



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt

28 March 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

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several homes in Halhoul town, north of Hebron, and interrogated many Palestinians. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded two homes in Qabatia town, south of Jenin and interrogated the families while ransacking their properties. The invaded homes are owned by a political prisoner,

identified as Ibrahim Hussein Sweity, and Miqsim Abdullah Abu ar-Rob. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)

- Israeli tanks targeted agricultural lands east of Gaza City, in the vicinity of "Nahal Oz" military site, resulting in damage in a number of Palestinian houses nearby. (WAFA 28 March 2018)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Ali Ibrahim Abu 'Oleyyan, after storming his home and violently searching it, in Yatta town, south of Hebron, in the southern part of the West Bank. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded homes in Tubas, in northeastern West Bank, and detained a former political prisoner, identified as Osama Sati Sawafta, in addition to Aseed Kamal Sawafta. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)
- In Nablus, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the Sawiya village, south of the city, and detained Ateyyani Yousef Ateyyani and Sami Yasser Shahin, both in their twenties. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Abada Mohammad Jouda, 23, from Qabalan town. in Nablus Governorate. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Yassin 'Aabed Sabah, 19, from 'Orif village. in Nablus Governorate. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Anas Sa'ad Awwad, in his thirties, from Awarta village in Nablus Governorate. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched many homes in 'Allar town, north of Tulkarem, and detained As'ad 'Ameed Ja'ar, Ibrahim Tawfiq Jeebat, Shadi Bassem Ja'arna and Mo'men Zakariya Eneini. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)

- An Israeli Court decided, to remand a wounded child, who is currently at an Israeli hospital receiving treatment for severe burns, until further deliberations are held this coming Thursday. The child, Asadeddin Abu al-Hawa, 14, from at-Tour neighborhood, in occupied Jerusalem, was injured by the Israeli military during an invasion into his area and suffered severe burns in his back and arm. After the child was injured, Palestinian medics rushed him to the al-Makassed Islamic Charitable Society Hospital, in Jerusalem, but the soldiers invaded the medical center, five days ago, abducted him. The army then moved the child to an Israeli hospital, posted soldiers at his room's door, and refused to allow his family to visit with them. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Waseem Nayef Abeid and his wife after raiding his house in Al Isawiya town in occupied East Jerusalem. (WAFA 28 March 2018)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded al-Walaja village, northwest of the West Bank city of Bethlehem, and demolished an under-construction home, walls and destroyed graves. The IOA invaded Ein Jweiza area, north of the village, and demolished an under-construction home, owned by Nader Mahmoud Abu Khiara. The IOA also invaded a graveyard for Abed-Rabbo family, and destroyed its five graves, in addition to walls surrounding a property owned by Fayez Omar, allegedly for being built without permits. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)
- The Israeli Municipality in Jerusalem notified a number of Palestinian families in Silwan town in occupied East Jerusalem, to demolish their homes under the pretext of building without a permit. (RB2000 28 March 2018)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) demolished a residential tent belonging to Khader al-Nawaj'a, in Raghm al-Hamra area, east of Yatta, near the settlement of Susiya, under the pretext of building in an area classified by Israeli as "Closed military area".(WAFA 28 March 2018)

Erection of Israeli checkpoints

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) installed military roadblocks at the entrances of southern Hebron, and surrounding towns, in addition to the al-Fawwar refugee camp, before searching many cars, and interrogated several Palestinians while inspecting their ID cards. (IMEMC 28 March 2018)

