

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

• At the northern entrance of al-Biereh city, in the Ramallah and al-Biereh governorate, in central West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked dozens of Palestinians who were marching against the ongoing Israeli occupation and its colonialist policies, in addition to the illegal U.S. recognition of occupied Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel. The IOA fired many live rounds, wounding seven Palestinians, and added that the army injured four others with rubber-coated steel

bullets. The IOA also fired many gas bombs and concussion grenades, causing many to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. Furthermore, the IOA assaulted many journalists, and forced them out of the area, to prevent them from documenting the unfolding events. (IMEMC 1 February 2018)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked, the weekly nonviolent protest in Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah, in central West Bank, and injured several Palestinians. The IOA attacked the weekly nonviolent protest with rubber-coated steel bullets, gas bombs and concussion grenades. Several protesters suffered the effects of teargas inhalation and received the needed treatment. The IOA closed the two iron gates, on the main entrance of the village, and prevented the Palestinians from entering or leaving it. Furthermore, the IOA launched a surveillance balloon over the village, to monitor the movement of the residents. (IMEMC 1 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked dozens of Palestinian, Israeli and international peace activists who held the weekly nonviolent procession against the illegal Israeli Annexation Wall and settlements, in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah, and demanding the release of all symbols of peaceful resistance in occupied Palestine. The IOA ambushed the nonviolent protesters in the ath-Thaher area, west of Bil'in, and tried to prevent them from marching. (IMEMC 1 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked, dozens of nonviolent Palestinian and international protesters, in Budrus village, west of the central West Bank city of Ramallah. The nonviolent protesters marched from the center of the village, while chanting against the ongoing Israeli occupation and escalation, and the illegal U.S. recognition of occupied Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel. Several Army vehicles invaded the town, and started firing gas bombs, concussion grenades and rubber-coated steel bullets at the protesters, and at media outlets. Several Palestinians suffered the effects of teargas inhalation. (IMEMC 1 February 2018)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured, at least twenty Palestinians in the al-'Isawiya village, in occupied East Jerusalem. The IOA assaulted dozens of nonviolent protesters, who marched following Friday prayers at the local mosque, protesting the Israeli violations, and the illegal U.S. recognition of occupied Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel. The IOA resorted to the excessive use of force, and fired many gas bombs, concussion grenades and rubber-coated steel bullets. (IMEMC 1 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured several protesters, in Kufur Qaddoum town, east of Qalqilia, in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, after the army attacked the weekly nonviolent procession. (IMEMC 1 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly nonviolent procession against the illegal Annexation Wall and colonies, in Ni'lin village, west of Ramallah in central West Bank, causing many protesters to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. The IOA resorted to the excessive use of force just as the protesters approached the Annexation Wall, south of the village. The IOA chased the protesters, and fired many sponge-tipped bullets, and gas bombs, causing dozens to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. (IMEMC 1 February 2018)
- The Israeli Air Force fired, several missiles in area, northeast of Beit Lahia, in the northern part of the coastal region, near an-Nada Towers, northeast of Beit Lahia, causing property damage. (IMEMC 1 February 2018)

Israeli Arrests

• The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a Palestinian father and his son in Khirbat al Hadidiya Bedouin village, in the Northern Plains of the occupied West Bank. The IOA invaded the village, and detained Abdul-Rahim Bisharat, and his son Moath, before moving them to an unknown destination. The IOA also searched many residential tents in the village and interrogated the residents. One of the searched tents belongs to Abdullah Bani Odah, whose son was detained by the soldiers, in a previous invasion, two days ago. (IMEMC 1 February 2018)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Israeli settlers, spray-painted anti-Palestinian graffiti on walls in Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah. Settlers driving a vehicle stormed the village late in the night and spray-painted graffiti calling on the Tamimi family to leave their hometown. Other graffiti entailed threats against the villagers. (Haaretz, IMEMC 2 February 2018)
- An armed Israeli settler shot a young man, northwest of Ramallah city, in central West Bank. Mohammad Kamal Misfir, 25, was shot in his left foot near Rawabi Junction, and was heading to his home in Nubani Farms village. (IMEMC 1 February 2018)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

