



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 30 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

- At least five Palestinians were injured by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) gunfire as they suppressed the weekly naval march in the northern besieged Gaza Strip. A Palestinian driver of a bulldozer, who was among injured protesters. Palestinian protesters gathered at the northern borders of the Gaza Strip to take part in protests, in an attempt to break the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip. Israeli war boats opened live fire, rubber-coated steel bullets and tear-gas bombs, to

suppress protesters and boats attempting to break the siege. Twenty boats, along with hundreds of Palestinian protesters, had set off from the Gaza seaport towards the Israeli “Zikim” beach. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)

- At least 14 Palestinians were shot and injured with live ammunition, and 11 others suffocated from tear gas inhalation as Israeli occupation Army (IOA) continued to attack the ‘Great March of Return’ protests at the Gaza-Israel border. The IOA stationed at military watchtowers along the barbed-wire fence between Israel and Gaza, to the northwest of Beit Lahiya town, in the northern Gaza Strip, fired live bullets and tear gas canisters toward the protesters, shooting and injuring at least 14 Palestinians. Their medical condition is still unknown. Eleven others suffocated due to tear gas inhalation. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron, searched homes and detained Mahmoud Suleiman Ekhlayyel. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded homes in Yatta town, south of Hebron, and detained Mohammad Jibreel Salama. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)
- A Palestinian, identified as Baha Ghneimat, was taken prisoner in Surif town, northwest of Hebron. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the al-‘Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron, and detained Maher Abu Warda, from his home, in addition to firing gas bombs and concussion grenades at local protesters. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Firas Mohammad al-Baw, from Halhoul town, north of Hebron, while working in occupied Jerusalem, causing many cuts and bruises, before releasing him at Tarqoumia roadblock, west of Hebron. The IOA also invaded many neighborhoods in Hebron city, and installed roadblocks on the main entrances of Yatta, Ethna, Doura, Deir Samit, Beit Awwa and Halhoul,

in addition to Hebron's northern road, before stopping and searching dozens of cars, and interrogated many Palestinians while invoicing their ID cards. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)

- In Ramallah, in central West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the ar-Reehan area, north of the city, searched homes and detained one Palestinian, who remained unidentified. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)
- In Jenin, in northern West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Samir Abdul-Halim Burhan, 17, after stopping him on a Palestinian land, near the al-Jalama military base. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)
- In Jenin, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) searched and ransacked homes in Arraba and Qabatia towns, south of Jenin, and detained five former political prisoners, identified as Ja'far Ezzeddin, Bakr Mohammad Abu Obeid, and Mustafa Shehada Sheebani, from Arraba, in addition to Naji Samir Nazzal, and Yousef Raed Abu Khamira, from Qabatia. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)
- In Nablus, in northern West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a political prisoner, identified as Zayed Hasan Mleitat, 35, after invading and searching his home in Beit Forik town, east of the city. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)
- In Bethlehem, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the Rashaida village, east of the city, and detained Mohammad Suleiman Rashaida, from home, after invading and searching it. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)

Israeli Settler Violence

- A group of Israeli settlers infiltrated into the al-Lubban ash-Sharqiya town, south of Nablus, punctured tires of several cars and wrote racist graffiti, before the locals noticed them and chased them away. (IMEMC 30 January 2019)
- Israeli settlers vandalized several Palestinian vehicles in the village of al-Lubban al-Sharqiya, south of Nablus city. Settlers from Ma'ale

Levona raided the village and spray-painted anti-Palestinian graffiti and Stars of David on three vehicles. Villagers, however, pursued the vandals, who managed to flee the village. (Wafa 30 January 2019)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- Israeli bulldozers demolished an under-construction house in the Huwwara village, south of the northern occupied West Bank Governorate of Nablus. The IOA arrived to the Huwwara village with several bulldozers and began to demolish the under-construction house. The demolished house belonged to Muhammad Hassan Damidi and measured 175-square-meters. The demolition was carried out under the pretext of being built without the difficult-to-obtain Israeli permit. (Maannews 30 January 2019)
- Israeli bulldozers demolished a Palestinian-owned building in the Wadi al-Juz neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem owned by Al Malhi family. Dozens of Israeli soldiers and municipality staff raided and surrounded the building before emptying part of its contents and carrying out the demolition. The Israeli municipality staff had delivered him a demolition notice, pointing out that his lawyer attempted to freeze the order but without avail. The first floor of the two-story building was constructed 20 years ago, and has three stores while the second was built five years ago and has three housing apartments. (Maannews 30 January 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Khallet Ad Dabe' in Masafer Yatta in southern Hebron and notified a number of Palestinian homes owned by Ragheb Ad Dababseh and Salah Ad Dababseh to stop the construction of their houses under the pretext of licensing. The IOA also notified Khalled Ad Dabe elementary school of demolition. (Maannews 30 January 2019)

