



# 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 Air Force carried out, at dawn, many air strikes into several parts of the Gaza Strip, causing serious damage to buildings and homes. The army fired at least three missiles into the al-Waha area, in northwest of Gaza city, destroying a structure, a causing damage to many surrounded homes. Explosions were also seen and heard in Central Gaza, after the soldiers fired missiles striking structures in the area. Israeli war jets also flew above many homes and lands in several

parts of the Gaza Strip, and fired many flares, while army drones kept flying over the coastal area until early morning hours. (MEMC 18 December 2017)

- Israeli navy ships attacked many Palestinian fishing boats, in the Sudaniyya Sea and al-Waha area. The fishermen had to leave without being able to fish and provide for their families, in fear of further Israeli escalation. (MEMC 18 December 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al Aroub college campus north of Hebron and suppressed a protest organized by Palestinians condemning the US President's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The IOA reinforced their presence at the entrance of the college, stormed the campus, beat the students and prevented them from protesting. One student was detained during the protest and was later released. (Wafa 18 December 2017)
- Several Israeli bulldozers entered into the southern Gaza Strip and razed lands, under heavy military protection. Four Israeli bulldozers entered lands east of Rafah city, where they razed and leveled lands near the border fence with Israel. Israeli military drones reportedly hovered overhead during the incursion. Israeli military incursions inside the besieged Gaza Strip and near the "buffer zone," which lies on both land and sea sides of Gaza, have long been a near-daily occurrence. (Maannews 18 December 2017)
- Two Palestinians were wounded by rubber-coated steel bullets during clashes with the Israeli Occupation army (IOA) in al-Naqar neighborhood, west of Qalqiliya. (Wafa 18 December 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation army (IOA) fired gunshots in the air at the military checkpoint Qalandia to scare off a girl who was approaching the checkpoint from the vehicles' designated entrance. (Wafa 18 December 2017)
- A number of Palestinian civilians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) stormed Deir Nitham village, northwest of Ramallah, and fired tear gas canisters at them. The IOA also arrested Rami al-Tamimi, 13, as he was leaving school. (Wafa 18 December 2017)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) erected new surveillance cameras in the vicinity of the Damascus gate (Bab al-Amoud), thus increasing the number of cameras installed recently by the Israeli security forces in the area, especially in the area extending from Al-Mosarara, Bab Al-Amoud and Nablus streets, through Sultan Suleiman Street, and reaching Bab As Sahera, Salah Ad Din, Ar Rasheed and Az Zahra' streets. (WAFa 18 December 2017)

### **Israeli Arrests**

- Israeli court extended the detention of three Palestinians from Jerusalem, including two women, who were detained during protests against the US decision over Jerusalem. The Israeli court have decided to release the two Palestinian women, Rifqa Qawasmi and Rihan Odeh, who were detained for protesting US President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. the prosecution has decided to appeal the decision and extend their detention. (WAFa 18 December 2017)
- The Israeli court extended the detention of Musa al-Qadmani until next Wednesday. Al-Qadmani was detained last week after he was hit with a bullet in his thigh and spent few days in the hospital before he was transferred to the Russian Compound interrogation center in West Jerusalem. (WAFa 18 December 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and violently searched many homes in the city of Hebron in the southern West Bank, Dura town, in addition to the villages of at-Tabaqa and Kharsa, and detained four Palestinians, identified as Mo'men Jamal Abu Hawwash, 18, from the at-Tabaqa village, in addition to Omar Talahma, 27, and Fadi Nammoura, and Shadi Nammoura, from Tabaqa and Kharsa villages. (IMEMC 18 December 2017)
- In Hebron city, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded many neighborhoods, before breaking into and ransacking homes, and detained Mohammad Shahin Ja'bari. (IMEMC 18 December 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Bethlehem city, and detained Ibrahim Abdul-Rahman Jibreen, 48, from Wadi Shahin area, in the center of the city, after invading his home. (IMEMC 18 December 2017)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained mohammad Jawdat Shahrour, from the Eastern Neighborhood of Tulkarem city, in the northern part of the West Bank, and Laith Hussein from Nur Shams refugee camp, east of Tulkarem. (IMEMC 18 December 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a Palestinian, identified as Mohammad Mousa Abu Zeid, 40, at the al-Karama Border Terminal with Jordan, while he was returning from visiting with family members living in Saudi Arabia. (IMEMC 18 December 2017)

