



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 15 January 2019

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 after Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Beituniya village, in the central occupied West Bank Governorate of Ramallah. The IOA raided Beituniya village and confiscated camera recordings from several commercial buildings. Clashes erupted among Palestinian youths and IOA, during which the youths threw rocks and the soldiers fired rubber-coated steel bullets, tear-gas bombs, and sound grenades towards the youths. The reason for the confiscation of

the camera recordings remained unknown. (Maannews 15 January 2019)

Israeli Arrests

- In Jenin, in northern West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained eight Palestinians in the governorate, after invading their homes and ransacking them. They have been identified as Majd Ahmad Ba'jawi, Abdullah Maher Abu Bakr, Jihad Allam Abu Bakr, Thaher Haitham Amarna, and his brother Adel, all from Ya'bad town, west of Jenin, in addition to Rateb Abdul-Karim 'Oweis, Baha' Qasrawi and Mohammad Adel Alaqma, from several towns in the governorate. It is worth mentioning that Rateb is the son of Abdul-Karim 'Oweis, who is imprisoned by Israel after being sentenced to life. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)
- In Nablus, in northern West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained two siblings, identified as Ala' Hashash and his brother Ameen, in addition to Sultan Ibrahim Abu Mustafa and Fadi Emad Abu Hadrous. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded many homes in the Ramallah and al-Biereh Governorate, in central West Bank, and detained six Palestinians, identified as Mohammad Mahmoud Qa'ad, 28, Suleiman Abu Ghosh, Yahia Silwadi, Ibrahim Abdullah Askar, Sa'id Jouda Yacoub and Assef Refa'ey. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)
- In Hebron governorate, in the southern part of the West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Mohammad Mahmoud Awad, 28, Mershed Mohammad Za'aqueeq, 46, Hamza Hosni Nassereddin, 19, Hasan Abdul-Salam 'Oweiwi, and Ahmad Fadel Mahfouth, 19, after invading their homes and searching them. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)
- In Bethlehem, south of occupied Jerusalem, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Mohannad Sabri Thawabta, 14, Mohammad Nabil Thawabta, 15, Mohammad Hasan Abu Ajamiyya and Baha' Khaled al-Badan. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a Palestinian shepherd identified as Yousef Bisharat, in Makhoul area, in the West Bank's Northern Plains, after a group of settlers chased him, and his herd. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the northern West Bank city of Nablus, before abducting three Palestinians, in addition to confiscating several expensive lathe machines from a workshop. The IOA invaded the eastern area of the city, before detaining Fadi Abu Hadrous, from the Old Askar Refugee Camp, and to Sa'id Ja'far Dweikat, from the Housing Projects area, after invading their homes and violently searching them. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a man, identified as Sultan Abu Mustafa, after stopping him at Huwwara military roadblock, south of Nablus. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded a lathe workshop, owned by As'ad Nasrallah Shamlah, and confiscated seven machines, with the estimated cost of \$250,000 to 300,000, and added that this was the second time the soldiers invade, destroy and confiscate the workshop's machines since the year 2007. The attack targeted the only source of livelihood of seven families. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)
- Israeli police imposed a siege on Al Aqsa Mosque for several hours. The Waqf employees refused to allow an Israeli policeman, to enter the Muslim holy site, while wearing a Jewish 'kippah' on his head. The gates to the Dome of the Rock were sealed by Israeli police, waiting for the Waqf employees who had sealed themselves inside. Palestinian Muslims arrived at the gates of the mosque, and called for the police to re-open the gates. Several hours later, the gates were opened up to worshippers; however, Israeli police detained several Waqf employees responsible for the mosques in Jerusalem. The detention of the Muslim Waqf staff, was apparently for denying the entry of the Israeli policeman into the Muslim holy site. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)

