



# 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

17 December 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

- In Tubas governorate, in northeastern West Bank, dozens of armored vehicles, including tanks, invaded Palestinian lands near the main entrance of the al-Aqaba village, east of Tubas, in preparation for massive military drills, including the use of explosives and live fire. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) entered Salaymeh neighbourhood in Hebron and fired 21 tear gas rounds in under 5 minutes into the street outside the 3 schools and into two schoolyards. There are 3 primary schools on the street where the tear gas was used: Hebron School, UNRWA Hebron Basic Boys School and Khadijah School. There are also 4 other schools in the immediate area. During the time, the IOA threw three concussion grenades over a wall into the Hebron School. 5 tear gas rounds were fired into the schoolyard. 30 boys and 5 teachers suffered tear gas inhalation. A spent tear gas was found round in a garden in the grounds of the UNRWA Hebron Basic Boys School. The tear gas spread through the neighbourhood into schools and residential buildings along the streets where families live. It was a still afternoon and the tear gas stayed in the immediate area and dispersed very slowly continuing to effect local residents.
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) rammed, two young Palestinian men near the northern entrance of al-Biereh city, in the central West Bank governorate of Ramallah and al-Biereh. The two were driving a motorcycle when a speeding army jeep rammed them, during an invasion into the area. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) stationed at Qalandia Terminal, south of Ramallah, detained a young man, identified as Essam Halabi, and took him to an unknown destination. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) shot a young Palestinian man with live fire, while driving his car in Silwad town, east of Ramallah, in central West Bank. The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) installed a military roadblock at the western entrance of the town, and fired live rounds at many cars nearly 400 meters away, without any cause of justification. The IOA also fired several live rounds at a Palestinian ambulance, driving in the same area. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)
- Cameraman from Al Jazeera network, Majdi Bannoura, was injured covering the Israeli military invasion of Ramallah and the subsequent protests. Bannoura raised his hand to protect his head, the tear-gas canister hit his hand, breaking his finger, requiring 4 stitches and a cast. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)

- Palestinian photojournalist for Al-RAY, Atiya Darwish, was shot in the face with a tear-gas canister, while covering the Great March of Return protests on the eastern border of Gaza. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)

### **Israeli Arrests**

- In Ramallah, in central West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of the city, before storming and ransacking dozens of homes. The IOA wired and detonated the front doors of several homes, before invading them, and interrogated the families, while ransacking their properties. The army detained seven Palestinians in the refugee camp; they have been identified as Yousef Ghawanma, Refa'ey Sami Dweik, 18, Majd Riyadh Safi, 19, Bassel Nasr Zobeidi, 18, Jibreel Nasr Zobeidi, 17, 'Abed Mohammad Sharaka, 16, and Riyadh Salah Oleyyan, 16. The IOA also fired many gas bombs and concussion grenades, causing several Palestinians to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation, including one woman who was rushed to a local hospital. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded several homes in the al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem, and detained Abdul-Rahman Yassin Da'dou', 17. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained two Palestinians, identified as Sa'ad Hasan al-'Amor, 24, and Ehab Khaled Sabah, 17, from their homes in Teqoua town, east of Bethlehem. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained an elderly Palestinian mother from the town of Tel, southwest of the occupied West Bank district of Nablus, during a family visit to her detained son, in the Israeli Gilboa Prison. The 80-year-old mother, Zahra Ishtaiyeh, who suffers from chronic illnesses, was detained by Israeli Occupation Army as she was waiting in front of Gilboa prison to see her detained son, Jawad. She was taken to an unknown destination. No reason was given for the arrest. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)

