



Israeli Violations' Activities in the occupied State of Palestine

26 April 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) detained both Ali Fatafta and Kayed Fatafta, after they broke into and vandalized their homes in the Tarqoumia village, south of Hebron. (IMEMC 26 April 2020)
- In the internationally-recognized occupied East Jerusalem, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained three Palestinian youth and then transferred them to an interrogation facility. Israeli police in East Jerusalem, detained youth Mohammad Halaby, after they broke into and vandalized his home in the old city of east Jerusalem. Halaby was taken to an Israeli interrogation center nearby. (IMEMC 26 April 2020)
- An Israeli special force dressed up as civilian and traveling in a vegetable transport vehicle kidnapped a Palestinian citizen near the Airport area in Qalandiya camp, north of occupied Jerusalem, after raiding his apartment in a residential building in the area and ransacking contents. (WAFA 26 April 2020)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Israeli settlers cut down more than 30 olive trees in As-Sawiya town, south of the northern occupied West Bank city of Nablus belonging to Hamad Saleh Jazi, a local Palestinian farmer. The settlers came from the Israeli settlement of Rechelim, built on Palestinian lands and deemed illegal under international law. (IMEMC 26 April 2020)
- At least 15 Israeli settlers attacked 'Abed al-Qader 'Abdullah al-Kouk's agricultural land in Termas'iyia village, northeast of Ramallah, cutting about 22 olive trees. (IMEMC 20 April 2020)
- Israeli settlers invaded Ahmed 'Abdullah Barham's land in Kufur Qaddoum village, north of Qalqilia, damaging 35 olive trees, uprooting 19 and broke the twigs of at least 16 trees. (IMEMC 20 April 2020)

- Israeli settlers attacked Jameel 'Abdullah Na'san's agricultural land, under the protection of the Israeli military in al-Moghair village, northeast of Ramallah and cut 30 olive trees,. (IMEMC 21 April 2020)
- Israeli settlers set up a tent in the lands of Al-Jabaa village, southwest of Bethlehem, in the "Wadi al-Khanazeer" area. (IMEMC 26 April 2020)

Other

- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that he was "condent" US President Donald Trump would let him fulll his election promise to apply Israeli sovereignty over parts of the West Bank "a couple of months from now." "For decades I have been ghting those who sought to deny the millennia-long connection of the Jewish people to our homeland," Netanyahu said in a recorded speech broadcast at an event marking the 100th anniversary of the San Remo conference. "I'm proud to say that the decades-long struggle has borne fruit." "Three months ago, the Trump peace plan recognized Israel's rights in all of Judea and Samaria," he said, referring to the West Bank by its biblical name. "And President Trump pledged to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Jewish communities there and in the Jordan Valley. "A couple of months from now, I'm condent that that pledge will be honored. That we will be able to celebrate another historic moment in the history of Zionism. A century after San Remo, the promise of Zionism is being realized," Netanyahu concluded at the end of the conference, organized by the European Coalition for Israel. The San Remo conference in April 1920 conrmed decisions taken at the Paris Peace Conference by a council of European countries following World War I, including conrming the British Mandate in Palestine and the adoption of the 1917 Balfour Declaration allocating the land for a future Jewish state. The Trump peace plan unveiled earlier this year — which angered the Palestinians and was rejected by much of the international community — gave Israel the green light to annex settlements and the strategic Jordan Valley area. According to the wording of the "emergency government" deal between the Likud and Blue and White parties, starting July 1, 2020, Netanyahu "will be able to bring the agreement reached with the US on the application of sovereignty [in the West Bank] for the approval of the cabinet and or the Knesset." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu plants a tree during an event for the Jewish holiday of Tu Bishvat, in the West Bank settlement of Mevo'ot Yeriho, in the Jordan