Other

- Acting at [the request of Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon](#), the National Planning and Building Council exempted the U.S. government from permitting requirements to enable the relocation of its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in May. That will allow work to proceed on a building in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood that now houses a U.S. consular section and will be repurposed as a temporary embassy. The approval comes a week after Kahlon said he would use his authority to arrange to waive the building permit. The work includes the construction of a 3.2-meter-high wall and an additional road as an escape route from the embassy, to satisfy U.S. security required. When the prospect of the permit exemption was first raised last week, it prompted opposition from legal experts who claimed that the law on which the Finance Ministry was relying only applies to projects of national importance. The uses exempted from the permit are to be only temporary, they claimed. For her part, the head of the national planning authority, Dalit Zilber, said: "The national council considered the planning aspects of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem at the hearing. In light of the fact that the request [for the permit exemption] does not exceed the existing planning framework, the council decided unanimously to recommend the rapid advancement of [the transfer of the embassy to Jerusalem](#) on the date on which it had been planned." Since it was enacted in 2013, the law providing the exemption has been resorted to 12 times, applying to infrastructure projects that the government was seeking to build quickly, including an earthquake warning system, temporary electricity facilities and a fuel line and dam project for the Sea of Galilee. At Tuesday's hearing on the plans for the new embassy, ministry officials said the embassy's relocation to the consular building in Arnona was temporary. They said the escape road would be integrated into a neighborhood road, making the resort to the statutory exemption well-founded. U.S. President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December and announced that the American embassy would be moved to the city, [breaking with other world powers](#). Trump's reversal of decades of U.S. and broad international policy was welcomed by Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu as a “historic decision,” but it drew criticism from around the world and outraged Palestinians, who want a capital for their own future state in eastern parts of the city. Israeli authorities have said the embassy will be opened on May 14, the 70th anniversary of the state’s establishment, according to the Gregorian calendar. [Independence Day is celebrated in Israel](#) according to the Hebrew calendar; this year it starts on the evening of April 18 and ends the following evening. “We will not allow needless bureaucracy to hold up the transfer of the American embassy to Jerusalem, Israel’s eternal capital,” Kahlon said in a ministry statement. “This is a strategic diplomatic move for Israel and the planning agencies under me will do whatever is necessary to accommodate the schedule being demanded.” The planning permit waiver for the embassy will be good for three years, the Finance Ministry statement said. Building a permanent embassy could take several years. Israel has expedited construction permits to enable temporary quarters for the U.S. Embassy to open in Jerusalem as planned in May, the Finance Ministry said. “Initially, the interim embassy in Arnona will contain office space for the ambassador and a small staff,” a U.S. embassy official in Tel Aviv said. “By the end of next year, we intend to open a new embassy Jerusalem annex on the Arnona compound that will provide the ambassador and his team with expanded interim office space,” he said, adding that a search for site for the construction of a permanent embassy had begun. The permanent embassy is expected to be housed in the adjacent building that had been the Diplomat Hotel and currently provides housing for 450 elderly immigrants. The lease for the housing of the elderly residents expires in 2020, although at this point no alternative accommodations have been found for them. In the past, other sites in Jerusalem had been suggested for the embassy including a lot that the American government already owns known as the Allenby compound. ([Haaretz](#) 28 March 2018)

- Only Christians over the age of 55 will be allowed to enter Israel from the [Gaza Strip](#) to pray at Jerusalem’s Church of the Holy Sepulchre during Easter, according to a document issued by the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories. Five hundred permits have been issued for the holiday, as compared to 700 for Christmas, but sources in Gaza say that the age restriction means that only about 10 percent of the quota will be filled. According to Christian clergy in Gaza, who say the limitations are unjustified, only about 120 Christians meet the age criteria and many will not be able to travel without relatives who are under the age limit. George Anton, a Christian community activist from Gaza, said that no permits for Easter have been issued so far. Easter, also known as the “great feast,” is the most

important holiday on the Christian liturgical calendar in the Middle East, as opposed the West, where Christmas takes precedence. Catholics and Protestants will celebrate Easter on Sunday, while the Orthodox churches will mark the holiday two weeks later. Anton told Haaretz that there are about 1,200 Christians living in Gaza (as opposed to 1,313 documented by a Vatican delegation in 2014). Similar age restrictions were imposed in the past, he said. For the Easter holiday in 2015, following the war in the Gaza Strip the previous year, entry to Israel was barred for people age 16 to 35. However, after church leaders in Israel and abroad intervened, the restriction was lifted and 850 permits were issued. According to COGAT, restrictions are eased during Muslim and Christian holidays as part of the policy to encourage religious activities of all faiths. But in Gaza, news of the relaxed restrictions are usually made public late, and responses to permit applications are often given too late or are turned down with no reason given. In a video posted on COGAT's Facebook about three weeks ago, the day the quota was made public, an Israeli army officer named Alaa Halabi asked Gaza residents who had received permits for Christmas and had not yet returned to do so immediately. Halabi warned that their failure to return would "impact the ability" of COGAT "to take steps ahead of Easter." Sources in Gaza believed that a few dozen people did not return after leaving the Strip for Christmas. The COGAT document did not reveal the reason for the age restrictions but the office confirmed the age restriction and did not deny that it was a punitive measure. "The State of Israel is a sovereign state that has the right to decide who enters it," the response stated. "Foreigners have no inherent right to enter Israel, including Palestinian residents of Gaza." It was decided to issue permits only to those over 55 "In light of the recurring phenomenon of Palestinians who took advantage of the permit to remain in Israel illegally" and "as part of the actions to limit illegal presence in Israel," COGAT said. Lawmaker Aida Touma-Sliman of the Joint List asked Deputy Defense Minister Eli Ben-Dahan to change the entry conditions so that all Christians would "be able to exercise their basic right to freedom of religion." Touma-Sliman said she has not yet received an answer. "Israel boasts to the whole world that it is a safe place for all religions. But in fact it continues to harm the Palestinian Christian population," the lawmaker said. She added that the age restriction "constitutes more proof that Israel has never left Gaza and continues to control everything that happens there." Following requests for action from Gaza, the nonprofit organization Gisha – Legal Center for Freedom of Movement demanded in a letter to COGAT that the age restriction be lifted and that the number of permits for the holiday be increased. "There is no

justification for arbitrary impairment of freedom of movement and religion,” Gisha wrote, “certainly not a dialogue of threats. This is another example of collective punishment of the residents, and generally the punitive and arbitrary nature of Israel’s permit regime with regard to Gazans.” ([Haaretz](#) 28 March 2018)

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