### **Israeli Settler Violence**

- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) raided the village of Kifl Haris, north of the city of Salfit in the occupied West Bank, in order to secure a visit for Jewish settlers to the area. The IOA raided the village as Jewish settlers entered it to visit sites that are believed to belong to Thul-Kifl, an Islamic prophet identified with many Hebrew bible prophets. The army presence affected residents who were restricted in movement until early next morning. Settlers usually disturb the residents with their celebration and loud noises, said the sources. (IMEMC 18 December 2017)
- Israeli Soldiers and settlers invaded the courtyards of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, in occupied Jerusalem, after storming it from the al-Magharba Gate, and conducted provocative tours, after forcing many Palestinians out of the holy site. (IMEMC 18 December 2017)

### **Confiscation & Razing of lands**

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) confiscated a bulldozer belonging to Khaled Bani Odeh in Atouf area south of Tubas city. The IOA took the bulldozer to Al Hamra checkpoint north of the Jordan Valley. (WAFSA 18 December 2017)

### **Expansion of settlements**

- Mayor Barkat is initiating the construction of a high-tech, residential, academic and recreational hub in an exciting and central location - above the Begin Road in Jerusalem. The revolutionary plan will create a new space in the center of Jerusalem, similar to those in Stanford and

Harvard universities in the United States, which are among the best in the world. As part of the plan, a section of the Begin Road, between the Givat Mordechai and the Givat Shaul interchanges, will be built over and a new and central urban space will be constructed in the city. A high-tech and biotech village of 70,000 square meters will be built above the section of the road, adjacent to the university in Givat Ram, and will include important business and development complexes close to the university. This will connect Jerusalem to some of the world's largest, leading companies. In addition, 1,830 new housing units will be built in the new area - half of which will be small and intended for young families, in accordance with the Mayor's vision. 250 housing units will be sheltered housing units and, adjacent to these, an area of 13,390 square meters will include commercial areas and open public areas. In the center of the new area, just above the road, a large park, spanning approximately 70 dunams, will be located. It will become a focus of leisure and recreation, including cycling and walking trails, green areas and cafes, and will also create a significant urban connection between the Beit Hakerem neighborhood, the government compound and the Hebrew University. The park will serve as a "green backbone", linking the Emek Refaim metropolitan park in the south and the Arazim Valley National Park in the north. The plan is being promoted in conjunction with the Israel Land Authority and the Jerusalem Development Authority, and will be brought for approval before the Local Planning and Building Committee and then for discussion before the District Committee. ([JM](#) 18 December 2017)

### **Israeli Closures**

- The Israeli Occupation Police closed Jabal al-Zaytoon / Al-Tur neighborhood, overlooking Old Jerusalem, and hindered the entry and exit of Palestinians to and from the neighborhood. (Wafa 18 December 2017)

### **Other**

- Israeli Coalition plans to pass the controversial proposed Basic Law: Israel – Nation State of the Jewish People in a first reading this winter, without any significant changes to the original draft, the government said on Sunday. "The Jewish nation-state bill is one of the most important laws the Knesset has ever dealt with and we plan to bring it to a vote in this Knesset session," said Tourism Minister Yariv Levin, whom Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tasked with handling coalition negotiations on the bill. The Knesset winter session ends in

late March 2018. Likud MK Amir Ohana, who heads the legislative committee working on the bill, told a meeting of coalition heads that the first reading is expected to take place in the next few weeks. Levin's announcement came after coalition chairman David Bitan (Likud) said in recent weeks that he does not see the bill going to a vote in the near future. The Jewish nation-state bill declares that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people, and includes many declarative elements about the Jewish homeland, and reinforces many existing laws in a Basic Law, such as the flag, national anthem and national symbol and the right of any Jewish person to immigrate to Israel. Its opponents have raised concerns about articles that could bring changes, such as one saying the Supreme Court should consider Jewish tradition if there is a case with no legal precedent. Two particularly controversial sections are one saying that Hebrew is the official language while Arabic has special status, and one allowing "separate communal settlements" that can be for one religion or nationality. Levin said the bill "will be authorized in a first reading in the draft that was agreed-upon between the heads of coalition parties, and in a format that matches the principles in the original proposal by MK [Avi] Dichter," Levin said. Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Avi Dichter (Likud) first proposed the Jewish nation-state bill in 2011. He thanked Levin and Ohana "for pushing the nation-state bill I initiated so it'll go to a first reading in the coming weeks. The bill I initiated is the flagship bill for the Likud and the coalition. I and my friends in the Likud will do everything so...it will be in the law books before Israel's 70th Independence Day." The draft for a first reading is almost identical to the draft that passed a preliminary reading. One notable change is to the section on the judiciary, which originally stated that if "a court has a legal question that demands a decision and did not find an answer in legislation or precedent, it should declare based on the principles of liberty, justice, integrity and peace of Jewish heritage." Jewish law is added to the things the court should consider in the latest draft. The draft also includes a new article calling the Land of Israel the "historic homeland of the Jewish people, and a section that said the state will work to "preserve the cultural and historic heritage of the Jewish people" among Diaspora Jewry now includes preserving religious heritage, as well. Asked if hardly changing a draft from one reading to the next makes his committee's work irrelevant, Ohana said, "We will continue the discussions with a goal of reaching agreements – in the coalition as well – before the second and third readings. There are still many disagreements, which will be resolved before the second and third readings." Similarly, Levin said that after the first reading, "We will be able to make changes if they will be acceptable for all