Valley, February 10, 2020. (Flash90) In addition, “the law will be passed as quickly as possible... and will not be disrupted or delayed by the chairmen of either the House or the Foreign Affairs and Defense committees.” The Netanyahu-Gantz deal stipulates that any Israeli action would need US backing, and must take into account Israel’s peace treaties with neighboring Jordan and Egypt, the only two Arab states that have formal peace treaties and diplomatic relations with Israel. The prospect of annexation has recently drawn international condemnation. Channel 13 reported Saturday that Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi had reportedly approached counterparts in a number of countries including Russia, Germany, Egypt, Japan, Sweden and Norway. Jordan was said to have warned that a possible annexation would have a “devastating effect,” marking the end of a two-state solution and having potentially explosive consequences for the Middle East. According to the report, the overtures made by Safadi were in coordination with the Palestinians, who have launched a campaign against annexation. In addition, the Arab League is due to hold an emergency meeting on the matter, Channel 13 reported. Senior officials in the European Union and United Nations on Thursday warned Israel against the intention to annex parts of the West Bank, with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell saying that such a move “would constitute a serious violation of international law.” German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (L) meets with his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi on June 09, 2019, in Amman. (Khalil MAZRAAWI / AFP) European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell during a press conference in Belgrade, Serbia, January 31, 2020. (Darko Vojinovic/AP) Borrell said the 27-member bloc does not recognize Israeli sovereignty over the territory and that it will “continue to closely monitor the situation and its broader implications, and will act accordingly.” The Foreign Ministry slammed Borrell over his statement. “It’s unfortunate that Josep Borrell, who pretends to be responsible for the foreign relations of the European Union, chooses in this manner to welcome a new government of a central partner to the EU and prefers to see relations between Israel and the EU through the prism of the pandemic and the ‘status of the territories,’” the ministry said in a statement. Meanwhile, in a video briefing with the Security Council, which holds a meeting each month on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the UN Middle East peace envoy, Nikolay Mladenov, said an Israeli annexation would deal a “devastating blow” to the internationally backed two-state solution, and “close the door to a renewal of negotiations and threaten efforts to advance regional peace.”

Netanyahu's right-wing base is eager to move forward with annexation while the friendly Trump administration is in office. Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan during the 1967 Six Day War. The Palestinians seek those territories as part of a future independent state. Annexation of West Bank settlements would infuriate the Palestinians and Israel's Arab neighbors. ([TOI](#) 26 April 2020)

- The Israeli Magistrate Court in the internationally-recognized occupied East Jerusalem, issued a verdict, allowing the Israeli government to seize a sum of 450 million Israeli shekels (Around 110 Million US Dollars) in tax revenue. The Israeli Central Court's decision to reserve 450 million shekels (about \$129) is due to the Palestinian government is nothing but an act of "piracy and theft". The court claimed that the confiscated money was in exchange for compensation for the families of Israeli victims of operations that targeted Israeli interests. The Israeli government is already withholding millions of dollars due to the Palestinian Authority under the pretext the latter makes monthly payments to the families of the Palestinian prisoners and those killed by Israel. (Wafa 26 April 2020)
- Benny Gantz's vision for Israel is better defined by what it opposed, rather than what it stood for. Even more precisely, *who* it stood against: Israel's longest-standing incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu. The dismay was therefore palpable among his voters when Gantz decided to abandon the only mainstay of his political messaging and join a unity government headed by his unrelenting foil: A Prime Minister facing three criminal charges who has overseen the most rightward and anti-democratic shifts in Israel's short history.
- To anybody following Gantz's election campaigns, however, it should hardly come as a surprise that annexation of large portions of the West Bank was a key pillar of this agreement. In the build-up to the September 2019 election, when Netanyahu announced that he would annex the Jordan Valley, the former Chief of Staff complained that the premier has stolen his idea. In the next election cycle, he went a step further, incorporating the vow into his own programme, and endorsing Trump's 'Deal of the Century', which denatures and dismembers the West Bank beyond any feasibility for Palestinian statehood.
- This week's coalition agreement pledged to begin the process of annexation of significant portions of the West Bank by 1 July. This would

bring most of Area C, comprising 60% of the West Bank, 400,000 Jewish settlers and the strategic and arable Jordan Valley, under official Israeli sovereignty.

- Although this is subject to US approval, this is not likely to stand in the way. With Trump's economic-focussed campaign under threat from the Covid-19 and oil prices plummeting, foreign policy might have to take on more prominence in his re-election bid. While pressure from his international allies might stand in the way, Israel's proposed unilateral steps represent nothing other than the fulfilment of the Trump administration's plan.
- The only potential positive about annexation is that it would no longer allow people to live under the promises and pretences of the two-state solution. Israel is no longer pretending, and neither should our community.
- In the last three elections, the two-state solution was scarcely mentioned at all. Even the ailing Labor Party – the party of Yitzchak Rabin – have signed up to annexation, emphatically putting to rest any rose-tinted invocations of the Oslo accords. In the current Knesset, just 19 out of 120 MKs oppose annexation, and just 5 of them are Jewish.
- Regardless of the area's legal status, Israel has enjoyed de facto sovereignty over this increasingly fragmented and Judaized territory for a long time. At this stage, a change to the de jure status of this territory would involve little more than signing some documents. The two-state solution has been slowly bulldozed and excavated out of viability, as Israel's settlement enterprise has become irreversibly entrenched.
- Organisations advocating for the two-state solution in the USA, including J Street and the New Israel Fund, are said to be already reconsidering their positions and approaches.
- The British Jewish community must follow suit: we must place our commitment to principles of democracy, international law, and human rights over unconditional support for Israel's agenda in the West Bank. However, the early signs are not promising. The Board of Deputies and The Jewish Leadership Council claimed that the 'Deal of the Century' was a workable basis, and they are yet to release a response to this new government. The Jewish Labour Movement expressed serious concern about recent developments, but reiterated their commitment to the very same two-state solution which annexation jeopardises.
- Our own community's loud and long-standing commitment to the two-state solution therefore needs to be rethought. Against the backdrop of

