



# ARIJ Daily Report

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## Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 17 April 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 occupation Army (IOA) raided Hebron city in the southern occupied West Bank before dawn, shutting down and sealing off two bookstores after confiscating materials. Muhammad bookstore near Hebron University and the Hussam bookstore near the Palestine Polytechnic University in the city were targeted by the Israeli military raid, with soldiers posting notices on their doors claiming the bookstores were ordered to close down for being "involved in incitement." The stores were closed allegedly for having "cooperated

with local student cells of the Hamas terror organization, by providing a series of services to the cells, including printing incitement material." (Maannews 17 April 2017)

- More than 1,500 Palestinians -- including hundreds of women and middle- and high-school students -- demonstrated in Bethlehem in support of the estimated 6,300 Palestinians currently held in Israeli prisons. Demonstrators expressed support for the "Freedom and Dignity" prisoner hunger strike which began earlier on Monday, bringing together as many as 1,600 prisoners from across the Palestinian political spectrum under the aegis of imprisoned Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti. The march began at the Bab al-Zqaq intersection between Bethlehem and the town of Beit Jala, and made its way towards Israel's illegal separation wall north of Bethlehem. As a smaller number of demonstrators approached the Israeli military base located directly adjacent to Jerusalem-Hebron road in Bethlehem, Israeli soldiers fired tear gas, sound bombs, and sponge-tipped bullets towards the crowd. A number of demonstrators suffered from excessive tear gas inhalation. At least one Palestinian get hit by a sponge-tipped bullet, while another such bullet hit a truck which was trying to pass through the area. Israeli soldiers used "crowd control measures" [to disperse a "violent riot"](#) in Bethlehem. (Maannews 17 April 2017)
- Israeli Prison Service (IPS) officials took a series of punitive measures against the participating prisoners, particularly those leading the "Freedom and Dignity" prisoner hunger strike. The IPS officials forcibly moved hunger-striking prisoners to different sections in Israeli jails, confiscated their personal belongings and clothes, "turned their rooms into solitary confinements," and banned the prisoners from watching TV. The IPS officials transferred Marwan Barghouti -- the Fatah movement leader leading the strike -- [Karim Yunis](#) and Mahmoud Abu Srouf were transferred from Hadarim prison to solitary confinement in Jalama prison IPS officials also transferred hunger-striking prisoners Muhammad Zawahra, Nasser Ewis and Anas Jaradat to Israel's Ela prison in the southern Negev desert, though it remained unclear where they were transferred from. The IPS said that Barghouti "will be prosecuted in a discipline court" as punishment for his [op-ed published by the New York Times](#) , which detailed the struggle of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons and the demands of the hunger strikers. For more information, click to read full report, ([Maannews](#) 17 April 2017)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOF) stormed different towns and areas south of Jenin Governorate, with no reported arrests. Israeli soldiers aboard seven military vehicles spread through Qabatiya plains and combed the area. An Israeli military force also stormed the towns of Fahmah and Kafr Ra'I in Jenin and clashed with local young men, who hurled stones at them. Soldiers also set up a military checkpoint on the road leading to Ya'bad town, south of Jenin, intercepted Palestinian vehicles and interrogated citizens. (PALINFO 17 April 2017)
- In Nablus Governorate, the Israeli occupation army continued, for the second consecutive day, to close the main road to Tell town with mounds of dirt and rocks. No reason was given for the closure of the road. This measure, however, forced Palestinian drivers to take longer routes in order to reach their destinations. (PALINFO 17 April 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) seized an agricultural tractor from Palestinian ranches east of Tamoun town, in the northern West Bank, in the third such violation over recent days. The Israeli soldiers continue to crack down on Palestinian farmers in al-Ras al-Ahmar area, east of Tamoun town, in the northern Jordan Valley, as part of a larger scheme of ethnic cleansing aiming to force Palestinians out of the area. The seized tractor belongs to the Palestinian citizen Nasser Daraghma. (PALINFO 17 April 2017)
- 11 Palestinians were injured with rubber coated bullets and 23 others suffered Gas inhalation during clashes with the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Abu Dis and Al Ezariya towns southeast of Jerusalem city. (WAFSA 17 April 2017)

