



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) conducted two airstrikes in the besieged Gaza Strip damaging the coastal enclave's [already tenuous electricity infrastructure](#). The two Israeli missiles hit a site west of Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, sparking a fire. Two more missiles landed east of the Shujaaiya neighborhood of Gaza City, cutting off the electricity supply in the area. No injuries were reported in either airstrike. Three power lines were damaged by the airstrikes across the blockaded Palestinian territory. (Maannews 16 March 2017)

- Israeli naval forces opened fire at Palestinian fishermen off the coast of Gaza City who were sailing within the Israel-designated fishing zone, forcing them to head back to shore. No injuries were reported. (Maannews 16 March 2017)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli Ofer military court extended the detention of a wounded Palestinian teenage girl for eight days. The court extended 16-year-old Fatima Jibrin Taqatqa's detention in absentia, pointing out that she remains in critical condition under anesthetics and on respirators at the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. Taqatqa was shot and injured by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) on March at a junction near the illegal Israeli settlement bloc of Gush Etzion in the southern occupied West Bank Bethlehem Governorate. (Maannews 16 March 2017)
- In the northern West Bank Governorate of Qalqiliya, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained former prisoner Nidal Muhammad Nawfal. (Maannews 16 March 2017)
- In the Tubas Governorate, the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained three Palestinians, and identified them as former prisoner Abdullah Jihad Bani Odeh from Tubas, former prisoner Muath Khalid Daraghma from Tubas, and Luay Rashid Daraghma. (Maannews 16 March 2017)
- In occupied East Jerusalem, Ahmad Abd al-Haidari was detained from the neighborhood of Issawiya. (Maannews 16 March 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Arafat Abu al-Hamam from Silwan town in occupied East Jerusalem. (Maannews 16 March 2017)
- In the central West Bank Governorate of Ramallah, Israeli occupation army (IOA) detained two Palestinians from the al-Amari refugee camp, identified as Ayman Abu Arab and Ahmad Abu Arab. (Maannews 16 March 2017)
- In the southern West Bank Hebron Governorate, Israeli occupation army (IOA) arrested Ahmad al-Sharif al-Hih from the village of Surif. (Maannews 16 March 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Tamun town, east of Tubas city, and arrested a young man from his house. A number of checkpoints were also erected throughout the town. (PALINFO 16 March 2017)
- In Jenin, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Silat Dahar village, south of Jenin city, and arrested a youngster at a make-shift checkpoint erected at the entrance to the town. The youngster was detained after

IO soldiers stopped his car at the checkpoint and took him to unknown investigation center. (PALINFO 16 March 2017)

- In Qalqilia, dozens of Israeli soldiers stormed Naqar neighborhood and arrested a local resident after violently breaking into his house. (PALINFO 16 March 2017)
- A group of Israeli settlers stormed Kifl Hares village, north of Salfit, and performed Talmudic rituals near its historical monuments in clear provocation to local residents. (PALINFO 16 March 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) arrested Arafat Abu Al-Hammam (42) and Mohammad Ali Abu Tayeh (22) after raiding their homes in Silwan town in occupied East Jerusalem. (SILWANIC 16 March 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) arrested Ahmad Dari from the town of Al Esawyeh in occupied East Jerusalem. (SILWANIC 16 March 2017)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Israeli settlers uprooted dozens of grape seedlings and destroyed part of a grape arbor in the village of al-Khader in the southern occupied West Bank Governorate of Bethlehem. The Israeli settlers uprooted 90 grape seedlings belonging to Nader Salah Abd al-Salam and destroyed part of his grape arbor in the Khilet al-Fahm area that is surrounded by the illegal Israeli Eliazar and Daniel settlements. (Maannews 16 March 2017)
- Dozens of armed Jewish settlers attacked the high school in Burin village, south of Nablus city in the occupied West Bank. The settlers opened fire at the Burin high school, causing extreme panic among its students. The Israeli soldiers entered the village and backed up the settlers as local residents rushed to the school to protect its students and employees. Palestinian young men clashed with the settlers and soldiers. (PALINFO 16 March 2017)
- A horde of 35 Israeli settlers, escorted by MK Moshe Feiglin stormed the holy al-Aqsa Mosque, in Occupied Jerusalem, via the Maghareba Gate as part of the daily morning break-in shift carried out starting at 7 a.m. Israeli cops locked the Maghareba Gate shortly after the break in and cordoned off the plazas of the site. Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) have been banning a group of Muslim women from entering al-Aqsa to perform their prayers. (PALINFO 16 March 2017)

