



The Monthly Report on Israeli Violations in Occupied Jerusalem during September 2016

Prepared by:

Team of Monitoring Israeli Violations

Land Research Center- Arab Studies Society



Ninth edition of the tenth year

The following table explains the number and type of Israeli violations in occupied Jerusalem by date during September 2016:

Type of violation	Location	No.
Demolition of structures and residences		13
Demolition of under-construction residences	Wad Yasoul- Silwan	2
Self-demolition	Old City of Jerusalem	1
Demolition of a tent used as "guest house"	Sur Baher	1
Self-demolition of a store	Al-Thori	1
Self-demolition of two residences	Al-Ashqariya- Beit Hanina	2
Partial demolition of a residence	Beit Safafa	1
Partial demolition of a restaurant	Beit Safafa	1
Demolition of residential apartment	At-Tur	4
Seizure of residences		1
Eviction of Palestinian family for the favor of colonial group	Old City of Jerusalem	1
Colonial expansion- dunums		25
Leveling Palestinian lands to build Israeli factories in Shari Benyamin colony	Jaba'	25
Attacks on lands- dunum		3
Lands ravaging	Sur Baher	3
Attacks on religious sites		
Raids and break-ins on Al Aqsa mosque	Al-Aqsa mosque	8
Isolation from AL-Aqsa mosque		11
Detention and arrest		4



Violation of the right to Housing - home demolition

Dozers of the Israeli occupation municipality demolish two under-construction residences in Silwan

In the neighborhood of Wad Yasoul in Silwan, the occupation bulldozers demolished two under-construction homes owned by Eyad Nairookh and Amjad Sinokrot. The house of Eyad is reported to be of 80m² in area, to which the owner was planning to move-in with his four member family including two children.

The second residence, which is owned by Amjad, is also of the same area. Amjad's four member family including two children were intending to move-in to the house the moment it gets done.

The wife of Amjad told Land Research Center the following:

" Construction works of two houses started during August 2016 on a plot that is owned by my husband ,Amjad, and his friend Eyad Nairookh. The structures were made of cement and bricks. At time of construction, employees from the occupation's municipality arrived at the location and hanged an "unaddressed" demolition order on the building. The order was administrative; meaning that the occupation can implement it in 48 hours.

At 8:00 in the morning a force from Israel Police and two dozers arrived to the area and closed before bringing down the two residences. Demolition started at 8:30 and was finished at 11:30 before noon. At time of the operation, Eyad arrived at the location but the force detained him in a Police car until the demolition was over.

We now live in a rented house but the owners asked us to evacuate for they urgently needed it"

It should be marked that the occupation's municipality bans any construction act in Wad Yasoul area and distributes administrative demolition orders for the owners of houses in the neighborhood. The municipality aims at annexing the neighborhood to the colonies of Jabal Al-Mukabir area.

The policy of the occupation authorities seek to harass Jerusalemites and push them to leave their residences to become available for colonial plans; they never grant building permits and licenses for any Palestinian in the area and this how indirect displacement policy is done. Financial costs of permits is almost impossible to be covered. Thus, hundreds of families remain incapable to build or license their existing buildings, facing the eventual fate of demolition.



A Jerusalemite self-demolishes his house in the Old City of Jerusalem

6 September 2016 , Citizen Nabeeh Al-Basti was forced to self-demolish his residence in Al-Wad neighborhood in the Old City of Jerusalem in execution of the occupation municipality's order and to avoid paying high fines. The self-demolition order was served on the claim that the house was built without a permit.

Al-Basti told Land Research Center the following :

" I live with my seven members including five children family in a residence I built in AL-Wad neighborhood in 1996. The brick-made structure is of 70 m² in area and is composed of two bedroom, kitchen. The residence is founded in the third floor of a building where the basement is commercial stores and the second floor is the residence of my father.

After constructing the residence in 1997, employees from the occupation municipality arrived at the location and delivered me a demolition order on the claim of unlicensed construction.

