



ARIJ DAILY REPORT

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the occupied State of Palestine

17 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

- Members of the Israeli security service, raided Volunteer for Hope, an organization located in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Beit Hanina, under the pretext of holding “prohibited activities,” and gave its director, Silvia Abu Laban, a summons to appear before Israeli intelligence for interrogation. The Israeli Services seized four computers and other office belongings as they searched the building. (IMEMC 17 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) chased Palestinian shepherds in the northern Jordan Valley. The IOA chased a number of shepherds as they were grazing their livestock in the area of al-Burj, where they briefly detained a group of shepherds two days ago. (IMEMC 17 February 2020)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Armed Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian shepherds in the town of al-Mughayyir, in central occupied West Bank, while grazing their livestock. Dozens of armed settlers chased and brutally assaulted several Palestinian civilians, forcing them out of their fields, injuring five, three of whom were transferred to hospital, suffering various fractures and bruises. Israeli military forces installed a flying checkpoint at the entrance of the village of al-Mughayyir, in central occupied West Bank, coordinated with the Settlers. (IMEMC 17 February 2020)
- Armed Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian shepherds while they were grazing their livestock in the town of al-Mughayyir, to the northeast of Ramallah city, and injured some of them. Dozens of settlers chased the Palestinian shepherds out of the grazing fields and brutally beat them up injuring five of them with bruises and fractures, three of whom were evacuated to a nearby hospital for treatment due to their severe conditions. The IOA deliberately installed a flying checkpoint at the entrance of the village following the attack and prevented anyone from reaching the attacked shepherds. (Wafa 17 February 2020)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) closed water holes in Khirbet Allan, in Al-Jiftlik village of the northern Jordan Valley. An Israeli force from the occupation army and the so-called “Civil Administration” raided the area and closed water holes, explaining that the occupation is marketing false arguments for closing water holes by alleging that these holes are illegal. (IMEMC, [BTSELEM](#) 17 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) demolished a residential compound and confiscated its contents in the Tel Al-Samadi area of Al-Jiftlik, and ordered the evacuation of more than 15 facilities. The policy of eviction notifications was adopted by the occupation during the current year, as a new policy to displace the population and expel them from their areas of residence. (IMEMC 17 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) demolished a crude home, confiscated its content and handed local residents notices ordering them to evacuate over 15 homes and structures in Tel as-Samaddi area of al-Jiftlik village in the Jordan Valley. The military orders claimed the homes and structures are located in an archeological area in the Jordan Valley. (PALINFO 17 February 2020)
- Israeli bulldozers demolished an agricultural shack and razed land in Tarqumiya, to the west of the occupied southern West Bank city of Hebron. The IO bulldozers demolished the shack and razed about five dunums of land owned by Ibrahim Dababseh, a local resident. (Wafa 17 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) destroyed couplings in pipes providing water to al-Shunah area of al-Jiftlik village, located in the Jordan Valley to the north of Jericho. The IOA raided the village and proceeded to destroy the connectors supplying running water to Palestinian crops. Palestinians tend to install water connector to the main Israeli water carrier lines which supply between 400 and 700 cubic meters of underground Palestinian water per hour to the colonial settlements, which is for them the only way they can get water to their homes, crops and livestock as Israel bans them from building water pipes of their own. (Wafa 17 February 2020)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) invaded, Palestinian lands in the villages of Iskaka and Yasuf, east of Salfit city in central West Bank, and started bulldozing them to expand a Settlement. The 50 dunums- land are privately owned by the villagers and are in the eastern area of Iskaka and the southern area of Yasuf. Israel is trying to expand the Nofei Nehemia and to install new segregated roads. (WAFA, IMEMC 17 February 2020)
- Several armored Israeli military vehicles invaded Palestinian farmlands near Beit Lahia, in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, and opened fire at farmers in Khan Younis, in southern Gaza. Several army vehicles, including bulldozers, invaded Palestinian farmlands north of Beit Lahia, and started uprooting sections close to the perimeter fence. The Israeli army fired sporadic rounds of live ammunition during the invasion, before withdrawing to the military base, across the fence. (IMEMC 17 February 2020)
- Israeli military army stationed on military towers across the fence, east of Khan Younis, fired many live rounds at farmers on their lands, forcing them away. (IMEMC 17 February 2020)

