



ARIJ DAILY REPORT

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the occupied State of Palestine

16 February 2020

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) invaded the al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem, especially the Old City and the al-Bawwaba areas, before storming and ransacking many shops. The IOA interrogated the many Palestinians in the stores, and questioned them while inspecting their ID cards. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) chased many Palestinian shepherds in the al-Borj area, in the Northern Plains of the occupied West Bank. The IOA attacked and chased many Palestinian shepherds, and forced them out of grazing lands. The attack comes just two after the IOA chased many shepherds in the same area, and detained a few of them. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired, a few missiles into a site in the besieged and impoverished Gaza Strip, causing damage, after the army claimed that two shells were fired from the coastal region. The army also revoked the permits of 500 merchants in addition to reducing the fishing zone. Israeli F16 warplanes fired missiles into a site west of Deir al-Balah city, in central Gaza, causing damage to the targeted location and several surrounding homes. Israeli war jets and drones were also seen and heard flying over several parts of the coastal region. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)
- The Israeli Navy has decided to reduce the fishing zone allotted to Gaza Strip, for the second time since Wednesday, when it reduced it from 15 to 10 nautical miles, in addition to denying the entry of construction materials into the coastal region. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) bulldozed privately-owned Palestinian lands in Burin village, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus. The IOA bulldozed and uprooted the lands in Ein al-Jiniyya area, in Jabal Salam al-Farsi Mountain. The bulldozing took place on private property near the Yetzhar settlement. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)

Erection of Israeli checkpoints

- In Ramallah, in central West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) placed concrete blocks at the main entrance of Deir Nitham village, west of the city, completely closing it. The IOA placed concrete blocks, and an iron gate, at the main entrance of the village a few days ago, but the locals managed to remove them and reopened the road. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)

Other

- Global ecommerce web giant Amazon has been accused of discriminating against Palestinians by offering free shipping to illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank, but not to Palestinians living in the same area. In findings released in an investigation by the *Financial Times*, the newspaper discovered that by taking all of the illegal settlement addresses and entering them into Amazon's delivery portal, the company extends its website's offer of free shipping "if your shipping address is in Israel, your items are eligible, and your total order meets the minimum free shipping threshold of \$49." However, customers who list their address as "the Palestinian Territories" are forced to pay shipping and handling fees starting from \$24. Amazon spokesman Nick Caplin told the paper that Palestinians can only circumvent the issue "if a customer within the Palestinian Territories enters their address and selects Israel as the country, they can receive free shipping through the same promotion." All the company's deliveries have to pass through Israel in order to reach the occupied West Bank, causing long delays, Days of Palestine reports. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)
- The US government has appointed members of a committee tasked with mapping out areas of the occupied West Bank that Israel plans to annex as part of President Donald Trump's self-proclaimed "Deal of the Century." A senior Trump administration official told Israel Hayom daily that US ambassador to Israel [David Friedman](#) will lead the joint committee. Other committee members will include Friedman's senior adviser Aryeh Lightstone, and Scott Leith, a US National Security Council expert on Israel. Israeli members will include tourism minister Yariv Levin and Israeli ambassador to the United States Ron Dermer. The committee was

announced by Trump last month during the unveiling of his scheme, which would see Israel control swathes of the West Bank in violation of the fundamental rights of the Palestinians. Trump said the joint committee would be formed to “convert the conceptual map into a more detailed and calibrated rendering so that recognition can be immediately achieved.” There is still no set timeline for when the committee will finish its work, but Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been pressured by right-wing lawmakers in recent weeks to announce the immediate annexation of all settlements before Israelis head to the polls. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)

- A plan by an Israeli group to hold a Burning Man-style event in the deserts of the occupied territories has sparked frustration among Palestinians and dismay from Israeli festival enthusiasts who say it goes against [the original event’s founding principles](#). The annual gathering in the Nevada desert in the US, with its massive art installations, costumes and symbolic burning of an effigy of “The Man”, has gathered a global following. In [Israel](#), its official partner, Midburn – which combines the Hebrew word for desert, “midbar”, with “burn” – has been running events, or “burns”, since 2014. But since the group had trouble finding a location in Israeli deserts, several “burners” broke away to form their own, unofficial festival. Organisers say the Dead Sea Burn event has already received approval by Israel’s military for up to 15,000 people to assemble on land near the border with Jordan, the Dead Sea and the Palestinian city of Jericho. It will still need Israeli police permissions before it can go ahead in April. Yaron Ben Shoshan, who is a joint-lead on the project, says he has been pushing for Palestinians to attend and argues his efforts are not political, although he understands why people would see it that way. The bad side is fighting about the area and arguing with each other and making the gap deeper. The other way of reacting is to say, ‘we have an opportunity here to show our leaders that we as people can communicate and enjoy ourselves together.’” However, the military has far more restrictive rules for Palestinians who live in the area than it does for Israelis. West Bank Palestinians who would like to attend need first to secure permission from the Israeli army, organisers say. The location at which the event is scheduled to take place belongs to a territory claimed by Israeli settlements, which are often built on land taken from Palestinians. Local Palestinian residents and authorities were not consulted. ([The Guardian](#) 16 February 2020)