



# ARIJ Daily Report

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## Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 7 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

- Israeli naval forces opened fire towards Palestinian fishing boats sailing off the coast of Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip. Israeli military ships fired heavily from machine guns towards them, forcing them to head back to shore. No injuries were reported. (Maannews 7 February 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian farmers on agricultural lands east of Beit Hanoun in the northeastern Gaza Strip. No injuries had been reported. (Maannews 7 February 2017)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) fired at least eight Israeli missiles at several locations across the besieged coastal enclave. One airstrike hit agricultural land in the center of Khan Younis city in the southern Gaza Strip. Two people were injured in Khan Yunis. The airstrikes hit a military post as well as an agricultural area east of Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip, in addition to the al-Shujaiyya neighborhood in Gaza City, causing damages to several residential buildings. The air strikes also hit agricultural lands east of al-Maghazi and al-Bureij refugee camps in the central Gaza Strip. (Maannews 7 February 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and members of the Israeli Tax Authority raided a bakery shop in Shu'fat town in occupied East Jerusalem and attacked owners and workers. (Wafa 7 February 2017).
- Members of the Israeli Tax Authority escorted by the Isrageli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Palestinians' shops in Bab Al Khaleel area in occupied East Jerusalem. Clashes erupted between shop owners and the IOA as the IOA went on checking Palestinians' ID cards. (Wafa 7 February 2017).
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the Industrial Islamic Orphanage school in Al Wad Street in the old city of Jerusalem. No arrests were reported. (Wafa 7 February 2017).
- The occupation authorities isolated four young Jerusalemite men from Al-Aqsa Mosque. The occupation authorities decided to isolate Mahmoud Abdellatif, Thaer Abu Sbeih and Rawhi Kulghasi from Al-Aqsa for 6 months. The authorities also isolated Khader Ajloni from Al-Aqsa for 6 months.

## Israeli Arrests

- In the southern occupied West Bank Governorate of Hebron, the Israeli Occupation Army detained two Palestinians from the village of Tarqumiya and one from the town of Idhna. (Maannews 7 February 2017)
- The 35-year-old Nader Abu Mayala was detained by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in the city of Hebron. (Maannews 7 February 2017)
- The Israeli judge sentenced the minor Ala' Akoob for 6 months of actual imprisonment and imposed a fine of 10 thousand NIS on him as compensation to the settlers as well as a suspended probation of 6 months for three years.(SILWANIC 7 February 2017)
- The Israeli Court extended the arrest of Mohammad Salaymeh and Mohammad Assaileh until 8/2/2017, Malek Sroor indefinitely, Mouayad Bader and Naser Obeid until 9/2/2017, Amid Obeid and Issa

Dirbas until 12/2/2017, Suhaib Afaneh until 29/3/2017 and Munir Mheisen until 22/3/2017. (SILWANIC 7 February 2017)

- The Israeli Police arrested Mohammad Zghayyar from the Old City of Jerusalem. (SILWANIC 7 February 2017)
- The Israeli District Court sentenced 18-year old Ismaeel Mahmoud Karaki for 34 months of actual imprisonment on charges of throwing Molotov Cocktails. (SILWANIC 7 February 2017)
- The Israeli District Court sentenced Mohammad Mousa Abbasi (25) for 3 and a half years in prison on charges of throwing stones and Molotov Cocktails as well as communicating with "enemies". (SILWANIC 7 February 2017)

### **Israeli Settler Violence**

- Israeli settlers from a nearby illegal settlement uprooted some 700 olive and almond trees in the village of Burqa in Nablus Governorate. The trees, which belonged to Khalid Salah, Mahmoud Daghlas, and Khalid Nasser, were planted nine years ago in the al-Qubeibat and al-Qusour areas east of Burqa. The trees were planted two years after the eviction of the nearby Homesh settlement which was located in northwest Nablus. After the eviction, the Palestinian land-owners obtained decisions from Israeli courts including the high court that neither settlers, nor Israeli forces would harass the land owners. However, in 2016 settlers started to "camp" in the area under protection of Israeli troops making it very difficult for farmers to tend their fields and water their trees. (Maannews 7 February 2017)

### **Home Demolition & Demolition threats**

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers demolished two residential tents, six animal pens in Kherbit Ar Ras Al Ahmar southeast of Tubas city. The Demolished tents and structures are owned by Ali Bani Odeh. (Wafa 7 February 2017).
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers demolished animal pens in Kardala village in Tubas Governorate. (Wafa 7 February 2017).

