



**ARIJ  
DAILY  
REPORT**

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## Israeli Violations' Activities in the occupied State of Palestine

8 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.*



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## Violations of the Israeli occupation Army

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided the home of Jerusalem's governor, Adnan Ghaith, in the occupied Jerusalem town of Silwan, and served his family a summon for Ghaith to appear before Israeli intelligence. Ghaith has been detained at least 13 times since he assumed the office of Jerusalem governor and was previously banned from entering the West Bank for a period of six months that was ultimately renewed. He was also banned from contacting a number of specific people. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) and Police assaulted Palestinian Muslim devotees at the Bab Arrahma praying court and at the Bab Hetta court of Al-Aqsa mosque, in occupied Jerusalem. The IOA assaulted the congregation at Bab Arrahma court and abducted two Jerusalemite men and a woman, in the time of the evening prayer. The IOA also assaulted the congregation at Bab Hetta court and denied them access to the mosque. These attacks coincide with occupation police plans to issue a decision to seal Bab Arrahma gate completely, in order to Judaize the area. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) invaded Aqabat Jaber refugee camp, southwest of Jericho city in the occupied West Bank, and injured many Palestinians during ensuing protests. The IOA shot six Palestinians with rubber-coated steel bullets, including one who was shot with three bullets in his left leg, and another Palestinian was shot in the forehead. Many Palestinians suffered the effects of teargas inhalation, especially at the entrance of the refugee camp, and in its center; most of them were in their owned homes. Furthermore, a Palestinian car crashed into an electricity pole after its driver lost control on his vehicles, due to the severe effects of teargas inhalation and concussion grenades fired by the soldiers. The IOA also invaded and violently searched many homes in the refugee camp, and interrogated the families. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) attacked, many Palestinian worshipers in the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, in occupied East Jerusalem, and

detained six Palestinians, including one woman. The IOA assaulted dozens of worshipers near Bab ar-Rahma, one of the gates of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, before detaining the six Palestinians. The IOA attacked many Palestinians near Bab ar-Rahma while they were trying to enter Al-Aqsa for evening prayers. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained a wounded Palestinian teenage boy from the al-'Arroub refugee camp, north of the southern West Bank city of Hebron. The IOA stormed the homes of Hassouna Badawi, after smashing the main door, and conducted violent searches of the property, causing serious damage, before detaining his son Ahmad, 17. The IOA also attacked the family with clubs and batons, causing various cuts and bruises, and illegally confiscated 6000 Shekels (Around \$1730). (IMEMC 8 January 2020)

## Israeli Settler Violence

- Israeli settlers, chopped 50 olive trees belonging to Palestinian farmers in the village of al-Sawiya, to the south of the West Bank city of Nablus. Individuals from the settlement of Rahalim, which was built on al-Sawiya and nearby Yetma lands, were responsible for the deed. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) accompanied by settlers, bulldozed vast areas of land belonging to Palestinians in Hebron city, in the southern occupied West Bank. The Israeli bulldozers arrived in the early morning hours to bulldoze agricultural land belonging to a number of Palestinian residents in the city. One of the land owners, Samer Jaber stated that the Israeli machinery bulldozed at least 50 dunams of land in the vicinity of residents' homes and fields. The bulldozing operations are targeting over 100 dunams of Palestinian-owned land, located adjacent to the Kiryat Arba settlement, as a prelude to seizing it for the benefit of expanding the said settlement, which was built on Palestinian lands. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
- Dozens of Jewish settlers forced their way into al-Aqsa Mosque on Wednesday through al-Maghareba Gate amid tight Israeli police guard. Jerusalem's Islamic Awqaf Department said that 45 Israeli settlers stormed al-Aqsa Mosque and carried out provocative tours inside the site before they left through al-Silsila Gate. Earlier in the day the Israeli police

arrested a Palestinian worshiper at Bab al-Rahma prayer area near al-Aqsa Mosque and transferred her to an Israeli detention center in the Old City of Jerusalem. (PALINFO 8 January 2020)

## Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- Two siblings from Jabal al-Mokabber town, south of occupied East Jerusalem, were forced to demolish their homes to avoid the excessively high fines and fees, imposed on them by the Israeli City Council. Mohammad and his brother Maher Nassar, had to leave their homes, inhabited by 15 family members, including 11 children, and started demolishing their properties. Maher Nassar and his brother were only given one day to start the demolitions or face fines exceeding 80,000 Shekels. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
- Israel authorities notified Palestinians residents of its intentions to demolish four houses belonging to Palestinians in an area to the east of Yatta town. The Israeli Authorities stormed al-Tawana village, in Masafer Yatta area in the southern occupied West Bank Governorate of Hebron, and handed residents four demolition notices for their homes, citing denial of construction permit as a pretext. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)

## Other

- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday said the decision of the International Criminal Court's prosecutor to launch an investigation of war crimes allegedly committed in the West Bank, including the building of settlements there, will not prevent Israel from further expanding those Israeli towns. "This will not deter us – not in the slightest," he said, referring to Fatou Bensouda's December 20 announcement that she found "reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation into the situation in Palestine." In her statement, which followed a five-year preliminary examination, the prosecutor determined that Israeli settlements in Palestinian-claimed territory may constitute a war crime. Netanyahu made the comments at a conference of pro-settlement advocates in celebration of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's recent statement on the legality of Israeli settlements. "Pompeo's declaration is the appropriate response to the scandalous decision of the International Criminal Court in

The Hague to investigate the settlement enterprise in Judea and Samaria, which, brazenly, is considered a war crime,” he said, referring to the West Bank by its biblical name. “As opposed to the views of some in the European community who view Pompeo’s declaration as a step that distances peace, I say the exact opposite: This declaration advances the chances of peace, because peace must be based on truth and not lies,” Netanyahu added. Netanyahu went on to vow that he would not allow a single settlement to be uprooted, under any peace plan. The idea of “ethnically cleansing” the West Bank of Jews was inadmissible and must be discarded, he argued. “We never lost our right to live in Judea and Samaria,” he went on. “The only thing we lost, temporarily, was the ability to assume our rights after 1948, between the War of Independence and the Six Day War. And when we returned there, we didn’t return to a strange land that we stole from its previous owners,” Netanyahu said. “This is a total distortion of the historical truth.” The current US administration and its pro-Israel positions present great opportunities, the prime minister said, going on to hint at his desire for US President Donald Trump to win another term in the White House. A window of opportunity is currently open, he said, but it will remain open only “for a brief period of time — I hope it won’t be so brief, but I can’t go into it now,” he said to applause from the audience. Notably, in his 25-minute speech, Netanyahu did not mention his promise to annex large parts of the West Bank, including the entire Jordan Valley and all settlements. He also did not explicitly rule out the creation of a Palestinian state on parts of the West Bank. Trump’s special envoy to the peace process, Avi Berkowitz, was in Israel earlier this week to discuss the administration’s plan to publish its long-expected peace proposal. Neither Netanyahu nor US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, who also addressed the conference, revealed any details about the plan. On November 18, Pompeo declared that the “establishment of Israeli civilian settlements in the West Bank is not per se inconsistent with international law.” In a video message recorded for Wednesday’s conference, which took place in Jerusalem’s Menachem Begin Heritage Center, the US top diplomat reiterated his position on settlements, stressing that the administration rejects the so-called Hansell Memorandum, which under president Jimmy Carter determined that Israel’s establishment of civilian settlements in the territories captured in 1967 is “inconsistent with international law.” “It’s important that we speak the truth when the facts lead us to it, and that’s what we have done,” Pompeo said. “We’re recognizing that these settlements don’t

