



# 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 Occupation Army (IOA) raided the towns of Yatta, Idna and Fawwar refugee camp where it searched and ransacked homes. Soldiers also raided the home of Tahsin Shawar in the city of Hebron, seized his car and around 6,000 Israeli shekels (\$1700) and 400 Jordanian dinars (\$560). (Wafa 19 December 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army invaded, Deir Nitham Palestinian village, west of the central West Bank city of Ramallah, and fired gas bombs

into a local school, causing dozens of children to suffer the severe effects of teargas inhalation. At least 280 children were in school, when the soldiers fired the gas bombs at it. The army surrounded the school and several nearby neighborhoods, and were trying to prevent the Palestinian from marching in their own town. (MEMC 19 December 2017)

- Clashes erupted at Atara checkpoint, to the north of Ramallah, between Israeli occupation Army (IOA) manning a checkpoint and Palestinians who were protesting against US President Donald Trump's recent decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. (Wafa 19 December 2017)
- Dozens of Israeli soldiers and settlers invaded Nablus city heading towards Joseph's Tomb area. The invasion was carried out by at least 40 Israeli military jeeps and trucks, in addition to twelve buses, carrying around 500 settlers. The soldiers fired many live rounds and gas bombs, especially in Amman Street, and the entrance of Balata refugee camp, next to the Tomb. The soldiers shot three Palestinians with rubber-coated steel bullets, including Nidal al-Ka'bi, 16, who was shot in the head. Furthermore, the Israeli soldiers abducted three Palestinians, from their homes, in Nablus city; one of them has been identified as Mahmoud at-Tabouq. (MEMC 19 December 2017)
- The Israeli soldiers invaded al-'Isawiya town, in occupied East Jerusalem, and resorted to the excessive use of force against Palestinian protesters. The soldiers fired rubber-coated steel bullets, concussion grenades and gas bombs. (MEMC 19 December 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a young man, identified as Mohammad Ibrahim Ghatasha, from al-Fawwar refugee camp, south of Hebron, after stopping him at a military roadblock, which was installed by the army on one of Hebron's entrances, and moved him to an unknown destination. (MEMC 19 December 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired live ammunition and tear gas at dozens of Palestinian protesters near the Erez (Beit Hanoun) crossing in the northern Gaza Strip. Dozens of Palestinian youths had gathered near the border fence between Israel and Gaza in protest of US President Donald Trump's [decision](#) to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. (Maannews 19 December 2017)

## **Israeli Arrests**

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked dozens of Palestinian worshippers in the Al-Aqsa Mosque, in occupied Jerusalem, and detained a young man. The IOA were accompanying a group of settlers who conducted provocative tours in the holy site, and were using loud speakers. (MEMC 19 December 2017)
- An Israeli army unit composed of 20 vehicles raided the village of Nabi Saleh, northwest of Ramallah, and detained a 17-year-old girl, Ahd Basem Tamimi, beat her family and seized computers, cellular phone and cameras before detaining Ahd. Ahd Tamimi was shown in a video that went viral on social media pushing back and hitting at two Israeli soldiers who were standing outside her family home on Friday following confrontations in the village against the US decision recognizing Jerusalem as capital of Israel. (Wafa 19 December 2017)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided Rabba and Jalqamous villages, southeast of Jenin, where they detained four Palestinians, identified as father of a slain Palestinian Hasan Ali Hasan Bazour, 45, Abdullah Ahmad Qasrawi, 22, Ihab Irsan Bazour, 24 and Muawiya Taher Al Qarm, 24. (Wafa 19 December 2017)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided Siris village, south of Jenin, and detained Abdel Baset Muhammad Qteit. (Wafa 19 December 2017)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained a 65-year-old Palestinian identified as Mahmoud Niyazi Hamda and his son Hadi, 34, after ransacking their home in a raid into Yaabad town, south of Jenin. (Wafa 19 December 2017)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) conducted a raid that triggered clashes in Arraba town, southwest of Jenin. During the raid, Israeli troops opened fire towards Palestinians who attempted to block their passage, causing several to suffocate. (Wafa 19 December 2017)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained two Palestinian minors after raiding their family homes in al-Far'a refugee camp in the northern West Bank. (Wafa 19 December 2017)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided Beitunia town, west of Ramallah, where they assaulted several Palestinians and showered local schools with tear gas canisters, causing scores of students to suffocate. Two schoolchildren were nabbed during the raid. (Wafa 19 December 2017)
- In Jerusalem, Israeli police detained two Palestinian minors after ransacking their family homes in East Jerusalem neighborhood of al-Thuri. (Wafa 19 December 2017)