### **Israeli Bypass Roads**

- The Israeli government has launched a new five-year plan to upgrade the transportation infrastructure in the West Bank to the tune of NIS 5 billion (\$1.3 billion). The massive project, led by Transportation

Minister Yisrael Katz, will include excavating new tunnels, expending main highways, road resurfacing, paving interchanges, new access roads and bypasses, and creating easier access to the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem metropolitan areas via light rail and special public transit lanes. The new public transit lanes are meant to help reduce the traffic congestion on the roads leading into the metropolitan areas. The roads in the West Bank see constant traffic of both Israeli and Palestinian vehicles 24 hours a day. However, the infrastructure in many places is lacking, with narrow roads often leading to fatal car accidents. The roads leading to the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv metropolitan areas are also plagued by heavy traffic. The five-year plan seeks to both make the roads safer and ease the congestion. In the Jerusalem metropolitan area, an emphasis will be put on reducing the heavy traffic at the eastern, southern and northern entrances to the city, so the capital and its surrounding area become one metropolis with a quick and direct connection to Ma'ale Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Gush Etzion-Binyamin and Beitar Illit. To that end, the Tunnels Road (the Jerusalem portion of Highway 60) will undergo a NIS 850 million expansion in the area between Begin Boulevard (Highway 50) and Elazar (on Highway 60), adding a lane in each direction as well as a public transit lane. The project will open up the possibility of adding new housing units in Beit Shemesh, Beitar Illit, Tzur Hadassah and the surrounding area. It will give drivers a direct route from Gush Etzion to Tel Aviv through Jerusalem without stopping at a single traffic light. The Transportation Ministry has already allocated NIS 30 million to the project's planning and work is scheduled to will begin at the end of 2018. A grade separation is going to be built at the French Hill Junction at the cost of NIS 1 billion. It will include two two-laned tunnels going east to west, 1.5 kilometers in length and two one-lane tunnels going north to west, which will be 650 meters in length. The Transportation Ministry has already allocated NIS 80 million to the project's planning and work is scheduled to will begin at the end of 2018. When the project is completed, drivers will be able drive directly from Ma'ale Adumim to Jerusalem or Tel Aviv without stopping at a single traffic light. The Transportation Ministry is also looking into either a light rail or a train connecting Ma'ale Adumim to Jerusalem. Furthermore, the ministry is working on solutions for the traffic congestion in the Qalandiya area that would affect all entrances to Jerusalem from the north. In the first stage, a public transit lane will be paved from Qalandiya to Jerusalem, budgeted at NIS 30 million. Then, a grade separation will be built as well as a new road connecting the Binyamin area to Route 443 through the town of Atarot. The total cost of the project will be NIS 80 million. The Transportation Ministry has already allocated NIS 5 million to

planning the project. Some NIS 50 million were invested in the eastern ring road, which will connect the northern part of Jerusalem to the Naomi Shemer Mount Scopus Tunnel and Ammunition Hill. Route 437 will be expanded with a public transit lane from the Adam Junction to the light rail station in Pisgat Ze'ev. The plan also includes a light rail that would connect the settlement of Ariel and the Samaria region to the Greater Tel Aviv metropolitan area. The light rail will go from Ariel towards Rosh HaAyin and Petah Tikvah. In addition, Route 55 will be doubled from Karnei Shomron to where it links up with Route 444. Several roads will be paved to bypass roads that pass through Arab villages. A road to bypass Nabi Ilyas is being paved as part of Route 55 to the tune of NIS 54 million, while a road to bypass Al-Arroub, which will connect the Judea region to Kiryat Arba-Hebron and Jerusalem, is in the planning stages. In addition, a road to bypass Huwara is being planned to better connect the northern Samaria region to Ariel and to central Israel. The existing road from Modi'in Illit to the Lapid Junction will also be doubled and later, an interchange will be paved near Shilat as well as another direct road from Modi'in Illit to the Maccabim Junction on Route 443. The plan also has projects that are in the primary stages and will be carried out as part of the next five-year plan, which will include the completion of the planning stages for the expansion of Route 60 from the Tapuach Junction to Meitar as a four-lane road with two lanes in each direction, as well as expanding and completing routes 465 and 446, among others. As part of the plan, dangerous roads where fatal car accidents have occurred will be added with new safety measures. In the first stage, junctions along Route 60—including the Givat Asaf junction, the Kokhav Ya'akov junction and the British Police junction—will be added with traffic lights, squares etc., based on need. Significant safety measures might be added to Route 444 connecting Anatot and Ma'ale Adumim. At a later stage, highway lights will be added to junctions across the West Bank. Finally, Givat Ze'ev and Sha'ar Binyamin will be connected via train to the local train network being built in Jerusalem. "The plan's objective is to improve accessibility and safety for both the Israeli and Palestinian populations," Transportation Minister Katz said. The plan, he added, will bolster the Jewish settlement in the West Bank and allow it to develop further, much like the infrastructure upgrade being done in the Galilee and the Negev regions. ([YNETNEWS](#) 7 February 2017)

