



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) raided the Abud village northwest of Ramallah in the central occupied West Bank. Clashes erupted between local youths and Israeli soldiers who opened live fire, rubber-coated steel bullets and tear-gas bombs at youths and houses. (Maannews 26 January 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) shot Omar Nathir Ibrahim al-Barghouthi, 26, from the village of Abud in the central occupied West Bank Ramallah Governorate while driving near Abud. The IOA fired

shots at his vehicle. Al-Barghouthi which resulted in severe injuries across his body, including his right foot, right arm, chest, stomach, and head. Clashes erupted in Abud Thursday evening between local youth and Israeli forces for the second time in 24 hours, with Israeli soldiers opening live fire, and firing rubber-coated steel bullets and tear-gas bombs at youths and houses, while youths threw rocks and empty bottles. (Maannews 26 January 2017)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) sealed the main entrance to the town of Beita south of Nablus city in the northern occupied West Bank amidst reported accusations of stone-throwing. The IOA imposed “strict security procedures” and searched hundreds of Palestinian vehicles passing in both directions near the Beita-Huwarra crossroads, in addition to vehicles using the main road of the nearby Huwwara village for more than two hours. Israeli forces closed the crossroads until a further notice, reportedly claiming that rocks were being thrown at Israeli settlers’ vehicles. (Maannews 26 January 2017)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained Omar Nathir, 26, from the village of Abud in the Ramallah district after he was shot in the chest by Israeli forces. (Maannews 26 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained Ahmad Sameh al-Barghouthi from the village of Beit Rima, and Fouad Ibrahim al-Sheikh, 55, from the village of Saffa. (Maannews 26 January 2017)
- Muhammad al-Bakri, 17, was also detained by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) from the Old City in occupied East Jerusalem.
- In the Bethlehem Governorate, The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Eyad Manasra and Yousif Izzat from al-Duheisha refugee camp. (Maannews 26 January 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the Hebron Governorate as part of the Israeli “continuous battle against the production of weapons,” and also seized eight lathes from a workshop used for allegedly manufacturing weapons, as reported by the Israeli Army (IOA). (Maannews 26 January 2017)
- A Palestinian was detained from the village of Biddya in the Salfit district.
- In Nablus, The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained former prisoners Maher Salah and Nael al-Bishtawi. The IOA also detained Huthaifa Abu Nima, a student of an-Najah National University, from Askar refugee camp. (Maannews 26 January 2017)

- In Jenin, former prisoners and brothers Muhammad and Ahmad Abu Khalifa were detained from the Jenin refugee camp by the Israeli Occupation army. (Maannews 26 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained Amro Nayif Jarar from al-Hashimiya village. (Maannews 26 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained two Palestinian youths during a raid on the Azzun village in eastern Qalqiliya in the northern occupied West Bank. The IOA raided Azzun and searched several homes before detaining Hasan Abu Haniyeh and Zaid Ali Adwan. (Maannews 26 January 2017)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Israeli settlers took over a storage unit formerly belonging to the Sub Laban family on the ground floor of their apartment building in the Old City of occupied East Jerusalem. An Israeli family living below them drilled through the wall into the Sub Laban storage space, seemingly with the intention of expanding their apartment unit. The settlers were given ownership of the storage unit following a controversial Israeli Supreme Court ruling in December which concluded a decades-long legal battle between the family and Israeli settlers. The ruling allowed Sub Laban's parents, Noura and Mustafa Sub Laban, to reside in the apartment for 10 more years, but ordered the eviction of Ahmad, his wife, two children, and siblings. Sub Laban told Ma'an that while the settlers were given the storage unit by the Israeli Supreme Court, they had not undergone the proper legal channels to take over the property, and instead drilled through the wall and changed the locks of the unit from the inside, preventing the family from entering the space. The Israeli police were called to the scene, but did not force the settlers out of the unit and told the family that the space no longer belonged to them. According to Sub Laban, the settlers were prevented by the police from continuing with the wall demolition, as they had not obtained proper construction permits. The Sub Laban family are the last Palestinian family left in their apartment building in the Aqbat al-Khaldiya area of the Old City, where at least eight other Palestinian families are facing eviction spearheaded by Israeli settler organizations. The family has been targeted by settlers since the 1970s, shortly after the passage of Israel's 1970 Legal and Administrative Matter Law, which states that Jews are permitted to claim property that was owned by Jewish people before the establishment of Israel in 1948. The apartment was initially rented by the family from Jordan's Custodian of Enemy Property, which controlled property belonging to Jews before the 1948 Arab-Israeli

