



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

27 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.*



This DAILY REPORT is prepared as part of the project entitled ASSESSING THE IMPEDIMENTS BEFORE THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION which is financially supported by the EU. However, the content of this presentation is the sole responsibility of ARIJ & LRC and does not necessarily reflect those of the donors.

## Violations of the Israeli occupation Army

- Six Palestinians were injured during clashes with Israeli occupation Army (IOA) near Fawwar refugee camp in the south of the West Bank. six Palestinians suffered from teargas inhalation. The IOA harassed Palestinian volunteers manning a checkpoint set up near the camp to monitor for coronavirus cases and to prevent the spread of the pandemic in their areas. The IOA attempted to force the volunteers to leave the area when clashes broke out between the two sides during which the IOA fired teargas and shot rubber bullets at the Palestinians causing the injuries. (WAFSA 27 April)
- In the Jerusalem district, Israeli occupation Army (IOA) in a *civilian vehicle*, stormed an apartment building in Qalandia, where they assaulted a Palestinian youth prior to abducting him. (Days of Palestine 27 April 2020)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained a Palestinian young man from the southern occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem. The IOA broke into and vandalized the home of Laith Youman, 19, before they detained him. On Alsaf Street, noted that the Israeli troops stormed the street, before they invaded the Youman family home. Currently, Israel holds around 5,000 Palestinian prisoners, inside more than 20 Israeli detention centers and facilities in Israel and the West Bank. The detainees include the elderly, patients with chronic disease, women and children under the age of 18. (IMEMC 27 April 2020)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained a Palestinian lawyer at a checkpoint near Beit El settlement in the West Bank district of Ramallah. The IOA stationed at a military checkpoint north of al-Bireh City stopped lawyer Amr al-Sal'ous and forced him out of his car. The IOA seized the car, handcuffed the Palestinian lawyer and transferred him to an undeclared destination. (PALINFO 27 April 2020)
- Israeli intelligence services threatened the Preacher of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Sheikh Ekrima Sabri, after raiding his house in occupied East Jerusalem. The threat came after Sheikh Sabri said that he will reopen Al-Aqsa Mosque's doors if occupation forces allowed Jewish settlers to storm

the Muslim site. Israeli intelligence forces came to his house and threatened his saying that they will hold him responsible for any tension in Al-Aqsa Mosque. (Palestine Chronicle 27 April 2020)

### **Israeli Settler Violence**

- Israeli settlers, near the northern West Bank city of Nablus, uprooted at least 40 Palestinian-owned olive trees. The settlers invaded the Sawya village, south of Nablus city and began uprooting 40 old olive trees, owned by local Palestinian farmer, Mohammad Yousef. (IMEMC 27 April 2020)
- A group of Israeli settlers, invaded As-Sawiya town, south of Nablus and chopped off 33 olive trees belonging to local farmer, Hamad Saleh Jazi. (IMEMC 27 April 2020)

### **Home Demolition & Demolition threats**

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed demolition and stop construction orders against 22 homes and agricultural structures in the northern and eastern parts of the village of Qarawat Bani Hassan near Salfit in the north of the West Bank under the pretext of unlicensing. The targeted areas are locally known as Ar Ra's , Qattan At Taweel, Khallet Al Qarn and Al Habayer. ([IMEMC](#), WAFA 27 April 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) ordered to remove an agricultural facility in Tayaseer village east of Tubas city, owned by Murad Jaber under the pretext of unlicensing. (WAFA 27 April 2020)

### **Israeli Military Orders**

- The American Road was planned and underwent its first steps of implementation in the mid-1960s by an American company that was hired by the Jordanian government—that's where it gets its name. The objective of the road was to connect the villages southeast of Jerusalem on the outskirts of Wadi an-Nar (Nachal Kadron), providing an alternate traffic route to Hebron Road, which was on the Israeli side of the border. At the outbreak of the 1967 War, construction of the American Road was halted: the southern section of the highway was already ready to be paved—and

