



# ARIJ Daily Report

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## Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 3 July 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 Bilal bin Rabah mosque in the village of Bir al-Basha, in the Governorate of Jenin, and searched it before leaving the village. (Wafa 3 July 2017)
- In the village of Qaryut, in the Governorate of Nablus, Israeli soldiers raided the village and randomly fired tear gas canisters towards homes causing suffocation among citizens, including women and children. (Wafa 3 July 2017)

- In the south of the West Bank, Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided the town of Beit Ummar, north of Hebron and stormed the house of Ibrahim Ali Akel Ikhliel, searched it and messed with its contents. The IOA ALSO raided a number of neighbourhoods in the city of Hebron and set up roadblocks in Hebron, stopping and searching cars, said the sources. (WAFa 3 July 2017)
- Israeli military vehicles staged a limited incursion into Palestinian lands in Beit Lahiya in the northern besieged Gaza Strip. Four Israeli military bulldozers entered tens of meters into Gaza territory and proceeded to level lands as Israeli drones hovered in sky. (Maannews 3 July 2017)

### Israeli Arrests

- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided Ras Al Ein area in Nablus Governorate and arrested Mahmoud Ali Aseeda, 21, while at his work. Citizen Aseeda comes from Tel village. (WAFa 3 July 2017)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) arrested Citizen Omar Abdullah Masoud Qabha, 23, after raiding his home in Barta'a village west of Jenin city. (WAFa 3 July 2017)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) arrested Qais Kamal Areedi, 23, and Fuad Sharyda Al Aqhash, 31, at a militia checkpoint that was set up by the IOA at the entrance of Arraba village in Jenin Governorate. (WAFa 3 July 2017)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) stormed the village of Kafr Qaddum in northern occupied West Bank district of Qalqiliya and detained five Palestinians, three of whom were teenagers. The detainees are 15-year-old Salah Mansour, his 16-year-old brother Subhi, 16-year-old Amr Muhammad Taha, 19-year-old Aref Marwan, and 26-year-old Aws Abd al-Raziq. The detention raid came as Kafr Qaddum was preparing to organize a major rally, marking the sixth anniversary of the village's [weekly Friday protest](#) against Israeli land confiscations and the closure of the village's southern road by Israeli forces. (Maannews 3 July 2017)
- In the central occupied West Bank Governorate of Ramallah, Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained two Palestinians in the village of Beit Liqya, and four in the village of Abud. (Maannews 3 July 2017)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained one Palestinian in the village of Husan in the southern Bethlehem Governorate. (Maannews 3 July 2017)
- Israeli occupation troops raided the village of Abu al-Urqaan near Dura and ransacked a blacksmith's workshop belonging to Muhammad al-

Zagh al-Shawamra. After searching the place, Israeli soldiers delivered a summons to the owner's son Rabah, demanding that appear at an Israeli detention center for questioning later on Monday.

- In the town of Beit Ummar north of Hebron city, Israeli occupation troops stormed the home of Ibrahim Ali Ikhlayyil and upended the interior. (Maannews 3 July 2017)

### **Israeli Settler Violence**

- A group of Israeli settlers renewed their incursions to Al Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem under the cover of the Israeli police and security guards. The settlers carried out provocative tours in the courtyard of Al Aqsa Mosque. (Wafa 3 July 2017)

### **Home Demolition & Demolition threats**

- Israeli authorities ordered that two homes in occupied East Jerusalem be demolished on Monday morning, forcing the Palestinian homeowner to tear them down himself in the span of two hours to avoid incurring the exorbitant costs of a demolition carried out by the Israeli Jerusalem municipality. The Jerusalem municipality crews escorted by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) stormed the area of Umm al-Lassun in the town of Sur Bahir to tell home owner Mahmoud Fawaqa to demolish the two homes himself within two hours, lest Israeli authorities take the matter into their own hands and charge him 80,000 shekels (\$22,850) for it. One of the homes, in which a family of six was residing, had been built five years earlier, whereas construction for the second house had only recently been completed. Fawaqa said that he had tried to obtain a construction license from the Jerusalem municipality, but that he was denied "under the pretext that the land (on which he built) was designated green area." (Maannews 3 July 2017)

### **Expansion of settlements**

- Plans to expand Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem and build housing for Jews in an Arab neighborhood of the capital – where five Palestinian families would be evicted – will come before the Jerusalem District Planning Commission in the next two weeks. The plans expected to be approved include 2,000 homes in large Jewish neighborhoods and four plans for Jewish housing in Sheikh Jarrah, two of which would involve evacuating Palestinians who live there. During the two terms of U.S. President Barack Obama and especially during

