



ARIJ Daily Report

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem
Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966
pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt

18 March 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 at Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of the northern Gaza Strip. The Israeli boats fired live fire at Palestinian fishermen sailing off the coast of Beit Lahiya in the northwestern Gaza Strip. No injuries or damages were reported. (Maannews 18 March 2017)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) fired three artillery shells near the town of Beit Lahya in the northern Gaza Strip. The Israeli artillery targeted the al-Ghoul area in western Beit Lahiya. (Maannews 18 March 2017)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli occupation Army (IOA) following a funeral procession held for the 16-year-old Murad Yusif Abu Ghazi in al-Arrub refugee camp north of Hebron in the southern occupied West Bank, after the boy was [shot dead by the IOA](#). Eight young men were hit with rubber-coated steel bullets during clashes with Israeli troops that erupted after the funeral. (Maannews 18 March 2017)
- Israeli warplanes carried out strikes on a resistance site in al-Meqousi area northwest of Gaza city. Israeli warplanes fired at least two missiles on al-Yarmouk site. No injuries were reported. (PALINFO 18 March 2017)
- The Israeli occupation army launched an artillery attack on cultivated fields located north of the Gaza Strip. The Israeli artillery fired several shells at an agricultural border area north of Gaza. No injuries were reported. (PALINFO 18 March 2017)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) summoned citizen Muhamad Naser Al Masri, 24, from Ad Doha village in Bethlehem for interrogation at the Gush Etzion settlement detention center. (Wafa 18 March 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Ma'moun Hussein An Natsheh, 18, while trying to access "Gelbret" checkpoint in Tel Ar Rumeida in Hebron city and took him to "Ja'bara" detention center in Kiryat Arba' settlement. (Wafa 18 March 2017)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Armed Israeli settlers of Havat Ma'on outpost attacked the family of Awad Abu Qbeitah while working in their land in At Tuwani village in Masafer Yatta south of Hebron city. The settlers hurled stones at the family in an attempt to prevent the family from coming back to their land which is located near the outpost. (Wafa 18 March 2017)
- Armed Israeli settlers of Kiryat Arba' settlement hurled stones at a Palestinian vehicles owned by Araf Jaber in Jaber neighborhood east of Hebron city. The attack resulted in the destruction of the front glass of Jaber's car. (Wafa 18 March 2017)

Other

- Israel has significantly reduced the number of exit permits for Gaza Strip residents over the past few months. According to Gisha, a

nonprofit organization in contact with Palestinian authorities, the number of Gaza residents entering Israel dropped by 40 percent last month compared to the 2016 monthly average, and the number of businesspeople who entered Israel from the enclave fell by 60 percent compared to February 2016. In February, only 7,301 people passed through the Erez crossing, which connects the Strip to Israel and the West Bank – the lowest number since the end of the Gaza war in the summer of 2014. This figure is 40 percent below the monthly average for 2016 (12,150 people) and is just over half of the number of permits issued in February 2015. Gisha says its figures are based on information from the Palestinian civil commission, the official body that works with the Israel Defense Forces' Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories to issue Israeli entry permits for Gaza residents. The more stringent limits on permits started at the beginning of the year: In January, the number of exit permits for Palestinians from Gaza dropped by 44 percent compared to the same period last year, and by 30 percent compared to the 2016 monthly average. After the fighting ended in 2014, Israel said it would join the efforts to economically rehabilitate Gaza, and announced specific moves to ease the passage of people and goods to and from the Strip. This gave hope for growth in trade between Gaza and the West Bank and Israel, the natural markets for Gaza, as well as trade with foreign countries. Senior Israeli politicians and defense officials said time after time that promoting the economy of the Gaza Strip and improving living conditions for its residents were in Israel's interests. This was reiterated more recently, in the wake of the State Comptroller's report on Operation Protective Edge. The unemployment rate in Gaza reached 42 percent last year, but the greatest drop in permits was among traders, including those with many years' experience in the business. Gisha recorded only 3,287 exits for traders in February, a drop of over 50 percent compared to the monthly average in 2016 (6,637) and a 60 percent reduction compared to February 2016, when the figure was 8,226. Workers in the furniture industry, which flourished before the blockade, tell of difficulties in manufacturing furniture because of the ban on importing sufficiently wide wooden planks and boards, as well as other raw materials such as paint. These limitations are imposed by Israel for security reasons. Today, only 1,363 traders have valid entry permits, a bit more than a third of the some 3,600 permits Israel had approved in late 2015, and about a quarter of the quota set by Israel, which was never filled. Senior Hamas leader Fathi Hamad said this week that the situation in Gaza is on the verge of boiling over: "Either lifting the blockade, or an explosion," he declared at a demonstration. Even though Hamas is not interested in an escalation with Israel for

now, the situation could create pressure that Palestinian factions, including the ruling Hamas, will no longer be able to withstand, said Palestinian sources. COGAT responded that over the past two years, in number of cases Gaza residents were discovered to have “exploited their entry permits to smuggle money and weapons to Hamas members in Judea and Samaria, forged medical documents, smuggled dual-use materials, exploited international aid and more.” “The figures do not reflect reality when every day, the [IDF’s] Coordination and Liaison Administration to the Gaza Strip coordinates over 1,000 [entries and exits to and from Israel] for purposes of trade and business, medical treatment, academic studies overseas, participation in conferences and training, and more,” said COGAT. “In urgent medical cases we immediately coordinate entry for life-saving medical treatment.” ([Haaretz](#) 17 March 2017)