In 2009, I t received a demolition order and I was even summoned to the municipality's court. Since that year and until 2016, sessions took place in the court and violation fines of 56,000 were imposed on me.

The municipality court assigned a hearing session in December 2016 but I decided to demolish the structure by myself to avoid any extra fines and knowing that the municipality will never grant me a building license. My family and I now living with my father until we find a new place to settle down in"

the residence of Al-Basti before being demolished



Al-Basti family demolishing their own structure





the structure after being demolished





The occupation municipality carries out all demolition operation on the claim of "unlicensed construction". The occupation's government keeps on imposing restrictions on constructions in Jerusalem; especially for Palestinians in order to stop their demographic expansion. Obtaining building permits\licenses in Jerusalem is almost impossible. Thousands of licensing applications are ignored and left in the drawers of the occupation municipality unconsidered . in the same time, thousands of colonial units are being approved for construction in Jerusalem.

Such Israeli measures and practices aim at creating a "reserve" area to be exploited for colonial expansionist plans, which are seen in the establishment of colonies, parks and public facilities. In other words, it is a Judaization plan being implemented in the city.

According to the field visits conducted by Land Research Center, the occupation municipality forced the owners of 88 residences to self-demolish their structures during the past six year. As a result, more than 548 citizens, half of whom are children became homeless.

**The Israeli occupation municipality demolishes a tent and ravages agricultural land in
Sur Baher village in Jerusalem**

The dozers of the Israeli occupation municipality demolished on September 20, 2016 a tent that was used as a gathering place for Dabsh family and ravaged a plot, uprooting a number of trees planted in there.

Citizen Sumaia Dabsh told Land Research Center the following:

"The tent was of 70m² in area. It was built in April 2016 by metal corners and roofed with shade cloth to be a place for Ramadan feasts. The tent is founded on a three dunum plot we own; the land is planted with olive, almond, lemon, figs and pomegranate trees. Not only, the plot is provided with an irrigation system and has a truck cabin that is used as a storage unit.

A month ago, employees from the occupation municipality verbally notified us that the tent was unlicensed and must be demolished. We tried to tell the employees that the tent is not a residence and that it is only used for recreation but they insisted that it must be removed"

She also added:

" On September 20, 2016, a massive force from the occupation police and two dozers arrived at the location, closed the roads and declared the area inaccessible. Neighbors called us saying that dozers are bringing down the tent. I went with my husband to check out on place but policemen isolated us 100meters away from the location.

The dozers demolished the tent and damaged the interior before reaching out for the water tank founded in the area; holes were poked in it. Despite that the demolition notification only targeted the tent, the dozers ravaged the plot and damaged everything on it, including 20 trees of different varieties. Earth was dumped onto the uprooted trees where the irrigation network was cut down and ravaged".

Nothing can justify the ravaging act conducted by the municipality; especially after the family was verbally informed of the tent demolition only.





Israel Municipality forces a Jerusalemite self-demolish her commercial store

On September 22, 2016, the occupation municipality forced Suheir Abu Rmeileh to self-demolish her commercial establishment in the neighborhood of Al-Thori, Silwan under the pretext of building without a permit on.

Abu Rmeileh told Land Research Center the following:

" I live in Al-Thori neighborhood with husband and six children, four of whom are minors. After my husband got Asthma, I had to find a new source of living to support the family since he became jobless.

In 2014, I built a small shop (one 35-square meters room built from bricks) two years ago after receiving a small grant from the Agricultural Relief. I bought commodities and goods to start a market business".

She added:

"The municipality raided her shop on August 2016 and hung an administrative demolition order on it. Since then, I sold all goods under huge discounts and closed the shop to avoid any fines from the municipality".

