

ASSESSING THE IMPEDIMENTS BEFORE THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION

**"Israeli settlement Activities in the occupied
State of Palestine during the Month of March
2020"**

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Brutality of the Israeli Occupation Army

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked activists planting olive trees in an area to the east of Tubas, in the northern Jordan Valley. The IOA attacked and dispersed activists participating in the tree planting event, which was called for by the anti-settlement and apartheid wall committee and national factions. No injuries or arrests were reported. (WAFA 1 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and settlers stormed the house of a Palestinian family in Hebron, after settlers accused the family of 'opening fire' at them. Palestinian Abu Shamsiyeh family attempted to fight off the intrusion. (IMEMC 2 March 2020)
- Several Palestinians were injured, when Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at them as they peacefully defended a mountain in Beita town, south of Nablus, against a settler takeover. Palestinians gathered on the Jabal al-Arma mountain to protect their land, located in the northern occupied West Bank, from Israeli colonial theft. The IOA shot live-fire, rubber-coated metal bullets and tear-gas canisters in a show of excessive use of force. Two people were injured from live bullets, ten were injured from rubber-coated metal bullets, including a fracture as well as fifty protestors who suffocated on tear-gas. Mohammad Sayeh, a reporter, was shot by Israeli forces, whose condition was not known at the time of reporting. (IMEMC 2 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided several houses of freed prisoners in the town of Zawiya, west of Salfit, and seized funds from them, including: the house of the freed prisoners Raafat Rashid Abdullah Muqadi, Alian Rashid Abdullah Muqadi and Ahmad Hamdan Ali Musleh. The IOA seized around 50,000 shekels (\$14,500). (IMEMC, WAFA 4 March 2020)
- Israeli navy opened gunfire towards Palestinian fishermen who were sailing off the Gaza shore to the west of the town of Beit Lahia, north of the enclave. No injuries were reported, however. Despite the signed agreements between the Palestinians and Israel, which allow fishermen to go 12 nautical miles inside the Mediterranean Sea, the Israeli navy targets fishermen almost daily and does not allow them to go further than three nautical miles, which the fishermen say is not enough to catch fish. A large number of Gazans rely on fishing for daily living in

light of the tight decade-old blockade imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip. (WAFA 4 March 2020)

- Two young men were wounded by rubber-coated metal bullets, while dozens more suffered the effects of tear gas inhalation, when Israeli occupation Army (IOA) invaded Kufur Qaddoum village and began assaulting non-violent demonstrators. The IOA suppressed the march by using gas bombs and rubber-coated metal bullets, which led to the injury of a young man with a metal bullet in the face, and another in his hand while dozens more were treated for the effects of tear gas inhalation. The march began after Friday prayers with the participation of hundreds of townspeople, who chanted national slogans calling for an escalation of popular resistance and rejecting the so-called “deal of the century”. (IMEMC 6 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the village of Al-Arqah, west of Jenin, and abducted three young men near the Annexation Wall. They also fired tear gas in the village, causing numerous cases of inhalation. The IOA detained the youths: Yazan Rasim Yahya, Qutaiba Musa Waked, and the freed prisoner Basil Nizar Waked, while they were near the Annexation wall constructed by Israel on the village lands. Clashes erupted with the IOA when they invaded the village near the wall of annexation, during which the soldiers fired tear gas canisters, causing numerous cases of tear gas inhalation. (IMEMC 6 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided student dormitories at Birzeit University in Ramallah, in the central West Bank, and detained five students. Israeli troops kidnapped five students at Birzeit University in Ramallah. The Israeli military raided a number of student dormitories in Ramallah, searched them and detained five students. The detainees have been identified as Ahmad Farah, Mohammad Naser, Osaid Qaddumi, Barakat Raed and Rayyan Kharboush. Israeli authorities gave no reason for the abductions of the students. (IMEMC 7 March 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffocated by tear gas used against them by Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) during clashes that broke out in al-Issawiyyeh area in occupied Jerusalem. The IOA stormed several neighborhoods in Issawiyyeh and assaulted residents, leading to clashes. Forces heavily fired stun grenades and tear gas canisters directly toward residents and their homes, causing dozens to suffocate due to tear gas inhalation.(WAFA 7 March 2020)

- Israeli navy attacked Palestinian fishermen's boats off the northern Gaza coast. The navy opened fire and water hoses at the boats that were sailing only three nautical miles off the coast and forced them to return to shore. One boat was damaged. Israel imposes a strict blockade on the Gaza Strip for the last 14 years, including occasionally not allowing fishing in Gaza waters, a main source of livelihood for the two million population of the beleaguered coastal enclave. (WAFA 7 March 2020)
- A number of Palestinian youth suffocated by tear gas fired by Israeli occupation army (IOA) during clashes that broke out in the town of Taqou' to the south east of the Southern occupied West Bank district of Bethlehem. Clashes erupted at the western entrance to the town of Taqou' between Palestinian youth and the IOA, during which the latter fired tear gas canisters and stun grenades toward youth. Several youth were reportedly treated at the scene from tear gas suffocation. (WAFA 8 March 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffocated during clashes with Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in the town of Qabatia to the south of Jenin, the northern West Bank. Clashes erupted during an Israeli military incursion into the town of Qabatia. The IOA fired a barrage of tear gas canisters and stun grenades toward residents, causing dozens to suffocate due to tear gas inhalation. (WAFA 8 March 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffocated, on tear-gas fired at them by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) during confrontations that erupted in al-'Isawiya area of occupied Jerusalem. The IOA stormed several neighborhoods in al-'Isawiya and assaulted residents, firing concussion grenades, and tear-gas canisters at Palestinian residents and homes, causing dozens of cases of toxic tear-gas inhalation. (IMEMC 9 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) fired tear-gas canisters and concussion grenades at Palestinian youths in the town of Taqou', southeast of the southern occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem. Confrontations flared up between Palestinian youths and Israeli occupation Army at the western entrance to the town of Taqou', which resulted in many of the youths to suffer the toxic effects of tear-gas, all of whom were treated at the scene. (IMEMC 9 March 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffocated, due to tear-gas inhalation, in the town of Qabatia, south of Jenin, northern occupied West Bank. Clashes broke out during an Israeli military incursion into the town, during which the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired a barrage of tear-gas

canisters and stun grenades at residents, causing many cases of inhalation injury. (IMEMC 9 March 2020)

- More than 20 armed Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the land of Mohammad Mustafa Al-Hroub and uprooted more than 400 olive trees. Al-Hroub is a Palestinian farmer from the village of Wad Fukin, located southwest of Bethlehem. His land is located at the edge of the 1948 Armistice Line, and where the Israeli settlement of 'Tzue Hadasa' was constructed from another side of it. The JAI supported Al-Hroub with 400 olive trees, and also had two international groups to help him and his family plant them. The first planting day was through the Olive Planting Program in mid-February, and the second planting day was by Nord-Norge folkehøgskole students at the end of February. Each group planted 200 olive trees. Al-Hroub witnessed the uprooting and destruction of his olive trees, and he tried so hard to stop the attack by showing the IOA the official ownership papers of the land. The IOA did not stop uprooting the trees, and when they finished, they confiscated all the trees and declared the land as a 'State Land'. (IMEMC 10 March 2020)
- Flares lit up the sky over the eastern border area of Gaza City, as the Israeli occupation forces (IOA) intensively fired live rounds at agricultural plots of land. The IOA opened fire at cultivated lands east of Gaza City, for no apparent reason, in addition to firing flares that lit up the night sky over the area. A Palestinian observation point in the east of al-Maghazi refugee camp (central Gaza) also came under gunfire attack, with no reported casualties. (IMEMC 10 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) seized a large amount of money and gold during raids into homes of Palestinians southeast of the occupied West Bank city of Tubas. The IOA raided, searched and wreaked havoc to the house of Abdullah Daraghmeh and the house of his mother, searched both homes and seized money and gold worth over \$4,000. (WAFA 10 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) shot and injured 17 Palestinian civilians with live bullets and rubber-coated metal bullets, as well as firing tear gas at demonstrators who gathered at the Al-Arma Mountain south of Nablus, in the northern West Bank. The Head of the Committee Against the Israeli Wall and Settlements, Walid Assaf, was among those injured during the demonstration, which took place near the town of Beita, south of Nablus. Two Palestinians were hit with live bullets and both are in serious condition at Rafidia Hospital. In addition, four Palestinians wounded from rubber-coated steel bullets