war. According to Palestinian rights group BADIL, the former Jewish properties were used by the Jordanian government in various ways, including for Palestinians who were displaced from their homes during the 1948 war and the establishment of the state of Israel. However, settlers have failed to evict the Sub Labans due to the family's protected tenancy, referring to rental agreements many Palestinians held with the Jordanian government which protected them from eviction. Israeli authorities allowed Palestinian families to keep the status for three generations, however Israeli courts have ruled that Sub Laban and his siblings no longer hold the protected status, and therefore must leave their home, a ruling which the Sub Labans have contested. (Maannews 26 January 2017)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

- The Israeli Occupation Bulldozers escorted by the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) uprooted 300 olive trees in an area west of the village of Kharas in the southern occupied West Bank Governorate of Hebron. Three Israeli bulldozers escorted by Israeli forces uprooted the olive trees, all more than 14 years old, planted on 25 dunams (six acres) of land. The IOA uprooted the trees without prior notice, and that Palestinian owners of the land were embroiled in court disputes as Israeli authorities have attempted to issue confiscation orders for the land. One of the owners of the land, Faisal Moussa al-Hroub, said that the Israeli authorities were attempting to expel them from their lands. The olive trees uprooted by Israeli forces were owned by him and his brother Muhammad, and that the land was the only major income for them and scores of his relatives. (Maannews 26 January 2017)

Expansion of settlements

- Israeli officials gave final approval to build 153 housing units in East Jerusalem, two days after approving construction for some 2,500 homes in the West Bank, most in existing settlement blocs Israel hopes to keep in any peace deal with the Palestinians. The approvals by a city planning committee for homes in the settlement of Gilo were among those held up due to US pressure during Barack Obama's presidential term. ([Times of Israel](#) 26 January 2017)

Other

- Israeli Interior Minister Aryeh Deri revoked the residency status of 11 family members of Martyr Fadi al-Qunbar, in Jerusalem's Jabal Al

Mukkabir town earlier this month. Deri announced that he would take measures to immediately cancel the residency status of the family members, many of whom were living and working in Israel under a family reunification program. (Al Quds 26 January 2017)

- Israel moved swiftly to take action on 73% of the list of 2,500 settler homes that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman promised to advance and authorize, the nongovernmental group Peace Now reported. The Housing Ministry approved tenders for 723 of the homes, including 552 in the Givat Ze'ev settlement, 90 in Ma'aleh Adumim, 78 in Alfei Menashe and 3 in Ariel. It noted that the tenders would mostly likely be published in February and March. Separately, it said the Civil Administration's Higher Planning Committee advanced plans for 1,123 units, including 839 units in the Ariel settlement, 20 in Beit El, 260 in Tzufin and four in Oranit. The committee also took action on a project that had not been on Netanyahu and Liberman's list: the advancement of plans to legalize the Horesh Yaron outpost, which houses an educational facility for teenagers. Located near the Talmon settlement, it was first built in 1996 with NIS 50,000 from the Construction Ministry. ([IPOST](#) 26 January 2017)
- Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon suggested that he welcomes US President Trump's plan to sign an executive order that would halt all US funding to UN agencies that recognize the Palestinian Authority or Palestine Liberation Organization as a full member. "The Palestinians continue threaten us with additional unilateral actions and we will continue to battle these attempts," Danon said after news of the potential initiative broke out "We welcome any initiative aimed at thwarting these attacks." "The international community must make clear to the Palestinians once and for all that the only way to move forward is by them ending terrorism and incitement and returning to direct negotiations," the ambassador added. The move, first reported in the *New York Times*, would create a committee tasked with reviewing US aid to the international bodies and programs. The order specifically calls for a review of aid to UN peacekeeping efforts. The Palestinians enjoy "non-member state" status at the UN, which grants them limited operational freedoms. Washington funds roughly 22 percent of the UN's overall annual budget. Trump's consideration of this executive order, titled "Auditing and Reducing US Funding of International Organizations," pairs with a Senate effort to legislate similar threats against the UN over its actions targeting Israel. That effort, led by senators Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida, gained steam after the Obama administration last month abstained from a Security Council resolution