Photos 1+2: the family of Abu Rmeileh forcibly self-demolishes their source of living

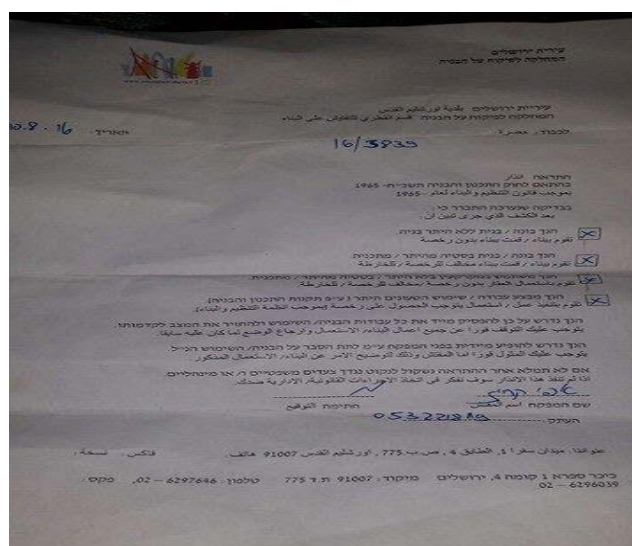




Photo 3: Citizen Suheir next to the rubbles of her shop



Photo 4: the administrative demolition order



The Israeli measures of home demolition, raids and detention is seen as ethnic cleansing that is implemented to empty Jerusalem from its Arab Palestinian inhabitants and replace them with Jews.

Israel Municipality forces a Jerusalemite to self-demolish his residence in Beit Hanina town

Citizen Rami Ilwan was forced to self-demolish his residence on September 25, 2016 in the Beit Hanina neighborhood of AL-Ashqaria, following the self-demolition decision of Israel Municipality Court . The decision was made on the claim that the residence was "unlicensed".

Citizen Rami told Land Research Center the following:

" I built my residence on a plot I own in Al-Ashqariya neighborhood in 2013. The house is two floors and is of 340m² in area; it is composed of 4 bedrooms, two kitchens and a hall. At time of construction, employees from Israel Municipality arrived at the place and delivered me a stop-work order on the claim of unlicensed construction. I built without a license because the occupation never grants claiming that the area requires re-planning and organization. Despite the issue, I completed the procedures for a license and moved in to the new house with my 9 member family including 7 children in 2013".

He added:

" I was summoned by the municipality's court where a fine of 100,000 NIS was imposed me on the claim that my structure was built without proper license. Court sessions started in 2013 and ended in 2016 with a self-demolition decision. On October 25, 2016, I hired a dozer and carried out the demolition to avoid any extra fines the municipality imposes on me in case I failed at implemented the decision"

Land Research Center field observers kept a close eye on the matter and recorded 90cases where the owners had to demolish their property by themselves during the past six years(2010-2016) making 558 civilian citizens, more than half of whom are children, homeless and lacking security and stability.



Israel municipality demolishes part of a residence in the Jerusalem town of Beit Safafa

The occupation municipality's bulldozers demolished on September 27, 2016 parts of the house of Saeed Qassas in the town of Beit Safafa south of Jerusalem near "Gilo" settlement.

Qassas told Land Research Center the following:

" We have been residing in this house since 1967. The house is founded on lands from Beit Safafa town and is of 60m² in area. In 2000, I expanded the building by annexing another 60m² to accommodate my son and his wife and son. The annexed structure is composed of bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. Note that we share the kitchen and the bathroom.

In 2013, employees from the municipality arrived at the location, took some photos and summoned me to appear before court, which later fined me an amount of 21,000 NIS on the claim that the house was built without a license. Attorney Tawfiq Darawsheh followed up on my case after he was hired by Palestinian Authorities. Court sessions lasted for three years.

In 2016, we were surprised when Israeli police raided the area, encircled the residence, evacuated residents and brought it down via a Hyundai dozer.

He also added:

" Policemen assaulted my wife and made fun of her. They also terrified us by their dogs, confiscated our phones and cut off electricity cables before bringing down the annexed part of the house. Demolition lasted for an hour and was finished at 1:00 p.m..

