



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 19 January 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.

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded at dawn, the al-Yamoun town, west of the northern West Bank city of Jenin, and detained two Palestinians. The IOA invaded the home of Azmi Abdul-Qader Freihat, and abducted his sons Jihad and Abdul-Qader, in addition to two of their friends who were sleeping over, identified as Yahya No'man Abu al-Haija and Mustafa al-Karm. The IOA violently searched the home,

and confiscated several mobile phones, and surveillance recordings. (IMEMC 19 January 2018)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the Eastern Neighborhood of the town OF Qabatyia, before breaking into the home of Ramzi Ghanama, and violently searched it. (IMEMC 19 January 2018)
- An Israeli military court, ordered 16-year-old Palestinian activist Ahed al-Tamimi to remain in custody indefinitely, until she faces trial for a number of charges relating to a video of her slapping and kicking an Israeli soldier. The teenager was arrested on December 19, days after the video of her confrontation with the soldiers — who were raiding her hometown of Nabi Saleh, in the central occupied West Bank, and had shot her 14-year-old cousin in the face moments before the video was filmed — went viral on social media. The court also ruled to indefinitely extend the detention of Ahed’s mother, Nariman, who was detained a day after her daughter. Nariman is being charged with “incitement” for live-streaming the video. (IMEMC 19 January 2018)

Expansion of settlements

- Israel, pushed by the Jewish National Fund (JNF), is [moving ahead](#) with efforts to evict another Palestinian family from its home in Silwan. The case this time revolves around the Sumarin family, which the JNF, through its Israeli partner company, Himnuta, as been seeking to evict from the Wadi Helwa area of Silwan [since 1991](#). The JNF’s claim is that the family has no rights to their home, since a family elder lives in Jordan; on the basis of his residency in Jordan, the JNF succeeded in having the property designated as “absentee property,” despite the fact that family members have continuously inhabited the home. As noted by [Haaretz](#): Though Himnuta is officially the only plaintiff in the case, in practice, the suit is being waged by Elad, a right-wing organization that hopes to obtain the house from KKL-JNF if the latter is declared the rightful owner. Elad’s attorneys have been active in managing the case and are present at all the hearings. And Himnuta’s attorney in the case, Zeev Scharf, regularly works with Elad. Back in 2011, activists working to stop Elad from taking the Sumarin’s house launched an [international campaign](#) highlighting the JNF’s role in the affair. In response, the JNF sought to portray itself as having nothing to do with the eviction efforts. That charade was definitively debunked by Israeli experts, including Peace Now’s Hagit

Ofran, who posted [official documents](#) that underscore the direct role the JNF is playing in seeking to take over the property. As Ofran [wrote](#) back in 2011 (the last time that eviction appeared imminent), in an important commentary on JNF/Himnuta's Silwan efforts: In Silwan there is a [fight over nationality, history and also religion](#). For the Palestinians, it is a Palestinian neighborhood, next to Al-Aqsa Mosque where thousands of Palestinians have been living for ages. The settlers are trying to make it into "The City of David," using [archaeology and tourism](#) to change the public domain in Silwan. The visitors center of the "City of David" tourism site was built by the settlers next to the house of the Sumarin family. If taken by the settlers, the Sumarin house would give them a large contiguous area at the very entrance to Silwan and dramatically change the character of the neighborhood. The JNF's role in facilitating the settler takeovers in Silwan, historically and to this day, cannot be overestimated. Without the JNF's active complicity, the scope of settlement in Silwan would be smaller, and by several orders of magnitude. Indeed, in 1998, senior JNF/Himnuta official Avraham Halleli testified before the Jerusalem District Court [Civil Claim (Jerusalem District Court) 1870/96 Heirs of the Late Barbona Nuniz Fatiha vs. Himnuta, Ltd., Tak-Mech 99(2) 4112, the Court's transcript, 5 May 1998, pp. 47-48], stating: "To the best of my knowledge, all of the JNF areas [in Silwan] were leased by the ILA to the Elad Association...it is the lands policies of JNF...that [its lands] be leased to Jews for the purposes of Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel." Halleli further confirmed that the JNF had instituted eviction proceedings against Palestinian occupants by means of the relevant settlers' attorney, "...since there was no conflict of interest...." The process of handing the property over to the settlers was entirely covert and non-transparent. No tenders were issued that might have allowed other parties to bid for ownership, and no announcements were made of the transfers. In an illuminating aside, the JNF/Himnuta openly argued that, as far as Palestinians in Jerusalem are concerned, it would not have made a difference if there had been an open tender process. On January 21, 1991, the Himnuta corporate secretary notified the Knesset: "When there is bidding [tenders], anyone can participate, except Arabs..." (quoted from Himnuta's letter to Knesset Research Department, January 21, 1991 - not published). In recent years, JNF has encountered a good deal of criticism for its support of the settlers in Silwan, and in order to repair the damage done have consistently asserted that this support took place long ago. It is now apparent that the JNF-settler collusion in Silwan is very much alive. ([II](#) 19 January 2018)