was indeed later paved by the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality—while the northern section was only in the earliest stages of work. To this day, it remains unfinished. As part of Plan 2683A for the neighborhood [As-Swahra](#), which was drafted in the mid-1990s (and published in 1996), the American Road received for the first time regularized legal status as a scenic route, planned to be 30-meters wide. The vast majority of the area on either side of the highway remained zoned for open space, with the exception of a residential area to the east of Konber and a number of residential areas west of the road with rural building rights. Starting in the mid-2000s, prior to the approval of the Jerusalem Outline Plan 2000, it became known that the road was set to transform into an urban road. In spite of this, residents that requested to move forward with private plans along the highway were continuously rejected on the grounds that the official new policy had not yet been set. In June 2019, a detailed outline plan for a plan called the “Urban Development Along the American Road” (number 101-0379594) was published detailing the new policy, which had laid out generally several years prior in the As-Swahra Master Plan. This change—from a rural road to an urban road—is significant. The new policy permits massive construction of buildings up to eight stories high on either side of the road, for the combined use of commercial, business, hotels, and residential buildings. That being said, the building plan in its current form is extremely problematic. While there is an urgent need for residential building and minimal demand for office spaces, the plan proposes building 65% business centers, 25% commercial space, and only 20% residential space, reserved exclusively for the highest floors. In addition, there is a concern that, short of entirely re-thinking the proposed implementation stages of this plan, almost no part of this plan could be realized in practice. The plan is effectively a raze-and-rebuild plan, without including the required incentives and/or alternative options in coordination with the reality on the ground. These problems and more, including recommendations for improvement, can be read in further depth in the [objection](#) presented by Bimkom in partnership with concerned residents (in Hebrew, September 2019). [Map](#) (bimpkom 27 April 2020)

## Other

- The Jerusalem District Court has ordered the Palestinian Authority to pay nearly \$150 million in damages to the families of people killed in terror attacks. The decision comes following a lawsuit brought by Shurat Hadin, an Israeli legal advocacy group, on behalf of relatives of victims from a number of attacks, mostly carried out during the Second Palestinian Intifada, or uprising, in the early 2000s. A previous court ruling from last year found the Palestinian Authority and Palestine Liberation Organization to be liable for those attacks, along with other actors. In its decision Friday, the Jerusalem court ruled that the funds would come from tax money that Israel collects on behalf of the Palestinians. Shurat Hadin had asked that more than \$2 billion be paid in compensation. The court gave Israel until next month to appeal the decision if it wants the order annulled. Israel might consider appealing if it fears the freezing of the funds could destabilize the cash-strapped Palestinian government. “We continue to fight even 20 years later and we will not rest until we achieve justice for terror victims,” said Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, the head of Shurat Hadin. Hussein al-Sheikh, the Palestinian official who coordinates the Palestinian Authority’s communication with Israel, called the decision “piracy and theft of Palestinian money.” In July 2019, [Jerusalem District Court Judge Moshe Drori ruled](#) that the PA and PLO were not state bodies that could claim immunity from damages claims. He also cited the PLO’s longtime policy of paying stipends to imprisoned terrorists and the families of Palestinians killed while carrying out attacks, and said both the PA and PLO had played a role in inciting the Palestinian public into attacking Israelis. The bodies carry responsibility for “financial and practical support” as well as ideological encouragement for the attacks, he wrote. The ruling covered attacks carried by groups allied with the PA and PLO, as well as by rivals Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Drori claimed that the PA and PLO officials lionized the killers of Israeli civilians in official publications, in public rallies, and by naming streets and city squares after them. The Second Intifada, or “uprising,” was a four-year wave of Palestinian violence in 2000-2004 that included over 130 suicide bombings targeting Israeli city centers and civilian life. Under interim peace deals, Israel collects customs duties and other taxes on behalf of the Western-backed Palestinian Authority, and transfers the funds to the Palestinians each month. These transfers cover a sizable chunk of the Palestinian government’s budget. Israel has in the past frozen the transfers to penalize the Palestinians for certain policies or actions. The court ruling comes as relations between Israel and the

Palestinians are at a low, with a new Israeli government expected to work toward annexing parts of the West Bank, which the Palestinians want for their future state. ([TOI](#) 27 April 2020)

- Israel is marking its 72<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day amid a global disaster that is no fault of its own. To complete the picture, the country is also courting another calamity, which unlike the corona crisis will be entirely of its making. Benjamin Netanyahu's imminent scheme to annex West Bank areas is a gamble that offers little and risks much, which Benny Gantz has agreed to through seemingly gritted teeth. According to the unity government agreement reached last week, the sides must agree on any legislation brought to and proposed by the government – with the exception of the annexation bill. On that issue, the agreement says that “the Prime Minister will be able to bring the agreement to be reached with the United States on the application of sovereignty as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 for cabinet and government debate and for approval by the government and/or the Knesset.” It's amusing: Israel will seek permission from the Trump Administration on unilaterally annexing land which is under dispute with the *Palestinians*. Secretary of state [Mike Pompeo](#) said last week that this hot potato rests solely with Israel. That sounds like a green light – but it could flip after another second's thought, changing interest, or impulsive tweet. The White House might bury this in committees and bureaucracy – and it might not. One can hope. It is also possible that the Sunni Arab countries will make clear to Israel that this will not fly; also the US Democrats, who if ahead in the polls by summer might carry some clout. Meanwhile, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud [Abbas has been agitating](#) against the prospect in calls to Arab leaders. But the government doesn't fear him. The dominant view is that he has no recourse and the Palestinians feel defeated – which isn't totally wrong. So what's the problem? The problem is that Israel depends on the Palestinians continuing security collaboration with the IDF and on Islamic radicals to continue holding fire and being held at bay by the Palestinian Authority. To assume the current calm exists simply as a result of the security barrier and Shin Bet's brilliance, and that it will continue forever despite provocations, is foolish. It suggests one has forgotten the nightmare of 2000-2005, with cafes and buses and supermarkets blowing up. Perhaps somebody thinks the Palestinians were taught a lesson in that Second Intifada; after all, their casualties were four times higher and they came out of it in no better shape. That is, oddly, to give them both too little