Now, my married son, Mu'taim moved to live my brother in Bethlehem city until he finds a new place to settle down in. I will build another kitchen and bathroom since my family uses mobile bathroom relative to a construction company in the area"

the demolished structure of Qassas family



It should be marked that the targeted house is adjacent to the bypass road no.60 that links Hebron with Jerusalem. Note that the house entrance passes through Gilo colony and is only hundred meters away from the apartheid.

Photo : Gilo colony that is founded on confiscated lands from Bethlehem and Jerusalem cities



For the second time: dozers of the Israeli occupation municipality demolishes part of a restaurant in the Jerusalem town of Beit Safafa

On September 27, 2016 the dozers of the Israeli occupation municipality demolished part of the Mediterranean Restaurant that is located in the town of Beit Safafa, south Jerusalem city on the claim of unlicensed construction.

The restaurant is reported to be owned by citizen Imad Ahmad Burqan, who didn't want to talk much about the demolition, fearing that customers will not come in as it happened with him after the first demolition took place.

As for the second demolition, Israeli policemen accompanied by a dozer arrived at the place and embarked on demolishing an annexed part to the restaurant, which was previously demolished on the claim of unlicensed construction. The reason behind annexing the new part is due the increase of customers. The owner, thus, added a 140m² dining room on a plot that is relative to the restaurant.

It is reported that the force arrived to the location at noon and evacuated the workers from the structure before bringing the annexed part down. The demolition lasted for an hour and half.

Land Research Center on January 07, 2016 documented the demolition part of Burqan's restaurant, which was claimed unlicensed. For more details, please visit the ([LINK](#))

About Beit Safafa:

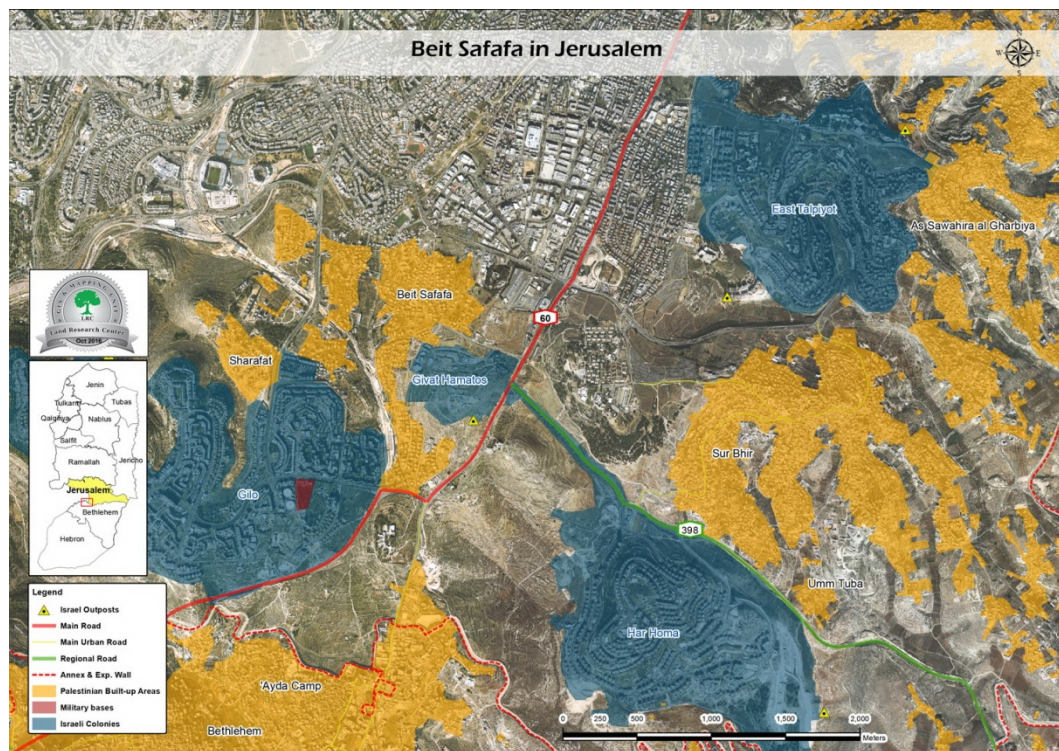
It is 6km to the southeast of Jerusalem city. The town is edged by the occupied territories of 1948 from the north, Sharafat village from the west, Talpiyot colony from the east and Bethlehem from the south.

