



# 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 December 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.*



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## **Brutality of the Israeli Occupation Army**

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Palestinians taking part in the weekly 'March of Return' protests near the fence separating the Gaza Strip from Israel, leaving a number of protesters injured. The IOA shot and injured protesters east of Jabalia and east of Khan Younis. Dozens of Palestinians also suffered from tear gas inhalation due to inhaling tear gas used by the Israeli troops in the eastern part of Gaza. Israeli troops have killed at least 307 Palestinians since the beginning of the rallies and wounded more than 18,000 others. (IMEMC 28 December 2019)
- In the weekly Friday afternoon protest in the Palestinian village of Kufr Qaddoum, dozens of Palestinians and foreign solidarity activists suffered from tear gas inhalation when Israeli troops attacked the non-violent demonstrators. The protesters were calling for the re-opening of the main road in the village, which was closed by Israeli military forces 16 years ago. The road closure has caused undue suffering for the residents, and has prevented their freedom of movement and essentially imprisoned them in their village. The Israeli troops stormed the village firing rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas canisters, concussion grenades and sound bombs, which resulted in dozens of gas inhalation cases who were treated in the field. (IMEMC 28 December 2019)

## **Israeli Arrests**

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Tarqoumia town, west of Hebron, searched a few homes and detained Raed Ibrahim Tneina and took him to an unknown destination. (IMEMC 28 December 2019)

## **Israeli Closures**

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed the “Tunnel Roadblock,” which is the only road leading to Palestinian villages, northwest of occupied East Jerusalem, and started provocatively searched cars while interrogating the Palestinians and investigating their ID cards. The villages impacted by this closure are home to around 60.000 Palestinians, who frequently face these sudden closures, in addition to being subject to questioning and searches. (IMEMC 28 December 2019)

## Other

- Israel is planning to ignore a request by the Palestinian Authority to hold elections for its parliament in Israeli-controlled East Jerusalem, Israeli officials told the Ynet news site Saturday. In an official letter last week, the PA asked that East Jerusalem be included in any potential vote for the long-defunct parliament and the presidency. But after internal discussions at senior levels, the report said, Israel decided not respond to the request, likely leading PA President Mahmoud Abbas to postpone a national election. Channel 12 news, meanwhile, reported that the Israeli move may have been made in coordination with Abbas, who believes he could stand to lose from holding an open, democratic election. Last week Abbas said he would not go ahead with planned elections unless Israel allows Palestinians living in East Jerusalem to vote. “If Jerusalem residents can’t vote in the heart of the city where they live, there will not be elections,” Abbas said during a speech in Ramallah. “We are very interested in holding elections, but not at any price.” The Palestinians have not held elections for more than a decade. The overwhelming majority of Palestinians in East Jerusalem cannot vote in national elections in Israel because Israeli law only permits citizens of the Jewish state to cast ballots. Palestinians in East Jerusalem largely do not hold citizenship, though they are eligible for it, but rather permanent residency. Abbas told the annual gathering of the United Nations General Assembly in September in New York City that he would call for general elections in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem in the near future. He has since met several times with the head of the PA Central Elections Committee, Hanna Nasser, to discuss the possibility of holding elections, but has yet to set dates for the vote. Meanwhile, the Hamas terror group, which rules the Gaza Strip, has declared it is ready to participate in elections. The PA hasn’t held parliamentary or presidential elections since 2006 and 2005, respectively.

The PA and Hamas have been at loggerheads since the latter ousted the former from Gaza in 2007. Multiple attempts to reconcile the two and bring the West Bank and Gaza under a single government have failed. The Oslo Accords, signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in the 1990s, set out a mechanism to enable Palestinians to participate in elections in East Jerusalem, which the Jewish state considers part of its sovereign capital. The Palestinians have said they want East Jerusalem to be the capital of a future Palestinian state. Israel considers East Jerusalem part of a united capital of Israel. Israel allowed PA elections to take place in East Jerusalem in 1996, 2005 and 2006. Both the PA and Hamas have said they will not take part in elections that exclude East Jerusalem. Palestinian analysts believe the chances of a vote going ahead are low, both because of internal Palestinian disputes and Israel's apparent unwillingness to let an East Jerusalem vote go ahead. The Israeli government has cracked down on any PA activity in East Jerusalem in recent years and would be loath to allow a Palestinian vote in the city, particularly during an Israeli election campaign. On Friday a European source told the *The Times of Israel* that the European Union was pressuring the Ramallah-based Palestinian leadership to hold legislative and presidential elections, as the body appears to be moving toward a more strong-armed approach to Palestinian affairs after recently becoming the PA's largest financial backer. "Europe is sending a very clear message to the Palestinian Authority and President Abbas that elections need to take place," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The EU became the PA's top donor after the administration of US President Donald Trump, previously the authority's highest supporter, ended hundreds of millions of dollars in security, economic and other assistance in 2018 and early 2019. "There are some in Europe asking: 'Why are we paying all this money while our goals are not being achieved?'" the source said, noting Europe's chief aims include promoting the two-state solution and advancing the development of democratic Palestinian institutions. A Palestinian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said German Chancellor Angela Merkel personally conveyed a message to Abbas at a meeting in Berlin in August that she believes the Palestinians must take action to hold elections. ([TOI](#) 28 December 2019)

- The Israeli security cabinet is set to move toward deducting more of the funds the PA pays terrorists and their families from the taxes and tariffs Israel collects for it. Defense Minister [Naftali Bennett](#) will bring the

proposal on Sunday to freeze NIS 650 million. The amount includes an addition of NIS 149m. that specifically goes to the families of terrorists who were killed or injured during acts of terrorism against Israelis. Prior to Bennett's addition, the government has only deducted funds that were sent to living terrorists, including those in prison and those who were released, as well as to their families. The Deduction Law requires the defense minister to present the security cabinet with information on how much the Palestinian Authority paid terrorists and their families each year. Then, the Finance Ministry must deduct those funds from the taxes and tariffs Israel collects for the PA on a monthly basis, based on the amount the PA paid terrorists the previous year, divided by 12. The law was proposed by Deputy Defense Minister Avi Dichter (Likud) and MK Elazar Stern, now of Blue and White, and passed in July 2018, making this the second time the government is deducting funds from the PA over its pay-for-slay policy. The [Palestinian Authority](#) pays terrorists more depending on their prison sentence, meaning that the greater the severity of the crime – the more Israelis killed and wounded – the more they receive each month. PA President Mahmoud Abbas has maintained the policy despite Israel's deductions, as well as the US cutting aid to the PA over it. Last week, Bennett signed an order freezing funds transferred from the PA to eight terrorists with Israeli citizenship, adding up to hundreds of thousands of shekels each year. Five of the eight carry life sentences. ([IPOST](#) 28 December 2019)