zones that have been advanced in recent months. One will be located in western Samaria after a bitter dispute between the Samaria Regional Council and the towns of Elkana and Oranit was finally resolved. Only the intervention of Deputy Defense Minister Eli Ben-Dahan brought about a compromise that allowed the project to go forward. Meanwhile, the Mount Hebron Regional Council has been promised by the Civil Administration that two industrial zones will be built there, one in Tenne-Omarim and the other at Tarqumiya. Regional council officials say that the Tarqumiya plan is not related to a government promise to advance an industrial area for Palestinians in that area. Two industrial zones already exist in the Mount Hebron area, neither particularly successful. One is in Kiryat Arba, slightly east of Tarqumiya, which is spread over 200 dunams, 75 percent of which are empty. And not far from the planned zone at Tenne-Omarim is the Shima-Meitarim industrial zone, where 60 percent of the 220 dunams are unused. Regional council officials say, however, that several companies have committed themselves to building in the Shima-Meitarim industrial zone and that the area is actually "full to the brim." Ben-Dahan cites the importance of industrial zones as employment centers. "The goal is to create jobs, to attract more residents," he said. "That's the real goal. The real goal is for Judea and Samaria to develop, so that people won't have to travel to the center of the country [to work]. It's also important to the Palestinian residents, since in the end they, too, will benefit from industrial areas near their homes." Indeed, the settlers like to present these industrial zones as a tool for promoting "economic peace" by providing jobs to both Jews and Palestinians. "I see in this something very important and significant, because my worldview is that peace will spring up from below, between people and neighbors," says Yochai Damari, chairman of the Mount Hebron Regional Council. "The moment that the economic system can create partnerships there will be a real ability to create a way of life based on [common] interests and trust." He admits that industrial zones have significant economic benefits for those local councils that benefit from the real estate taxes paid by the tenants, which in some cases help keep

the beneficiary towns afloat. But to Damari, the biggest benefit is the diplomatic one. "I see these things from a diplomatic perspective, more with the eyes of someone who has lived here almost 40 years and has four generations in the Mount Hebron area," he said. "In the end, neither we nor they [the Palestinians] are moving from here." ([Haaretz](#) 20 February 2017)

- The Mateh Binyamin Regional Council transferred over 11 million shekels (\$3 million) to illegal outposts within its jurisdiction between 2008 and 2014. Using budgetary instruments available to regional councils for investment in infrastructure, public funds were used for developing such infrastructure and construction in several illegal outposts. Thus, for example, in 2014 the council transferred almost 200,000 shekels for erecting structures in several outposts, including Mitzpeh Danny, Haresha, Givat Harel, Kida and Kerem Re'im. In 2010 over 1,700,000 shekels went to Givat Harel. The budget shows money going for the construction of other illegal structures including a yeshiva in Kochav Hashahar. Over 5 million shekels went to a sewage treatment plant in Ofra, which was built illegally on private Palestinian land. The regional council gave financial support for expanding the settlement of Shvut Rachel while it was still an illegal outpost, years before the expansion was retroactively approved. In 2008 it received 310,701 shekels while in 2009, while still an outpost, it was awarded two budgets – one worth 1,630,010 shekels and the other 600,000 shekels. In 2010 it again received two budgets, worth 188,000 shekels each. Overall, the details of the council's budgetary expenses show that between 2008 and 2014 it invested over 11 million shekels in illegal outposts and structures. These funds were part of the official budgets the outposts received, with their names specified. Law enforcement agencies confirmed that the outposts and structures receiving this money were illegal, or illegal when receiving the money. The Peace Now movement is about to publish a report showing the involvement of regional councils in financing such illegal outposts. According to Hagit Ofran, who is part of a Peace Now team monitoring settlements in the West Bank, Mateh Binyamin was but one case. "This is part of an entire system by which these councils use public funds to create facts on the ground. This is only the part that was uncovered. There is clearly a whole system whereby illegal outposts are funded by these councils, while the government turns a blind eye, letting it proceed," she says. ([Haaretz](#) 20 February 2017)