



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 27 February 2018

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

- A Palestinian detainee, identified as Wa'el Natsha, was assaulted by Israeli soldiers of the Nahshon special forces, when dozens of them invaded the detainees' rooms, during morning hours, and started the transfer of seventy detainees to Nafha. Wa'el refused to be subjected to humiliation and provocative naked body searches, and was assaulted by many soldiers, resulting of various cuts and bruises. (IMEMC 27 February 2018)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Around 100 Israeli Settlers raided Al Aqsa Mosque from Al Mughrabi gate (Bab Al Magharba) in occupied Jerusalem and carried out provocative tours in its courtyard. (WAFA 28 February 2018)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

- Several Israeli Army bulldozers entered into the “buffer zone” along the northern Gaza border where they razed lands under heavy military protection. Four Israeli military bulldozers razed lands in the town of Beit Lahiya. As the bulldozers razed and leveled lands, military drones reportedly flew overhead. (IMEMC 27 February 2018)

Israeli Closures

- Israeli occupation authorities will enforce a security cordon on the West Bank and Gaza for four days, on the occurrence of the Jewish holiday of “[Purim](#)”. The closure will start on Tuesday night, until midnight Saturday. Gaza crossings with Israel will be closed and entry into Israel for all Israeli-issued permit holders will be banned. (IMEMC 27 February 2018)

Other

- The Israeli government will support a bill barring Palestinians from petitioning the High Court of Justice. The new bill, put forward by Justice Minister [Ayelet Shaked](#), of the pro-settlement Jewish Home party, would see the cases of West Bank residents redirected to the Jerusalem District Court. Such cases would include building and planning permits, entry and exit requests, and would also serve as the appeals court for those sentenced by Israeli military courts. (IMEMC 27 February 2018)
- Groups associated with the reconstruction of the alleged historic Temple Mount have called on supporters to widely take part in the intensive break-ins to al-Aqsa Mosque over the next two days, to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Purim. The groups have pointed out that this storming is important to them and to their followers, noting

that during which they will celebrate the Purim by performing Talmudic Rituals and sharing sweets. (IMEMC 27 February 2018)

- The Elad nonprofit group has just been awarded a permit for building the longest omega, or zip-line for children, in Israel. The installation will be 784 meters long, beginning at [Jerusalem's](#) Armon Hanatziv promenade and ending at the Peace Forest in the Abu Tor neighborhood. Opponents of the project claim it will deface the unique view of the historic "basin" which includes the [Old City](#) and its environs, and that it will be a tourist attraction that is incompatible with the city's character. Elad, which operates in East Jerusalem, has two main focuses: settling Jews in the largely Arab Silwan neighborhood and running tourist and excavation sites. The chief tourist site is Ir David – the City of David – which it runs for the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. Elad has also been in a legal battle with the government [over a planned archaeology park](#) next to the Western Wall. The permit was granted two months ago and work is expected to begin soon. The installation will include two 4-meter-high concrete pillars covered in wood, with the cable passing between them. For the sake of comparison, a zip line at the Manara cliff in the Upper Galilee is only 200 meters long. Elad did not submit a special proposal for constructing the installation, but was granted permission as part of a plan that was approved 40 years ago, a plan intended to preserve open spaces around the Old City of Jerusalem while allowing the construction of recreational and sports facilities, without requiring specific plans for each one. "It's as if this zip line is like some picnic tables and slides for children," says Hagit Ofran of Peace Now. "Elad is transforming the most precious asset in this country, the Old City of Jerusalem and its surroundings, into a cheap amusement park with tourist attractions like in Disneyland, and state authorities continue giving them these sites on a silver platter. The Jerusalem municipality made a snap decision while bypassing planning authorities, giving Elad a building permit without informing the public or asking for its input. They completely ignored any orderly urban planning process" said Ofran. The zip line joins other attractions mostly connected to Elad, all of which will completely change the landscape around the Old City. Other projects include a rope bridge that will span the Hinnom Valley between Abu Tor and Mount Zion, and a cable car that the municipality and the Jerusalem Development Authority are promoting. The cable car will start at the Ottoman-period train station, going through Mount Zion to the City of David and Silwan. Elad said in response: "The Ir David Foundation continues to work with the Jerusalem Municipality, the Tourism Ministry and others to strengthen

the touristic anchors in ancient Jerusalem. More than half a million visitors visited the City of David this year and we intend to double the number of visitors in the area within five years, while combining historical, experiential and touristic values." ([Haaretz](#) 27 February 2018)

- The West Jerusalem Municipality decided to suspend the collection actions it has taken in recent weeks that are related to Israeli taxes imposed on properties owned by Jerusalem churches that are not houses of worship. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the West Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat reportedly agreed to establish "a professional team led by Israeli Minister Tzachi Hanegbi, with the participation of all relevant parties, to formulate a solution for the issue of municipal taxes on properties owned by churches that are not houses of worship." In a press release, Netanyahu and Barkat agreed to form a professional team that includes representatives of the ministries of finance, foreign affairs among others, in order to formulate a solution to the issue of municipal taxes. The team is expected to negotiate with the representatives of the churches to resolve the issue. In addition, following a request by the heads of the churches to enter negotiations regarding the sale of land in Jerusalem, Netanyahu asked Israeli minister Hanegbi to examine the issue and at the same time, "all legislative activity on the matter will be suspended." (Wafa 27 February 2018)