



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 6 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) launched airstrikes in the northern Gaza Strip, hours after an Israeli army tank fired two shells into eastern Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza, after a rocket landed in an open area in the Ashkelon region of southern Israel. The cross-border fire came after locals in Gaza reported two separate incidents of Israeli forces opening fire at them. At around 2 p.m., the Israeli army launched airstrikes at an open area and "a resistance post" west of Beit Lahiya, injuring one person identified as Muhammad Muhammad Mousa Saad Allah,

who is a fisherman. The extent of his injuries remained unclear. (Maannews 6 February 2017)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired at Palestinian locals and fishermen in two separate incidents, while Israeli bulldozers also made an incursion into central Gaza to level lands. The Israeli naval forces opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of the northern Gaza Strip and started pursuing them. No injuries or detentions were reported. (Maannews 6 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stationed at watchtowers opened fire at the southern Gaza towns of al-Qarara and Khuzaa east of Khan Yunis, without causing injuries. (Maannews 6 February 2017)
- The Israeli military vehicles launched a limited incursion into lands east of the city of Deir al-Balah city in the central Gaza Strip. Four Israeli bulldozers escorted by Israeli military vehicles set off from the Kissufim military base and staged an incursion, approximately 150 meters into eastern Deir al-Balah. No shooting occurred during the incursion. (Maannews 6 February 2017).
- The Israeli planes dropped suspicious objects in Al Fawara area in Jaba' village south of Jenin Governorate in the southern West Bank area. (Safa 6 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the village of Qarawat Bani Hassan northwest of Salfit in the northern occupied West Bank, causing clashes to erupt between Israeli soldiers and local youth. A number of the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided the village, claiming that Palestinian youth from the village had thrown stones and Molotov cocktails at the illegal Israeli settlement of Kiryat Netanim, which is located just a few hundred meters east of Qarawat Bani Hassan. Israeli troops fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs as they stormed the small village. During the incursion, forces raided a local gas station, confiscating all security cameras from the business, and installed a flying military checkpoint at the village's main entrance, preventing residents from entering or leaving the area. No reports of detentions were made during the raid. (Maannews 6 February 2016)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Palestine TV crew in Madama village in the southern Nablus city while on duty. The IOA confiscated the camera and detained head of Madama village council under the pretext of entering a "Closed Military Zone. (Wafa 6 February 2016)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) arrested Muhammad Abu Jamal (71 years), father of Martyr GHassan Abu Jamal)after raiding his house in Jabal Al Mukkabir town in occupied East Jerusalem and searching it. (Safa 6 February 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) arrested Jamal Faraj Al Mansi (50 Years) from Shu'fat refugee camp in occupied East Jerusalem after raiding and searching his house. (Safa 6 February 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) arrested Imad Ad Din Al 'Abbasi from Silwan city in the southern Jerusalem city after raiding and searching his house. (Safa 6 February 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) arrested Tareq An Natsheh from Ras Al Amoud Neighborhood in Jerusalem city after raiding and searching his house. (Safa 6 February 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided Askar Refugee camp in Nablus Governorate, searched the houses of some Palestinians before arresting Basem Al Afghani and Muhammad Bushkar. (Safa 6 February 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided Al Jalzoun refugee camp and raided the house of Uthman Nakhla and searched it. The IOA later arrested citizen Nakhla and took him to Unknown destination. (Safa 6 February 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided the house of Prisoner Bassam Az Zeir in Dura town in Hebron Governorate, searched the house and messed with the contents. (Safa 6 February 2017)

Israeli Settler Violence

- A number of Israeli settlers planted tens of dunums of Palestinian lands in Al Qa'dat area in Madama village south of Nablus city with grapes seedlings. The Settlers also took over a water well in the area. (Wafa 06 February 2017)
- Groups of Israeli settlers raided Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city and performed Talmudic rituals. (Wafa 06 February 2017)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities delivered a halt of construction order to a construction project that aims at reclaiming a water spring in Al Himma area in the northern Jordan Valley. (Wafa 06 February 2017)