- The mother of a Palestinian teenage girl, who was [detained](#) from her home by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) before dawn, was detained at an Israeli police station when seeking information about her daughter's whereabouts. Nariman al-Tamimi was detained by Israeli officers at the Benyamin police station, north of Ramallah in the central occupied West Bank. Nariman was attempting to seek information about her 17-year-old daughter Ahed, who was arrested from their home in the village of Nabi Saleh hours earlier. The whereabouts of both Nariman and Ahed remained unknown. (IMEMC 19 December 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained two Palestinian children from Betunia town, west of the central West Bank city of Ramallah, and caused many schoolchildren to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. The IOA invaded the town, and fired many gas bombs at schools, causing many children, and residents in nearby homes, to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. The soldiers also searched and ransacked homes, and abducted two children, before moving them to an unknown destination. (IMEMC 19 December 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) summoned Mona Qa'dan, sister of prisoner Tareq Qa'dan, from Arrab village southwest of Jenin city to interview the Israeli intelligence police at Salem Military Camp. (WAFA 19 December 2017)

### **Confiscation and Razing of Land**

- Several Israeli bulldozers entered into the "buffer zone" along the border with the central Gaza Strip, where they leveled lands under heavy military protection. four Israeli D9 bulldozers entered into eastern Deir al-Balah in central Gaza from the nearby Kissufim military site and leveled lands in the area. Israeli military drones were reportedly flying overhead during the incursion. (IMEMC 19 December 2017)

### **Demolitions and Demolition Threats**

- Residents of the Abu a-Nuwar community found a demolition order that had been placed inside the fourth-grade classroom in one of the school's buildings. None of the residents saw any security forces in the community, and when the order was placed there is unknown. The order states that if the School owner does not remove it in 72 hours, the authorities will demolish it, at the owners' expense. The school has two buildings, an old one, which houses the kindergarten and first and second grades – a total of 72 students. The second structure is newer,

built in late September 2017, and houses grades three to four, with 25 students. ([BTSELEM](#) December 2017)

## Israeli Military Orders

- Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) ordered a Palestinian to evacuate his land in the town of al-Khader, south of Bethlehem. The IOA handed Mohammad Da'dou a notice ordering him to evacuate his three-dunum plot of land without giving any reason. Da'dou was reclaiming his land after Israeli settlers attempted to take it over when he received the order to leave it. The land in question is privately owned and the owner has papers to prove that. (Wafa 19 December 2017)

## The Segregation Wall

- Two weeks ago, a Border Police jeep arrived at the Hajajleh family home in the village of Al-Walaja, south of Jerusalem. The soldiers gave the family patriarch, Omar Hajajleh, a small remote control, like the kind used to unlock cars. Shortly afterward, the large electric gate separating the house from the rest of the village was locked. The remote is the family's only way to open the gate and leave their home. "Think about this," Hajajleh said. "If I need to go out and my wife is at a neighbor's, how will I leave the house? If I'm at work, how will the rest of the family leave?" To really understand Israel the Middle East - subscribe to Haaretz The Hajajleh house is the only one in Al-Walaja on the Israeli side of the separation barrier. For years, the state tried to get the family to leave, but they refused. Four years ago, following a petition to the High Court of Justice, the Defense Ministry reached a settlement with the family through which a tunnel under the separation fence was built for them at a cost of four million shekels (\$1.1 million). A large iron gate was built inside the tunnel – the house's only entrance. The agreement details family members' rights in entering and leaving their home. For instance, it says that for anyone except a family member to pass through the gate, the family must submit a request to the Israeli-Palestinian liaison office 48 hours in advance, and it will be approved "subject to the usual security permits." The family also can't have more than 10 guests at a time, no guest may arrive after midnight or spend the night, and no merchandise can pass through the gate. If the family violates these terms, they will be "denied the ability to open the gate independently, and instead the gate will be opened three times a day for an hour each time, and passing through it will be subject to a security check." Three