## **Erection of Israeli checkpoints**

- **The** Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a military checkpoint in Abu Sneneh neighborhood in the southern Hebron city and obstructed movement in both directions. The IOA detained a number of Palestinians, checked their ID cards and searched their vehicles. (Wafa 7 February 2017).

## Other

- Over the course of the month of January alone, at least 64 Palestinian minors were detained and incarcerated in Israel's Ofer detention center, while the minors were imposed with a collective 52,000 shekels (approximately \$14,000) in fines, the Palestinian Committee of Prisoners' Affairs said in a statement. Eight of the minors were detained after Israeli forces shot them. Of the minors detained in January and held in Ofer, 28 were detained from their homes, 27 from the street, six at Israeli military checkpoints, and two after they were summoned for interrogation. One 16-year-old detainee was transferred to administrative detention. 28 of the underage Palestinians were handed actual prison sentences ranging between one month and 12 months, while the remaining were still being held and interrogated. (Maannews 7 February 2017)
- The Israeli Knesset passed [legislation](#) hailed by the Right for [legalizing some 4,000 settler homes](#) and attacked by the Left as the first step toward [de facto annexation](#). Its passage by a vote of 60-52 marks the first time that the Knesset has sought to impose Israeli law in Area C of the West Bank, which is under Israeli military and civilian rule. That territory is considered to be outside the Knesset's purview and such an action could be viewed as an initial application of sovereignty... The vote took place without Netanyahu, who was still on his way back from London after meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May. Likud MK Bennie Begin voted against the legislation, the only coalition MK to do so. The bill's passage ends months of bitter debate over the legislation, both within the right-wing parties and between the coalition and the opposition. (JPOST 7 February 2017)
- Non-governmental groups plan to petition the High Court of Justice against a new Israeli law that retroactively legalizes close to 4,000 settler homes on private Palestinian property. The groups — Peace Now, Yesh Din and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel — announced their plans to turn to the court almost immediately after the Knesset authorized the legislation in a historic 60-52 vote. ([IPOST](#) 7 February 2017)

- A week after the evacuation of Amona, the Supreme Court issued new demolition orders for a neighborhood in the Jewish community of Kfar Tapuah in Samaria. The court ruled that 17 buildings in Tapuah West, a neighborhood of [Kfar Tapuah](#), must be demolished by April 2018. Tapuah, a town of roughly 1,000 east of Ariel, was targeted by the court in early 2004 when it ordered the demolition of a synagogue in the Tapuah West neighborhood. The demolition orders issued Tuesday were made in response to an appeal by the “Yesh Din” organization, a far-left NGO, who filed with the court on behalf of residents of the nearby village of Yasuf who claim they have a basis for ownership of the land. The orders were issued despite arguments by the government that it intends to normalize the status of the neighborhood. David Ha’Ivri, a former mayor of Kfar Tapuah and former spokesperson for the Samaria Regional Council accused the government of dragging its feet on the issue, despite promises to settle questions of the neighborhood’s status. “The Netanyahu-Bennett government is a disgrace,” said Ha’Ivri. “They have sat on their hands on the issue of Israeli sovereignty in Judea and Samaria for too long. Yesterday Amona, today Tapuah West.” “Jewish families in the heartland of Israel should not have their homes demolished by the State of Israel. It is time for the Israeli public to rethink our blind support for these two parties who have proven to be a huge disappointment. We must make Israel great again.” MK Bezael Smotrich (Jewish Home) slammed the court’s decision, which came on the heels of the passage of the regulation law Monday night. “The timing of the release of this ruling for the demolition of 17 buildings in Tapuah, just before the Regulation Law goes into effect, is purely coincidental,” Smotrich said sarcastically. “Just like the composition of the [three-judge] panel that heard the case really thinks that we are complete fools. But we aren’t. We’ll put a stop to this judicial tyranny. ([INN](#) 7 February 2017)
- Former Justice Minister Prof. Daniel Friedman said that the chances that the Supreme Court will not strike down the passed Regulation Law are low. The Court will likely reject the Law on grounds that it presents a blow to private property rights. ([INN](#) 7 February 2017)