were also taken to Rafidia. Three others were taken to Huwwara hospital with complications resulting from tear gas inhalation. Among those injured was a reporter for Palestine TV, Bakr Abdel-Haq. The medical teams dealt with 17 injuries during the demonstrations taking place in the area, including two with live bullets, both of which are serious injuries. The IOA prevented ambulances from reaching the area, and the soldiers assaulted the Palestine TV crew. Israeli settlers began storming the mountain last night and are still in the place, explaining that hundreds of Palestinian citizens are still stationed on the mountain to repel the invasion of Israeli settlers. A large number of military jeeps stormed the mountain at dawn, and the IOA attacked a peaceful sit-in there, by firing a barrage of live bullets, metal bullets, and sound and gas bombs towards them, which led to the casualties. Hundreds of citizens flocked last night to the top of Mount Al-Arma, which belongs to the villagers of Beita, and held a sit-in there, following an invasion of the mountain by Israeli settlers. (IMEMC 11 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured, two Palestinians near Deir Nitham village, northwest of the central West Bank city of Ramallah. The IOA ambushed Palestinians on a road where Molotov cocktails are frequently hurled at army jeeps and colonialist settlers' cars, and opened fire at several residents, seriously wounding two with live ammunition. (IMEMC 11 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) killed a Palestinian child and wounded 14 other civilians, including a journalist during its suppression of civilian gathering on al-'Arma Mountain, southeast Bita village, Nablus, Northern West Bank. Two of the wounded were deemed in critical condition. The IOA backed by at least 40 military vehicles and 2 construction vehicles moved into al-'Arma Mountain, and proceeded to suppress a civilian gathering (dozens) who had an overnight sit-in starting at 20:00. on Tuesday, 10 March 2020, as IOF provided protection for settlers. IOF fired live and rubber bullets, as well as tear gas canisters at the civilian gathering in order to disperse them. Clashes erupted until 07:00 Wednesday morning. As a result, IOF aggression resulted in the injury of 14 civilians. Mohammed Abdulkarim Khassab Hamayel (15) was shot with a live bullet in the head and deemed critical, until his death was announced at 12:00 today at the Intensive Care Unit at Rafidia Hospital in Nablus. Among those wounded was journalist Baker Mohammed Abdulhaq (30) who was shot with a rubber bullet in his left leg while covering the incident for Palestine TV; two others were deemed in an extremely critical

conditions, while dozens suffocated due to tear gas inhalation and were attended to in the field. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)

- At least two Palestinians, including a journalist, were injured by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) during the weekly protest against Israeli settlements, in the village of Kafr Qaddum in the northern West Bank . The IOA attacked the protesters by rubber-coated rounds and teargas, injuring two, including Ja'far Shtayyeh, a photojournalist affiliated with the Agence France-Presse. 17 others also suffocated from gas inhalation .(WAFA 13 March 2020)
- Two Palestinians, including a journalist, were shot by Israeli occupation Army (IOA), while 17 others suffocated, during the weekly protest, in the village of Kufur Qaddoum in the northern West Bank district of Qalqilia. The IOA fired rubber-coated rounds and teargas at the protesters. 2 people were shot with rubber-coated steel bullets, and 17 others suffered the toxic effects of tear-gas inhalation. Ja'far Shtayyeh, a journalist affiliated with the Agence France-Presse (AFP) was shot and injured by the IOA. (IMEMC 14 March 2020)
- A Palestinian young man suffered shrapnel wound in his back, when the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) fired towards a peaceful group, marching in Kufur Qaddoum town, east of Qalqilia. The IOA opened fire at the participants, injuring one Palestinian man in the back with shrapnel from live ammunition. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) closed most of the doors of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied Jerusalem, under the pretext of “precautionary measures against the Corona virus,” while allowing dozens of settlers to storm it. The IOA closed the gates of the sacred Mosque, to Palestinian worshipers, with the exception of three doors, which are Hatta, Majlis and Silsilah. Illegal Israeli settlers were then allowed to storm the compound from the Mughrabi Gate, under the protection of the Israeli police. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) installed a military roadblock at the entrance of Kharrouba neighborhood, in the northern West Bank city of Jenin, before detaining many Palestinians while inspecting their ID cards. The IOA stopped and searched dozens of cars and residents and were questioning many Palestinians. Although the IOA did not detain any Palestinian in this incident, they detained many of them for a few hours, before eventually allowing them to leave. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)

- The Israeli police arrested Sheikh *Najeh Bukairat*, deputy director of the Administration of Islamic Awqaf and Aqsa Mosque Affairs, from his home in Sur Baher neighborhood, in East Jerusalem. (IMEMC 16 March 2020)
- Israeli police summoned Sheikh Omar Kiswani, director of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, for questioning at the Russian Compound interrogation center in West Jerusalem. The police summoned Kiswani to immediately appear before it without giving any reason for the summons. (WAFA 18 March 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffocated from teargas inhalation during clashes that erupted with Israeli occupation Army (IOA) in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya. The IOA raided the neighborhood, stopped Palestinian youths while walking in the streets, and stopped and searched dozens of vehicles before they randomly lunched teargas and stun grenades at peoples' homes. The IOA broke into homes, assaulted residents and arrested a Palestinian youth. The neighborhood has been subjected to constant assault by the IOA because its residents keep protesting Israeli occupation measures against them. (WAFA 19 March 2020)
- Israeli police summoned Sheikh Omar Kiswani, director of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, for questioning at the Russian Compound interrogation center in West Jerusalem. The police summoned Kiswani to immediately appear before it without giving any reason for the summons. (IMEMC 19 March 2020)
- The Salem Israeli court sentenced prisoner, Waleed Na'alwa, father of late Ashraf Na'alwa, in the West Bank city of Tulkarem, for 18 months of imprisonment and 12 other months of suspended sentence for a period of five years, along with a fine of 3000 NIS (834 US Dollars). Waleed's wife, Wafa'a Mahdawi, who is being imprisoned by Israel, as well, was supposed to be released from prison, however, another Israeli court postponed her release. (IMEMC 20 March 2020)
- A Palestinian citizen in his sixties was injured by rubber-coated metal bullets, during clashes with the Israeli occupation Army' in the village of Kafr Qaddum, east of Qalqilya Governorate. The IOA attacked the peaceful, weekly anti-settlement demonstration which demands the opening of the one and only road that has been closed by the IOA for over 16 years. The IOA attacked the demonstrators with rubber-coated metal bullets, sound and tear gas canisters, which resulted in the injury of a 63-year-old citizen with a metal bullet in the leg. (WAFA 20 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) located opposite Al-Arroub camp, fired sound and tear gas canisters towards the citizens at the entrance to the camp, on the pretext that they were throwing stones. (NAD 20 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired at the Al-Shuhada Street in the Old City of Hebron, tear gas and tear gas canisters towards the citizens, on the pretext that they were throwing stones. (NAD 20 March 2020)
- Israeli troops shot and wounded, a Palestinian teenaged boy in the northern West Bank city of Qalqilia. Israeli troops, positioned on the northern checkpoint of Qalqilia, opened fire indiscriminately on a group of Palestinian youths. (IMEMC 21 March 2020)
- Israeli police imposed new restrictions on Muslim worshipers who perform prayers five times a day, at the ancient holy Islamic shrine of Al-Aqsa mosque, in the occupied city of East Jerusalem. During the Friday Muslim sermon, Israeli police forces shut down a number of gates to the mosque and that much fewer worshipers were allowed to enter the holy site. As crowds of men, women and children, gathered around the gates, Israeli police responded by firing sound grenades to disperse the worshipers. The police threatened worshipers to stay away from the gates or else a fine of 5,000 New Israeli Shekels (\$1400 US), will be imposed on them. Two Palestinians, Mahdi Sayyad and Yousef Alshawish, received police warrants. (IMEMC 21 March 2020)
- A Palestinian man was injured when Israeli occupation army (IOA) violently dispersed the weekly demonstration against the settlement in Kufur Qaddoum village in the northern West Bank district of Qalqilia. The IOA dispersed the demonstrators by firing rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas canisters and stun grenades at them injuring a Palestinian man, identified as Moayyad Shtewi, 63, was injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet and treated by Red Crescent crews on the scene. Some Palestinians suffered severe breathing difficulties as a result of inhaling toxic tear-gas used as a crowd control measure by the IOA. (IMEMC 21 March 2020)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) issued a fine worth \$1400 to the head of the Waqf Council of Jerusalem, Sheikh Abdul-Azim Salhab, on the pretext of allowing Muslim worshipers into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied Jerusalem on Friday. An Israeli police force raided his home in occupied Jerusalem and handed him a fine order

worth 5,000 shekels (about \$1,400) for not closing the compound to Muslim worshipers who entered the site yesterday to perform the weekly Friday prayer. (WAFA 21 March 2020)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) in Ras al-Amud neighborhood of Jerusalem fired tear gas and tear gas canisters towards the citizens, on the pretext that they were throwing rocks while they were patrolling. (NAD 21 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) during a raid on Al-Issawiya village, fired sound and tear gas canisters towards the citizens, on the pretext that they were throwing rocks while they were searching and searching a house. (NAD 21 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) killed, a young Palestinian man near the entrance of Ni'lin village, west of the central West Bank city of Ramallah. The IOA shot Sofian Nawwaf al-Khawaja, 29, causing a very serious injury that resulted in his death shortly afterward. The IOA stopped and held a Palestinian ambulance while rushing to render aid to the Palestinian. Instead of allowing the Palestinian medics to render the urgently needed aid to the critically wounded young man, the IOA called for an Israeli ambulance while al-Khawaja continued to bleed. The Israeli army claimed that the IOA opened fire at several Palestinians who reportedly hurled stones at their jeeps. However, The slain Palestinian was not among the protesters but happened to be passing through the area along with his cousin. (IMEMC 23 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) held four Palestinian youths at an Israeli military roadblock, near Dutan colonial settlement, near Jenin city, in the northern occupied West Bank. The IOA stationed at the checkpoint, held four Palestinian youths after having inspected them, along with many other local Palestinian vehicles. (IMEMC 23 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained two Palestinian brothers from Khirbet Ein al-Hilweh village in the northern Jordan Valley. Israeli military vehicles stormed the village, where soldiers rounded up two brothers, aged 65 and 52. A day before, Israeli settlers assaulted the son of one of the detainees, a shepherd, for herding his cows in the area. (WAFA 24 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in control of the old town of the divided southern West Bank city of Hebron barred Palestinian