Expansion of settlements and Settlement Plans

- Israeli Zoning Board Approves Controversial Western Wall Cable Car: The National Infrastructure Committee has approved the plan to build a cable car to the Western Wall, a project whose opponents fear would mar Jerusalem's Old City and bolster the Jewish presence in the Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The public will now have 60 days to file objections before the project can receive final planning approval. The cable car is being promoted by the Tourism Ministry and the Jerusalem Development Authority. The line would include three stops, the first at the First Station complex at the end of Emek Refaim Street across from

Mount Zion. From First Station, the line would pass over the Abu Tor neighborhood, where a storage facility for the cable cars would be built. The route would then turn and pass over the Valley of Hinnom, and proceed to the Old City area. The second stop would be on Mount Zion, where a parking lot currently sits. From there the car would follow the Old City wall, ending just outside Dung Gate at the new Kedem visitor center in the City of David. From there, passengers could walk to the Western Wall, either through Dung Gate or through the restored ancient underground passageway. The planners say the cable car would help solve the severe traffic problems around the Old City, especially the heavy tour-bus traffic near the Western Wall. Cable cars are a cheap way of moving large numbers of people in an area of many hills, the Jerusalem Development Authority says. Opponents say the Transportation Ministry is not involved in the project. They add that the Jerusalem Development Authority has not released the project's economic feasibility report as a public transportation project. The authority says it makes no sense to publish the financial data at this stage because a bidding process must be held to build and operate the project. The authority, however, has promised that a cable car ride will cost the same as a bus trip or a ticket on the capital's light-rail system. Other objections concern the Old City landscape. "As far as I know, and I've researched the topic, there is no other historical city in the world that allowed a cable car to be built within the visual core of its historical heritage," Moshe Safdie, a renowned Israeli architect, wrote in an analysis of the project last year. But the project's architect, Mendy Rosenfeld, said the damage to the landscape would be minimal. The cable car is lower than the Old City walls, and far enough away that it would not be noticeable, he said. Also the cable cars would only hold up to 10 people, allowing the support towers to be kept small as well, Rosenfeld said, adding that the structures at the stops would be transparent and without advertising. Aner Ozeri, who is responsible for the Old City at the Jerusalem Development Authority, said the opponents have no better solutions, adding that the cable car is the only technology that would not damage the natural scenery. ([Haaretz](#) 30 January 2019)

Other

- Amnesty International Slams Travel Firms for Featuring Israeli-run Sites in West Bank, East Jerusalem : The archaeological attraction situated just west of the [Israeli settlement](#) of Shiloh draws about 60,000 visitors a year, the vast majority of them evangelical Christians known to ascribe great importance to places mentioned in the [Bible](#). Shiloh is