Israeli Military Orders

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities delivered two military notifications to uproot trees and remove stone-chains in Wadi Qana area to the northwest of Salfit City. Owners were given a period of one week to execute the order. The first order was given to citizen Muqbel Muhammad Awwad and targets 61 Olive trees in the area and a water reservoir and a 70 meters long stone wall. The second order was given to citizen Abdel Aziz Abdel Qader and orders the demolition of a stone wall and the uprooting of trees. (Wafa 6 February 2017)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) confiscated three machineries owned by a private company and a vehicle owned by citizen Hussein Nimir that were working to open an agricultural road between Bardala and Kherbit Ibziq communities in the northern Jordan Valleys. Note that the project is unded by the European community. (Wafa 6 February 2017)

Other

- The High Court of Justice has delayed the demolition of nine homes in the Ofra settlement by one month, until March 5. The court had previously ruled that the homes must be taken down by February 8, because they were built without permits on private Palestinian property. The residents of the nine homes had asked for a delay so that they could move into new homes, which would be ready only within three months. News of the delay came as a homeowner named Shira was in the middle of an interview with Israel Radio. The ruling, she said, did little to help them because the whole idea had been to prevent the need to relocate twice. On Sunday afternoon the Ofra residents plan to hold a rally against the demolitions and to call on the government to authorize the Settlements Bill, which would retroactively legalize 4,000 settler homes on private Palestinian property. The legislation is particularly important for Ofra, which has hundreds of such homes. On Monday night the Knesset is scheduled to authorize the bill even though Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit has warned that it is unconstitutional and will not withstand any legal challenge to Israel's High Court of Justice. Retired Supreme Court president Dorit Beinisch told Israel Radio on Sunday that the law was problematic because the Knesset did not have the authority to legislate issues relating to property of Area C of the West Bank, which was outside its purview. "We (the Knesset) do not have the constitutional ability to legislate for this area," she said. Lawmakers are moving

forward with the legislation based on the legal opinion of the Knesset's attorney and with the help of a private attorney. Left-wing lawmakers have argued that passage of the law would push the International Criminal Court to rule on the issue of West Bank settlements, a matter that it is already studying. Right-wing legal experts have argue that the law actually places Israel within compliance of international law, because it compensates the Palestinians for the land loss, as opposed to the current situation in which settlers are using the property without any remuneration to the Palestinians. ([IPOST](#) 6 February 2017)

- Settler leaders and the heads of the Ofra settlement on Sunday threatened to hold a hunger strike outside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office if the Knesset fails to pass the settlement regulation bill. Thousands of protesters rallied in Ofra demanding that the government approve the bill, which would retroactively legalize settler homes on private Palestinian property. ([IPOST](#) 6 February 2017)
- Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked (Jewish Home) reaffirmed that the Regulation Law bill to protect thousands of Jewish homes in Judea and Samaria would be voted on and passed later today. Speaking at a cyber security forum at Tel Aviv University, the Justice Minister said the second and third votes for the bill would be held in the Knesset plenum later on Monday, adding that the bill had a guaranteed majority. "The law will be voted upon and it has a majority – there is a coalition," said Shaked. In its current form, the Regulation Law has the backing of the Ministerial Committee for Legislation, a body of representatives of all coalition partners which determines whether the government and all coalition MKs will be obliged to back particular pieces of legislation. Members of the Kulanu party, which has expressed concerns over the law, say the faction will back the bill in its present form, but added they would opposed efforts to make the law apply retroactively. On Sunday, thousands of demonstrators demanded the Regulation Law be used to normalize nine homes in the town of Ofra, north of Jerusalem. The Supreme Court has issued demolition orders against the nine homes. ([INN](#) 6 February 2017)
- Assuming that the Knesset vote takes place today as scheduled, the state legislature is going to stain itself dreadfully when it approves what's been dubbed the "regularization law," meant to retroactively legalize illegally built homes in the West Bank. The name of the bill is misleading, and not by coincidence. The bill doesn't aim to "regularize" but to steal. If the vote takes place, the majority of our lawmakers will raise their hands to approve a bill that will steal land from Palestinians. The theft will come after the fact; to accommodate