volunteers from disinfecting the neighborhoods and educating the local population on the coronavirus pandemic. The IOA prevented the volunteers trained by the health ministry from spraying the Palestinian neighborhoods with disinfectants and educating the residents on the deadly disease. The IOA forced the volunteers to leave the area without completing their mission. The volunteers wanted to help the local population living under Israeli military rule in that part of the city on how to deal with the disease and how to avoid it when they were forced to leave the area. More than 30,000 Palestinians live in the Israeli-controlled section of Hebron, known as H2, amidst several hundred fanatic settlers protected by a large Israeli army force.(WAFA 24 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire and injured a Palestinian youth near the village of Deir Nitham, west of Ramallah, and closed its entrance. The IOA shot the youth near the village, alleging he was throwing rocks at settlers' vehicles nearby. The youth was shot in the leg. The identity or condition of the youth was not known at the time of reporting. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)
- Scores of Palestinians suffocated from Israeli military teargas west of Shweika neighborhood, north of Tulkarem city in the northern West Bank. Heavily-deployed Israeli occupation Army (IOA) opened fire towards Palestinian farmers tending to their farmlands close to the military gate of the section of Israel's apartheid wall, located west of the neighborhood, causing scores to suffer from excessive tear gas inhalation. (WAFA 25 March 2020)
- Israeli war jets fired, several missiles into a few areas in the besieged and impoverished Gaza Strip, causing damage. The army fired many missiles into an area, northwest of Gaza city, causing damage to homes and structures. The army also fired two artillery shells into an east, east of Gaza city, causing property damage. Furthermore, the army also fired missiles into at least one site, east of Jabalia, in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, causing damage. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)
- Violent confrontations broke out between The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and Palestinian civilians in al-Mazra'a al-Gharbiya village, northeast of Ramallah City. A Palestinian journalist named Ahmad Abu Qare' was detained during the clashes and transferred to an unknown destination. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)
- For the fourth day in a row, Shweika village in Tulkarem witnessed conflict between The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and Palestinians protesting Israel's illegal land seizure to make way for settlement

expansion. The IOA fired rubber-coated metal bullets and tear-gas canisters towards the protesters. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)

- In Qalqilia, The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) violently dispersed the weekly demonstration against the settlement in Kufur Qaddoum village, attacking Palestinian demonstrators with rubber-coated metal bullets and tear-gas canisters. The IOA injured a 50-year-old man, who was treated on site, in addition to causing many cases of suffocation from gas inhalation. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire today at Palestinian farmer and herders east of Khan Younis, in the south of the besieged Gaza Strip, and forced them to leave the area. The IOA stationed behind the border fence east of Khan Younis opened fire at herders east of Abasan town and at farmers east of al-Qarara town. No injuries were reported. (WAFA 28 March 2020)
- One Palestinian fisherman was wounded by Israeli occupation Army (IOS) while fishing off the coast of the northern besieged Gaza Strip. The fisherman was in his boat fishing, when the IOA opened fire at him, wounding him with a rubber-coated metal round. The man was transferred to the Shifa' hospital where his condition was described as moderate. (IMEMC 29 March 2020)
- Israeli police forces invaded the occupied city of East Jerusalem, storming a number of Palestinian neighborhoods. Israeli police forces invaded throughout Saturday night and early on Sunday, al-'Isawiya village and stormed a number of neighborhoods. Upon their invasion, crowds of Palestinian residents took to the streets, in protest, as Israeli police fired tear-gas canisters and sound grenades, to disperse them. Police forces broke into several Palestinian homes in the village, which is located in northeastern Jerusalem, and detained one Palestinian, identified as Ayham Dary, 32. Along with the detention of Dary, the police stormed the homes of Palestinian youth, who have been ordered by the Israeli authorities to remain under house arrest. (IMEMC 29 March 2020)
- Israeli police detained four Palestinians for disinfecting public facilities near the Lions' Gate in the occupied city of Jerusalem. Palestinians have formed local emergency committees in villages and towns as part of precautionary measures to help detect suspected coronavirus cases at the entrances of the villages and towns and combat the spread of the virus. Such committees are chiefly concerned with examining

Palestinian workers in Israel who return back to their homes to force them into 14-day mandatory home quarantine and enforce the lockdown on the Palestinian territories. (WAFA 29 March 2020)

- The Shin Bet, Israel's intelligence agency, decided to renew the detention of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) member and Hamas leader, Hasan Yousuf, for four months, under administrative detention. Sheikh Hasan Yousuf, 65, was scheduled for release on March 31, 2020, and just two days before his release, according to his family, the Shin Bet placed him under administrative detention. After having served 1 year in Israeli prison, Sheikh Hasan Yousef will have served a total of 20 years. (IMEMC 30 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted Palestinian teams fighting coronavirus outbreak in Hizma town, north of the occupied city of Jerusalem. The IOA stormed the headquarters of the public emergency committees inside the town, turning it upside down. The IOA also assaulted members of the committees deployed at the entrance of the town as part of the precautions to combat the outbreak of the deadly virus. (WAFA 30 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed the town of Al-Issawiya, north of occupied Jerusalem, amid sound and tear gas fire towards the homes of the citizens. The IOA stormed the town, searched the vehicle of citizen Anwar Ubaid and tampered with its contents. No injuries or detentions were reported. (WAFA 30 March 2020)
- Israeli troops detained four Palestinian residents in the West Bank city of Ramallah and the town of Albeira, after invading their towns and their homes. Among the four detained was a local lawyer, and that the detention occurred in the early morning hours when Israeli troops invaded the Palestinian district of Ramallah. The Israeli troops broke into the home of the al-Barghouti family and vandalized the home itself, before they detained Omar al-Barghouti, the father of the late Saleh, who was killed by the Israeli military, and Asem, who is currently imprisoned by Israeli authorities. The army also detained the man's son, Mohammad. The family lives in Kober village, north of Ramallah city. (IMEMC 31 March 2020)
- Israeli troops invaded Budras village, west of Ramallah city and broke in the home of Mahmoud Marar and detained Mahmoud himself. (IMEMC 31 March 2020)
- In the town of Albeira, Israeli army broke into the home of Ja'far Erbash and detained J'afar. (IMEMC 31 March 2020)

- The Ramallah municipality moved quickly today to sterilize areas of the city raided this morning by Israeli occupation army (IOA) to make sure they are clear from the novel coronavirus disease. In a precautionary move, city employees began since the morning sterilizing streets, public places and buildings raided by the IOA. The IOA incursions of Palestinian cities and towns threaten preventive measures taken by the Palestinian Authority to control the outbreak of coronavirus. There has also been suspicious behavior of a number of the IOA and settlers, which appeared to be an attempt to spread the infection and hold those responsible to account. (WAFA 31 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed the headquarters of the emergency committees in the town of Hizma, north of occupied Jerusalem and assaulted the emergency workers. The IOA rampaged the headquarters of the emergency committees before they assaulted and insulted the volunteers working at Palestinian checkpoints to prevent the movement of citizens to stop the spread of COVID-19. (PNN 31 March 2020)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Israeli Settlers stormed the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque while accompanied by a squadron of Israeli police. In 2016, protests erupted at the embattled area after Israeli Settlers invaded the compound during the last 10 days of Islam's holy month of Ramadan, in contravention of tradition. The Islamic Endowments Department in Jerusalem reported that the intruders wandered brazenly in the courtyards of the mosque. The Settlers entered the area through the Mughrabi Gate and made their way to the courtyard of the chapel of Mercy. They wandered the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyards, attended presentations on what they call the "Temple Mount" and then left the site through al-Silsila Gate. Meanwhile, Israeli police forces imposed tight restrictions on the Palestinian worshipers entering the site and ordered many of them to stay outside. This is not an isolated incident. On February 23rd, Israeli police had killed a young Palestinian man in the grounds of al-Aqsa. (IMEMC 3 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers, uprooted dozens of olive and vine trees belonging to Palestinians in the town of Husan, west of the occupied city of Bethlehem. Israeli settlers from the settlement of Bitar Illit uprooted about 100 olive trees and 60 vine trees in lands belonging to Palestinians. (IMEMC 3 March 2020)

