



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 21 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) stormed a governmental building in the Old City south of al-Khalil. The headquarters of the PA Committee against the Wall and Settlements was violently stormed by Israeli Army. The IOA investigated during the raid the committee staff and ordered them to remove anti-Israel posters placed in their offices. (PALINFO 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli government is cooperating with Jewish settlement associations to escalate its ongoing Judization policy at al-Aqsa

Mosque and the rest of the Old City in occupied Jerusalem. Israeli associations started installing fake Jewish tombs around al-Aqsa Mosque. Israeli bulldozers were seen carrying Jewish tombstones and planting them around the Mosque to indicate graves, but underneath, there are no bodies, nor skeletons. Al-Aqsa Foundation for Endowment and Heritage had earlier revealed that different Israeli government-backed associations and authorities such as the Elad Association and the so-called Nature and National Parks Authority have been working on implanting dozens of fake Jewish graves in the land surrounding al-Aqsa Mosque "at the pretext of carrying out repair and maintenance works and new excavations in a bid to lay hand on Palestinian and Islamic endowment lands. (PALINFO 21 February 2017)

- The Israeli military forces broke into Tulkarem's northern village of Zeita, in the northern West Bank, and cracked down on Palestinian civilians. The Israeli forces stormed the village in several military jeeps and sealed off the main access road to Zeita. Several Palestinians choked on teargas, which was randomly unleashed by the Israeli Forces across residential alleys. (PALINFO 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed the northern West Bank Governorate of Qalqilya and rummaged into Palestinian civilian homes. The Israeli troops showered the area with randomly-discharged barrages of teargas canisters and subjected civilians to exhaustive interrogation. (PALINFO 21 February 2017)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli military court at Ofer prison sentenced 15-year-old Ahmad al-Khadour to 91 days in prison and a 3,000-shekel fine (approximately \$810), after the boy was accused of throwing rocks at Israeli soldiers. The sentencing came despite Ahmad's family's and rights groups' extreme concern regarding the boy's health due to his chronic illnesses -- including leukemia and epilepsy -- and frequent need for medication. The court's judge gave al-Khadour a period of one year to pay the fine. The judge also gave complete authority to Ofer prison director to release al-Khadour before the end of his sentence (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- Israeli naval forces detained five Palestinian fishermen from the same family while they were sailing off the coast of the northern Gaza Strip. The Israeli forces had detained Umran Saber Bakr, Mahmoud Saber Bakr, Abdullah Saber Bakr, Thabet Abd al-Raziq Bakr, and Omar Muhammad Bakr, and took them to the port of Ashdod in southern Israel. (Maannews 21 February 2017)

- Israeli naval forces opened fire at Palestinian fishermen sailing off the coast of Beit Lahiya. No injuries were reported. (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained four Palestinians in the northernmost West Bank Governorate of Jenin, identifying them as Majdi Abu al-Haija and Saleh Abu Zina from the Jenin refugee camp, Muhammad Hardan from the city of Jenin, and Mahdi Bushnaq, 42, from the village of Rummana after raiding his house and destroying contents. (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Journalist Khaled Muhammad Bushnaq, 39, from Rummana village in Jenin Governorate and forced him to take off his clothes. (Wafa 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Mahmoud Saqr Assida, 29, and Musab Tawfiq al-Hindi, 27 in the Nablus Governorate. (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- Israeli military patrols rolled into Nablus's western village of Tel, in the northern West Bank, and blew up a suspicious object. The IOF further wreaked havoc on civilian homes and attacked the Palestinian protesters with live ammunition and teargas canisters, sparking clashes in the area. Palestinian citizen Kayed al-Hindi was kidnapped by the occupation soldiers in the assault. (PALINFO 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a Palestinian youth—Adham al-Sha'er from his family home in Burqa village, to the north of Nablus. (PALINFO 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained four Palestinians in the city of Qalqiliya, while two others were detained in the Qalqiliya-area village of Isla. Three of the Qalqiliya-Governorate detainees were identified as Issa Yousif Sweidan, 23, Luay Jamil Qashmar, and Maher Samir Abu Haniyeh. (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Fathi Muhammad Hamad from the al-Amari refugee camp in the Ramallah Governorate. (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Muataz Salma from the city of al-Bireh in Ramallah Governorate. (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- In the Bethlehem Governorate, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Shadi Muhammad Fawaghra, 20, Talal Muhammad Suleiman, 20, and Ayman Muhammad Ismail, 21, from the village of Jurat al-Shamaa south of Bethlehem city. (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Khalid Issa in al-Khader west of Bethlehem city. Citizen Ziyad Ali Mustafa was also detained in the village, but was later released. (Maannews 21 February 2017)