this changing reality, our support is serving as a fig leaf for a status quo of occupation, dispossession, and daily human rights violations. The two-state solution, in the most optimistic reading, has been comatose for a long time, at least in its Westphalian form. Annexation would represent a final and decisive nail in its dilapidated coffin. The question, therefore, should no longer be whether this ideal is dead, but where we go from here. ([TOI 27](#))

- As the election season finally drew to a close, Benny Gantz fired the opening volley this week for the campaign against annexation, after it turned out that the coalition agreement offers the government the option to introduce legislation to annex occupied territory as soon as July. Many verbal flourishes sought to conceal the annexation clause, such as that “the prime minister and the alternate prime minister will take steps together to advance peace agreements with all our neighbors,” and that “with regard to President Trump’s declaration” there will be a joint “effort” to “preserve peace agreements and an effort to achieve future peace agreements.” But beyond the meaningless appearance of the word peace, paragraph 29 is clear: Starting from July the prime minister may initiate debates about the “agreement achieved with the United States on the issue of applying sovereignty.” In addition, it says, Kahol Lavan is barred from delaying any committee’s handling of the proposal. The paragraph leaves both sides much room for rejecting [annexation](#) down the line. For example, any legislation proposed on the subject has to be approved by Netanyahu; any MK can’t just initiate a proposal. When or if annexation will take place is entirely in Netanyahu’s hands. But in principle, the government has certainly not ruled out the possibility altogether. From a diplomatic standpoint, the [agreement signed between Kahol Lavan](#) and what is left of the Labor party is even stranger. The diplomatic principles of the agreement are: 1. returning the remains of fallen soldiers and the civilians held in Gaza “as a precondition for any agreement or project concerning the Gaza Strip,” 2. Determining “a new agenda with Hamas” and restoring of “Israeli deterrence against terrorist organizations,” 3. “The parties will act together to preserve the peace treaties.” Future cabinet minister Itzik Shmuli said that preserving these agreements will in effect prevent annexation, since any such step in the Jordan Valley will violate the treaty with Jordan. This excuse comes off as weak given the rest of the agreement, which includes details like legislation guaranteeing an official commemoration for labor Zionist pioneer Berl Katznelson – an appropriately symbolic gesture, given that Katznelson did support a

“population transfers,” no different from the deportation of Palestinians. The international community has been quietly following these processes over the past few months, ever since [U.S. President Donald Trump’s peace plan](#), the so-called “deal of the century,” was unveiled. With the plan’s presentation came a fair bit of confusion. It included the option of annexing all the settlements and additional land in their environs, but the U.S. president presented this as an option that would require Israel to negotiate in parallel with the Palestinians and reserve the remaining territory for their independent state. Jared Kushner, the president’s son-in-law who headed the team behind the plan, poured cold water on the settlers’ enthusiasm for annexation in interviews aimed at calming the Arab world. Netanyahu was dealt a blow by the White House after rushing to boast about getting immediate approval for annexation, to which Washington put a stop. In compensation and under pressure from U.S. Ambassador David Friedman, Netanyahu got a consolation prize in the establishment of a joint Israeli-U.S. committee that would start to draw up maps for future annexation plans. The committee was established, and even met a handful of times. It’s not clear how much progress it’s made, but leaks about its work have been reported to settler-aligned media as a sign that the issue hasn’t been forgotten. The international community’s responses have been sectioned into two parts: first an expression of support in principle to renewing the diplomatic process, and then a focused condemnation of annexation. Since then, they have largely been waiting for developments, and Gantz was the first to supply one. With the release of the coalition deal ahead of the UN’s permanent discussion of Israel and the Palestinians, a flood of strong condemnations has been published since Thursday. Incoming European Union Foreign Minister Josep Borrell, the U.K., Germany, France, Ireland and other European nations [published a clear position against unilateral annexation](#) of the West Bank. Some of them, such as France, even hinted that if Israel were to do so, it would result in significant diplomatic consequences. “Such a step won’t pass silently,” France’s ambassador to the UN said. Some countries are now considering which steps to take if and when Israel goes through with annexation. These condemnations, as usual, didn’t garner a lot of attention. The fact the United States is discussing annexation with Israel is the interesting news, the man who bites the dog; the position of the rest of the world is less fascinating. Perhaps because the coronavirus has dominated the conversation, perhaps because a wounded Europe that hasn’t succeeded in achieving any foreign policy consensus