- Several Palestinian villagers from the West Bank village of Beeta, south of Nablus city, have been treated for injuries caused by live and rubber-coated steel Israeli bullets and tear gas. At least three of those villagers were shot and wounded by live bullets, while 20 others were injured by coated-steel bullets, with some 50 others debilitated by tear gas inhalation. Hundreds of local villagers in the area surrounding the Erma hilltop, protested an invasion by armed Israeli settlers of the area. The crowd of Palestinians faced a tough Israeli response, as the Israeli army unleashed live ammunition and fired dozens of tear gas canisters. (IMEMC 3 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers placed a fence around a privately-owned Palestinian land in the town of Beit Ummar, in the Hebron Governorate, southern occupied West Bank, in an effort to take it over. The settlers, under Israeli military protection, placed the fence around a 12-dunam plot of land, owned by Saqer Abu Ayyash, planted with almonds, grape vines, olive trees and forest trees. Abu Ayyash has fought a 20-year legal battle against the settlers to prove his ownership of the plot by presenting land deeds proving ownership. The settlers came back today and placed a fence around the land and when he showed up to stop them, they said he should go to the (Israeli military) Civil Administration and ask them about the land. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers, stormed the Sebastia archaeological site, in the north of the occupied West Bank, in what appeared to be an attempt by the settlers to take over the land. Roughly 50 settlers invaded the site, under the protection of Israeli occupation Army (IOA) who denied access to Palestinians. This site, he continued, has been a regular target of Israeli settlers, noting that an Israeli officer came to the site a day earlier raising suspicions that the settlers have the intention of taking control of the site. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers chopped Saturday 200 grapevines in Faghour area, in the al-Khader town, south of the West Bank city of Bethlehem, bringing the number of uprooted grapevines and olive trees in the West Bank to 780 in three days. The settlers chopped 200 grapevines, owned by a local farmer, identified as Mohammad Ibrahim Abu al-Kat'a. The attack took place in an area that is subject to frequent similar violations, and only comes a day after the colonists uprooted 300 grapevines, owned by Nasser Isamel Marzouq, near the illegal colonies of Daniel and Eliezer. (IMEMC 1 March 2020)

- Israeli settlers chopped 200 olive trees and 80 grapevines in lands, owned by Marwan Abdul-Salama Salah and Anas Fathi Salam, near Eliezer settlement. (IMEMC 1 March 2020)
- A Palestinian man was injured, after he was attacked by Israeli settlers near the village of Burqa, north of Nablus in the northern occupied West Bank. A group of settlers attacked and physically assaulted a Palestinian farmer identified as Mahmoud Hussein Hajji, 58, while he was working on his farm near the village. Hajji sustained a moderate injury. (IMEMC 1 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers embarked on razing tracts of land in the villages of Qusra and Jurish, to the south of the occupied West Bank city of Nablus. Settlers used bulldozers to raze lands in an area belonging to the aforementioned villages. (WAFA 1 March 2020)
- Jewish settlers chopped off about 200 grape trees belonging to a Palestinian farmer in the village of al-Khader, near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. Settlers broke into a grape-planted grove belonging to a Palestinian villager from al-Khader, before proceeding to chop off about 200 trees there. Dadou said this was the second attack by settlers on the village since yesterday, when a group of settlers forced their way into another ranch and smashed dozens of grape trees that belong to local villagers. (WAFA 1 March 2020)
- For the third consecutive day, Israeli settlers continued to cut down and damage trees in the lands of Al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem, raising the number of trees that were targeted to 780. The settlers cut down 200 vine trees in the “Fagur” area, owned by Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Al-Kat'a. The settlers cut down 300 vine trees in the lands of Nasser Ismail Marzouq in the “Zakandah” area between the settlements of “Daniel” and “EliAzar”. Israeli settlers of “EliAzar” cut down 200 perennial olive trees and 80 grapevine trees in the lands of citizens Marwan Abdel Salam Salah and Anas Fathi Abdel Salam Salah, located near the illegal settlement, bringing the total of what was cut down During the three days 580 vine trees, 200 perennial olive trees. (PNN 2 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Palestinian activists, planting olive trees to the east of Tubas, in the northern occupied Jordan Valley. The IOA attacked and dispersed activists participating in the tree planting event, which was called for by the anti-settlement and apartheid wall committee and national factions. Settlers are seen

singing, dancing in attempts to incite the Palestinians into violence, no injuries or arrests were reported. (IMEMC 2 March 2020)

- A Palestinian man was injured, after he was attacked by Israeli settlers near the village of Burqa, north of Nablus in the northern occupied West Bank. A group of colonial settlers attacked and physically assaulted a Palestinian farmer identified as Mahmoud Hussein Hajji, 58, while he was working on his farm near the village. Hajji reportedly sustained a moderate injury and was moved to hospital for medical treatment. (IMEMC 2 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers from the Israeli settlement of Bitar Illit uprooted about 100 olive trees and 60 vine trees in lands belonging to Palestinians in Husan village west of Bethlehem city. (WAFA 2 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers also uprooted today olive trees in the town of Bruqin, west of the northern West Bank city of Salfit. Settlers from the illegal settlement of Brukhin, built on the town's land, uprooted 20 olive trees and cut down 120 others belonging to two local residents. (WAFA)
- Israeli Settlers chopped 12 olive trees in Kufr al-Dik land, west of Salfit. (WAFA 2 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers placed a fence around a privately-owned Palestinian land in Beit Ummar, a town in the south of the occupied West Bank, in an effort to take it over. Settlers, under army protection, placed the fence around a 12-dunum plot of land planted with almonds, grape vines, olive trees and forest trees in the north of the town owned by Saqer Abu Ayyash. Abu Ayyash has been leading a 20-year legal battle against the settlers to prove his ownership of the plot by presenting land deeds proving ownership. "They came back today and placed a fence around the land and when I showed up to stop them, they said I should go to the (Israeli military) Civil Administration and ask them about the land," said Abu Ayyash. (WAFA 4 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers and Israeli Occupation Army (IOA), on Saturday, stormed the village of Madama in the northern occupied West Bank city of Nablus. The indigenous Palestinians confronted the Israeli settlers, to which the IOA responded by firing tear-gas canisters, arresting one Palestinian young man, and causing several cases of inhalation injuries among the Palestinians resisting the invasion. (IMEMC 8 March 2020)
- Three Israeli Settlers attempted to kidnap two children, near Ramallah, in central West Bank. The three colonists were driving their

motorcycles in the meadow of Turmus Ayya town, northeast of Ramallah, before forcing a Palestinian car to stop. The Palestinian driver of the vehicle, identified as Tareq Refa'ey, was with his two children, Adam and Noah, when the Israeli assailants attacked the car and attempted to snatch the two children from it, after smashing some of its windows. The father then sped away to avoid the assailants, who also threatened to open fire on residents in the area. (IMEMC 11 March 2020)

- A Palestinian woman and a youth were injured when Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian homes in the occupied city of Hebron in the south of the West Bank. The woman, in her 30s, and the youth, identified as Mohannad Jabari, were bruised when a group of settlers attacked homes in Wadi al-Hussein area located near the illegal settlement of Kiryat Arba in Hebron. (WAFA 11 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) accompanied, dozens of illegal Israeli colonialist settlers into the archaeological site in Sebastia Palestinian town, northwest of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, defying a closure by Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Nablus governor in an effort to stop the spread of coronavirus disease. The invasion comes in defiance of the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) to avoid large gatherings, in addition to a decision by the Palestinian governor, and the Tourism Ministry to close the site as a precaution, due to the current Coronavirus outbreak. The IOA closed many roads around the site, before invading it along with the illegal colonists. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- Several illegal Israeli colonists attacked a few Palestinian homes in Einabus village, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, causing damage. Israeli assailants infiltrated into the village and started hurling stones at two homes, owned by Awwad Amin Hamad and Shokri Shaqqour, causing damage to several windows. The colonists also attacked a car, owned by Hani Nabli, causing damage to its windows, and hurled stones at a few surrounding homes. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- The Israeli settlers invaded the eastern area of Burin town, south of Nablus, and partially damaged an under-construction Palestinian home, owned by Montaser Mansour. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- A Palestinian woman and a minor were injured, when Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian homes in the city of Hebron in the southern

occupied West Bank. settlers attacked homes in Wadi al-Hussein area, located near the illegal Israeli settlement of Kiryat Arba, and assaulted the woman and the youth, identified as Mohannad Jabari. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)

- A number of Israeli settlers attacked, two young Palestinian men in Huwwara town, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus. The settlers chased and assaulted the two Palestinians, identified as Wa'ad Khammous and Salah Lufti. Two young men suffered various cuts and bruises, before the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) briefly detained them. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian herders while grazing livestock near the village of al-Mughayir, to the east of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. Settlers attacked herders and chased them out of the pastures and attempted to steal some of the livestock .The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in the area did not intervene to stop the settlers; rather they provided them with cover and protection .(WAFA 14 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian herders as they were grazing their livestock near the village of al-Mughayir, east of Ramallah city, in the central occupied West Bank,. The settlers chased the shepherds out of the pastures and attempted to steal some of the livestock. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) made no attempt to stop the settlers; rather they provided them with cover and protection. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)
- Many Israeli settlers invaded, the western area of Huwwara town, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, and caused damage to at least twenty cars, trucks and buses. The settlers hurled stones at more than twenty Palestinian cars and buses, causing excessive damage. The settlers fired many live rounds at random and fled from the village; there have been no reports of injuries in the incident. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)
- A group of Israeli settlers squatting on Palestinian lands invaded the al-Janiya Palestinian village, west of the central West Bank city of Ramallah. The settlers invaded the outskirts of the village, before the locals intercepted them, and started forcing them away. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) rushed to the area and started firing gas bombs and concussion grenades at the Palestinians to secure the retreat

of the settlers. It is worth mentioning that this is the second attack against the village in the last few days. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)