- In the Hebron Governorate, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Ibrahim Muhammad Abu Fara in Surif town in Hebron Governorate. (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Murad Ashur Abu Sneineh from Hebron city. (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Mahmoud Rizq Issa and Ramzi Abd al-Fattah Masalma from the village of Beit Awwa. (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Sheikh Najih Bkeirat, the director of Islamic education at the Waqf, as well as two Palestinian women from a bus in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. 'The Israeli police stopped two tour buses traveling on a trip to Jaffa and detained Bkeirat and two women identified as Ikram Natsha and Raghad Natsha. (Maannews 21 February 2017)
- Clashes erupted Tuesday afternoon in Bethlehem after Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Doha village west of the city. No injuries were reported. The IOA soldiers, in several patrols, stormed the town and broke into Palestinians' homes. Summonses were also handed to families of a number of youths including two ex-detainees: Firas Ezzeyyeh and Anas Malash. (PALINFO 21 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed al-Khader village west of Bethlehem and broke into residents' homes. The soldiers arrested a young man, Shaher Issa, 22, along with a 19-year-old girl, Saja Issa whose sister, Suzan, was summoned for questioning. (PALINFO 21 February 2017)
- A The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Jenin's western village of Kafr Qud in the northern West Bank, and summoned Mahmoud Walid Ateiq to questioning, after they broke into his family home. Israeli army squads have, meanwhile, been spotted across the Nazareth Street and on the Jenin-Haifa thoroughfare. (PALINFO 21 February 2017)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Dozens of Israelis, yeshiva students, and a right-wing former Israeli politician entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem under heavy Israeli police protection. Former deputy speaker of the Knesset Moshe Feiglin toured the compound along with "20 settlers and 53 Jewish students." They arrived in groups via the Moroccans' Gate, and left via the Chain Gate. (Maannews 21 February 2017)

- Israeli settlers assaulted and attacked Palestinian shepherds in Khallet Hamad community in the northern Jordan Valley and kicked them out of the area. (Wafa 21 February 2017)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- Settlers of Revava settlement demolished “Al Ma’areed water well” in an area close to Deir Istya village in Salfit Governorate. The well is owned by citizen Jaber Aqel. (Wafa 21 February 2017)

Israeli Military Orders

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) handed notices to the residents of Khirbat al-Fajem hamlet in Aqraba village, south of Nablus city, ordering them to evacuate their homes and lands. A number of vehicles belonging to the Israeli Civil Administration, escorted by IOF patrols, came to the area and handed the villagers notices to evacuate the hamlet within three days at the latest. (PALINFO 21 February 2017)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

- The Israeli Occupation Bulldozers continues for the third day on row razing lands in Wadi Qana Nature reserve in Salfit Governorate. The land razing is being done for the favor of Yakir settlement illegally established on lands of Deir Istya. in Salfit Governorate. (Wafa 21 February 2017)

Other

- Sharp Rise in Number of East Jerusalem Home Demolitions Since Trump's Election: Home demolitions in East Jerusalem have risen dramatically since the election of U.S. President Donald Trump. A source at city hall confirmed that since the changing of U.S. administrations, government restrictions have been lifted and the Jerusalem municipality has been allowed to demolish many more structures than during the term of former President Barack Obama. Since the beginning of the year, the municipality has reportedly demolished over 40 housing units in East Jerusalem. In all of 2016, 203 structures were demolished in the predominantly Arab part of the city. According to data collated by the Ir Amim nonprofit, which studies the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Jerusalem, in January and February alone the city demolished 42 housing units in East Jerusalem. Last year's

demolitions included 123 housing units, plus storerooms, shops and stables. Twenty-two other structures were demolished by their owners in order to avoid the fine incurred by the municipality for the demolition. Sa'ad Abasi from Silwan single-handedly demolished the house in which he and his brother had lived, yet the city maintained that the house was not sufficiently demolished and came to destroy the remnants – and he was charged for the expense. Most of the residents whose homes were destroyed had tried to acquire a building permit or receive retroactive approval. The planning situation in East Jerusalem barely allows this, due to the lack of master plans and approved construction plans. Even though Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat has announced on several occasions that he intends to advance the preparation of an overall master plan for East Jerusalem neighborhoods in order to allow legal construction, such plans have hardly been advanced in recent years. In a report published this week by Ir Amim and another nonprofit, Bimkom – Planners for Planning Rights, three examples were presented of plans that were ultimately rejected or postponed until an unknown date, due to difficulties raised by the municipality. Two of the plans were prepared by the residents themselves. In 2008, residents of the A-Tur neighborhood presented a plan that they themselves prepared for expanding the neighborhood into an area called Halat al-Ayin. The plan suited the overall master plan for Jerusalem and even received the mayor's blessing. After that, though, the municipality – together with the Israel Nature and Parks Authority – began to promote the declaration of the "Mount Scopus Hillside" national park, which effectively annulled the residents' plan. In the Tzur Baher neighborhood, meanwhile, residents tried to advance a plan that would allow them to build legally. For years, the planner hired by the residents – architect Ayala Ronel – was required to match it to the municipal plans. But ultimately, in 2013, the chairperson of the regional planning committee decided to shelve the plan since so much time had elapsed since it was presented. The municipality is also working on a plan for the Beit Safafa neighborhood, but it is advancing at a sluggish pace. "The Israeli government does not permit significant legal building plans in Palestinian neighborhoods and presents the Palestinian residents with a cruel choice: To be expelled from their city or to build without a permit and take the risk of demolition and a monetary fine," said Aviv Tatarsky, a researcher for Ir Amim. The Jerusalem municipality said it carries out court orders "as it is obligated by law, and without bias. The demolitions are carried out on buildings that are illegal and were built without a permit. Everyone who chooses to build illegally should know that the Jerusalem municipality will demolish his home. It saddens us that extreme left-