• An Israeli court ordered, the demolition of seven Palestinian residential buildings in Susiya village, south of Hebron, in the southern part of the occupied West Bank. The court was looking into petitions filed by Palestinians living in the targeted homes, and said that the "Civil Administration Office," which is run by the military in the occupied West Bank, has the green light to demolish seven homes, inhabited by 42 Palestinians, half of them are children, and some of the older residents suffer from chronic conditions. The army also wanted to demolish the local clinic, but the court decided to delay the issue until the end of this July, to give the residents some time to find an alternate clinic. The military was demanding the demolition of twenty buildings, but the court approved the destruction of seven. The court said that "the army must consider humanitarian issues when enforcing construction and planning laws," in the occupied West Bank. The remaining buildings are subject to further deliberations, and are still threatened with demolition, pending a court ruling in appeals, which include construction plans presented by the villagers. The court will be looking into these maps and plans on July 5th, 2018, but the army is unilaterally planning to demolish them. The villagers face the constant threat of losing their homes in Susiya, while the military already demolished many homes and structures, in addition to the local

mosque, especially since Israel is trying to relocate them to a different area, to build and expand its illegal colonies, in direct violation of International Humanitarian Law. (IMEMC 2 February 2018)

Israeli Closures

• The Israeli authorities decided to shut down a number of Palestinian institutions operating in the occupied city of East Jerusalem. Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan extended the order against a number of Palestinian institutions, including the Orient House, in East Jerusalem due to their affiliation to the Palestinian Authority. Erdan's order does not only involve political institutions, but also include a number of vital civil institutions, the East Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce, the Supreme Council for the Arab Tourism Industry, the Center for Palestinian Studies, the Palestinian Prisoners' Club, and the Office for Social and Statistical Studies. The decision is based on an Israeli law issued in 1994, and which prevents the Palestinian Authority to open representational offices or to exert any activity inside Israeli areas. The law also grants the Interior Minister the power to issue decisions that prohibit such activities. (aawsat 3 February 2018)

Other

Municipality seizes bank accounts of Anglican, Armenian, Greek Orthodox and Catholic Churches in effort to collect \$190 million in back taxes • City: Current tax-exempt status is discriminatory, burdens residents, jeopardizes city's financial stability. The Jerusalem Municipality recently informed the Prime Minister's Office and the Finance, Foreign and Interior ministries that it plans to begin collecting about 650 million shekels (\$190 million) in unpaid property taxes from 887 church and U.N.-owned properties across the city. The move will not apply to actual houses of worship, which are exempt from municipal property taxes, but to assets owned by the churches that are used for purposes other than prayer, some of them commercial. To date, the state has demanded that the municipality refrain from collecting these debts, in light of previous agreements with the churches. However, the city has obtained the legal opinion of international law expert Professor Gabriel Halevi, who examined in depth the legal aspects of church institutions and the U.N.'s obligation toward the Jerusalem Municipality. Halevi found unequivocally that there is no grounding for the state's position, that the agreements between the state and the churches do not apply to the Jerusalem Municipality, and that the municipality is required by law to collect the debts. As a preliminary measure, the municipality has put a lien on the bank accounts of a number of churches, among them the Anglican Church, which has accrued a debt of NIS 7,214,228 (about \$2.1 million), the Armenian Church, which owes NIS 2,011,996 (\$587,000), the Greek Orthodox Church, which has a debt of NIS 570,946 (\$166,000), and the Catholic Church, which owes NIS 11,981,103 (\$3.49 million). "The financial damage caused to Jerusalem over the years as a result of the state's position amounts to nearly NIS 1 billion [\$292 million]," the city said in a statement. "It cannot be that residents of Jerusalem need to pay out of their pockets for municipal services such as trash collection, landscaping and the paving of roads for churches and the U.N. The funds can significantly assist in the city's development and improve services for residents." The municipality said that exempting businesses and other properties owned and used by the churches from municipal property taxes is discriminatory and is liable to lead to additional claims for exemptions on the grounds of discrimination and inequality, something that could exponentially jeopardize the city's financial stability. "If the state does not allow us to collect the taxes for the benefit of Jerusalem's residents, we will not hesitate to appeal to the High Court of Justice," the municipality said. "Alternatively, if the state is interested in the continuation of the current situation, we demand that the state provide full indemnity for these amounts. Either way, we will no longer agree to Jerusalem residents paying this amount." Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said, "Let the state compensate us and return the funds allocated for the city's development, or we will collect them as required by law." (<u>ISRAELHAYOM</u> 2 February 2018)