### **Israeli Arrests**

- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained four Palestinian minors during clashes which erupted at the end of a march launched by Palestinian students near the Ofer detention center -- the only Israeli prison in the West Bank -- in the Ramallah Governorate. Israeli soldiers fired tear gas and rubber-coated bullets towards Palestinians, who threw rocks in the direction of soldiers. The IOA then raided the nearby village of Beituniya, chasing and assaulting protesters. The four detained Palestinians were identified as Ahmad Turki, 15, Hassan Ziyad, 14, Usama Arabi, 15, and Muhammad al-Sarafandi, 17. (Maannews 17 April 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested three Palestinian young men in Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah. The IOA soldiers erected a military barrier close to the village and searched passing Palestinians. The three detainees were taken to an unknown

destination amid a state of tension prevailing in the village. (PALINFO 17 April 2017)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested citizen Baha' Imad Qa'dan, 25, from Tulkarem city after raiding his house in the city. (WAFa 17 April 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested citizen Rabee' Ahmad Farkh, 28, from Faroun village after raiding his house in the village. (WAFa 17 April 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested citizen Hatem Muhammad GHanem, 49, from Deir Al Ghsoun village in Tulkarem, while in his work inside the 1948 lands. (WAFa 17 April 2017)

### **Israeli Settler Violence**

- Islamic Endowment Department in Occupied Jerusalem revealed that over 1,200 settlers stormed al-Aqsa Mosque during the Passover Jewish holiday which lasted from April 11 to 17. The department reported that dozens of attempts to perform Talmudic rituals and Jewish prayers at al-Aqsa holy shrine were recorded. Al-Aqsa Mosque witnessed heightened tensions due to settlers' repeated incursions, it pointed out. Israeli occupation Army (IOA) restricted Palestinians access to al-Aqsa Mosque on the Passover days and deployed intensive reinforcements in the Old City of Occupied Jerusalem. Military checkpoints were also erected at al-Aqsa gates. (PALINFO 17 April 2017)
- Israeli settlers assaulted and attacked Palestinian shepherds in Ein As Sakut area in the northern Jordan valley. (WAFa 17 April 2017)

### **Other**

- More than 1,600 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli custody launched an open-ended mass hunger strike on Palestinian Prisoners' Day, led by imprisoned Fatah leader Marwan Barghouthi, under the banner of "Freedom and Dignity" for prisoners. Prisoners had purged all food products from their cells and shaved their heads in [Israel prisons from the north to the south](#), namely in the Gilboa, Hadarim, Ashkelon, Ktziot, Nafha, and Ramon prisons. A mass hunger strike started calling for basic needs and rights of prisoners in an attempt to put an end to the practice of arbitrary administrative detention, torture, ill-treatment, unfair trials, detention of children, medical negligence, solitary confinement, inhuman/degrading treatment, deprivation of basic rights such as family visits and the right to education." For more information, click to read full report: ([Maannews](#) 17 April 2017)

- Thousands of Christian followers of the Orthodox and Catholic faiths from all over the world, gathering at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem's Old City, celebrated Easter Holy Saturday with the emergence of the holy fire from the location of the tomb believed to be that of Jesus Christ. Only a few privileged Palestinian Christians, mainly those living in East Jerusalem or Israel, were able to attend the celebrations. Thousands of their brethren from the locked West Bank and Gaza Strip, only few kilometers away from Jerusalem, were not able to attend them. Israel does not allow Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to reach the wall-in East Jerusalem without special army issued permits. As with every year, Israel issued a number of permits for West Bank and Gaza Christians to enter Jerusalem during Easter. But, then, it imposed a week-long closure on the occupied territories for the Jewish Passover holiday, which coincided with Easter celebrations, thus deeming all permits void for this week. At the same time, Israeli police set up blockades around the Old City of Jerusalem and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, preventing thousands of pilgrims from reaching their holy sites. Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilos III emerged from the recently renovated tomb, known as the Edicule, with lit candle sticks to indicate the appearance of what Christians of all sects call the holy light. Once the patriarch has emerged from the tomb, the thousands waiting since the morning hours and carrying candles lit them from the holy fire. The light is then taken to churches around the country and the world. Christians marked, on Friday, the annual Easter Good Friday procession with thousands of pilgrims from all over the world congregating on Jerusalem to walk the path Jesus Christ had walked to his crucifixion. Easter will be celebrated on Sunday. Orthodox and Catholic churches mark Easter, this year, at the same time when, usually, each mark it a different time from the other.