- A group of armed Israeli settlers stormed, Palestinian-owned farmlands, close to Gush Etzion illegal colony, south of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. The settlers uprooted 50 fruitful trees, owned by a local farmer, Mahmoud Sa'd. Over the past three weeks, more than 1200 olive trees in the towns of al-Khader and Wadi Fukin, near Bethlehem, have been uprooted by armed colonial Israeli settlers. (IMEMC 16 March 2020)
- A Palestinian man was injured after being beaten by illegal Israeli settlers who broke into the site of abandoned Homesh settlement, south of Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank. Israeli settlers attacked and assaulted local villager, Mustafa Abu Za'bal. Abu Za'bal, who was working on his farmland near the abandoned settlement of Homesh, suffered minor injuries from the attack, also had his horse stolen by the settlers. (IMEMC 20 March 2020)
- A group of settlers entered the agricultural lands of the citizens on the northern outskirts of the village of Burqa, and cut down and uprooted a number of trees and vandalized water tanks owned by the citizen: Muhamnad Yassin. (NAD 20 March 2020)
- A Palestinian man was injured after being beaten by illegal Israeli settlers who broke into the site of abandoned Homesh settlement, south of Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank. Israeli settlers attacked and assaulted local villager, Mustafa Abu Za'bal. Abu Za'bal, who was working on his farmland near the abandoned settlement of Homesh, suffered minor injuries from the attack, also had his horse stolen by the settlers. (IMEMC 21 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers set up tents and a caravan on a Palestinian land near the village of Khallet Hamad in the Jordan Valley region, the occupied West Bank. Israeli settlers are making use of the ongoing coronavirus crisis in order to expedite their settlement enterprise in the region, the latest of whose manifestation was today's installation of tents and a caravan in that area. Settlers have further escalated their attacks against herders and farmers in the Jordan Valley in order to force them to leave the area. (WAFA 21 March 2020)
- A group of settlers entered the agricultural lands of the citizens near the Al-Tirah neighborhood of Ramallah city, and later withdrew. (NAD 21 March 2020)

- A group of settlers entered the agricultural lands of the citizens east of the village of Kafa, removed the fence surrounding the lands of the citizens, and destroyed pipeline carrying water. (NAD 21 March 2020)
- A group of settlers entered the agricultural land of the citizens in the Bab al-Wad area near the village of Cyrenaica and withdrew at 16:40. (NAD 21 March 2020)
- An Israeli settler exploited the full lockdown imposed in the occupied territories to raze Palestinian land between Rafat and Qalandia towns, northwest of Jerusalem. The settler razed a tract of Palestinian-owned land between the aforementioned towns, planted it with saplings and erected a fence around it. (WAFA 23 March 2020)
- Settlers constructed and paved a settler-only road and set up several mobile homes on Palestinian-owned land in Khallet An-Nahleh, south of Bethlehem. settlers exploited the lockdown enforced on Bethlehem district over coronavirus spread to expedite the construction of this road.(WAFA 23 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked with stones Palestinian motorist in the north of the West Bank, causing damage but no injuries. A resident of Silat al-Dahr village, south of the northern West Bank city of Jenin was hit by settlers who threw stones at his car near his village breaking its windows and hijacking the car after he and his family were able to get out of it and run away.(WAFA 23 March 2020)
- Several Israeli settlers attacked, a Palestinian shepherd in Ein al-Hilwa area, in the West Bank's Northern Plains, while herding his cows. The young man, identified as Moheeb Fathi Daraghma, suffered several minor cuts and bruises. (IMEMC 23 March 2020)
- A group of Israeli settlers attacked homes in the southern area of Madama village, south of Nablus. The settlers came from Yitzhar settlement, which was built on Palestinian lands south of Nablus. (IMEMC 23 March 2020)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers, belonging to the Temple Mount group, stormed the vicinity of the Islamic holy shrine of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem. The group of settlers performed provocative rituals before leaving through the Bab Alselsela gate used by Palestinian-Muslim residents. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) escorted the settlers, while also restricting entry of Muslim Palestinian worshippers into the sacred Islamic compound. (IMEMC 23 March 2020)

- Nearly 1,600 trees have been vandalized by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank since the start of 2020, according to United Nations OCHA. According to the agency's latest [report](#) during the period 3-16 March, Israeli settlers vandalized at least 385 Palestinian-owned trees and vehicles in the West Bank. Three such attacks involved settlers cutting down or uprooting some 200 olive trees and 150 grapevines "belonging to farmers from Al Khader and Khallet Sakariya villages that are planted next to the Gush Etzion settlement area (Bethlehem), and 35 olive trees next to Bruchin settlement (Salfit)". Meanwhile, five additional attacks in the Nablus governorate, in northern West Bank, "involved slashing the tires of 11 vehicles in Huwwara town, hurling stones and damaging two houses and four vehicles in 'Einabus village, and vandalizing an uninhabited house in Burin village." In addition, UN OCHA stated, Palestinian residents of the 'Ein ar Rashash herding community near Ramallah, in central West Bank, reported 25 lambs "stolen by a settler residing in an adjacent settlement outpost". On top of the numerous incidents of attacks on Palestinian-owned property and livestock, Israeli settlers "physically assaulted and injured three Palestinians", including a woman, in three separate incidents in Al Auja town and the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron city (H2), in southern West Bank. "Additional settler attacks not resulting in injuries or damage were reported in the H2 area on 10 and 11 March, during celebrations of a Jewish holiday (Purim)," the UN OCHA report added. The UN OCHA report is issued once a fortnight, and documents human rights violations by Israeli forces and settlers, and the impact of occupation for Palestinians. Over the reporting period, UN OCHA documented the punitive demolition of two homes, as well as the demolition or seizing of an additional 14 Palestinian-owned structures on the grounds of a lack of building permits, displacing 29 people and affecting around 60 others. Israeli forces also "bulldozed a section of a dirt road connecting five herding communities in southern Hebron to their main service center", meaning that "residents must use a long detour to access their main service center and market in Yatta town". ([OCHA](#), IMEMC 23 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian shepherd in Ein al-Hilwa area, in the West Bank's Northern Plains. Several colonists assaulted a young shepherd while herding his cows in Ein al-Hilwa. The young man, identified as Moheeb Fathi Daraghma, suffered several minor cuts and bruises. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)

- A group of Israeli settlers attacked homes in the southern area of Madama village, south of Nablus. The settlers came from Yitzhar settlement, which was built on Palestinian lands south of Nablus, and added that the locals intercepted them, and forced them away. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian house in Burqa village, north of Nablus city in the northern West Bank. A group of settlers stormed the site of the former colonial settlement outpost of Homesh, evacuated in 2005, and attacked a Palestinian house in Burqa, causing damages it. (WAFA 24 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked several Palestinian homes in the village of Madama, to the south of the occupied West Bank city of Nablus. A group of settlers from the illegal Israeli settlement of Yitzhar attacked homes in the southern section of the village. Residents confronted the settlers and pushed them out of their village, he said. No damage or casualties were reported. (WAFA 24 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers damaged 50 olive trees and grapevines in al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem city. The landowner, entered his grove, located in proximity to the Gush Etzion colonial settlement bloc, but he was completely shocked to find out that settlers had damaged 40 grapevines and 10 olive trees. This was not the first time that settlers wreaked havoc in his land, and settlers were exploiting the lockdown enforced on Bethlehem district over coronavirus spread to expedite the destruction of Palestinian groves. (WAFA 24 March 2020)
- An Israeli settler, exploited the lockdown imposed in the occupied territories to raze Palestinian land between Rafat and Qalandia towns, northwest of Jerusalem. The settler razed a tract of Palestinian-owned land between the aforementioned towns, planted it with saplings and erected a fence around it, before being spotted and repelled by staff from the Jerusalem Governor's Office. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers constructed and paved a settler-only road and set up several mobile homes on Palestinian-owned land in Khallet An-Nahleh, south of Bethlehem. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian residents of the village of Umm Safa, northwest of Ramallah, injuring two. Settlers attacked Palestinian farmers with sharp tools as they worked on their land, injuring two people. The settlers left their cattle to graze on Palestinian-owned land; the farmers reacted by rushing to protect their land from seizure,

leading to confrontations between residents and illegal Israeli settlers. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) held one of the wounded Palestinians and closed roads leading to the village. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)

- Several illegal Israeli settlers invaded the sacred al-Aqsa Mosque, under police guard, despite the closure due to the coronavirus outbreak. Dozens of settlers, escorted by police officers, forced their way into al-Aqsa Mosque and performed Talmudic rituals near the al-Buraq Wall. (IMEMC 26 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers damaged 50 olive trees and grapevines in al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem city, in the southern occupied West Bank owned by Hisham Mohammad Sbeih. Upon entering his grove, near the Gush Etzion settlement bloc, he was completely shocked to find out that illegal settlers had damaged 40 grapevines and 10 olive trees. Israeli settlers are exploiting the lockdown enforced on Bethlehem district over the spread of the coronavirus, to ensure the seizure of more Palestinian territory. Sbeih added that this was *not* the first time that settlers wreaked havoc on his land. (IMEMC 26 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers damaged 50 olive trees and grapevines in al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem city. Hisham Mohammad Sbeih, the landowner, entered his grove, located in proximity to the Gush Etzion colonial settlement bloc, today, but he was completely shocked to find out that settlers had damaged 40 grapevines and 10 olive trees. He pointed out that this was not the first time that settlers wreaked havoc in his land, and that settlers were exploiting the lockdown enforced on Bethlehem district over coronavirus spread to expedite the destruction of Palestinian groves. (WAFA 26 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian herders and other civilians in the village of Al-Tuwani, south of the city of Hebron in the West Bank. Israeli settlers accompanied by attack dogs assaulted herders in the village and injured one of them in his abdomen and hand. (WAFA 27 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian herders and other civilians in the village of Al-Tuwani, south of Hebron in the southern occupied West Bank. Israeli settlers, accompanied by attack dogs, assaulted herders in the village and injured one of them in his abdomen and hand. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)