identified in the Old Testament as the site of the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant – the main center of worship for the ancient Israelites before the First Temple was built in Jerusalem. There are excavations at the site, a gift shop where locally made olive oil and wine can be purchased, and a giant lookout tower that houses an audio-visual center and small museum. Visitors who rely on the official guides and explanations can't help but come away feeling inspired by the Jews who returned to these parts to reclaim a swath of land possessing such great historical and religious significance. But that's because they will likely not hear the less savory side of the story: The part about the Palestinians who had to be evicted from their homes so this place could be turned into a tourist attraction. A group of local and foreign journalists visiting Tel Shiloh recently had the rare opportunity to stand at the site and hear an alternative narrative. It was presented not by the official settler guides, but instead by local Palestinians and representatives of human rights groups. They learned, for example, that the settlement of Shiloh, established in 1978, was later expanded to include Palestinian farmlands that contained the ancient ruins – not a top fact that settlers here like to brag about. They also heard how 10 new settlements had been set up near Shiloh since then, and how thousands of acres of Palestinian land had been confiscated in order to enable their construction. Basher Muammar, a resident of the adjacent village of Qaryut, told them how Palestinians are banned from using a nearby road that passes close to the archaeological site and, as a result, must take an 18-kilometer (11 mile) detour to travel a distance of 1 kilometer from their homes to reach this point. "We have become so isolated that people are leaving the village," he says. "Many are selling their land and homes and moving to Ramallah." The press tour was organized by Amnesty International, ahead of the launch of a new campaign aimed at getting online travel and booking companies to stop featuring Israeli-run tourism destinations in the occupied territories on their websites. (The new campaign is a spin-off of one launched more than 18 months ago to mark the 50th anniversary of the Israeli occupation.) "By listing hotels, bed and breakfasts, and tourist attractions like this one here, these companies are complicit in human rights violations carried out against Palestinians living around these settlements," Laith Abu Zeyad, a regional campaigner for the human rights organization, told the group. The campaign, titled Destination: Occupation, targets the largest international online travel and booking companies: Airbnb, Booking.com, Expedia and TripAdvisor. Last November, [Airbnb announced that it planned to remove around 200 listings](#) in Israeli settlements from its website. As of this week, though, it had yet to implement its new policy. As part of the new campaign,

Amnesty International is releasing a report on Wednesday with figures on the number of Israeli settlement listings on the websites of each of the four companies. It also includes case studies of how Israeli tourism initiatives in the occupied territories are impacting nearby Palestinian villages, including those located near Shiloh. The report notes that Airbnb did not extend its new policy to [East Jerusalem](#), where it still has about 100 listings – “even though this, too, is occupied territory.” The online property rental company has not explained why it made this exception. It found that Booking.com lists 45 Israeli-owned hotels and rentals, Expedia lists nine and TripAdvisor lists more than 70 different attractions (including the archaeological site at Tel Shiloh), tours, restaurants, cafés, hotels and rental apartments in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. “All four companies claim to operate under high ethical values and respect for the rule of law,” says the report. “However, none of these standards appears to influence the companies’ decisions in relation to settlement listings. In doing business with settlements, all four companies are contributing to, and profiting from, the maintenance, development and expansion of illegal settlements, which amount to war crimes under international law.” The report notes that the promotion of Israeli settlements as tourist destinations “also has the effect of ‘normalizing’ and legitimizing to the public what is recognized under international law as an illegal situation.” According to the report, the companies often mislead tourists by not mentioning on their websites that specific destinations are located beyond Israel’s internationally recognized borders, and in some cases even refer to them as being located in Israel. Israel has allocated considerable resources in recent years to developing and expanding tourism in the settlements. According to the report, there are “political and ideological” reasons for these investments. “Settler groups supported by the Israeli government emphasize the Jewish people’s historic connections to the region,” it says. “Israel has constructed many of its settlements close to archaeological sites to make the link between the modern State of Israel and its Jewish history explicit. At the same time, Israel downplays and ignores the significance of non-Jewish periods at archaeological and historic sites.” The report states that the government will sometimes designate locations as tourist sites in order to justify the takeover of Palestinian land. “This has resulted in forced evictions as well as restrictions on the ability of Palestinian residents to establish or expand their homes or use land for agricultural purposes,” it says. All four online tourism companies have listings in Kfar Adumim – a settlement located some 10 kilometers east of Jerusalem. TripAdvisor also lists a national park, museum, desert tour and Bible-themed attraction nearby. “The