condemning Israel over its settlement enterprise. The executive order would also target organizations that circumvent sanctions against Iran, or that support reproductive rights. ([IPOST](#) 26 January 2017)

- The Yesha Council is concerned over the government's approval of the construction of 2,500 housing units in Judea and Samaria. With the shift in power from the Obama Administration to the Trump Administration, the council expected the government to quickly shift away from the policy of freezing construction in Judea and Samaria and parts of Jerusalem, and considers 2,500 units to be insufficient to meet the needs of their communities. The Yesha Council therefore initiated a campaign titled 'Stop the Bloc Plan of the Netanyahu Government,' and called for construction to resume before the Prime Minister's meeting with President Trump. The Yesha Council called the initial announcement of the plans to build 2,500 units as "a sham," stating that its members were disappointed with the small number of units and that most of the structures would never be built. They said that the government's focus on the major blocs called into question its commitment to the residents of Judea and Samaria, and called on the government to approve their plans for new construction in Judea and Samaria. ([INN](#) 26 January 2017)
- The Jerusalem municipality gave final approval to 153 housing units in the Gilo neighborhood in southern Jerusalem. The Jerusalem City Councilman and Deputy Mayor Meir Turgeman said number of building permits issued by the municipality had spiked since President Donald Trump's inauguration last Friday. The permits issued included projects frozen in recent years because of pressure applied by the Obama administration on Israel, Turgeman said. In the days since the Trump inauguration, Turgeman has promised to massively expand the number of housing units approved by the city. "I'm going to deliver permits for thousands of homes in Jerusalem in the coming months," Turgeman said. Specifically, Turgeman has said as many as 11,000 housing units could be approved in neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem, following eight years of limited construction. On Sunday, city approved 566 building permits for homes in eastern Jerusalem. Two days later, the Defense Ministry approved 2,500 homes in Judea and Samaria, marking the end of the de facto building freeze on Israeli projects over the Green Line. ([INN](#) 26 January 2017)
- The Israeli Supreme Court President Justice Miriam Naor will hold an urgent hearing on Monday about the request of nine families in the town of Ofra to postpone their eviction from their homes by three months. The Court recently ruled that the nine homes must be demolished by February 8. On Wednesday, the families living in the homes in question submitted a request to postpone the eviction

because the homes to which they are planning to move are not yet ready. Earlier this week, the residents of Ofra announced [they would launch a new campaign](#) starting on Sunday to prevent the eviction. As part of the campaign, the leaders of the community plan to begin a hunger strike in front of the Prime Minister's Office. Among the hunger strikers will be former Yesha Council chairman Pinchas Wallerstein, the Secretary General of Amana Ze'ev Hever (Zambish), and the Secretary of Ofra, Sami Karsenty. They will demand that the government settle the status of Ofra once and for all. ([INN](#) 26 January 2017)