Beit Safafa has a total population of 20,000 people until 2008, who live on 866 dunums of built-up area out of the 3259 dunums total area.

Israeli colonies confiscated 920 dunums from the town's lands as follows:

- **Har Homa:** it was established in 1977 and is now inhabited by 1125 colonists. It confiscated 170 dunums from Beit Safafa.

- **Givat Hamatos:** it was established in 1991 and confiscated 284 dunums from the town.
- **Gilo:** it was established in 1971 and is now inhabited by 27569 colonists. It confiscated 466 dunums from the town.



Israeli Occupation Municipality demolish four residential apartments in At-Tur town in Jerusalem

The occupation municipality's bulldozers demolished on September 27, 2016 two residential buildings owned by Abulhawa family At-Tur town east of the Old City of Jerusalem. The buildings were established in 2010 and are owned by four brothers from Abulhawa family. Two apartments are reported leased by other families.

The following table shows information about the affected citizens:

No.	Affected citizen	Area of residence\m ²	Family	Minors	Owner\ tenant
1	Tayseer Abulhawa	150	6	1	owner
2	Tahseen Shweiki	150	3	1	Tenant
3	Samir Bassa	150	7	3	Tenant
4	Ahmad Abulhawa	150	6	2	Owner
Total		600	22	7	

Source : Field observation- Department of Monitoring Israeli Violations- Land Research Center- 2016

The son of the residence, Mahmoud Tayseer Abualhawa, told Land Research Center the following:

" My father and uncles decided to build four apartments (two buildings) on a three dunum plot we own in 2010. The intention was to reside in the building and invest some of the apartments but the occupation municipality refused to grant us a building permit on the claim that the area is classified as National Park, where construction is not allowed.

Despite all, we finished the buildings in 2011. It was when the occupation municipality served us stop-work order on the same claim and imposed a fine of 300,000 NIS on the two buildings (75,000 for each apartment).

At time, we sought the occupation municipality, which in its term told us that since the location is classified as National Park, our lands became under the control of Israel".

He added:

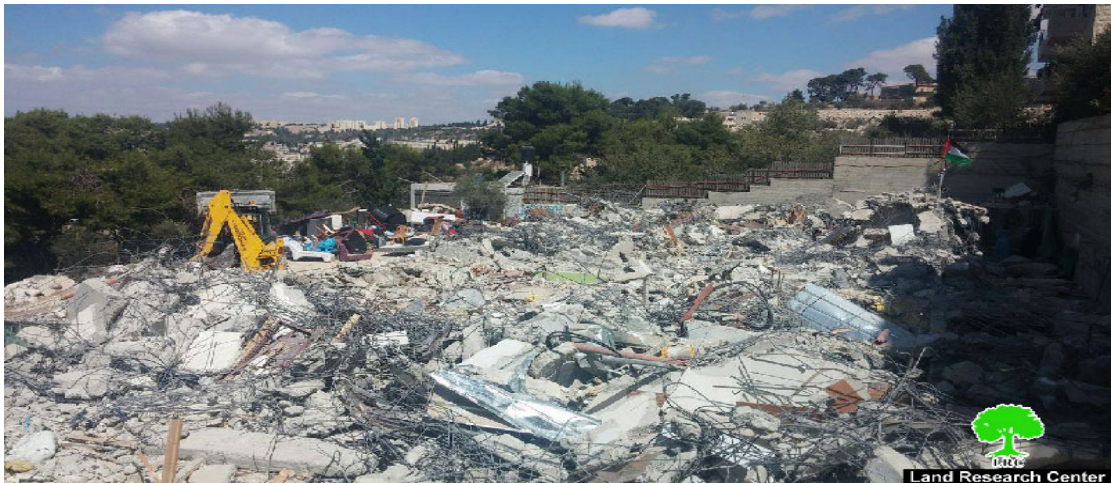
" In 2013, the municipality court ruled the demolition of the apartments. It is when we hired attorney Hussein Ghannam to follow up on the case. The attorney didn't accomplish anything despite being paid quite a lot of money. Thus, we hired two Israeli lawyers to take the lead.