development and expansion of the settlement and these attractions has had a harmful impact on numerous human rights of the neighboring Palestinian Bedouin community of Khan al-Ahmar, who have lost access to grazing land, have been under pressure to leave the area for years and are threatened with the imminent demolition of their home,” the report says. Kfar Adumim is one of five examples of settlements cited in the report that are promoted by the online booking and travel companies. Susya is another. Airbnb lists one property in this settlement, located in the South Hebron Hills, while TripAdvisor lists a winery there along with an archaeological site and visitor attraction. “Israel forcibly evicted the Palestinian residents of Khirbet Susiya to make way for the visitor attraction,” the report says, “and the construction of the settlement resulted in them losing access to farmland.” In Hebron, a Palestinian city with a small Jewish settlement in its midst, TripAdvisor lists both a guided tour and museum run by settlers, while Airbnb lists one property. “Hebron’s settlements are a main driver of a wide range of human rights violations suffered by the Palestinian population of the city,” the report says. It also notes that TripAdvisor prominently features and operates as a booking agent for the City of David – a popular tourist attraction located in Silwan, a Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem. The site is managed by Elad, an organization dedicated to “Judaizing” the Arab part of the city. “Hundreds of Palestinian residents are threatened with forced eviction, as Elad plans to expand the City of David to include residences for more settlers,” the report says. “Human rights that have been violated include the rights to adequate housing and to an adequate standard of living.” As the report was being written, Airbnb still listed five properties in Shiloh and surrounding settlements in the northern part of the West Bank. Booking.com listed one, and TripAdvisor listed the archaeological site as well as tour guides who specialize in the region. “The establishment and expansion of these settlements has had a harmful impact on the human rights of residents of neighboring Palestinian villages Qaryut and Jalud,” the report says. “Residents have lost access to farmland and the main road leading to their home. They often come under attack from settlers.” Indeed, [a 38-year-old Palestinian man was killed](#) in clashes with settlers in the area this past weekend. Amnesty International notes that it provided all four companies with the opportunity to respond to its findings and answer a series of questions. Two companies, Airbnb and TripAdvisor, did not reply at all. Expedia said in its response, quoted in the report: “Expedia Group is committed to providing transparency to our customers when traveling to disputed territories globally, and we appreciate Amnesty International bringing its concerns on this

complex issue to our attention. In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, we identify these accommodations as 'Israeli Settlement' located in Palestinian territory. "We are currently reviewing the transparency of our display not only in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, but as well as other disputed territories globally to ensure that travelers have the information necessary to make the travel decisions that best suit their needs," it added. Booking.com said in its response that there are no "clearly defined and applicable laws or sanctions" that prevent it from advertising properties in the settlements. "Everything we do in terms of how we display information on Booking.com is focused on the customer and always in accordance with applicable law," it said. "Our geographic labeling of properties gives full transparency to customers about where an accommodation is located, and we continuously update and optimize this information. By marking properties concerned as being in 'Israeli settlements,' we provide transparency to anybody looking (or not looking) for accommodations in these territories," it added. Amnesty International called Airbnb's announcement that it would no longer list properties in West Bank settlements "welcome, but only a first step." "The company must implement this announcement, it must reflect its commitment in a revised public policy, and it must redress the harm it has contributed to. Airbnb must also extend its commitment to Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem," it said. Emek Shaveh, an Israeli anti-occupation organization founded and run by a group of archaeologists, has been engaged in a legal battle in recent years aimed at blocking settler attempts to undertake further expansion of Tel Shiloh. As a result of two separate petitions it has filed (along with local Palestinians and another Israeli human rights organization), plans to build a new 11,000-square-meter tourism complex at the site have been temporarily frozen. Accusing the settlers of using Tel Shiloh for political purposes, Emek Shaveh CEO Yonatan Mizrahi says implementation of the plan would have caused great damage to a unique archaeological site. Roaming around the grounds of Tel Shiloh when we visited were some local and foreign tourists: A small Christian evangelical group from South Korea; a few dozen boys participating in a pre-military gap year program; and three Orthodox Jews speaking American-accented English. Outside the gift shop, Mizrahi points to a large map of the Binyamin region where Shiloh is located. Settler-operated tourist sites dominate the map, as do the adjacent settlements. The Palestinian towns and villages appear as small, faded dots – even though most of them are much larger and more populous than the settlements. "This map says a lot about what

kind of story is being told here,” notes Mizrahi wryly. ([Haaretz](#) 30 January 2019)

- 20.56% increase of Jews living in Judea and Samaria: Judea and Samaria Jewish Population Stats Report is currently in the stage of production, to be released at the end of January . Every January, for the last nine years, former Member of Knesset Yaakov “Ketzaleh” Katz has published the Judea and Samaria Jewish Population Statistics Report, based on the population registry of Israel’s Ministry of the Interior. The report reveals tremendous population growth over the last decade, currently totaling almost half a million Jewish residents in the region. The 2018 raw data has already been processed into a complete population breakdown by town (127 in total) and regional bloc (11 in total), and includes comparisons for each town from previous years. The report is currently in the stage of production, to be released at the end of January. The report shows a 20.56% increase of Jews living in Judea and Samaria in the last 5 years, or an actual growth of 76,614 people. ([INN](#) 30 January 2019)