



# ARIJ Daily Report

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## Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 6 February 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.*

### Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded homes in Beit Ummar town, north of the southern West Bank city of Hebron, and detained Zeid Rafiq al-'Allami, 18, and Omar Saddam Sleibi, 24. (IMEMC 6 February 2019)

- In Bethlehem, south of occupied Jerusalem, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a young man, identified as Ahmad Kittana, from his home in Doha town, west of the city. (IMEMC 6 February 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the homes of former political prisoner, Mojahed Ali Sheikh, in Marah Rabah village, and Baha' Ali Salah, 24, from the al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem, and summoned them for interrogation. (IMEMC 6 February 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and ransacked the home of former Palestinian Legislative Council member, Ibrahim Mohammad Dahbour, 53, in 'Arraba town, southwest of the northern West Bank city of Jenin, and abducted him. (IMEMC 6 February 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Balata town, east of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, searched homes and detained Khobeib Khaled Salman, 23. (IMEMC 6 February 2019)

### **Israeli Settler Violence**

- The Israeli Minister of Agriculture, Uri Ariel, along with many settlers and occupation Army (IOA), invaded Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, in occupied Jerusalem and conducted a tour meant as provocation to the Muslim worshipers. The crowd was escorted under the protection of Israeli police, on a tour through the compound, composed of the Al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock mosque. (IMEMC 6 February 2019)
- A group of Israeli settlers invaded an archeological site, south of Jaloud village, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, and caused damage, in addition to uprooting ancient olive trees. The invasion targeted an ancient archeological site, known as the Khirbat al-Qasser, south of Ein Jaloud village. The settlers also uprooted many ancient olive trees. Khirbat al-Qasser, along with its 50 Dunams of land, is surrounded by three settlement outposts; Kida, Ahiya and Esh Kodesh, and contains many ancient sites, caves and wells. The family of Ahmad Mahmoud Abbas owns the agricultural lands that surround Khirbat al-Qasser. Khirbat al-Qasser archeological site is about 800 meters above the sea level and contains structures that date back to the Canaanite

era, in addition to the Ayyubid era, along with the Byzantine and Roman eras, and include the foundations of various structures, wells, basins and caves. (IMEMC 6 February 2019)

### **Home Demolition & Demolition threats**

- Staff members of the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem delivered demolition notices to Palestinian-owned buildings in the Issawiya neighborhood, in occupied East Jerusalem. Staff members from the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem escorted by Israeli forces stormed Issawiya and delivered demolition notices to several Palestinian-owned buildings, under the pretext of being built without a permit. Israeli forces also took photographs of five housing and commercial buildings to be demolished. Israel uses the pretext of building without a permit to carry out demolitions of Palestinian-owned homes on a regular basis. (Maannews 6 February 2019)

### **Confiscation & Razing of lands**

- Several Israeli military vehicles raided Palestinian lands along the eastern borders of Khan Younis, in the southern besieged Gaza Strip. Four large D-9 Israeli military bulldozers entered dozens of meters into Palestinian lands, coming from the Israeli security border fence heading south. The Israeli military bulldozers razed and leveled the lands while drones flew overhead. (IMEMC 6 February 2019)

### **Expansion of settlements**

- A West Bank settler group on Tuesday said the number of people living in Israeli settlements surged at a much faster rate than the overall Israeli population last year and predicted even more rapid growth thanks to the policies of the Trump administration. Baruch Gordon, director of West Bank Jewish Population Stats, said the White House has created a much friendlier environment for the settlers, clearing the way for a surge in construction in the coming years. "It's just simply opened up. There's no longer this cloud looming over it," Gordon said. Gordon's project conducts an annual study of official population data obtained from the Interior Ministry. The report is sponsored by "Bet El Institutions," a prominent settler organization that has ties to some of President Donald Trump's closest Mideast advisers. The latest data shows the population in Jewish settlements of the West Bank grew to 449,508 as of Jan. 1, up 3.3 percent from 435,159