Israeli Settler Violence

- A group of Israeli settlers invaded Palestinian farmlands in Khirbat Yanoun village, south of the northern West bank city of Nablus, and uprooted them. The settlers invaded the lands with their bulldozers, and uprooted nearly 30 Dunams. The uprooted lands are privately-owned by the villages, who have been denied access to them since the year 2006. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)
- Israeli settlers blocked the western entrance to the Tuqu village southeast of the southern occupied West Bank Governorate of Bethlehem. Some 50 Israeli settlers were gathered at the western entrance of the village, preventing Palestinians from passing which caused panic among locals. Israeli settlers were under armed security by Israeli Army. (Maannews 15 January 2019)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

- Israeli bulldozers entered dozens of meters along the eastern borders of the town of Beit Hanoun in the northern besieged Gaza Strip and began to raze the lands. Meanwhile, Israeli military towers opened fire towards Palestinians east of al-Qarara town in southern Gaza. (Maannews 15 January 2019)

Other

- Israeli institutions and organizations are preparing to build the so-called “Third Temple” in place of Al-Aqsa Mosque, and are waiting for a political decision to start. Israeli TV reported, on the alleged anniversary of the temple’s destruction, that Israeli institutions which seek to build the temple were met with wide political and popular support. The organizations explained that they are ready to bring the equipment and tools to start building the temple in the place of both the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque. They further stated that the total time needed to accomplish the building is three years, according to their plans. (IMEMC 15 January 2019)
- Israel’s military courts imposed fines topping 60 million shekels (\$16 million) on [West Bank](#) Palestinians from 2015 to 2017, even though the great majority of the offenses don’t involve the harming of people or property. Two reports by the Military Court of Appeals’ president were submitted to the Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights at its

request and were brought to Haaretz's attention this week. In 2016 the fines came to 21.97 million shekels, and in 2017 to 20.59 million shekels. Also, a lawyer at the Palestinian Prisoner Affairs Ministry told Haaretz about a year ago that in 2015 these fines totaled some 21 million shekels, also based on military court figures. These aren't exceptional sums: In 2011 the total fines imposed on Palestinians in military courts reached about 13 million shekels, according to figures Haaretz obtained in 2013. Some 8,000 trials ended that year. The money is deposited in the Israeli [Civil Administration](#)'s accounts in the West Bank and is managed by an officer also subordinate to Israel's Finance Ministry. It's hard to find a system and uniformity in the scales of the fines, as reports by the Machsom Watch rights group reveal. At the beginning of December 2018, a military judge, Maj. Sivan Omer, convicted a resident of [Beit Ummar](#) of throwing a stone at security forces from an unknown distance. The stone did not hit anyone and caused no damage. He was sentenced to six months and a day in prison and fined 2,000 shekels. In mid-October 2018, Judge Sebastian Osovsky convicted a 45-year-old man of what the court considered a "hostile terrorist offense" – he went on a family picnic holding a hunting rifle with one bullet in it. In a plea deal he was sentenced to two months in prison and fined 3,000 shekels. At the end of July 2018, Judge Rani Amer convicted a man of trading in military equipment and possessing weapons. His role was to accompany someone involved in such trade, examine the weapons and do some of the mediation. He was sentenced to 12 months and a day in prison and fined 1,000 shekels. At the end of November 2017, a minor was convicted of throwing stones at soldiers who stood near his school. He was released after three days in jail for a fine of 3,000 shekels. The father preferred to pay the full fine instead of paying 2,000 shekels and having his son spend 12 days behind bars. In April 2017, a youth from Bethlehem was convicted of passing funds to the families of two prisoners for Islamic Jihad. In addition to an eight-month prison sentence he was fined 12,000 shekels, the same sum as the money he had transferred. At the end of January 2017, the police arrested a 12-year-old, claiming he had thrown stones. The vague indictment mentioned the throwing of stones at vehicles on Route 465 "or in a nearby place." The military prosecution at Ofer suggested that the