### **Israeli Settler Violence**

- Israeli Settlers from “Kharsina and Kiryat Arba” settlements East of Hebron, threw stones and empty bottles at Palestinian vehicles passing from the 60 bypass road, causing physical damage to the vehicles. The settlers demonstrated near the roundabout of Gush Etzion and closed part of the road to carry out a protest. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)
- Israeli Settlers renewed attempts to storm Beitin village, east of Ramallah, protected by the occupation Army (IOA), while dozens of residents stood up to them. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)
- In the village of Beitin in Nablus Governorate, dozens of heavily armed settlers tried to break into the village. The village is surrounded by three outposts: Beit El, Givat Asaf and Ofra, located on occupied Palestinian land. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)
- Israeli settlers tried to attack the village of Kafr Qaddoum, east of Qalqilia. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) intervened to provide protection to the settlers. They fired live bullets and tear gas canisters at the villagers, causing violent confrontations. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)
- Israeli settlers attacked civilian vehicles near the entrance to the village of Yasuf, east of Salfit. A number of settlers riding motorcycles, followed the vehicles and threw stones and iron bars at the entrance to the village of Yasuf, leading to the city of Salfit. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)

### **Israeli Military Orders**

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) displaced fourteen Palestinian Bedouin families from Khirbat Ibzeeq village, north of Tubas, in order to conduct live fire military drills. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)

### **Expansion of settlements**

- The decision by the Ministerial Committee for Legislation to [approve a bill](#) that would retroactively legalize illegal construction in the West Bank for a two-year period demonstrates that neither security nor the rule of law are what interests this government – only its political survival. To this end the bill’s sponsor, Bezalel Smotrich (Habayit

Hayehudi), had to get his share to satisfy the right-wing settler base without passing the Likud party from the right. If Habayit Hayehudi chairman [Naftali Bennett](#) couldn't get the defense portfolio, let them at least be comforted by trampling on the rule of law. After all, it's inconceivable that there should be a terror attack without extracting some political benefit from it. Everything goes in the effort to strengthen the Jewish hold on the [West Bank](#) at the Palestinians' expense. Even the horrifying linking of [innocent blood](#) with the strengthening of the settlement project deters no one, as if the former were a condition for the latter. ([Haaretz](#) 17 December 2018)

### **Erection of Israeli checkpoints**

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched many homes in Yatta, ath-Thaheriyya, Sa'ir and Halhoul towns, in the southern West Bank governorate of Hebron, and installed roadblocks in many areas, before stopping and searching dozens of cars, and interrogated many Palestinians while inspecting their ID cards. Another roadblock was installed in Jouret Bahlas area, at the northern entrance of Hebron city, in addition to Deir Samit town, before the soldiers stopped and searched dozens of cars, and interrogated the residents while inspecting their ID cards. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)

### **Other**

- Israeli Minister of Education from the right-wing "Jewish Home" party, [Naftali Bennett](#), will present a law to expel the families of Palestinians who carried out anti-Israeli attacks. Senior officials of the Shin Bet (General Security Service) strongly support the law, in order to deter Palestinians from carrying out new operations. (IMEMC 17 December 2018)
- An international observatory task force established two decades ago to monitor the divided West Bank city of Hebron has produced its most exhaustive and damning internal report on Israel's actions in the city, according to people with access to the report who spoke with [Haaretz](#) on condition of anonymity. This is the first time a report by the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) is revealed in the press. The confidential report by [TIPH](#), long regarded as toothless by the Palestinians, cites numerous violations of international law by