people a year earlier. In comparison, Israel's overall population grew 1.9 percent last year to 8.907 million people, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. The Interior Ministry was not immediately able to confirm the scores of figures, but said it had been in touch with Gordon's group and the numbers appeared authentic. The data showed robust growth in settlements across the board, from large towns located near Israeli population centers to isolated communities deep inside the West Bank. Gordon cited several reasons for the rapid growth. An estimated two-thirds of the settler population are religious Jews, who tend to have larger families. In addition, he said the cheap costs of housing have lured many young families that cannot afford homes in Israel proper. But he also said the Trump administration's attitude toward the settlements is also having an effect. Former president Barack Obama, like a string of Republican and Democratic predecessors, opposed the settlements as obstacles to peace and put heavy pressure on Israel to halt construction. Trump, in contrast, has done little to stop the construction. While urging restraint at times, the White House has otherwise remained quiet as Israel has pressed forward with numerous developments. This, in effect, has given Israel a green light to lay the groundwork for a surge in construction that should materialize over the next year or two, Gordon said. "Since the change of the US administration, the atmosphere for construction permits has become much easier. They're being given with greater ease," he said. "I think possibly the next report and certainly in the ones after that, I think we'll start to see a huge surge in the numbers here," he added. The figures did not include data for east Jerusalem, where well over 200,000 Israeli Jews now live. The Palestinians claim both the West Bank and East Jerusalem, areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War, for a future independent state. They say the settlements are illegally gobbling up their land and harming the chances of a two-state solution — a position shared by most of the international community. Nabil Abu Rdeneh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, called the growth in the settler population a "direct result" of US policy. "The American support for settlements through silence is doomed to failure because there is no peace and stability without an agreement with the Palestinian people and its legitimate leadership," he said. A US Embassy official said Trump has made his position on settlements "clear" and has received Israeli pledges to take his concerns into consideration. "The administration is firmly committed to pursuing a comprehensive peace between Israelis and Palestinians," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity under diplomatic protocol. The report echoed separate findings by Peace Now, an Israeli anti-settlement watchdog

group that said last month that Israel has pushed forward plans for thousands of new settlement homes since Trump took office. It also predicted a huge increase in construction in the next few years. Peace Now said the data in Tuesday's report seemed "logical," citing the Israeli government's policy "to encourage construction and relocation to the West Bank." It said the Trump effect "cannot be seen at this time" because of the lag time between approval of permits and actual construction. Trump's Mideast team has said it is close to releasing a long-awaited peace plan. Trump's Mideast team is led by members with ties to the settlements. His ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, is a former president of Bet El Institutions, the sponsor of Tuesday's report. His chief Mideast adviser, son-in-law Jared Kushner, has donated to the group, and even Trump once sent a donation. In another break from the international community, the team so far has not endorsed the idea of an independent Palestinian state. The Palestinians have already pre-emptively rejected the peace plan, saying the White House is unfairly biased toward Israel. Gordon, the settler researcher, said the latest data should put an end to the international community's longstanding support for a two-state solution. "Those who continue to talk about a two-state solution, in my mind it's just a sign that they're removed from the reality and the facts on the ground," he said. ([YNETNEWS](#) 6 February 2019)

## Other

- The Israeli military courts have imposed more than 60,000 Shekels in fines on Palestinian children who were detained by the soldiers and held in Ofer Israeli prison. 57 children were moved to Ofer in January; 39 of them were taken prisoner from their homes during dawn invasions by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in several parts of the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem. ten children were detained while walking in their towns and neighborhoods, and three others were taken prisoner at several military roadblocks, in addition to five children who were summoned for interrogation at military bases and were taken prisoner. One of the detained children was shot and injured by the soldiers before he was detained, and at least seventeen of the detained children were subject to assaults and torture during their arrest or while under interrogation. Israeli courts imposed prison terms on 28 of the detained children, and ordered one of them, identified as

Laith Abu Kharma, 17, under Administrative Detention, without charges or trial. (IMEMC 6 February 2019)

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