



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

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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

- Israeli naval forces detained six Palestinian fishermen overnight off the coast of the besieged Gaza Strip and confiscated two fishing boats. Israeli gunboats opened fire at several fishing boats, before obstructing one of the boats, taking the three fishermen on board into custody, and impounding their boat. The three were identified as Muhammad Amin Abu Warda and his brothers Yousif and Hussein. They were reportedly detained while sailing only three nautical miles from the

shore and within Israel's unilaterally declared fishing zone. (Maannews 15 May 2017)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) quelled a peaceful march that kicked in Bethlehem city in order to mark the anniversary of Palestinian Nakba. The IO soldiers quelled the march at the northern entrance of the city and showered participants with tear gas grenades. Dozens of Palestinians suffered suffocation due to Israeli intensive shooting of tear gas canisters. (Wafa 15 May 2017)
- A Palestinian man was injured by a rubber-coated steel bullet fired by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) during clashes in the village of Nabi Saleh, west of Ramallah. soldiers attacked a march commemorating the 69th anniversary of the Palestinian catastrophe. the soldiers fired rubber bullets and tear gas at the protesters and hit a 43-year-old man in the foot. (Wafa 15 May 2017)
- Seven Palestinians were injured during clashes with the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) at Beit El military checkpoint, on the northern entrance to Ramallah. The soldiers attacked a march commemorating the 69th anniversary of the Palestinian catastrophe. The march started from Ramallah following a rally in the city center marking the Nakba. When it reached the Beit El checkpoint, soldiers fired rubber bullets and tear gas at them, injuring at least seven people. (Wafa 15 May 2017)

Israeli Arrests

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained two brothers from Ras Al Amoud neighborhood in Silwan town. The two were identified as Jamal and Muhamamd Al Ghoul. (Maannews 15 May 2017)

Israeli Settler Violence

- An Israeli settler in a speeding car ran over a Palestinian man in eastern Hebron identified as Ghassan Al Muhtaseb. The 35-year-old man was crossing the street "60" to the east of Hebron when he was hit by the settler who then sped away. His injuries were described as moderate. (PALINFO 15 May 2017)
- 33 Israeli settlers raided Al Aqsa Mosque IN OCUCPIED East Jerusalem via Al Mughrabi Gate escorted by the Israeli occupation Police. The settlers toured in the backyard of the Mosque and carried out provocative actions. (Wafa 15 May 2017)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem ordered a halt on the construction of the Issawiya town council, in occupied East Jerusalem. Staff from the Israeli municipality accompanied by a police escort broke into the area and handed a notification ordering those behind the construction to stop work. (WAFA 15 May 2017)

Expansion of settlements

- A regional council in the West Bank has begun soliciting bids to build over 200 apartments in a Jewish settlement under its authority. The news comes a week ahead of U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The Mateh Binyamin Regional Council is looking to build 209 apartments in Tel Zion, the ultra-Orthodox section of the settlement of Kochav Yaakov in the center of the West Bank. The settlement is east of the separation barrier and not part of the generally accepted settlement blocs. The plan for homes was approved long ago, during the 1980s, and now the regional council wants to bring it to fruition. Regional Council chairman Avi Roeh, who is also chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities of Judea and Samaria, confirmed that this is an old plan now being taken out of the mothballs. He said that at issue "is a project with an approved urban plan of 1,200 units, of which 750 have been built." The others weren't erected, he said, because the developer went bankrupt. Hagit Ofran, who follows settlement development for the anti-occupation group Peace Now, also confirmed that this construction is permitted under an old plan, but stressed: "Even if this was approved in the past – it's construction. "There are tens of thousands of units that could be built under old plans. In practice, there was no [construction] freeze and there is no freeze in the settlements. This is a large project beyond the separation barrier that will continue to undermine the two-state solution." Last week, Haaretz reported that the Prime Minister's Office had the Civil Administration's High Planning Committee postponed a meeting that was supposed to convene to approve building projects in West Bank settlements. A senior official told Haaretz that Netanyahu's office asked that the meeting only take place after U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to the country on May 22 ends. The senior official, who asked to remain anonymous, stated that the postponement was intended to avoid friction between Israel and the U.S. over the issue of settlement construction a short while before the presidential visit. This kind of friction could mar the entire visit, turn the settlements issue into a major issue in the negotiations and give the Palestinians arguments to strengthen their position during Trump's

visit to Bethlehem and his meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. ([Haaretz](#) 15 May 2017)

Other

- Lawmakers for United Torah Judaism have told the heads of the Knesset coalition that they will not vote for the so-called Jewish nation-state bill. Sources in the party told Haaretz that their opposition was twofold: The bill is slated to become a Basic Law, and UTJ opposes the passage of new constitutional laws. In addition, the party's Knesset members are concerned that the interpretation of the proposed law by the High Court of Justice would negatively affect UTJ's ultra-Orthodox constituency. The bill states that Israel is the "national home of the Jewish people" and that the right to self-determination in Israel is unique to the Jewish people. "In the matter of the nation-state bill, there are issues that are sensitive for us in terms of values. We shouldn't be taken by surprise. We asked that continued legislation be coordinated with us," said a source in UTJ who asked not to be identified. In light of the ultra-Orthodox opposition, the Ministerial Committee for Legislation decided to postpone voting on the version of the bill that was drawn up by MK Shuli Moalem-Refaeli of Habayit Hayehudi. The bill's formulation would subordinate Israel's democratic character to its Jewish identity. The bill states that Jewish law will be a source of inspiration for the Knesset as it enacts laws, and for judges in their rulings. Sources in the coalition confirmed that the bill's progress had stalled due to the opposition of Haredi legislators. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly instructed coalition chairman David Bitan on Sunday to abandon the version of the bill that was approved last week by the Ministerial Committee for Legislation as a government-sponsored bill. It was to be presented to the Knesset in about two months' time for a first reading, with expedited second and third readings. That version of the draft law was initially introduced by Likud MK Avi Dichter, as a private member's bill. Netanyahu's move sowed confusion on Sunday in the coalition, whose members had different assessments as to which version of the bill was to advance. "We'll move ahead on Dichter's bill. There will be changes in it of course, but that's only on condition that the Haredim remove their opposition," Bitan said. Bitan said he did not know whether the coalition would move to amend a controversial clause in Dichter's version of the bill, which downgrades the status of the Arabic language in Israel. However, according to another source in the coalition, the government-sponsored bill was still on the table and was based on a more extreme formulation proposed by Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked

(Habayit Hayehudi) and Tourism Minister Yariv Levin (Likud) a few years ago. “The Justice Ministry will formulate a version of the government bill and only then will we decide whether to move the bill ahead as a private member’s bill or a government bill,” the source said. ([Haaretz](#) 15 May 2017)

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