



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

- Violent clashes erupted between Israeli occupation Army (IOA) and Palestinians in central Hebron City, in the southern occupied West Bank, dozens of Palestinians were injured, after a large number of heavy armed IOA stormed the area. The IOA stormed Hebron City, stopped and searched Palestinian residents and vehicles. Following the raid, violent clashes erupted in the area between Palestinian youths and the IOA where the latter responded by firing several sound canisters and tear-gas bombs. Many local shops closed during clashes

due to tear-gas spreading throughout Hebron City, forcing shop owners and residents to evacuate the area, while Israeli occupation Army (IOA) withdrew to the al-Shuhada Street. (Maannews 16 August 2018)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli authorities released nine Palestinian women out of ten women, on the condition of being banned from visiting the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of occupied East Jerusalem for 15 days. The women were identified as Nahida Abu Shaqra, 65, Salsabil Imara, Sajida Mahamid, Samah Mahamid, Suad Abu Shaqra, Nahida Mahajna, Ilaf Majahna, Mariam Asaila, and Nour Mahmid. The remaining woman was kept in detention at the Jaffa Gate police station, without a given reason as to why she remained in detention. (Maannews 16 August 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Ashraf Abdel Hameed Majd, 24, after raiding his family house and searching it in Azzun village east of Qalqilya. The IOA also detained a number of houses in the village and summoned Palestinians for interrogation. (Maannews 16 August 2018)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian residents of Hebron City in the southern occupied West Bank. Israeli settlers stormed the al-Shuhada Street in the center of Hebron City and broke into a Palestinian home, identified as belonging to Ishaq Ramadan. Israeli settlers reportedly attacked Ramadan's daughters after breaking into their home. (Wafa 16 August 2018)

Expansion of settlements

- The Jerusalem municipality announced Wednesday it has reached an agreement with the Israel Lands Authority to build more than 20,000 new apartments in the capital, along with industrial areas and hotels. The plan envisions 12,600 new living units and an additional 8,000 units which will be built as part of urban renewal initiatives in existing structures. Some NIS 1.4 billion (\$380 million) is to be invested in infrastructure, public spaces, public buildings and other projects. The Israel Lands Administration will invest NIS 600 million (\$162 million) and a further NIS 800 million (\$217 million) will be raised from fees

and levies in the sale of the apartments, the agreement stipulates. "This is an historic day for construction in Jerusalem and an important day for its future," said Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat in a statement. The work will be focused in areas at the entrance to the city, along Begin Boulevard, Givat Ram, Malha, Kiryat HaYovel and Har Hotzvim in the western part of the city. It will also see projects in the Jewish neighborhoods of Pisgat Zeev and French Hill which are seen by the international community as East Jerusalem, along with the Atarot industrial zone which lies just to the north of Jerusalem in the West Bank. Industrial and trade parks along with new hotels in the capital will cover a combined area of some 3 million square meters. Around 2,500 apartments will be constructed as part of the White Ridge project, a plan to build into the countryside west of the city. The city council is scheduled to approve the plan next week. ([TOI](#) 16 August 2018)

Other

- Israel has allowed over ten tons of Palestinian mail that has been held in Jordan since 2010 to be transferred into the West Bank for delivery, the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories said Thursday. COGAT, Israel's chief liaison office with the Palestinians, said the one-time transfer was a "gesture" that "went beyond the letter of the law" as negotiations to resolve the issue are underway. "About a year ago, an in-principle agreement was signed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The memorandum of understanding has not yet resulted in a direct transfer, and the subject is in the advanced stages of being worked through. There is therefore no direct mail transfer at this time," COGAT said in a statement. "However, as a gesture, and in a step that went beyond the letter of the law, COGAT, with the assistance of the Ministry of Communications and the Customs Authority, allowed a one-time transfer of approximately ten and a half tons of mail that had been held in Jordan," the statement concluded. Hussein Sawafta, director of the Palestinian postal service, said that Israel held up the mail because it was not properly addressed to the Israeli postal service. Sawafta said the mail was released last week and workers are now sorting through mounds of letters and packages. Israel collects service fees on Palestinian mail and forbids direct mail to the Palestinian postal service. ([Haaretz](#) 16 August 2018)
- West Bank settlements do not need to be uprooted, US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman told visitors to his Jerusalem office – on the same day the Trump administration warned that its peace deal to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would leave both sides

dissatisfied. "There is no reason to evacuate settlements," Friedman told the group, according to MK Yehudah Glick (Likud) who was at the meeting, along with South Hebron Hills Regional Council head Yochai Damri and Palestinian businessman Muhammed Nasser. Glick clarified that he was not Friedman's spokesman, but he was left with the impression that Friedman was "fed up with programs of separation. He said, 'we have to find new perspectives.'" The US Embassy said it had "no comment" on the report. Friedman has long been a supporter of the settlement movement. The statement attributed to him, however, falls in line with other speculative reports that the US peace deal, which may not be rolled out until mid-November, could allow for the settlements to remain in Area C of the West Bank. The Obama administration had held that Israel must withdraw to the pre-1967 lines in any final status resolution, barring some minor modifications for land swaps. It had a no-tolerance policy toward settlements and held that they were an obstacle to peace. The Trump administration, on the other hand, has held a more tolerant attitude toward the settlements. It has not appeared to hold to the distinctions between settlement blocs and isolated settlements. The meeting in Friedman's office was a part of that new perspective. At that meeting, Damri and Glick sought support from Friedman for two joint Israeli-Palestinian industrial parks in the South Hebron Hills region of Area C, located next to the Negev in what had previously been considered an isolated area beyond the route of Israel's security barrier. The project, which has already been submitted to the Civil Administration, has the financial backing of both the settler and the Palestinian business community. It would also include a medical center that would jointly serve Israelis and Palestinians. "We are talking about a project between Israeli settlers and Palestinian businessmen who are going to develop it together for both populations and they will be raising the funds," Glick said. "The population here in Judea and Samaria understands that no one is going anywhere. We do not choose our neighbors, but we are here," Glick said, adding that neither "the settlers nor the Palestinians will be disappearing so fast." Representatives of the project hoped to secure US support out of an understanding that the Trump administration has focused in particular on the idea of "economic peace." After the meeting, Damri said that Friedman represented a new spirit of US-Israeli relations, in contrast to past officials who pushed for futile solutions. "The country is bleeding" and carries "painful scars" from those failed initiatives, Damri said. "Happily, reality has changed in our favor. Today there are people in the White House and in the embassy who really care about the State of Israel and the Jewish people," Damri said.

A US Embassy official said, “As a general matter, we support commercial and humanitarian projects that advance peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians.” But with regard to the South Hebron Hills project, the official said that, “we have not reviewed and thus cannot comment on the specific proposal in question.” ([Haaretz](#) 16 August 2018)

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