- Sources close to the cable car project have informed us that on December 13, 2017, the project director of the proposed Jerusalem Old City cable car project, Avigdor Yitzhaki (formerly director general of the Prime Minister's office) convened a forum called the Congress, which is statutory body that is key in the fast-tracking of the planning process for national infrastructures. This is a clear indication that the government and municipality intend to proceed in earnest, and rapidly, towards the implementation of the scheme. Until now, Israeli authorities have only spoken about implementing one section in the cable car line, leading from Abu Tor to the settler-controlled Kedem Complex opposite the Dung Gate, with a station mid-way between the two, on Mount Zion. In the December meeting, Yitzhaki made it clear that this was only the first stage, and that additional segments are coming up: one from the Kedem Complex to the Mount of Olives, one from the Mount of Olives to Gethsemane, and the final segment passing over Silwan to the Pool of Siloam. Below is a photo of the planned routes, as presented to the Congress. In addition, on or about January 14, 2018, sources who have visited the site have informed us that the Jerusalem Development Authority commenced construction of a foot bridge over the Hinnom Valley between Abu Tor and Mount Zion. Where the planning for the cable car is being fast tracked, this JDA project is being so fast-tracked as to be illegal: there is no statutory plan, nor has a building permit been issued. There are common denominators to both schemes. Each wreaks havoc with one of the planet's most cherished skylines, the visual basin around the Old City. Each is being done in collusion with the settlers of East Jerusalem. Finally, each scheme involves circumventing the normal planning procedures that customarily give the public ample opportunity to object to the plans - yet another example of how the ends invariably justify the means in matters related to the settlers' schemes, and that adherence to the law is less than scrupulous. ([TI](#) 19 January 2018)

Israeli Closures

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) surrounded and isolated the town of Hizma, east of occupied East Jerusalem, and prevented the Palestinians from entering or leaving it, and fired dozens of gas bombs at local youngsters. The IOA also placed concrete blocks, closing the town's two entrances and forced all stores and shops to close, after invading and searching them. (IMEMC 19 January 2018)

Other

- Israeli newspaper Haaretz that the Israeli army is currently considering taking full security and military responsibility for certain neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. The army is examining the possibility of extending its security and military control to involve areas located outside the apartheid wall in occupied Jerusalem, including the Shu'fat refugee camp and the village of Kafr Aqeb. It added that the army is thus to hold the whole security and military responsibility of around 150.000 Palestinians, some of whom hold the Israeli ID card. The newspaper indicated that it is not clear whether those areas will remain under the Jerusalem's municipality of occupation, or separation local councils will be formed. It noted that this plan comes following the failure of Israeli occupation police to deal with daily clashes, with Palestinian youth, that take place in those areas. Al Ray Palestinian Media Agency noted that the city of Jerusalem witnesses, on an almost daily basis, confrontations between Palestinian youth and Israeli soldiers, following US President Donald Trump's decision of recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. (IMEMC , HAARETZ 19 January 2018)
- The United States will not provide \$45 million in food aid for Palestinians that it pledged last month as part of the West Bank/Gaza Emergency Appeal led by the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the US State Department said on Thursday. The State Department had said on Tuesday that Washington would [withhold a separate \\$65 million](#) it had planned to pay the UN agency that serves the Palestinians, saying UNRWA needed to make unspecified reforms. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert denied the withholding of the \$65 million was to punish Palestinians, who have been sharply critical of [Trump's announcement](#) last month that he would move the US Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. In a December 15 letter to UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbüh, State Department Comptroller Eric Hembree had pledged \$45 million to the West Bank/Gaza Emergency Appeal. "The United States plans to make this funding available to UNRWA in early 2018," according to the letter. "An additional letter and contribution package confirming this contribution will be sent by or before early January 2018." The United States had made clear to UNRWA that the \$45 million was a pledge aimed at helping the agency with "forecasting," but it was not a guarantee, Nauert told reporters at a regular State Department briefing. "At this time, we will not be providing that, but

that does not mean—I want to make it clear—that does not mean that it will not be provided in the future," Nauert said. She repeated the US view that UNRWA needs reform, saying there are a lot more refugees in the program than previously, and that "money coming in from other countries needs to increase as well to continue paying for all those refugees." "So we're asking countries to do more," Nauert said. "Fundamentally, we just don't believe that we have to be the chief donor to every organization around the world." Despite the decision on the food aid pledge, she said: "We are the most generous country on the planet. We continue to be." ([YNETNEWS](#) 19 January 2018)

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