Erection of Israeli checkpoints

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up military checkpoints at the main entrances of Salfit city in the northern occupied West Bank. The IOA imposed strict restrictions on checkpoints, stopping vehicles and searching ID cards of passengers and pedestrians, causing major traffic jams traffic. (Maannews 16 Mach 2017)

Other

- Israel will give its highest civilian honor to the director of the Ir David Foundation, commonly known as Elad, which works to settle Jews in East Jerusalem and operates controversial archaeological projects outside the Old City, Education Minister Naftali Bennett announced on Thursday. David Be'eri, Elad's director, will be awarded the Israel Prize for lifetime achievement along with Zvi Levy, who has mobilized support for soldiers who enlist in the Israel Defense Forces from abroad and have no family in Israel - lone soldiers, as they are called in Israel. Be'eri founded Elad in the late 1980s. At first the organization tried unsuccessfully to build 200 housing units for Jews in the City of David area. It then worked to move Jews into the adjacent predominantly Palestinian Silwan neighborhood, in part using controversial means to evict Palestinians living there. In recent years, the organization has used Palestinian middlemen and straw companies registered abroad to acquire homes in the neighborhood. The organization also seeks to settle Jews in other East Jerusalem neighborhoods, such as Ras al-Amud, Abu Tur, and A-Tur. The group also runs the City of David National Park, an archaeological dig in the Arab neighborhood of Silwan, where Jerusalem had its earliest origins. It is thought to be one of the wealthiest non-profits in the country and has strong ties with Jerusalem city hall. In making the announcement, Bennett accepted the recommendations of the prize nominating committees. He congratulated Levy for his efforts on behalf of lone soldiers and Be'eri for turning the City of David into a heritage, education and tourist site of major importance. In selecting Be'eri for the Israel Prize, the country's most prestigious, the committee said he was chosen for his contribution to the country and particularly for founding the City of David project. "The prize is being given to him fifty years after the reunification of the city [Jerusalem]. He initiated, established, led and leads this praiseworthy effort," the prize jury said. "The City of David is the historic seed from which Jerusalem, the heart of the Jewish people and the focus of the Book of Books, grew." Bennett added: "Fifty years since the reunification of Jerusalem is an excellent opportunity to thank David Be'eri, one of the great builders of Jerusalem in modern times. For many years, we dreamed, prayed and

yearned to return to the city in which David settled and to rebuild it." Be'eri, Bennett said, has realized that dream and by virtue of his efforts "millions of soldiers and student are being exposed to Jerusalem's history in a way that they never could before." Be'eri was an officer in the elite IDF Sayeret Matkal commando unit and in the elite Duvdevan special operations unit, Bennett said, calling him "both a man of the book and a soldier." Bennett called the other prize recipient, Zvi Levy, "an exemplary figure of Zionist and above all Dad to thousands of male and female soldiers who found him as an address. He is Dad and Mom to them, an attentive ear, a friend and a brother." The prize jury noted that Levy, who is from Kibbutz Yifat in the Jezreel Valley, made a decisive contribution to the country through his efforts on behalf of lone soldiers over a period of decades. Commenting on the decision to award Be'eri the Israel Prize, left-wing Meretz Knesset member Tamar Zandberg said: "If there is one party that is responsible most clearly and in the most organized manner for driving a wedge in East Jerusalem, for destroying our joint future and destroying any prospect for a diplomatic solution [of the conflict with the Palestinians], it's Elad, which single-handedly is leading the eviction of Palestinians from their homes and the settlement and Judaization of Silwan, and which nevertheless is receiving hundreds of millions in contributions from companies registers in tax havens. But it's symbolic that in the 50th year of the occupation, this is the message that the government is conveying." Referring to Be'eri by his nickname, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said: "Davideleh is a loyal and leading partner in the building of Jerusalem, a man of vision just as he is a man of deeds, uncovering layers of Jewish history and building a solid future for in the eternal city on these foundations. On the 50th anniversary of the unification of Jerusalem, there is no one more worthy!" ([Haaretz](#) 16 March 2017)