On August 2016, the court ruled the demolition of the two buildings and gave a 21 day deadline to evacuate them. We filed a plea to the Magistrate court to delay the demolition for six months. Demolition was delayed until February 2017 as a result.

On September 27, 2016, we were surprised of Israel policemen and dozers raiding the area. The force declared the area inaccessible and evacuated the residents without letting them take anything out of the residences.

We informed the officer responsible of the operation that we obtained a delay on the demolition order but he refused to listen. The demolition operation was then carried out and lasted from 4:00 at dawn until 9:30 in the morning".

It is reported that the attacked plot (three dunums) is located within the municipality plan to establish a cable car that links At-Tur with the Wailing wall. The plan will finish in 2020, meaning that the presence of Arab Muslims will be fought so that the city will be taken over.



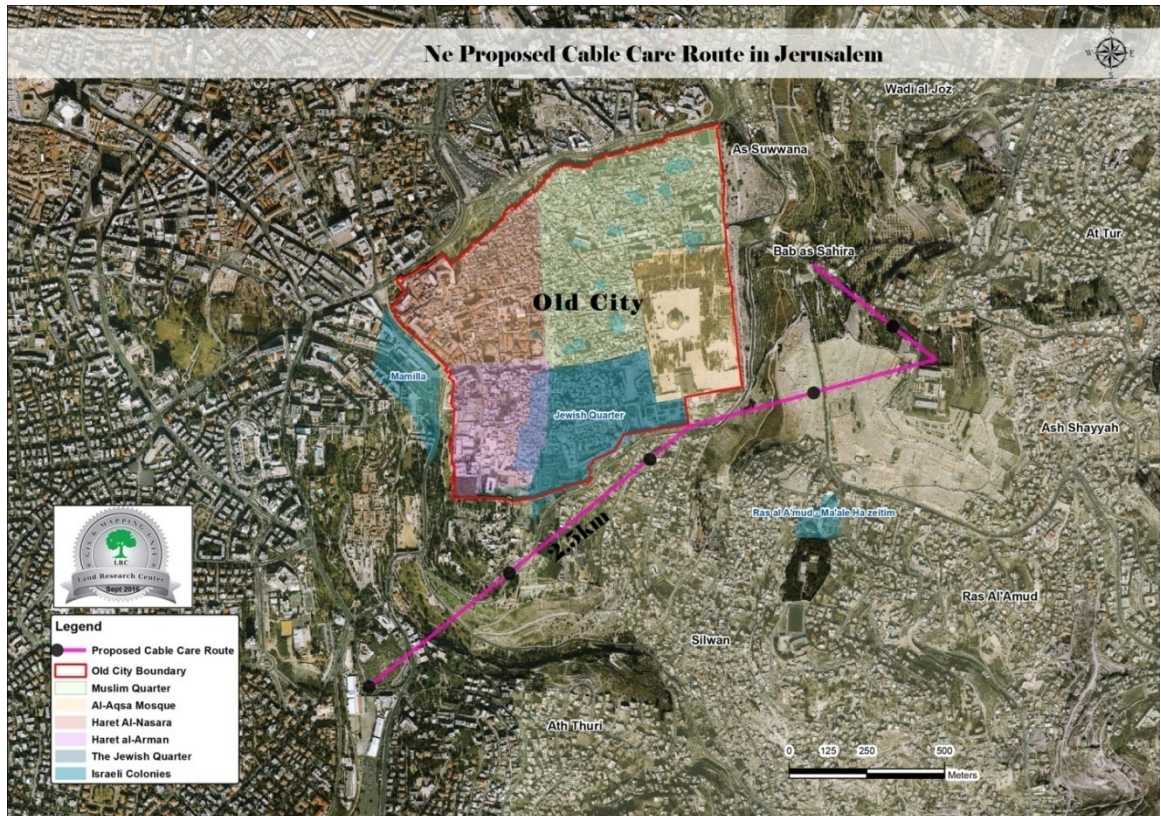


Israeli Authorities Revived the “Cable car” project in Jerusalem city

On the 16th of February 2016, the Israeli newspaper “Haaretz” revealed that the so called “Jerusalem Development Authority” and the “Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem” revived the project to establish “cable car” in Jerusalem city. Noted that the cable care system it’s not a new project, where the first time the Israeli Authorities revealed the plan was in the year of 2013, where they hired a French company named “SAFEGE”, but after two years of involvement in the project during the feasibility-study stage, the French company decided to forgo any further participation for political reasons

Nowadays, the Israeli Authorities hired a new French company (CNA) specializing in the construction of cable cars.

According to the plan, the cable care is expected to pass near sensitive sites, including the Old City and Al Aqsa mosque. The plan is to have the car running through four stations: near the Old Train Station at the northern end of Emek Refaim Street in the German Colony neighborhood, outside the Old City by the Dung Gate, and near the Seven Arches Hotel on the Mount of Olives, and at the Garden of Gethsemane. The cost of the project is estimated as NIS 125 million (\$31 million), and the length of the cable care is about 2.5 km. The cable-car system will transport tourists and visitors (an average of 6000 an hour) to and from the so-called Western Wall (Al-Buraq Wall).



**Israel municipality forces Beit Hanina man to self-demolish his residence in
Jerusalem**