days after the gate was locked, it broke and wouldn't open. Hajajleh repaired it with help from his brother. "If I'd waited for them to come, they wouldn't have come to this day," he said. "It's not by accident, it's intentional. They want us out." Hajajleh says the state has harassed him for years to that end. Six years ago his wife miscarried in her eight month of pregnancy after a confrontation with soldiers. Also that year his son suffered a head injury during a demonstration near their house. Hajajleh was also served with a demolition order on the grounds that the house was built illegally, but the order was voided on the grounds that the statute of limitations had expired. Just recently, after the fence around Al-Walaja was completed, the state started new proceedings against Hajajleh, saying that even though the house couldn't be demolished, he was violating the law by living in an illegal building. He was also served with demolition orders against a chicken coop, well and bathroom that were added later. "The chicken coop is four poles with a tin roof; the bathroom is one square meter. What do they want?" Hajajleh said. "It's all political; they want to get rid of us. But I told Ofer Hindi," the Israeli colonel in charge of the fence, "that I'm not leaving this place, even if I have to live in a cave." Another underground crossing with a gate was built for Hajajleh's neighbor, Ahmed Barghout, because his land and parents' grave are on the other side of the fence from his house, just a few meters away. "They still haven't put on the lock, but they promised to give me a key," he said. "I told them if I don't get a key, I'll break the lock. You live in your own house and feel like you're in prison." The Hajajleh family's story seems even stranger given that not far from their home, on both sides of the village, there are two huge gaps in the fence – one 250 meters wide (820 feet) and one 20 kilometers wide. Neither is slated to be closed in the coming years. The smaller gap, north of the house, is near the Cremisan Monastery. The High Court nixed the original route of the fence there due to the harm it would cause the monastery. The state promised to draft a new route, but has yet to do so. The larger gap is on the other side of the village. The state hasn't even finished the fence around Al-Walaja, despite a major effort in recent months, due to a geological problem caused by the Bethlehem bypass road, which was built in 1995 without a proper geological study. The road caused a spur of a nearby hill to collapse, created deep cracks in the ground and even led to the emergence of a new spring. The Defense Ministry has been aware of the problem for years, but still heatedly defended the fence's route. It rejected an alternative route proposed by Al-Walaja residents that would have run closer to the border between Israel and the West Bank and would not have separated the village from its land. "All signs indicate that defense