- Israeli settlers attacked and injured 2 Palestinian farmers with sharp tools, as they worked on their land in Umm Safa, northwest of Ramallah. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers uprooted 300 Olive Trees in Al Qanoub area near Asfar Metzad settlement, between Bethlehem and Hebron Governorate. The trees are owned by Citizen Sameer Syed Shaladeh. (WAFA 28 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers set up tents in Tuqu' wilderness to the east of Bethlehem. The settlers set up three tents in a part of the wilderness, known as Jaljal, and voiced his concerns about the possibility of using the tents as quarantine places for settlers from nearby colonial settlements who contract the novel coronavirus. (WAFA 30 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers razed Palestinian land in the north of the West Bank near a settlement. Settlers have been working on several dunums of land in the villages of Jaloud and Qaryout, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus. The land is located near the settlement of Shavot Rahel and is planted with olive trees. (WAFA 31 March 2020)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- Palestinian homeowners in the southern West Bank village of Nahalin were informed by the Israeli military that one house will be demolished as two others were ordered to stop construction of their homes. One resident of the village has received a demolition order and two other residents ordered to stop work on building their homes under the pretext they were being built without a permit. The area in question is considered Area C, which is under full Israeli military rule and where Palestinians are denied the right to build even on their own land. It is also located on the outskirts of the village where only in this area the village can expand with the growth of its population. (WAFA 3 March 2020)
- The Israeli authorities demolished the second floor of a Palestinian-owned house in the town of Hezma, to the northeast of occupied Jerusalem, under the pretext that it was built without an Israeli permission. Staff from the Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem escorted by a bulldozer embarked on demolishing the second floor of the two story house, which was inhabited by Rami Khatib, his wife and six children. The municipality evacuated the house located on the main road near the Israeli separation wall before demolishing its

second floor, which was built on top of a house constructed since the 1970s. (WAFA 3 March 2020)

- The Israeli occupation authorities demolished the second floor of a Palestinian-owned house in the town of Hezma, northeast of the occupied city of Jerusalem, under the pretext that it was built without Israeli permission. The Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem, escorted by a bulldozer, evacuated the home, and proceeded to demolish the second floor of a two story home. The house, located near the Israeli annexation wall and built on top of a house constructed 40 years ago, was inhabited by Rami Khatib, his wife and six children, whom are now homeless. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)
- The Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem demolished part of a Palestinian-owned home in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabal a-Mukabir. Bulldozers of the Israeli municipality broke into Jabal al-Mukabir and demolished part of the house of Mr. Iyad Fatafta,, a local Palestinian citizen, under the pretext of construction without an Israeli permit. The demolition took place despite of an Israeli court's order putting the demolition on hold until further proceedings. (WAFA 4 March 2020)
- The Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem demolished part of a Palestinian-owned home in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabal al-Mokabber. Israeli bulldozers invaded Jabal al-Mokabber and demolished part of the home belonging to Mr. Iyad Fatafta, a Palestinian citizen, under the pretext that it had been built without an Israeli permit. Despite an Israeli court order to postpone the demolition until further proceedings, the occupation authorities proceeded with the demolition. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation authorities ordered three Palestinian families to stop construction on their homes in Nabi Elias village, east of the northern West Bank city of Qalqilia. The military claimed the homes were being built without an Israeli construction permit. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- The Israeli authorities ordered a halt on construction of agricultural structures in the village of Azzun Atma, to the south of the northern occupied West Bank city of Qalqilya. The IOA notified Farouq Quzmar of the order to stop building the structures, claiming they were being built without a permit. (WAFA 5 March 2020)

- The Israeli authorities destroyed a retaining wall for a farm in the village of Nilin, west of Ramallah. During the demolition of the wall, residents confronted the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) who assaulted and one youth and injured him, said the sources. (WAFA 5 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers demolished the family homes of two Palestinians in Ramallah and nearby Birzeit town, resulting in intense confrontations with local youths. A large Israeli army force invaded the town of Birzeit after midnight, and surrounded the family home of Yazan Maghames, the military bulldozers proceeded to level it to the ground. Youths confronted the IOA, who fired tear-gas canisters towards them and at homes causing many suffocation cases. At the same time, the IOA invaded the Ramallah neighborhood of al-Tireh and demolished the family residence of Walid Hanatsheh, which is located in an apartment building. The army surrounded the 6-floor building, inhabited by 13 families, before proceeding to demolish the inner and outer walls of the Hanatsheh apartment. Hanatsheh and Maghames, are currently detained in Israeli. (IMEMC 6 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) seized construction equipment in Birin area, south of Hebron, in the southern occupied West Bank. The IOA seized two excavators belonging to local Palestinian resident Mohammed Abu Turkey. (IMEMC 8 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) notified a local Palestinian family in Yarza area, in the northern Jordan Valley, of an order to remove their residential tents and animal barns. The IOA handed a notice ordering members of Abu Thaher family to remove their residential tents and animal barns, which were already destroyed in December 2019 and January 2020. (IMEMC 8 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a Palestinian home in al-Ferdis village, in the Eastern Bedouin area, east of Bethlehem, south of occupied Jerusalem in the West Bank. The IOA invaded the village, and demolished a one-story, 130 square/meter home, owned by Hazem Hashem Abu Mheimeed. The army claimed that the home was not licensed by the so-called Civil Administration office, the administrative branch of Israel's illegal military occupation of the West Bank. The IOA also invaded and ransacked another home of the village, before withdrawing. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- A Palestinian family from Shuafat refugee camp in occupied Jerusalem embarked today on demolishing its own home after it was forced to

do so by Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem to avoid paying exorbitant costs if the municipality carries out the demolition .Tareq Mohammad Ali said his family and he were forced to demolish their own home at the order of the Israeli High Court, under the pretext it was built without a permit. Ali said he had no option but to embark on the demolition in order to avoid paying unreasonable demolition costs to the Israeli municipality .(WAFA 13 March 2020)

- A Palestinian family from Shu'fat refugee camp in occupied Jerusalem began demolishing their own home. Tareq Mohammad Ali said his family and he were forced to demolish their own home at the order of the Israeli High Court, under the pretext it was built without an Israeli permit. The family, now homeless, was forced by the Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem to demolish its own home, in order to avoid paying excessive fines if the municipality carried out the demolition. (IMEMC 14 March 2020)
- Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) demolished two residential structures and an animal barn in the village of al-Sawahreh al-Sharqiya, southeast of occupied Jerusalem. The IOA stormed the village and demolished a residential structure and a barn belonging to one Palestinian resident, and then proceeded to demolish another shack and the foundation of a previously demolished home belonging to another village resident. Younes Jafar, a local member of Sawahreh municipality. The owners of the structures are Saleem Zahayka and Hasan Hadaleen respectively. (IMEMC 19 March 2020)
- Israeli authorities demolished two residential structures and an animal barn in the village of al-Sawahreh al-Sharqiya, southeast of occupied Jerusalem. Israeli Authorities reportedly stormed the village and demolished a residential structure and a barn belonging to one Palestinian resident, and then proceeded to demolish another shack and the foundation of a previously demolished home belonging to another village resident.The structures are owned by Saleem Zahayka and Hasan Hadaleen respectively. (IMEMC 20 March 2020)
- Israeli authorities banned, installation of *Palestinian-owned* solar panels and a green house in the northern occupied West Bank area of Al-Aghwar. An Israeli troop obstructed installation works in the Kherbet Aldeir village, within the Tubas governorate. Israeli authorities, escorted by the military, invaded the Kherbet Aldeir village, and handed warrants to local farmers, who were attempting to install solar panels and a green house on their farm land. The warrant states that the farmers are *not allowed* to embark on such works, by orders of the concerned Israeli authorities. (IMEMC, [WAFA](#) 25 March 2020)