Israel Municipality forced Citizen Imad Rubeen Jaber to self-demolish his house in AL-Ashqariya neighborhood in Beit Hanina town on the claim of "unlicensed construction". The house is of 75m² and is home for 6 members including 4 children.

Imad Jaber told Land Research Center the following:

" In 2005, I built a 75m² residence on a plot I own in Al-Ashqariya neighborhood. I got married and had my four children in that house. I built the house without a license from the municipality because it never grants licenses for Palestinians on the claim that the area needs to be planned, not mentioning the high expenses and complex procedures of obtaining building permits.

At time of building, employees from the municipality arrived at the location and delivered me a stop-work order but I insisted on finishing the construction. As a result, I was summoned to the municipality court. Since that time, the attorney I hired has been trying to delay the demolition. On May 2016, the court ruled the demolition of the structure but the attorney managed to delay it until September 2016.

He also added:

" ON September 28, 2016 I rented a dozer to demolish my residence to compel to the court's decision. Otherwise, the municipality carries out the demolition where all expenses that might reach up to 70,000 NIS will be piled to me.

My family and I are now living with my brother until we find a place to rent"



Violation of the right to housing- seizure of residences

Evacuating Qirresh family from their home in the Old City of Jerusalem in favor of Ateret Cohanim organization

The occupation authorities evacuated last Thursday (15/9/2016) the family of Mazen Qirresh from their home in the Old City of Jerusalem under the pretext of being an “unprotected tenant” after he had lost protection being the “fourth generation”.

It should be marked that the central court of the occupation rejected a plea submitted to object the decision of Magistrate court, which ruled the evocation of the house by June 01, 2016 to be given for Ateret Cohanim settlement organization.

It is reported that colonists stormed into the house with the help of Ateret Cohanim organization, emptied the house of its contents and seized them.



Occupation forces along with personnel from Ateret Cohanim organization raided the house of Mazen Qirresh last Thursday (4th day of Al-Adha Eid) and evacuated the family which consists of 8 individuals and includes a 3-year old child and a 2-month baby. They forced

them to leave the property without allowing them to even take their personal belongings and furniture.



Qirresh added that the court ordered him to pay 270 thousand NIS as rent to Ateerat Cohanim organization and the lawyer's fees.