Israel and seems to confirm Hebron's status as a city torn by both a civilian and military occupation. Twenty years after the monitoring force was set up to help instill a sense of security and ensure prosperity for Palestinians, the report warns that the city is more divided than ever due to the actions of the Israeli government and Israeli settlers. According to the report, Israel is clearly in "severe and regular breach" of the right to non-discrimination as well as the obligation to protect the population living under occupation from deportation. The Israeli settlement in [Hebron](#) is a violation of international law and "radical Israeli settlers" make life in the Israeli-controlled area difficult for its Palestinian residents. TIPH was established in 1997 as part of the Oslo Accords' Hebron Protocol, which allowed the partial redeployment of Israeli military forces to the part of the city that remained under its control. The force was later expanded as part of the Wye River Memorandum, signed in 1998 by Benjamin Netanyahu, then serving his first term as premier, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Some of the people Haaretz spoke to for this article voiced concern that the publication of the report's findings may result in Israel refusing to renew TIPH's mandate to operate in the city, which comes up for renewal every six months. During a [visit to Paris](#) in November, Netanyahu said he would take a decision in December "with regard to the continuation of TIPH." Netanyahu has been facing increasing pressure from the right to cancel the observers' mandate. In recent months TIPH has been at the center of negative attention, following two incidents involving the group's employees, one in which a TIPH worker was filmed, according to the police, [puncturing the tires](#) of a vehicle belonging to a settler living in the city, and another in which a Swiss observer was deported from Israel after allegedly slapping a settler boy. Following those incidents, Netanyahu summoned the mission's chief in July for a meeting. The near-100-page-long report was commissioned to mark the 20th anniversary of TIPH. An earlier iteration of the international presence was formed after [Baruch Goldstein murdered](#) 29 Muslim worshippers at Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs in February 1994. The force currently features 64 international mission members from five contributing countries, which also fund the mission: Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey, after Denmark pulled out. The mission only submits its reports

to its home countries and to the Palestinian and Israeli authorities, and does not share them publicly. TIPH's reputation is controversial. A common joke in Hebron is that its initials stand for "Two Impotents Patrolling Hebron." However, while its power is limited, TIPH still has greater standing than many other external organizations operating in the area. Human rights and nonprofit groups operating in Hebron are usually slammed by Israeli officials as anti-Israel, left-wing groups. TIPH is different: Members of the group routinely meet with Israel Defense Forces representatives and officers from Israel's Civil Administration; they enjoy free access in a city known for its restrictions on movement; and, most importantly, the group has been operating in Hebron with Israel's permission for over 20 years. Their mission is also supposed to assist in the promotion and execution of projects initiated by the donor countries, and to encourage economic development and growth in Hebron. Late in 2017, TIPH produced one of the most significant pieces of work since its establishment: A report looking back on its 20 years of work, highlighting problems and patterns its members have identified. The report is based, among other things, on over 40,000 "incident reports" compiled over the years by TIPH's team. TIPH's report concludes that Hebron is moving in the opposite direction to the one agreed upon by Israel and the PLO in the Hebron Protocol. The protocol was signed in 1997 and divided Hebron into two parts: H1, the Palestinian Authority-controlled area comprising about 80 percent of the city and home to about 175,000 Palestinians; and H2, the Israeli-controlled area where some 500 to 800 settlers live alongside 40,000 Palestinians. Israel is violating the right to non-discrimination as stated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Israel in 1991, according to the report. Palestinians living in the Israeli-controlled area of the city lack of freedom of movement and the right to worship, clear breaches of this right, the report says. In addition, TIPH says, Israel is constantly in breach of Article 49 of the Geneva Convention (IV), forbidding the deportation of protected persons (those living under occupation who are not citizens of the occupying country) from occupied territory. A diplomat who has seen the report told Haaretz that it says "this basic human right is breached regularly and more and more severely for the Palestinians in Hebron – and particularly for those living in H2 –