- Officials from Israel's Civil Administration in the West Bank arrived with a military jeep escort, a bulldozer and two flatbed trucks with cranes at the Palestinian community of Khirbet Ibziq in the northern Jordan Valley. They confiscated poles and sheeting that were meant to form eight tents, two for a field clinic, and four for emergency housing for residents evacuated from their homes, and two as makeshift mosques. The army also confiscated a tin shack in place for more than two years, as well as a power generator and sacks of sand and cement. Four pallets of cinder blocks intended for the tent floors were taken away and four others demolished. As the whole world battles an unprecedented and paralyzing healthcare crisis, Israel's military is devoting time and resources to harassing the most vulnerable Palestinian communities in the West Bank that Israel has attempted to drive out of the area for decades. Shutting down a first-aid community initiative during a health crisis is an especially cruel example of the regular abuse inflicted on these communities, and it goes against basic human and humanitarian principles during an emergency. (BTSELEM 26 March 2020)
- The Israeli Civil Administration is continuing its demolition routine where it demolished three seasonal homes of farmers who are residents of Jerusalem, in the village of 'Ein a-Duyuk a-Tahta west of Jericho. The IOA demolished three Palestinian-owned homes in the village of al-Diyouk, west of the occupied West Bank city of Jericho, under the pretext they were built without permits. The IOA and police accompanied bulldozers as they invaded the village in the early morning, and proceeded to demolish the three houses, each 120-square-meter in area, owned by Palestinian citizens from occupied Jerusalem and from the West Bank city of Hebron. (IMEMC, BTSELEM 26 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a farming shed and a water well in Deir Ballut town, west of Salfit city. The IOA escorted a bulldozer into Wadi Sarida area, where the heavy machinery tore down a farming shed and a water well belonging to Aziz Yusef Abdullah, a villager. The IOA were exploiting the lockdown enforced on the occupied territories over coronavirus spread to expedite the implementation of their schemes to seize Palestinian land. (WAFA 26 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, reportedly spat on Palestinian-owned vehicles and property in a Hebron suburb. The IOA were seen spitting on Palestinian

vehicles, which were parked in an industrial zone, located in Area C, where Israeli authorities maintain full control. The Israeli army frequently invades Palestinian-populated neighborhoods located in Area C, as classified by the 1993/1995 Oslo peace accords between Israel and Palestine. Despite the necessary precautions to avoid the spread of the Coronavirus, the IOA appear unconcerned with the potential spread of the virus among Palestinians. (IMEMC 27 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a farming shed and a water well in Deir Ballut town, west of Salfit city, according to a local official. The IOA escorted a bulldozer into Wadi Sarida area, where the heavy machinery tore down a farming shed and a water well belonging to Aziz Yusef Abdullah, a villager. The IOA were exploiting the lockdown enforced on the occupied territories over the spread of coronavirus, to secure the implementation of the seizure of more Palestinian land. (IMEMC 27 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a residential structure and seized tents, in the Jordan Valley village of Ibziq, north of the occupied West Bank city of Tubas. The IOA stormed the village and destroyed a 70-square-meter shack along with two water pumps. The military also seized 8 tents, solar panels, spraying equipment, and building blocks, under the pretext that the equipment and shack were allegedly in a military zone. (Maannews, IMEMC 27 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) demolished a room belonging to a Palestinian villager in the village of Zawiya, near the West Bank town of Salfit. An Israeli army force accompanied by a bulldozer broke into the village before demolishing the room, which was used for agricultural purposes. The room belongs to a local villager identified as Salah Raddad. (WAFA 28 March 2020)
- Israeli authorities demolished a community clinic in Khirbet Ibziq village in the Jordan Valley, which was designated to deal with the novel coronavirus outbreak. Officials from the Israeli Civil Administration went to the village with a military escort, bulldozer and two trucks equipped with cranes to demolish community clinic and emergency housing. The officials seized poles and sheeting designated to form eight tents, two for a field clinic, two for a mosque, and four for emergency housing for people evacuated from their homes. A power generator, as well as supplies of sand, cements and

cinder blocks to be used for the floor of the tents was also confiscated. (PNN 29 March 2020)

- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) ordered a Palestinian resident of al-Tibban village in Masafer Yatta in the south of the West Bank, to stop work on an animal barn he was building. The IOA raided several villages in that area and ordered one man in al-Tibban to stop work on his 110-square meter animal barn. Residents of Masafer Yatta earn a living from raising and herding livestock, mainly sheep. (WAFA 31 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) demolished a Palestinian-owned house that was still in the construction stage in the northern West Bank village of Jubara, south of Tulkarm. The village was invaded by a large army force who broke into the village early in morning with two bulldozers, closed all entrances to the village, cordoned off the area and proceed to demolish the one-floor house. The house owner had received a demolition notice from the Israeli military on the ground it was built without a permit. The army had demolished three other houses in the same area last year and seized three caravans, while several other houses are under threat of demolition under the pretext of construction without permit. (WAFA 31 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) Khalaf A Rashayda family in Wad Ad Daraja near the Dead Sea a military order to evacuate their tin shacks and leave the area. (PNN 31 March 2020)

Israeli Military Orders

- Palestinians in the village of Nahalin, were informed by the Israeli military that one house will be demolished as two others were ordered to stop construction of their homes. One resident of the village, located in the southern occupied West Bank, received a demolition order, while two others were ordered to stop work on building their homes, under the pretext they were lacking an Israeli permit. The village in question is in Area C, under full Israeli military and administrative control, where Palestinians are denied permits to build on their own land. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

- Israeli settlers began razing tracts of land in the Palestinian villages of Qusra and Jurish, to the south of the occupied West Bank city of

Nablus. Settlers used bulldozers to raze lands in an area belonging to the aforementioned Palestinian villages. (IMEMC 2 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed the neighborhood of Al Jaidi in the northern occupied West Bank city of Qalqilia, where wide confrontations occurred with Palestinian youths, during which Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired live ammunition, sound grenades, and tear-gas canisters towards the youths. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)
- In the village of Qusra in the northern West Bank city of Nablus, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Palestinians resisting the levelling operations of the agricultural land. Israeli heavy machinery and IOA stormed the village and started a large-scale leveling operation in Mount Najma. The IOA attacked two unarmed young Palestinian men, beating them with rifles while the bulldozers continued to level the lands. The injured young men were identified as Mahmoud Owdeh and Thaer Hasan. The IOA fired tear-gas canisters and rubber-coated metal bullets at the Palestinians resisting land annexation, causing injuries. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)
- Several Israeli military vehicles invaded the southern besieged Gaza Strip in eastern Rafah. Five bulldozers entered through Mutebeq military entry, invading 50 meters into Palestinian lands, in eastern Rafah, erecting barbed wire in the area to prevent Palestinians from entering. Additionally, the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) fired tear gas canisters at farmers in Sreij, in eastern Khan Younis. Also, off the coast of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza, Israeli gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats, no casualties were reported. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) razed Palestinian-owned lands in the area of Wadi al-Makh'rour, to the west of Bethlehem city in the occupied West Bank. Israeli bulldozers Israeli forces imposed a curfew in the area and prevented citizens from entering or leaving it, before embarking on razing about five dunmus of private-owned land. Wadi al-Makhrour is a popular hiking space for Palestinians. It is best enjoyed during the late afternoon in the summer when the sun is about to set. The area encompasses both natural and agricultural landscapes and is well known for its ancient terraces and stone towers called qusur, built of neatly placed rocks that used to serve as storage rooms for various crops planted in the wadi. (WAFA 4 March 2020)

- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) bulldozers razed Palestinian lands in Shweier village in the northern Jordan Valley after forcing local shepherds to leave the area. The IOA who did not give a reason for the Israeli action. (WAFA 4 March 2020)
- Israeli vehicles leveled several dunums of Palestinian agricultural land in Beit Jala and the Jordan Valley. Israeli bulldozers raided Makhrour in Beit Jala, south of Jerusalem, and razed five dunums of land belonging to, Ramzi Qaisiyyeh, a Palestinian citizen. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- In the Jordan Valley, The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) expelled shepherds from Shwei'er in the north, and leveled agricultural land. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- Near the West Bank city of Nablus, The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked villagers in Qusra who resisted an Israeli operation destroying Palestinian agricultural land. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- Palestinian landowners in the Silwan neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem blocked an intrusion attempt by a team from the Israeli Nature Preservation Authority, according to one of the land owners, Saeed Abbasi. Members of the so-called Israeli nature authority stormed his 4-dunam plot of land in Silwan, which is planted with olive trees, in an attempt to seize the land, under the pretext of performing excavations in the area. The Israeli occupation seeks to seize the entire 60-dunam area of Silwan, known as Wadi al-Rababa, to turn it into a public park. Landowners in the Wadi al-Rababa area, are currently waging a legal battle to stop the Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem and nature authority from taking over their land. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- Workers for Israel's Nature and Parks Authority began development work on several plots of privately owned Palestinian land in the Ben Hinmon Valley area, located just south of the Old City of Jerusalem between the Abu Tor and Silwan neighborhoods. These plots of land surround a cultural center and cafe run by the radical Elad settler group. They are part of an area over which Elad seeks to expand its control through elaborate plans involving touristic developments. The legal status of the land in question has been the subject of an ongoing legal dispute for nearly a year — a dispute which has seen an Israeli judge revoke several of the “gardening orders” which the Jerusalem Municipality issued in order to seize the land. In June 2019, the Jerusalem Municipality issued “gardening orders” to take control of 12 plots of privately owned Palestinian land near the Elad

development, ostensibly to add new landscaping, new terraces and a new walking path. “Gardening orders” allow Israel to “temporarily” take over privately owned land for what are public purposes (like establishing a parking lot or public garden), based on the argument that the owners are not presently using the land. Importantly, as Emek Shaveh notes, the 12 plots in question are located in an area declared by Israel to be a national park, meaning that private landowners are legally barred from using their own land. Under these orders, this control would be for a period lasting 5 years, with the likelihood of extensions after that — tantamount to expropriation. (EMEKSHEVA 12 March 2020)