coalition party heads and first and foremost for the prime minister, who is personally leading this bill." Two matters are written into the committee's current draft as "alternative drafts for discussion." First is the bill's purpose. Currently, it says: "The purpose of this Basic Law is to protect the status of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people in order to anchor in a Basic Law the State of Israel's values as a Jewish and democratic state in the spirit of the principles declared in the establishment of the State of Israel." The committee will discuss whether to write "Jewish state with a democratic government," instead of "Jewish and democratic state." In addition, the controversial segment about Arabic having a special status and the right to access government services in Arabic may be replaced with: "This article will not harm the status given in practicality to the Arabic language before the beginning of this Basic Law." Zionist Union MK Tzipi Livni, a vocal opponent of the bill, said: "The Likud needs to remove the photo of Herzl from the Knesset, the copy of the Declaration of Independence from their meeting room and the bust of [Likud ideological forebear Ze'ev] Jabotinsky from Likud headquarters. "No one should doubt that they do not represent Zionism today," she tweeted. (IPOST 18 December 2017)

- The Knesset in three weeks will take a preliminary vote on the controversial nation-state bill, in which Israel's democratic character is given second place to its Jewish character, Tourism Minister Yariv Levin said on Sunday. According to the wording of the bill, written by MK Avi Dichter (Likud), Israel is "the national home of the Jewish people" which has "the right to realize its unique Jewish national self-definition in the State of Israel" and that the Arabic language will hold "special status" as opposed to being listed as one of the country's official languages. The coalition promised to allow the bill to advance to its preliminary reading, but then it is expected to undergo changes. A softened version of the bill, in which Israel's democratic character would be given equal value to its Jewish character, and which is being advanced by MK Amir Ohana (Likud) in a special committee, will not be voted on by the Knesset. Kulanu, Yisrael Beiteinu and some Haredi factions oppose the bill's current wording. In October, Yisrael Beiteinu leader Avigdor Lieberman said, "I have great difficulty with the nation-state law. Instead of turning Israel into a Jewish state they're trying to turn it into a halakhic state." The coalition figures that the bill will not advance past the preliminary vote, to significant opposition to its present phrasing. Meanwhile, the opposition will try to advance a bill forcing a prime minister charged with a crime that carries a punishment of over three years in prison to resign. The bill's sponsor, Yoel Hasson (Zionist Union), suggested to members of the coalition's

Ministerial Committee for Legislation that the bill only take effect in the next Knesset, so that it had no bearing on legislation growing out of the criminal investigations against Netanyahu, a move intended to pave the way for the opposition bill's passage. Another bill, one that would allow deputy ministers to oversee ministries, will also be voted on. If the Knesset gives that bill majority support in its first vote, the pending legislation can be carried over to the Knesset's next term, such that the legislative process would not have to begin from scratch. ([Haaretz](#) 18 December 2017)