- In a precedent-setting ruling, High Court justices have ordered the Interior Ministry to restore the residency rights of a Palestinian man born in East Jerusalem who was denied permission to live in the city after being away for many years. The ruling challenges a ministry policy of denying residency to many Palestinians born in the city once they're away for more than seven years. A three-justice panel ruled that residents of East Jerusalem "have a strong affinity" to the city which must be taken into consideration with respect to residency rights. With the annexation of East Jerusalem by Israel in 1967, Palestinians did not receive Israeli citizenship but the status of permanent residents, entitling them to freedom of movement. In effect, the state has treated them as immigrants rather than native-born residents. Since 1967 the Interior Ministry has denied the status of more than 14,000 Palestinians from East Jerusalem citing various reasons. It has been ministry

practice, backed by a previous court ruling, to regard Palestinian residency in the city as having "expired" once the person is gone for more than seven years. This rationale has been the most commonly cited by Israeli authorities for denying residency to Palestinians from the city. It has been used against families who moved to the West Bank or to students who studied abroad and did not return within seven years. Jerusalem-born Akhram Abdalhak, 58, was nine when the annexation took place and moved three years later to the United States with his parents. He went to school there and received U.S. citizenship. In 1989 he tried to return to Israel and discovered his legal status had expired and the ministry rejected his request to renew his residency. He married women from the occupied territories twice and moved to Jerusalem, illegally. Three years ago a district court judge, David Mintz, rejected an appeal by Abdelhak of the ministry's having denied him legal status in Israel. In 2014 he appealed to the high court and on Tuesday, justices Uzi Fogelman, Meni Mazuz and the court president, Miriam Naor, found in his favor and instructed the ministry to restore his status. The ruling's significance is in the fact that the justices accepted the principle argued by Abdalhak's attorneys that East Jerusalem residents are not immigrants but have rights due to the fact they were born in the city. Experts say the ruling may bear significance for similar cases involving Palestinians seeking to return to the city. Fogelman wrote that "when the interior minister must examine a request to restore a permanent residency to a resident of East Jerusalem, they must consider the special circumstances of these residents – that as opposed to immigrants seeking status – they have a strong affinity to the place where they live, as people born in this area – and sometimes even their parents and grandparents were born there – and where they have enjoyed family and communal life for years." Mazuz added: "Under these circumstances, the appellant ought to be viewed as someone who has renewed their affinity to Israel and considering the special status of East Jerusalem residents as native born – as opposed to those who won the right to permanent residency by license after immigration – has enough to justify his request to renew recognition in his status as a permanent resident." Naor consented to these rulings, but added that each case must be judged on its own merit. ([Haaretz](#) 16 March 2017)

- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday vowed to keep his promise to build the first new official West Bank settlement in two decades amid discussions with a US envoy on reviving the peace process with the Palestinians. Netanyahu said he would meet with [US envoy Jason Greenblatt](#) for a second time this week on Thursday to try to reach an "agreed-upon policy" on settlements, one of the most

contentious issues in decades-old peace efforts. The Palestinians view the building of settlements on land they want for their future state as one of the main obstacles to peace, a position largely supported by the international community. US President Donald Trump voiced [support](#) for Israel's position on the campaign trail but has since asked it to "[hold off](#)" on settlement construction as he seeks to restart the peace process, which last collapsed in 2014. Netanyahu said reaching an understanding with Washington on the settlements would be "good for Israel," but said he would honor a promise made last month to build a new settlement to replace [Amona](#), an illegal settlement outpost built on private Palestinian land that was forcibly dismantled following a ruling by Israel's [Supreme Court](#). Greenblatt meanwhile met with the chief foreign envoy of the Yesha council, which represents the settlements. The council said it was a "fruitful and positive" meeting, without providing further details. Trump campaigned on promises that he would depart from decades of US foreign policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His platform made no mention of [Palestinian statehood](#), a key goal of the US and international diplomacy for more than two decades, and he vowed to move the [US Embassy](#) from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. However, he seems to have backed off on both since assuming office. At a White House meeting with Netanyahu last month, Trump said he was open to a two-state solution and urged restraint on settlement construction. Plans to move the embassy appear to have been put on hold. The international community views settlements built in the West Bank and east Jerusalem—territories seized by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War and claimed by the Palestinians as part of their future state—as illegal. Israel says the issue of settlements should be resolved along with other core disputes in direct peace [negotiations](#) with the Palestinians. ([YNETNEW](#) 16 March 2017)