- The High Court of Justice has decided to allow the Civil Administration to demolish structures adjacent to an illegally built structure in villages inside Israel Defense Forces Firing Zone 918 in the West Bank. The High Court will also allow Civil Administration inspectors to determine what comes under the category of "adjacent" in this regard. Residents of these villages and their attorney, Shlomo Lecker, worry that some inspectors – whom they believe are also settlers – will take advantage of the situation to authorize the immediate and extensive demolition of residential and public structures. On January 11, the High Court instructed the state to prepare a military training plan that would cause minimal disturbance to residents of eight villages in the southern Hebron Hills area that in 1980 was declared a military firing zone. On the same day, as two petitions were being heard against the forced evacuation of the residents, another petition was also heard to freeze 31 demolition orders for an array of structures, including residential structures, several tents, openings for water wells, lavatory structures made of tin, a cement floor with a tent above it that is used as a medical center, classrooms in two villages and 12 solar panels. The justices agreed to the residents' request to issue an interim order to freeze the demolition orders until a general decision is made on the petitions against the evacuation. At the same time, the justices made this order contingent on there being no additional construction in the structures "subject to demolition orders, or adjacent to them." If this condition is not met, said the justices, "the freeze will not be upheld and the interim order will be invalidated." It is not entirely clear whether the decision applies to anyone who builds without a permit or just to the petitioners. Nor was the distance that counts as "adjacent" specified. Thus, theoretically, if a young couple erects a residential tent 100 meters from a classroom that is subject to a demolition order, or if a fence is put up there, the High Court would permit the Civil Administration to take down both the tent and the fence, or both the classroom and the tent, even if it is being used as a medical center. Following the hearing and

the publication of the minutes, Lecker submitted an urgent request to the court to either clarify or update the decision, enumerating the problematic issues he sees with it. In his letter to justices Elyakim Rubinstein, Hanan Meltzer and Yoram Danziger, Lecker wrote, “The petitioners fear – and with good cause, unfortunately – that the Civil Administration inspection unit, which includes at least some residents of the nearby Susya settlement, will take an ‘expansive interpretation’ of the decision and view all construction by anyone ‘even at a significant distance from the structures subject to demolition orders’ as a violation of the interim order.” Lecker also argued that “environmental” punishment and infringement of one person’s human rights due to the actions and failings of another is not accepted under Israeli or military law (with the exception of security exigencies). Lecker asked the justices to amend the decision so that it will only be considered a violation if the petitioners themselves build additions to the structures subject to the demolition orders. But at the end of last week, the justices responded that they stand behind their original decision and see no need to change it. They also wrote that “the presumption is upon the respondents, the government authorities, to behave fairly as required.” ([Haaretz](#) 26 January 2017)

- The Israeli military has ordered several Israel Defense Forces battalions to gear up to evacuate the illegal West Bank outpost of Amona after the High Court of Justice decided to suspend a proposed relocation plan, Haaretz has learned. After extending the deadline, the court ordered Amona’s residents to leave the site by February 8 after ruling previously the outpost had been built on land privately owned by Palestinians. A plan to relocate the residents has been stymied, however by claims recently asserted by Palestinians to ownership or other ties to a proposed site not far from Amona. The IDF intends to deploy additional battalions in preparation for the evacuation. The battalions had been due to take part in the evacuation before the court extended its deadline. Therefore the forces are to be pulled away from an operational assignment so that they may see to the unauthorized outpost’s evacuation. About a month and a half ago, 12 soldiers from the Givati brigade left the Tzabar battalion, after refusing to participate in Amona’s evacuation. It was only after the battalion commander advised them that they would not take part in the eviction of residents that they returned to their base. They were told that they would mainly be involved in closing roads in the area of the outpost.
- IDF forces will be responsible for handling any confrontations that may arise with Palestinians and helping to manage access routes. As part of IDF preparations, military units have undergone battle training including mental preparation, through meetings with actors from the

IDF's theater. IDF sources have made it clear in the past, however, that the police are responsible for the evacuation and handling civilians at the site. In the event that the residents don't leave voluntarily, they will be removed by the border police. In December, border police were trained at the IDF's Tze'elim base about how to evict the settlers. The training took place at a site usually used to simulate a refugee camp in Gaza or a Lebanese village. For the Amona training, some of the base's mock buildings were named for individual Amona families. The IDF Spokesman's Office said: "The IDF will continue to fulfill its role in maintaining security in the region and will act to maintain law and order in Judea and Samaria [the West Bank] in accordance with instructions from the political level. Changes in the locations of forces are carried out in accordance with situation assessments." ([Haaretz](#) 26 January 2017)