officials lied to the court and concealed from it that the fence route they were demanding couldn't be built," said Aviv Tatarsky, a researcher for the left-wing organization Ir Amim. "Had information about the cracks been given to the court back then, it would have ruled that the alternative route proposed by the residents was preferable from every standpoint. "One possibility is that to take over 1,000 dunams [247 acres] of land belonging to Al-Walaja residents, defense officials were willing to undermine Israelis' security," he continued. "Another possibility is that the security arguments they used in court to justify building the fence along a route that creates enormous damage to village residents and the Jerusalem landscape were simply absurd. "Meanwhile, there's no justification for closing the vital road between Al-Walaja and Beit Jala and abusing the Hajajleh family when on the other side of the village they have no intention of finishing the fence, and the way to Jerusalem remains wide open." One person involved in the issue said that building the fence despite the geological problems would be enormously expensive. Meanwhile, work on the barrier in this area has been halted. Nor do there appear to be plans to finish the barrier anytime soon, given that south of Al-Walaja, where the gap extends for kilometers, lies the village of Battir. The state promised the High Court not to build the fence around Battir without giving the village notice that would let residents petition the court, since building the fence there would damage or destroy Battir's ancient terraces. The result is that over the past few months, the Defense Ministry has built a three-kilometer-long (1.9-mile) fence around Al-Walaja that separates the village from its agricultural land and hurts families like the Hajajlehs, but on both sides of the village, the fence is open and will remain open for the foreseeable future. Given this, the real reason the fence was built around Al-Walaja may not have been security, but development of Jerusalem's new metropolitan park, which runs from Emek Refaim Street to the edge of Al-Walaja. Much of the park lies on Al-Walaja's agricultural land. The major spring in the area, Ein Hania, has been renovated and will soon be opened to the public as an attraction in the park. A nearby checkpoint is also slated to move, thereby moving the spring from the Palestinian to the Israeli side of the fence. Despite the area's unique scenery and the new park, the fence around Al-Walaja is even uglier than it is in other places. It's an eight-meter-high iron fence topped with rolls of barbed wire. The Defense Ministry said it originally wanted a concrete wall there, but at the request of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, it sufficed with an ordinary fence. Still, the fence resembles a concrete wall because it's almost completely solid. It is visible from afar and badly mars the view. "The defense establishment

consistently argued that we must preserve the principle that the fence should be continuous – now try to figure out what we built the fence for if it's open," said a government official involved in the matter. "This entire project is being run the way it is because the fence has become a kind of automatic pilot for the defense establishment. It's not really run from above; the ones running it are the contractors. When there's a budget, they build; when there's no budget, they stop." Meanwhile, for the Hajajlehs, every departure from their home requires logistical preparations to pass the remote from one person to the next. "You're living in a prison, even if you have the key," Hajajleh said. For its part, the Defense Ministry said: "The fence in the Beit Jala area is nearing completion, in accordance with High Court rulings. Controlling and monitoring the people entering Omar Hajajleh's house is a security necessity, and it's done in accordance with a settlement validated by the High Court. If Omar needs and requests another remote, we'll view the request affirmatively, as long he's in full compliance with the agreement he signed about Palestinians entering his home." Regarding the 20-kilometer hole, it said, "This section requires an engineering solution different from the rest of the route. Therefore, due to defense budget priorities, at this stage the section won't be built. Security control of this section is maintained through various complementary means." The ministry also said it's awaiting a government decision on the route around Battir. As for the gap near the monastery, "This was in accordance with the High Court's decision, and this opening, too, is controlled by the defense establishment. The defense establishment is committed to High Court rulings and upholds them to the letter, while analyzing all the threats and providing suitable security alternatives." Finally, regarding the fence's appearance, the ministry said that though it did not build a concrete wall as was originally planned, it still wanted "an effective security fence" rather than the usual structure, which is more like "a marker," hence the unusually solid construction. ([Haaretz](#) 19 December 2017)

- A new synagogue within the Western Wall tunnels complex that took 12 years to build was dedicated and opened following the traditional Hanukka candle-lighting ceremony in the Western Wall plaza. The synagogue, which was funded by donations from the Delek Foundation and Delek Group owner Yitzhak Tshuva, is deep inside the complex, adjacent to the area above which the ancient Jewish temples stood on the Temple Mount, and the inner sanctum of the Holy of Holies in particular. The subterranean synagogue has a dramatic feel to it, with low arched ceilings and walls of ancient stones on all sides, and a unique spherical, metal ark to house Torah scrolls.



The ark's walls are formed from the words of the "Shema Yisrael" prayer and the Biblical Book of the Song of Songs cast in metal and running the entire circumference of the sphere, topped by a cast metal sculpture of the burning bush. The Western Wall Heritage Foundation said the synagogue "will be open to anyone who desires to study and connect" to it and that prayer arrangements will shortly be published. ([JPOST](#) 19 December 2017)

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