the past six years, there was a marked slowdown in construction for Jews beyond the Green Line in Jerusalem. Diplomatically sensitive plans were repeatedly delayed by orders from above or removed from the planning committees' agenda with no explanation. Once Donald Trump entered the White House, and especially after his visit to Israel in May, right-wing politicians began to declare that the freeze on construction in East Jerusalem was over. It seems now as if the obstacles have indeed been removed and the planning committees will approve a long list of plans for neighborhoods in the capital over the Green Line. The most controversial ones are the four plans to building housing for Jews in Sheikh Jarrah, just north of the Old City. The neighborhood was in the news seven years ago when a number of Palestinian families were removed from their homes so that Jews could move in, after Jewish groups proved that the structures had been Jewish property before 1948. Those evacuations generated heated public protest, and ever since there have been almost no Palestinians forced out of the neighborhood. Nevertheless, right-wing groups and businessmen affiliated with the right continued to advance evacuation-and-construction plans for the area. Among the plans to be discussed by the Jerusalem District Planning Commission is one to evict one family to build a building with three apartments on three floors, and another plan that would require the eviction of four Palestinian families to build a five-story building with 10 apartments. In both cases the buildings are Jewish-owned property, but the Palestinians have the rights of protected tenants, which makes it more difficult to evacuate them. Jerusalem City Councilman Aryeh King, who has been involved in promoting Jewish settlement in Sheikh Jarrah, explained that approving the construction plans is part of the process of evacuating the Palestinian families. "By law, one acceptable reason for evacuating tenants is when the owner of the property seeks to improve it," said King. In such a case the Palestinians would be compensated for their homes. King said the two plans have been frozen for six years. A third plan to be discussed by the planning commission is for a building for the Ohr Somayach yeshiva in an open area of Sheikh Jarrah. The building is slated to go up near the neighborhood's gas station, even though constructing a public building near a gas station is illegal. The yeshiva building will have eight stories, with an additional two stories devoted to "public institutions for emergency and rescue," according to the plan. The fourth plan calls for a six-story office building to be constructed by Israeli developers in the middle of the neighborhood. The planning commission is also expected to approve several plans to expand Jewish neighborhoods over the Green Line that have been held up by the construction freeze. Due to come up this week is a plan for

944 apartments in Pisgat Zeev (on land that has remained empty since the state expropriated it in 1980). Other plans for 800 units in Gilo, 200 apartments in Ramot, 214 homes in Neveh Yaakov and another 116 homes in Pisgat Zeev, will be debated in two weeks. "The construction of two settlements in the heart of a Palestinian neighborhood in Jerusalem, alongside the advancing of plans for nearly 2,000 homes across the Green Line, are more proof of the blatant efforts by the government to destroy any chance of a diplomatic solution," said Lior Amihai, head of the settlement-oversight team at Peace Now. "Especially grave is the fact that establishing the settlements in the heart of Sheikh Jarrah will cause the removal of five Palestinian families that lived in their homes for decades as protected tenants. There's no limit to the cynicism and shame." Aviv Tatarsky, a researcher for the left-wing Ir Amim association, added, "Two thousand housing units across the Green Line are 2,000 unilateral moves. The Israeli public that wants peace has been spat upon in the face by its leadership again." ([Haaretz](#) 3 July 2017)

- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem sieged with barbed wires parts of the historical Al Yousifieh cemetery in Jerusalem, adjacent to Al Aqsa Mosque. Jerusalemites are prevented to bury their dead in the aforementioned cemetery under the pretext that it has been seized for the establishment of a national park. (Wafa 3 July 2017)
- The Jerusalem District Planning Commission is expected to grant permits for thousands of homes in united Jerusalem later this month, marking the end of the de facto freeze on Jewish construction in large swaths of the capital. In 2010, then-Vice President Joseph Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton blasted Israel for the approval of 1,600 housing units in the north Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramat Shlomo. The approval of the planned project was given during Biden's first visit to Israel since taking office in 2009, and sparked an angry backlash from the Obama White House. Following the diplomatic blowup, [the Netanyahu government imposed a de facto building freeze](#) on Jewish housing in Jerusalem neighborhoods built since 1967, significantly reducing the number of housing permits issued and slow-walking new projects through committee. Residents of the capital and nationalist MKs expressed hope following the election of President Donald Trump last November that the inauguration of the new Republican administration would mean the end of the restrictions on Jewish construction imposed in 2010. Now, it appears that Israel may in fact be on the verge of scrapping the building freeze, with thousands of units likely to be approved over the next two weeks. Most of the nearly 2,300 units expected to be approved by city planners will be built in large, established neighborhoods. Pisgat Zeev, in northeastern

Jerusalem, for example will receive 944 new housing units in a project expected to be approved later this week. Another 116 units are likely to be approved later this month. In the nearby Neve Yaakov neighborhood, 214 units are expected to be approved. In southern Jerusalem, 800 new units are planned in Gilo, while in northern Jerusalem, 200 homes are planned for Ramot. But perhaps most significant are plans for 13 housing units and a massive yeshiva complex to be built in the [Shimon Hatzaddik neighborhood](#) near the Old City. Shimon Hatzaddik, called Sheikh Jarrah by local Arabs, borders the Jewish neighborhoods of Maalot Dafna, Arzei Habira, and Shmuel Hanavi, and is home to the tomb of Shimon, a Second Temple-era Kohen Gadol (High Priest). The area had a thriving Jewish community prior to the establishment of Israel in 1948, but was ethnically cleansed of Jews by Jordan during the Israeli War of Independence. Over the years, Jews have reclaimed Jewish-owned properties in the area, for which there are leases and documents, as the land (a plot of approximately 18 [dunams](#)) was purchased in 1876 by the committee of the [Sephardic](#) community and the [Ashkenazi](#) Assembly of Israel., and a small Jewish community has been renewed in the area near the tomb of Shimon Hatzaddik. In 2010, plans were submitted to expand the Jewish community in the area, building four new projects on Jewish-owned land. Among the projects submitted to the city planning committee were a five-story apartment building which would include 10 housing units, a three-story building for three housing units, a six-story office building, and a massive 10-story complex for the Ohr Samayach yeshiva, currently located in Maalot Dafna. The projects [received initial approval](#) from the city in 2014 – after a four year wait – but were never issued building permits. All of the four projects are planned to be built on Jewish-owned land, though the lots selected for the two housing projects are currently occupied by Arab squatters who enjoy "protected tenant status", a legal definition in force since Ottoman times. If the city planning committee approves the plans, the owners of the lots will be given permission to remove the squatters, who will receive monetary compensation. ([INN](#) 3 July 2017)