relating to lack of freedom of movement and the right to worship." "Normal life," especially in Hebron's Old City area in the Israeli-controlled area of H2, is nowhere to be found, the report says, referencing the TIPH mandate that states that the mission "assists in monitoring and reporting efforts to maintain normal life in the city of Hebron." Furthermore, the old Palestinian vegetable market has become an Israeli military zone, often occupied by settlers and a playground for their children, according to the report. The report also disputes land ownership claims in Hebron's Old City made by settlers who say they represent previous Jewish owners who fled or were murdered during the 1929 Hebron massacre. Today's settlers, the report says, have no family ties with previous owners of the property, and the question of ownership of land that had been inhabited or used by Jews prior to 1929 has still not been answered clearly. Regardless of these ownership claims, TIPH says the presence of any Israeli settlement in Hebron is considered a violation of international law. The report also notes the exodus from H2 of those Palestinians who can afford to move to Palestinian Authority-controlled H1, where they face fewer restrictions. Those who can't or don't want to leave H2 have to confront "radical Israeli settlers" who are supported by the Israeli government and Jewish foundations abroad, the report claims. The division of security responsibilities in H1 and H2 works in contradiction to the Hebron agreement and is hindering the movement of people, goods and vehicles within the city, the report warns. Obstacles and barriers between the two areas have developed into a military fortification consisting of numerous closures and checkpoints manned by Israeli security forces, especially controlling the city's Palestinian inhabitants. The report highlights Shuhada Street, which is probably Hebron's most famous thoroughfare. Once a thriving Palestinian market, today it is devoid of Palestinians and its shops are shuttered. Palestinians are still not allowed to drive on the street and can't access parts of it on foot, the report notes, adding that, over the past 20 years, TIPH has witnessed how these tight movement restrictions for Palestinians on Shuhada Street have spread to other parts of H2. In contrast, Israeli drivers are granted access to all of H2's roads. Gradually, the report says, settlers have been given the right to build and extend their settlement activities, including on Palestinian

land. Infrastructure construction and maintenance for roads, water and access have also been prioritized for Israeli settlers, the report says. TIPH also says it has seen land in the settlement of Tel Rumeida, rented by Palestinians for more than a generation, being closed by Israeli military orders and used for archaeological excavations, seeking to prove a Jewish presence there from the first century B.C.E. Simultaneously, the TIPH report says, freedom of movement for the Palestinians living in Tel Rumeida has been seriously curtailed. Over the years, it has been enclosed and surrounded by several checkpoints – with dire consequences for its Palestinian inhabitants. They are not allowed to receive visitors who are not registered on a list held by the checkpoints guards. TIPH notes that Palestinians are often harassed at these checkpoints, and that the only way to bring food and other provisions to their homes is by foot. Studies, work and family relations are also very challenging for these residents, it writes. TIPH also witnessed how paths and roads have been established on Palestinian farmland over the years, in order to create exclusive routes for Jewish worshippers heading from the settlement of Kiryat Arba to downtown Hebron. In addition, old Palestinian houses from the Ottoman era situated along this path were demolished in order to widen it. The observatory mission also notes that Palestinians face numerous obstacles trying to access the Ibrahimi Mosque – which is an important religious site to both Muslims and Jews (the Tomb of the Patriarchs is also situated there). There are now only two access points to the Muslim holy site and worshippers have first to pass several Israeli-manned checkpoints. Worshippers are searched and sometimes required to lift up their clothes. The muezzin, TIPH notes, is not allowed to call worshippers for prayer on Friday evenings and Saturdays due to the Jewish Shabbat. The group adds that while some 1,600 Palestinian worshippers were counted attending the mosque on a given Friday in 2003, that number had been halved by 2017. Although the report is highly critical of Israel, it does not lay out any demands or calls for action from either the Israelis or Palestinians. It was handed to the foreign ministers of the five contributing member states and was presented to diplomats visiting Hebron recently. Haaretz asked TIPH to comment on the report and whether any actions were taken based on its findings. In response, a spokesman said that their mandate

“states that TIPH assists in monitoring and reporting efforts to maintain normal life in the city of Hebron, and in accordance with the Hebron protocol and the agreement between the parties. Regular reports are shared with the Palestinian and the Israeli authorities as well as the five contributions countries. As requested by the parties, all information produced by TIPH is strictly confidential. TIPH has a regular dialogue with both parties.” Haaretz requested the Prime Minister’s Office comment on the report and its findings, but was referred to the Foreign Ministry, which said in response: “TIPH reports are not for publication. They are transferred to both sides based on the understanding that they will not be passed on to other parties, certainly not the media. Therefore, we have no intention of commenting on partial information or any other publications about this issue.” ([Haaretz](#) 17 December 2018)