inherently violate international law. That's important. We're disavowing the deeply flawed 1978 Hansell Memo, and we're returning to a balanced and sober Reagan-era approach, and in doing so, we're advancing the cause of peace between Israelis and Palestinians." In 1981, president Ronald Reagan partially repudiated the memorandum, declaring that the settlements are not necessarily illegal, though he stressed that they are harmful to peace efforts. The pro-settlement Kohelet Policy Forum, which co-sponsored the conference, celebrated Pompeo's explicit disavowing of the memorandum. "American Policy is now clearer than ever: Jews living in Judea and Samaria is not a crime," said Eugene Kontorovich, who heads Kohelet's international law department. "For decades, the obscure Carter-era memo was used as justification for anti-Israel policies despite the fact that its conclusions were rejected by subsequent administrations," he said. "Secretary Pompeo's statement at the Kohelet conference today makes clear the US's wholesale rejection of the legal theory that holds that international law restricts Israeli Jews from moving into areas from which Jordan had ethnically cleansed them in 1949." Also speaking at the conference, Defense Minister Naftali Bennett vowed to advance the annexation of Area C — the swaths of the West bank that include the settlements and that under the Oslo Accords are under full Israeli civilian and military control. "I want to explain that as the defense minister, I declare a policy that Area C belongs to the State of Israel," he said. For many years, Jerusalem helped Palestinians build up houses there, he claimed, vowing to halt that trend. "We're not the UN, we're the State of Israel, and our political interest is to capture and settle Israel's territory," he went on. His goal was to apply Israeli sovereignty over Area C "in very little time," he added. "Not merely settlements, not just one bloc or another." Bennett then added what may be interpreted as a condition for his New Right party to join the coalition that may be formed after the March 2 Knesset election. "The mission of the next government is to break out and apply sovereignty over Greater Jerusalem, Ma'aleh Adumim, the Etzion bloc, Givat Zeev, the Jordan Valley and everything in between," he said. Foreign Minister Israel Katz, too, addressed the conference, saying that Israel has a historical right to settle the West Bank and calling for the annexation of the Jordan Valley. ([TOI](#) 8 January 2019)

- Israeli Defense Minister Naftali Bennett announced on Wednesday the establishment of a task force to develop and legalize unauthorized outposts in Judea and Samaria. Speaking at the Kohelet Policy Forum

Conference in Jerusalem, he said, “We are launching a campaign for the future of Area C; it started a month ago and I’m announcing it here today.” Bennett said that he aims to increase the number of Israeli citizens in Area C, which represents 60 percent of the West Bank and is under full Israeli control, from 400,000 to one million within the next 10 years. “We are not occupiers in our homeland, we are not occupiers in our own land, we are not like the Belgians in the Congo,” he said. “The State of Israel’s policy is that the land in Area C belongs to [Israel].” U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, also speaking at the conference, confirmed that U.S. policy also states that “Israelis, Jews have the right to live in Judea and Samaria.” Also at the Kohelet Policy Forum Conference, Blue and White head Benny Gantz ruled out a merger with other parties, though he suggested that a merger between the Zionist parties to the left was necessary for Blue and White “to lead a government of change, hope and come out of the next elections as the largest party in the Knesset.” Though Labor-Gesher chairman Amir Peretz had suggested a merger with the Democratic Union and Blue and White on Tuesday, Gantz said that “Blue and White will continue to be the governing alternative at the center of the map and won’t team up with other parties—not to its left nor right.” JNS is more than just another news website and syndication service. It is an organization devoted to nonstop reporting, and telling the truth about Israel and Jewish issues unburdened by the biases and institutional blinders that distort so much of what we read, hear and see about these topics elsewhere in the secular and even Jewish press. At JNS, you get the facts about Israel and Jewish issues without the bias that so often tilts the argument against the Jewish state. JNS articles and columns are republished every week by digital outlets and print newspapers across the globe. But in the age of round-the-clock news coverage, advertising and syndication revenues are not enough to support our continued growth. We need your financial help to keep JNS on target as we continue our fair and accurate reporting. Please help us take JNS to the next level with a tax-deductible sponsorship, either on a recurring monthly basis. Jewish News Syndicate is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. ([JNS](#) 8 January 2019)