and too much credit. The Palestinians had no rational interest to launch that uprising just because Ehud Barak's offer at Camp David was inadequate in their view, or because Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount. Their economic situation had never been better and they stood to lose everything and bring the hated Sharon to power. Yet there was no serious opposition to the intifada. Polls consistently showed support for suicide bombings was high, and to make things clear Palestinian voters handed victory to Hamas, the global face of suicide bombings, in the 2006 election – their last. It is not just that the Palestinians are radicalized and have shown a tendency to be dragged into a brick wall by the most radical among them. It is also that they have a very strong case, which many Israelis refuse to see. There is almost no way to defend 53 years of Israel's ruling millions of members of another people while refusing to give them the right to vote for the ultimate authority that governs them. That authority is Israel, not the PA; it is comical to see Israeli rightists attempts to use the PA, whose establishment they opposed with a ferocity that led to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, as a fig leaf that makes everything OK. Annexations would part with decades of policy against unilateral moves of this nature that recognized that this is a tinderbox and respected the idea that negotiations must determine borders. Such a move could absolutely blow up in Israel's face. This is why the security establishment opposes it. This is why almost all retired security leaders oppose Netanyahu. Is the move illegal? That's debatable. Leftist purists will cite the Geneva Conventions and International Humanitarian Law that forbid annexations of occupied land while denying original occupants' rights – but one could argue that this applies only when the land was taken from another state that claims it and Palestine itself is not yet a state. Or is it? This is an argument that cannot be resolved and that no one wants to have. Whatever Israel will say, annexation would exacerbate tensions with much of the world – and also with the United States should Trump lose in November. If it includes the Jordan Valley it will seriously endangers the 1994 peace treaty with Jordan, which provides Israel strategic depth to the east and is critical to its security. I don't deny the strategic value of the West Bank – but the danger of a binational and undemocratic state is greater. And negotiations to partition the country will be greatly and gratuitously complicated by these moves. Does annexation – or in laundered parlance, "extending Israeli law" – give Israel anything concrete? Not really. Israeli law is applied in the settlements through various trickery anyway. This is most obvious (yet still somehow not

understood) in the fact that settlers can vote even though Israel has no absentee balloting. And annexation can be reversed, though with difficulty. Netanyahu's interest is perhaps to leave some sort of legacy that will impress the right-wing base. He may need them for yet another election. But why would Gantz risk it? His people argue that the project enjoyed a majority anyway, despite the anti-Netanyahu camp having 61 out of 120 in the Knesset. The reason for this is that Gantz's Blue and White contains several right-wingers who oppose Netanyahu because of his corruption scandals but still support adventurism in the occupied territories. They blocked Gantz from making his own Likud-free coalition, and they will support annexations. So will Avigdor Liberman, whose 7 Knesset members are otherwise part of the Gantz bloc now because they hate religious coercion that results from Netanyahu's alliance with the Haredim. So the excuse is based on solid foundation. The lunatic move indeed enjoys a Knesset majority. And the Israeli public will probably support it too, unless the explosion comes faster than I foresee. Count on Netanyahu to argue eloquently that the annexed areas "would be part of Israel in any negotiated solution anyway." So they'll start with places like Gush Etzion and Maaleh Adumim, close to the pre-1967 border. Will the Palestinians be given reciprocal full sovereignty in areas that "anyway" would be Palestine, like Ramallah, without a deal? I do not think so. The Gantz crowd hopes that at least in joining with Netanyahu, Blue and White can make the process be more responsible somehow. Maybe. But Netanyahu had a weak hand and is facing a bribery trial to start in weeks. You don't get the sense that Gantz fought like hell against the annexation exception. One wishes he made better and more ruthless use of the cards at his disposal. You would think responsible leaders would not seek to provoke a crisis for little benefit. But Israel is led by a prime minister who, like others in his right-wing populist cohort around the world, thrives on crisis. One crisis, corona, helped him cling somehow to power after losing the election. Another crisis, sparked by the annexation, could be very useful too, in an election he can trigger anytime. Imagine what use he could make of Palestinians terrorism. Sometimes politics is the art of the possible. Sometimes it is an exact science. ([TOI](#) 27 April 2020)