wing organizations encourage the callous violation of the law just in order to promote their positions. "The municipality continues to advance plans for residents of all parts of the city," it continued. "In the neighborhoods in the eastern part of the city, plans are being advanced to add housing units with the aim of preventing illegal, uncoordinated construction that harms residents. Also, there is an increase in requests presented by residents for new building permits in the neighborhoods." Last week, the municipality demolished the home of the Turk family on the outskirts of Isawiyah. The father, Salah Turk, knew that his home was destined to be demolished, but said he was surprised by the timing of the demolition. "I made coffee and something for the children to eat, then suddenly I see that the house is full of soldiers who told me we have 10 minutes to leave the house and take only what I can in my hands," he said. "I said I wanted to look for my child's shoes – the child was grabbing onto me, crying and shouting," Turk added. "They didn't even let me find the shoes and I took the children out of the house. When I returned, I couldn't believe that they'd destroyed everything." Turk said most of the family's possessions remain under the rubble. He retrieved a bag of hummus from what was once the family kitchen, and in another area he showed the broken remains of his bed. He now lives together with his wife and nine children in a tin shack not far away. "I intend to build a tent on my land and live there," he said. The municipality refuted his claims, saying, "This is a building that was being constructed, at the foundation stage, and nobody lived in the structure and there were no personal belongings there." ([Haaretz](#) 21 February 2017)

- The police are demanding that Palestinians caught entering Israel illegally pay thousands of shekels for private security firms to escort them to subsequent court hearings in Israel. In 2015, Israel Police arrested some 4,300 people who entered Israel illegally via the occupied territories in order to seek work. In recent times, police representatives have been arriving at courtrooms immediately after an arrest with a prepared indictment – especially when this is not the first time the person has been apprehended. At present, the detainees are immediately released back into the territories, on condition that they leave a monetary guarantee of several thousand shekels in order to obligate them to turn up for court hearings. Many detainees have raised the problem that as soon as they are transferred to the Palestinian Authority, they automatically lose their right to return to Israel. This is due to a Shin Bet security service decision, according to the accepted procedure in such cases, whereby the accused present themselves at an Israel Defense Forces coordination command center, from where they are taken to court by the police. Recently, though, the

police decided to cancel such escorts and are demanding that the accused turn to private security companies to provide a security escort, at their own expense. The courts have begun canceling indictments in cases where the accused does not reach the courtroom due to the lack of a security escort. Last month, Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court Judge Hagai Tarsi canceled an indictment against a Palestinian man who, immediately upon being released at a checkpoint, requested an exit permit to attend his court hearing. The man understood that he is refused entry because of the Shin Bet decision, and could not attend court due to the prohibitive cost. The judge refused to wait and canceled the indictment, even though the man had been caught more than once. Ramle Magistrate's Court Judge Dr. Ami Kobo was more critical of the police when dealing with a Palestinian who failed to appear for a court appearance. When asked why the accused had not appeared, the police representative said: "I sent an email to the IDF coordination command and the reply I received yesterday was that the accused filed a request to enter and his request is still being processed by the Shin Bet. The accused's entry was permitted subordinate to a security escort by a private security company or the police. The police do not usually send escorts. Our position is that he should use a security company in order to turn up." Following the police representative's reply, the judge heard that the costs involved in using a private security escort were about 5,000 shekels (\$1,350) per hearing. The judge decided to immediately cancel the indictment. "I am of the opinion that demanding of an accused person who enters Israel illegally, seemingly in order to find work, to pay a security company – which will accompany him while in Israel to attend a court hearing – is an unreasonable demand under these circumstances," Kobo wrote in his decision. "If such people had a reasonable amount of money that would allow for hiring a security company, it can be assumed the violation would not have taken place and they would not have entered Israel for work purposes." Security sources were surprised to learn that the police are suggesting this solution for such cases. "If we're talking about people the Shin Bet decided are prohibited from entering, how can it be that a private security company hired by the accused will secure him during the time he is in Tel Aviv or Petah Tikva?" asked one security source. "What is the security guard's training? Where exactly will he drop [the accused] off – at the entrance to the courthouse and he'll wait outside? How can we allow a security guard, who we don't even know is trained, to escort an accused man that the Shin Bet says is problematic?" A spokesperson for Israel Police defended their move, saying that "limiting the entry and demand for a security company is not of the police's making, but rather of the other

security bodies regularly involved in the procedure. Alongside this, we are in constant contact with all the bodies involved in the procedure, in order to examine appropriate alternatives in situations such as these.” ([Haaretz](#) 21 February 2017)

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