has become less relevant to Israelis, and perhaps because diplomatic warnings such as “we strongly condemn” have been exhausted. On a related note, it’s important to keep in mind that the fact that the village of Khan el Ahmar hasn’t been evacuated isn’t only a matter of Netanyahu’s whims, as some on the right mistakenly believe. The village is proof that the world can definitely apply effective pressure on Israel, when it wants to. Organizations have begun ramping up their work against annexation within Israel as well. These groups can be divided into two camps: those who believe annexation has already happened on the ground and that official legislation will only provide it with a dangerous de jure confirmation, and those who believe that annexation is a watershed event that marks the final destruction of the two state solution. Both camps are trapped. If an annexation law passes, what would the struggle be about the day after – equal rights for Palestinians living in a one-state Israel? This past week, Gantz himself sent out messages saying that he understands that the United States will not allow annexation to happen. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo [added his own comments to the mix](#), saying that annexation would be “Israel’s decision.” It’s clear to all that the United States won’t force annexation, and anyone who saw Trump recommending injecting disinfectants as a treatment for the coronavirus this week has to be skeptical about whether he has any consistent position on any issue. The key to annexation was and remains in Netanyahu’s hands. It remains to figure out whether he will let it slip by as he has done for years, now that Gantz is serving as the excuse, or if this time, it’s not a drill. ([Haaretz](#) 26 April 2020)

- Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Leon is to seek on Thursday the city council’s approval for the appointment of right-wing activist Arieh King as his deputy. A representative on the city council on behalf of left-wing party Meretz is considering leaving the coalition if the appointment goes through. King is best known for settling Jews in [East Jerusalem](#) and evicting Palestinian families from the city’s Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. He has dealt extensively with attempts to find heirs to Jewish property in Palestinian neighborhoods in the city and bringing in investors to fund settlements. Last week, the municipality’s Planning and Building Committee approved a plan submitted by King to build 140 housing units for Jews in the northern East Jerusalem neighborhood of Beit Hanina. King has been accused of racism in the past by his detractors. For example, in the election campaign he produced signs comparing the Muslim call to prayer by the muezzin in the city’s mosques to a rooster

crow and he pledged to see to it that the volume would be lowered. On Passover two years ago, he praised the confiscation of bread from a stand in the Old City, calling it a step in “the Judaization of Jerusalem.” “Arieh is a robust man of action and I have no doubt he will continue to contribute much to all residents of Jerusalem in his role as deputy mayor. I thank him for consenting to serve without pay at this time,” adding that by doing so King was “setting a praiseworthy personal example.” If approved, King will be Leon’s eighth deputy. According to the coalition agreement, King’s appointment to the role was scheduled to happen in a year or so, in the middle of Leon’s term. However, Leon decided to move it up after he lost hope that the secular Hitorerut party would join the coalition. The city councilwoman representing Meretz, Laura Wharton is now considering leaving the coalition if the council approves King’s appointment. Meretz’s Jerusalem branch leadership is set to meet Thursday to discuss leaving the coalition in response to the appointment. “Meretz Jerusalem takes a dim view of the appointment of this racist right-winger as deputy mayor at a time when the city is in crisis. We will consider what steps to take for the good of all of the city’s residents,” the party said in a statement. “I’m very surprised that Laura Wharton is threatening to leave,” King said in response. “After all, she knows full well that she will have no better partner than I in improving the infrastructure in East Jerusalem, and in listening to the needs of its residents. I hope the Meretz branch [whose members] I consider staunch political opponents will step up and see the advantages in my becoming deputy mayor, by which East Jerusalem will undoubtedly receive more attention from the municipality. That is in addition to the various environmental issues that are so close to my heart and the heart of City Councilwoman Wharton,” King said. Ofer Berkovitch, chairman of Hitorerut, said in response: ‘With the appointment of Arieh King as a deputy, Leon turns his back on most of the public in Jerusalem. His coalition is purely ultra-Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox nationalist. We have asked Leon more than once to create cooperation, both at the beginning of the term and in the coronavirus crisis, out of a sense of responsibility to those we represent. Leon has proven time and time again that political considerations come before the good, the unity and the resilience of Jerusalem.’ Berkovitch said the appointment of political allies, as well as a lack of transparency in funding, and “the sidelining of Hitorerut, the largest party on the city council, in the opposition,” were examples of Leon’s considerations. ([Haaretz](#) 26 April 2020)