family pay 5,000 shekels for his immediate release. The family couldn't afford the payment. Judge Shmuel Katz agreed to a plea bargain and sentenced the boy to 31 days in prison and a 500-shekel fine. The [Palestinian Authority](#)'s minimum wage is 1,450 shekels, though many people aren't even paid this sum. The military court system's activity reports break down the number of Palestinians against whom indictments were served and the number of defendants whose trials ended, based on the kinds of offenses: hostile terrorist activity, disturbing the peace, trespassing and traffic violations. But the reports don't break down the sum of fines in each category. Out of 10,454 Palestinians who were charged in 2017, more than half – 5,857 – were charged with traffic offenses, 2,072 were charged with hostile terrorist activity. (Of which 10 people were charged for killing intentionally and 69 for intending to kill. More common offenses were carrying weapons and belonging to an illegal organization.) Also, 1,020 Palestinians were charged with disturbing the peace (more than two-thirds for stone-throwing). Meanwhile, 1,064 were detained for [staying in Israel illegally](#), and under 5 percent – 432 – were charged with criminal offenses. In 2017, 66 percent of those charged with hostile terrorist activity, 1,363 people, did not belong to any political organization. Regardless of the reliability of the charges, this figure shows the decline in the status and influence of the political organizations in Palestinian society. In the previous year the rate of unaffiliated defendants was 72 percent – 1,369. The number of defendants affiliated with [Hamas](#) changed: 278 in 2016 compared with 316 the following year, though their rate among the defendants remained at about 15 percent. Around 14 percent were affiliated in 2017 with non-Palestinian Salafi groups, compared with 8 percent in 2016. About 100 defendants split among organizations such as Palestinian [Islamic Jihad](#), the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and [Hezbollah](#). Despite the meticulous breakdown in the military courts' reports, in July 2018 the Israel Defense Forces spokesman said in response to a question by the group Combatants for Peace – based on the Freedom of Information Law – that he could not provide figures on the fines and guarantees paid in military court. The response, sent to lawyer Eitay Mack, was written by Capt. Gal Turgeman, an assistant to the IDF spokesman and the IDF

officer in charge of freedom of information. “The military courts’ computerized system does not enable the extraction of reliable data regarding the sum of the fines collected in the military courts,” she wrote. “Therefore, we cannot grant your request. However, we will note that the IDF’s computer people are working to develop a new computer system, which, after it is developed, will be able to provide an answer regarding future information.” The officer in charge did not give Mack the figure in the system of the overall sum of fines imposed. The IDF spokesman told Haaretz that the overall figure appearing in the reports refers to the fines imposed, not those actually collected. “The military courts are not the body that collects the money, it only imposes the fines The military courts, being the judicial branch in the Judea and Samaria region, are not in charge of collecting fines,” the spokesman said. Experience shows that a Palestinian cannot be released from detention or prison without paying the fine imposed on him, regardless of the offense’s severity. “The fines imposed on Palestinians in the military courts are extremely exaggerated, both in their scope compared with the size of the population and its economic ability,” [Combatants for Peace](#) told Haaretz. Itamar Feigenbaum, a member of the group that connects former Israeli soldiers and former Palestinian security prisoners, got the idea to submit its request based on the Freedom of Information Law after a Palestinian member said his nephew was fined 7,000 shekels – in exchange for a prison term. He was charged with being part of an “illegal” student organization and helping organize a reconciliation meeting between Fatah and Hamas. “Our friend made enormous efforts to raise the sum so that his nephew wouldn’t go to prison – it’s a very high sum, certainly in Palestinian terms,” Feigenbaum said. “During our activity in the [Jordan Valley](#), for example, we found that fines to release tractors that the Civil Administration had confiscated from farmers [forbidding them to cultivate their land] sometimes reached 4,000 shekels. Fines are part of the Palestinians’ life under a military regime, and there’s no reason the Israeli and Palestinian public shouldn’t know how high they are.” ([Haaretz](#) 15 January 2019)