settlements and outposts that were built on private land, the land will be expropriated from its owners, while the thieves living on it will be granted “the presumption of innocence.” To grant this theft a veil of equitableness, Palestinians who can prove ownership will receive increased financial compensation. The proud leader of this thievery is the Habayit Hayehudi party. As far as the members of this nationalist religious party are concerned, there is no area in the Land of Israel that belongs to non-Jews. That’s also why there’s no point in talking in terms of theft, stealing or expropriation; all we have here is a “misunderstanding” that needs to be “regularized.” Heading this band of thieves is Habayit Hayehudi chairman Naftali Bennett. The education minister tried to bow and scrape last week before the Amona evacuees, who complained about his inability to prevent their eviction, by promising that the expropriation law would be voted on today, thus “putting an end to the method of legal displacement.” Bennett is not alone in his struggle against the “method of legal displacement.” He is backed by party colleague Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked, who won’t let trivialities stop the robbery convoy from barreling forward. The fact that Attorney General Avichai Mendelblit refuses to defend such theft if it gets challenged in court doesn’t deter her. Shaked has found a solution: a private attorney will represent the government. So that’s how it is. To authorize land theft in the occupied territories the justice minister is prepared to smash the country’s legal norms with her own hands. And as if to threaten the High Court of Justice, which will probably be asked to rule on this unconstitutional law, the woman meant to defend it delivered the following warning: “If the regularization law is invalidated, there is a series of administrative decisions that the attorney general has already made and stands behind that regularizes most of the settlements.” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu knows that this bill is immoral, unconstitutional and will certainly do Israel great damage internationally. Netanyahu also knows that the law will be struck down by the High Court of Justice, which will then be smeared mercilessly by the settler right and its Knesset representatives. Netanyahu is trapped; he knows that the good of the country requires that the bill be buried for good, but on the other hand, he hears MK Betzalel Smotrich declare that “if the regularization bill doesn’t come up [for a vote] on Monday, there will be no government.” And if there’s one thing that Netanyahu’s long years at the helm have proven, it’s that when asked to choose between the good of the country and his political survival, the country will always come second. ([Haaretz](#) 6 February 2017)

- One of the biggest and most persistent mysteries of Israel is its high housing prices. The solution is fairly easy, after all: As everyone

knows, to lower prices, it's necessary to increase the amount of land in the center of the country available for residential construction and to greatly decrease the duration of the approval process. So why isn't this happening? Is it deliberate? This week's evacuation of Amona provided the answer. Just as it was beginning, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman announced the approval of 3,000 new housing units in the territories, in addition to the 2,500 that were previously announced. Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz also had big news this week. He described a plan to spend 5 billion shekels (\$1.25 billion) to improve the road infrastructure in the West Bank, even though the roads there are in much better shape than those in Israel proper. It would include widening existing roads; building new roads, interchanges and tunnels as well as rail links between Ariel and Petah Tikva and between Ma'aleh Adumim and Jerusalem. "The five-year plan will give a big push to the development of Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria," Katz said. And that's when it hit me: Israel's high home prices aren't due to the failure of well-intentioned efforts. The endless traffic jams are not the result of random events. They are part of a political master plan to attract more and more Israelis to move eastward, to increase their number to the point where it will no longer be possible to evacuate them and the two-state solution will die a natural death. This plan was conceived of decades ago by people from the Greater Israel camp, who realized that the biggest problem faced by young couples in Israel was buying their first home. So they concocted a sophisticated numbers game, taking steps to reduce home prices in Jewish settlements in the territories while jacking them up within Israel proper. They accomplished the former goal through the national budget. They offered land in the territories at no cost, regardless of demand and the tremendous expense of building on the rocky, hilly ground. They also saw to it that building permits in the territories would be issued lightning-fast, in stark contrast to the norm within the Green Line. They also gave settlers tax breaks and other economic benefits, turning Judea into a welfare state. Meanwhile, on the other side of the Green Line, it was the complete opposite. The Israel Lands Administration consistently failed to meet the demand for land zoned for residential construction, causing an ongoing increase in home prices. The agency was always headed by right-wing cabinet ministers, who took care to maintain this discriminatory policy. At the same time, they made no serious efforts to reduce the bureaucracy, because the bureaucracy serves their objectives: It causes construction delays and increases expenses, adding to housing costs. The same thing is happening in regard to transportation. The Tel Aviv light rail project is

stuck, not by chance but on purpose. The poor state of public transportation is part of the same master plan, as are the growing traffic jams in the big cities, which also contribute to rising home prices. True, there is no written documentation of this plan, nor are their recordings to prove it, but circumstances show that all of the right-wing governments of the past decades have followed it.

- So no one should be surprised that Netanyahu, Lieberman and Katz are moving to accelerate construction and improve transportation – in the territories. Nor is it a surprise to hear Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon say: “I never said we’d lower housing prices.” Of course he won’t. That would go against the master plan. ([Haaretz](#) 6 February 2017)

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