Other

- The members of a joint US-Israeli committee tasked with mapping out areas of the West Bank that Israel intends to annex as part of US president Donald Trump's deal of the century (peace plan) have reportedly started their work. The committee includes US ambassador to Israel David Friedman and his adviser Aryeh Lightstone, as well as Scott Leith, director of the Israeli and Palestinian affairs at the US national security council. The Israeli members are tourism minister Yariv Levin, Israeli national security council chief Meir Ben-Shabbat, the prime minister's office director-general, Ronen Peretz and Israel's ambassador to the US Ron Dermer. The committee will work on producing maps of the occupied Palestinian areas where Israel have been given the green light by the US administration to annex to its sovereignty. Friedman, a known supporter of Jewish settlements, had told reporters at the White House immediately after the Trump administration's peace plan was announced that Israel could "annex settlements at any time" and "should not wait at all" to do so. Under the plan, the US administration has approved Israel's intent to annex about 30 percent of the West Bank and Jerusalem, including all of

- the illegal settlements and the Jordan Valley. (PALINFO, [IPOST](#) 17 February 2020)
- A Palestinian family living on the border between the Jerusalem-area village of Beit Izja and the Jewish [settlement](#) Givon Ha'hadasha have found themselves living in an isolated sectioned-off area surrounded by the settlement. The Gharib family claims that they built the home more than 40 years ago on land they claimed has belonged to their family since the Ottoman period. When Givon Ha'adasah was founded in 1977, the Israeli founders claimed ownership of the land surrounding the Gharib family's home, according to a report by *BBC's* Middle East correspondent Tom Bateman, who ran a video segment titled "The Palestinian family with its own checkpoint." For security purposes, the perimeter of the family's home was enclosed within a fence standing six meters high all around – leaving the family with only one entrance and exit as well as their own personal checkpoint. Pointing to an orange gate, Sa'adat Gharib tells Bateman: "This is a special entrance for the occupation army. For any problems facing them, they come from this gate. They close off the entrance of the house, and we can't come in or out. They see this as protection for the settlers." When the security fence was initially built, the family claimed that the entrance-exit was consistently closed – forcing them to negotiate with security officials in order to leave their house, according to *Haaretz*. The family told Bateman that their housing situation was similar to living in a prison, due to the amount of control Israeli security forces have over his family home, mainly regarding the lone entrance-exit leading into the village of Beit Ijza – which could be closed off at any moment – as well as the closed-circuit cameras surrounding and watching his property 24/7. To enter Givon Ha'hadasha, which is right outside the fence, Bateman had to travel through Palestinian neighborhoods, winding roads and even protests – a drive which took roughly an hour and a half – in order "to get right [back to] pretty much where we started." Givon Ha'hadasha resident Ilanit Gohar, whose family built their house 25 years ago, told Bateman that the Gharibs had chosen their own lot. He chose this type of living," said Gohar to the *BBC*. "Once it was ruled that these lands aren't his, and that they belong to the State of Israel, he can't stop people [from] settling on this land. We can't move him, [but] he won't move us." Within the implication of the new Trump peace deal, without any changes, Givon Ha'hadasha, home to some 1,000 Israelis, would become recognized internationally as a formal part of Israel. ([IPOST](#) 17 February 2020)

- Authorities have given approval to move forward with a controversial plan to place a train station in the heart of Jerusalem's Old City and whisk tourists from Ben-Gurion Airport to the Western Wall, Transportation Minister Bezalel Smotrich's office said Monday. In a statement, Smotrich's office said the plan, initiated by his predecessor Israel Katz, had been hindered over the past year, without elaborating. However, following a directive from Smotrich, the National Planning and Building Council approved a new route for the train, the Transportation Ministry said. It did not specify the details of the altered route. The plan involves extending the high-speed Jerusalem-Tel Aviv train line to the Old City. The plan would involve constructing two underground stations and excavating over two miles (three kilometers) of tunnel beneath downtown Jerusalem and under the politically and historically sensitive Old City — a project likely to raise fierce opposition by archaeologists, religious authorities and Palestinians. The Western Wall is the holiest site where Jews are allowed to pray. Smotrich praised the development as "historic," adding in a statement that the new train line "is huge news for Israeli residents and the millions of tourists who come to Jerusalem." "We are also succeeding in promoting the Zionist and Jewish agenda," he said. The plan was first introduced by former transportation minister Katz in 2017, who said the Old City train station would be named after US President Donald Trump, who had recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital a month earlier. Transportation Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadia said at the time that the project was estimated to cost more than \$700 million and, if approved, would take four years to complete. ([TOI](#) 17 February 2020)