- The governing coalition is expected to support a bill on the death penalty for terrorists, sponsored by Yisrael Beiteinu, that would allow military courts to sentence a terrorist to death even if the decision is not unanimous. The heads of the coalition parties promised Yisrael Beiteinu Chairman and Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman Sunday to support the bill, as set out in the coalition agreements. Making it easier to sentence terrorists to death has been on Yisrael Beiteinu's agenda for years. Military law already allows the death penalty for someone convicted of a terrorist murder if the decision by the judges is unanimous. This bill would allow the death sentence to be imposed by a majority of the judges. It would also prohibit the commutation of a death sentence. The bill does not require military prosecutors to demand the death penalty. The decision will be left to the prosecutors in any given case. The bill includes an article that was not in the coalition agreement, allowing regular Israeli criminal courts, and not only military courts, to sentence convicted terrorists to death.
- Lieberman, Tourism Minister Yariv Levin and Yisrael Beiteinu whip Robert Ilatov are expected to formulate the final wording of the bill. The bill is expected to be brought for approval to the Ministerial Committee for Legislation and then to the Knesset within a week or two. In November, Haaretz reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed support for the death penalty during a condolence call he paid to the Solomon family, who lost three members in a terror attack in July. ([Haaretz](#) 18 December 2017)
- The United Nations Security Council on Monday failed to adopt the draft resolution that reflects regret among the body's members about "recent decisions regarding the status of Jerusalem," with a negative vote by the United States. The text, tabled by Egypt, reiterated the United Nations' position on Jerusalem and would have affirmed "that any decisions and actions which purport to have altered, the character, status or demographic composition of the Holy City of Jerusalem have no legal effect, are null and void and must be rescinded in compliance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council." The text would also have called on all States "to refrain from the establishment of



diplomatic missions in the Holy City of Jerusalem.” A negative vote – or veto – from one of the Council's five permanent members – China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and the United States – blocks passage of a resolution. Therefore, the draft [was rejected](#) despite support from the other four permanent members and from the 10 non-permanent members. The vote followed a briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace process, who said that the Israel-Palestinian conflict has not seen significant positive moves towards peace during the reporting period from 20 September to 18 December. He said that the security situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory has become more tense in the wake of US President Donald Trump's decision on 6 December to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, citing an increase in incidents, notably rockets fired from Gaza and clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces. For more details, click here ([UN](#) 18 December 2017)

- The Israeli security cabinet on Monday accepted the recommendation of Attorney General Avichai Mendelblit to urge the High Court of Justice to revisit its prohibition on the state holding onto the bodies of terrorists. In practice, Israel does return terrorists' bodies to their families, but not in all cases. Israel has the prerogative of holding onto bodies, the cabinet ministers stated, adding that the principles set forth in the majority opinion of the justices are unacceptable. At this stage they won't be pursuing new legislation on the matter, until the court responds to the request for another hearing. Relatives of Hadar Goldin, an IDF soldier whose body is believed to be held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, blasted the cabinet decision as “miserable” and Netanyahu’s policy as “weak.” Goldin’s parents, Dr. Leah Goldin and Professor Simcha Goldin, said Monday that “Prime Minister Netanyahu and the cabinet chose again to give in to Hamas. The decision not to promote a law that would enable [the state] to hold on to bodies of terrorists and apply pressure on Hamas is a miserable decision that conveys weakness to the enemy To bring Hadar and Oron [Shaul, the other soldier whose body is believed to be held in the Strip] back home the Israeli leadership ought to show bravery and determination.” Last week the High Court ruled that the State of Israel may not intentionally hold onto the bodies of terrorists for the purpose of negotiations, since there is no specific, explicit law allowing it to do so. Bucking the minority opinion of Justice Neal Hendel, justices Yoram Danziger and George Kara said that if the state wants, it could enact a law setting legal standards accepted in Israeli and international law, and gave the state six months to do so. Failing to do so would mean the state would

have to return the terrorists' bodies to the families, the court ruled. Hendel in a minority said he felt that existing law gave the state the power to hold onto bodies. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lashed out at the court last week, taking to Twitter to deride the ruling as a "very problematic decision of the High Court of Justice." "We shouldn't give Hamas free gifts," the prime minister warned. He wrote that he plans to "gather cabinet ministers and the legal adviser to the government on Sunday for a special discussion in order to find practical and legal solutions, to continue applying pressure on Hamas." The ruling was made after a petition was filed to the court by families of terrorists against a cabinet decision made earlier this year not to return the bodies of Hamas terrorists killed while carrying out terror attacks. Instead, the government had decided at the time that terrorists who die while executing attacks will be buried at a burial site that has been established for this purpose. By making this decision, the government tried to apply pressure on families of terrorists and thereby stress Hamas into returning the bodies of IDF soldiers who are considered to be held by the group in the Gaza Strip. The government made its decision based on security assessments that said the move could help hasten the process of returning civilians and the bodies of Israeli soldiers held in the Strip, as well as promote a negotiation on the subject in the future. Following that policy, four terrorists were buried at a cemetery for enemy combatants. Two more corpses are held by the Israel Police, and burial warrants for them have yet to be released. The families of the terrorists claimed that the police's withholding of the bodies from them hurts their constitutional rights, serves as collective punishment and contradicts international law . ([Haaretz](#) 18 December 2017)