Mazen Qirresh explained that his family has been living in the property since 1936 with a leasing contract from a Palestinian family that owned the property before it was sold to settlers in 1986. According to the Israeli law, the family is considered a “protected tenant” for three generations, they are: Mustafa Qirresh (grandfather) and his sons (Kamal and Harbi and their wives) while the sons of Kamal and Harbi are considered a fourth generation and the protection ended after the death of another person from the third generation which was Kamal's wife.

Qirresh pointed out that the first eviction case was filed against his family in 1998 but Ateerat Cohanim was not able to evacuate them because his mother was still alive and was considered a protected tenant (3rd generation). After she passed away in 2009, the settlement organization renewed its request to evacuate the family from the property.

Qirresh pointed out that the family presented a leasing contract in 1998 that was between his father Kamal Qirresh and the Palestinian family that owned the property. The Magistrate Court approved the contract which makes Kamal, his wife and children considered as protected tenants but the District Court then annulled the decision of the Magistrate Court and started asking for the property once again after the death of the mother .

The settlement organization Ateerat Cohanim seized a large part of the property of Qirresh family in 2010 and is looking to take the rest of the property where Mazen and his family of 8 individuals live.

Land Research Center sees Israeli laws as "3rd generation law" that intend to expel Palestinians from their residences and lands as a complicity with settlement organizations that works so hard to take-over properties in the old city of Jerusalem to extend their control on it. This is to replace Jerusalemites with new colonists despite of this act being contradictory to all international Laws and human rights.

Colonial expansion

Expansion works in the Israeli industrial zone of Binyamin, north Occupied Jerusalem

Binyamin industrial zone founded on lands from Jaba' and Mikhmas villages has been facing rapid judization activities by Israel to serve greater colonial project in the area.

According Land Research Center filed visits, expansion works were intense in the southern part of the zone. Around 25 dunums were reported ravaged in preparation to establish new factories in the area.

It should be marked Israeli industrial zones around the areas of the West Bank and Jerusalem enjoy privileges by the government such like tax reduction, transportation and public services

Notably, the occupation's government is planning to impose a de facto on Jerusalem through sinking the area with colonial neighborhoods and communities in addition to establishing wide networks of roads in the periphery of Jerusalem , developed infrastructures and industrial zones to economically revive the area.

Photo 1: Binyamin Industrial Zone going under expansion



Aerial photo for Binyamin Industrial Zone in 2001



Aerial photo for Binyamin Industrial Zone in 2014



About Jaba':

North of Jerusalem city, Jaba' is located with a total land area of 13,624 dunums, of which 670 dunums are considered the village's built-up area. Jaba' populates around 3,183 people (2007 census).

The occupation confiscated the following areas from the village for different purposes:

1. 1138 dunums were confiscated for the favor of Adam colony that was established in 1983 and is now inhabited by more than 1801 colonists
2. 555 dunums were confiscated for the favor of Tsai'r Binyamin that was established in 1999
3. 398 dunums were confiscated for the favor of bypass road no. 60

The expansion that Binyamin Industrial Zone undergoes represented in building factories and infrastructure is reported to come in time with demolition attacks and violations on Palestinian structures in the nearby area. Arab Al-Maa'zi Bedouin community that is founded on a hill nearby the Zone witnessed an attack on August 29, 2016. For more details, please read the report issued by Land Research Center ([LINK](#)).

Land Research Center sees Israel continuous expansion on colonies in the West Bank and Jerusalem at the expense of Palestinian and lands a flagrant violation of Human Rights and all international laws and conventions, which prohibit disposition of public properties in occupied countries.

Attacks on religious sites

Attacks on AL-Aqsa mosque :

It is reported that around 1114 colonists broke into Al-Aqsa mosque compound via Dung gate during September 2016. All break-ins and raids came on the claim of "tourism".

In the memory of " Destruction of Temple Mount", many Palestinians were assaulted and beaten down in Al-Aqsa mosque compound; some 15 were injured where other 3 were hospitalized to receive proper treatments and checks.

It should be marked that a total of 33 citizens were isolated from Jerusalem during September 2016 for periods ranging between five day and four months.