- Israeli army bulldozers began razing Palestinian-owned farm lands in the occupied West Bank village of Jaloud, south of Nablus city. The new bulldozing started in area 13, known as the ‘Pats’ site. Jaloud village is already surrounded by a number of illegal colonial settlements, mainly on the eastern and western sides of the village. The bulldozing by the Israeli army, comes following remarks by Israeli defense minister, Naftali Bennet, in which he announced his government’s plans to expand the Shevout Rachile colonial settlement, to five times its current size, as well as connecting the Shilo and Shevout Rachile Settlement with other settlements. (IMEMC 24 March 2020)
- Israeli authorities in the northern West Bank city of Nablus, warned Palestinian residents in the area, that Israeli occupation army would soon uproot dozens of trees in the tourist zone of Almasoudiya. Israeli authorities handed over warrants to Palestinian residents in the Almasoudiya zone, that the authorities would soon remove the trees. The area in question is considered to be a historical one and that it contains some ancient monuments including trees that are all traced back to the Ottoman Empire era, some five hundred years ago. The action would further Israel’s colonial settlement plans on Palestinian-owned lands. (IMEMC 30 March 2020)
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Expansion of settlements

- The Defense Ministry has green-lighted planning for what it called a "sovereignty road" that would allow Palestinian traffic to bypass Israeli settlements in the E1 area of the West Bank. "We're applying sovereignty in deeds, not words," Defense Minister Naftali Bennett said on Monday, as he made a subtle dig at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for not having already annexed all of the West Bank settlements, including the area outside of Jerusalem where the road is located. As part of his re-election campaign, Netanyahu last month agreed to advance plans for [3,500 new homes](#) in an unbuilt area of the Ma'aleh Adumim settlement, known as E1. To make the project tenable for area Palestinians, roads are needed that would allow them to bypass that area, so that they could have continuous travel between their communities. The overall transportation project has been called the "fabric of life" road. [Bennett](#) has now pushed forward with a road that would link the Palestinian village of Azzim outside of Jerusalem with the neighboring villages and towns of Anata, Hizme and A-Ram. In his announcement to the media, the defense minister explained that this would be a "separate road" for Palestinians in the E1 area, which would allow for vehicles with Palestinian license plates to move on a separate route from those with Israeli license plates, so that they would not have to cross inside the Ma'aleh Adumim bloc. Bennett said that, "Today we are giving a green light to the sovereignty road and embarking on the process of connecting Jerusalem with Ma'aleh Adumim. The project will improve the quality of life for the residents in the area, avoid unnecessary friction with the Palestinian population and, most importantly, allow for continued settlement construction." Peace Now said it was disingenuous for the Defense Ministry to speak of improving life for the Palestinians when its sole concern was settlement expansion. Palestinians and the international community have opposed the E1 project. They have argued that it destroys any possibility of a contiguous Palestinian state and thus makes such a state untenable. Peace Now similarly said that the road project was "bad for Israel" because it eliminated the possibility of a two-state resolution to the conflict. ([JPOST, PEACENOW](#) 9 March 2020)
- While the public's attention is focused on the coronavirus and the endless attempts to form a government, "life itself" continues as usual: Israel has started planning a new road in the West Bank that Defense

[Minister Naftali Bennett](#) has already nicknamed “the sovereignty road.” [This is a separate road](#) for Palestinians, and it will let Israel build a settlement in the E1 region. E1 is an area of 12 square kilometers (4.6 square miles) that has been appended to the municipality of Ma’aleh Adumim. Plans to build in this area have been frozen for years because construction there would sever the West Bank in two – a step with dramatic political and diplomatic ramifications. The new road ostensibly solves this problem. Its declared intention is to divert Palestinian traffic from Route 1 to a road that will pass through the area’s Palestinian villages and leave Route 1 “free” of Palestinians. In Bennett’s sanitized language, this “will prevent unnecessary friction with the Palestinian population.” The new road will let Israel continue building the separation barrier around Ma’aleh Adumim and E1 and bar Palestinian access to Route 1 in the section closest to these areas. It’s a continuation of [the “apartheid road”](#) that has separate lanes for Israelis and Palestinians with a wall dividing the lanes. The new road is supposed to run underneath the separation barrier. According to Bennett, this will negate the claim that Israel is severing the West Bank in a way that doesn’t enable Palestinian movement, because Israel will be creating “transportation contiguity” for them. The road will join Route 443, which separates the villages to its north and south, and the underground roads beneath it that connect those villages – roads that Israel, without shame, calls “fabric of life roads.” To all this should also be added the “bypass” roads that Israel has planned and built in the West Bank in recent years – they bypass Palestinian villages and allow settlers to travel through the West Bank without fear of encountering the local people. At least Bennett isn’t hiding his plans. The press statement that announced construction of the new road ended with the words “applying sovereignty – in deeds, not in words.” To the defense minister’s credit, it must be said that he makes a mockery of any pretension that Israel is managing the West Bank for the benefit of the Palestinians and their “fabric of life.” But when this announcement is added to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s statements a few weeks ago that Israel should resume construction efforts in E1, it’s clear where his right-wing government will be heading if it remains in power – toward annexing territory and deepening apartheid via separate roads and legal systems. ([Haaretz](#) 11 March 2020)

- **This is Not a Drill: the Past Week's Settlement Announcements:**
Exactly one year ago, in February 2019, in the run-up to the first round of Israeli elections in the past year, we wrote: “*Like most people, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is a creature of habits -*

and one of those habits relates to how he uses the issue of Jerusalem in elections. In the past, Netanyahu has repeatedly used last-minute Jerusalem related events in order to energize his base. Exploiting Jerusalem for electoral gain can be viewed as part of his electoral modus operandi. ...[T]he potential is high for a Netanyahu-led inflammatory Jerusalem-related event - for example, a move to strengthen Israel's control over or foothold within East Jerusalem, or in adjacent areas of the West Bank - in the weeks or days before election day (April 9)". Among the potential inflammatory schemes likely, we cited the approval of E-1 and the publication of tenders at Givat Hamatos. On February 20, one week before the third national elections in one year, as Netanyahu is fighting for his political survival, our worst fears indeed did materialize. Netanyahu announced the approval of construction at E-1, Givat Hamatos, and Har Homa, and these three schemes had been preceded by a similar announcement regarding Atarot. The announcement was initially so fraught with errors and generalities that some hoped that this might be theater in the service of Netanyahu's re-election campaign. Nothing can be further from the truth. In the days that followed, and one week before the elections scheduled on March 2, Netanyahu backed up words with deeds, issued tenders at Givat Hamatos, ordered the statutory approval of E-1, green-lighted statutory deliberations over Har Homa E and yet an additional expansion of Givat Hamatos. Two of these schemes, the Givat Hamatos tenders and the statutory approval of E-1, are the two most devastating settlement developments since 1967. They are a clear and present danger, posing an immediate threat to the possibility of any two-state outcome. Dovetailed with the recently released Trump initiative and the approaching annexation scheme, they threaten to condemn Israel to perpetual occupation, the gravest existing threat to the long-term viability of the State of Israel. Whereas Givat Hamatos tenders and the decision on E-1 are both dangerous and imminent, and will be very difficult to stop, the plans regarding Har Homa E, Atarot and the expansion of Givat Hamatos (as opposed to the tenders) are only in the embryonic stages. Consequently, we will commence our analysis with the two "doomsday" plans, and conclude with a brief description of the less immediately dangerous plans. ([t-j](#) 11 March 2020)

- It took less than a year for the government to start building new neighborhoods in Jerusalem beyond the Green Line, following the Six Day War. As part of the need to restore the Hadassah Hospital and Hebrew University on Mount Scopus – which were cut off for 19 years

from the rest of the city – the first aim was to create continuity between the Jewish neighborhoods and connect Mount Scopus with the western side of the city. Ramat Eshkol was the first of the new contiguous neighborhoods, soon followed by French Hill, Givat Hamivtar and Ma'alot Dafna. Ramat Eshkol was also the first neighborhood, which from the outset the initial plans included buildings higher than four stories. Some few years later, its first tower was added – a ten-story building on the Eshkol Boulevard. ([ipost](#) 12 March 2020)

- **The yearly construction average since Trump's administration is 25% higher than during the Obama years.** A. Highlights – Settlement Construction In The West Bank, 2019: (East Jerusalem excluded). **11 New settlement outposts (illegal agriculture farms) were established in 2019**, all of them in areas that Israel will need to evict under a two state solution (east of the Geneva Initiative proposed border). **1,917 new housing units began construction in 2019. Yearly average of construction since Trump's administration (2,267 units) is 25% higher than the yearly average under Obama's administration (1,807 units).** In the last 3 years there were 6,800 new units (yearly average of 2,267 units) according to Peace Now's count. 2,783 units in 2017; 2,100 units in 2018; and 1,917 units in 2019; compared to an average of 1,807 units per year in the years 2009 – 2016: 1,174 units in 2009; 1,545 units in 2010; 1,792 units in 2011; 1,554 units in 2012; 1,684 in 2013; 3,100 in 2014; 1,800 in 2015; and 1,814 in 2016. **Nearly 63% (1,200 housing units) of the new construction was in settlements east of the proposed Geneva Initiative border**, i.e. **settlements likely to be evacuated in a two-state agreement**. At least 10% (195 housing units) of the construction was illegal, in illegal outposts. The vast majority of new construction, **91% (1,764 housing units), was for permanent structures**, while that the remainder was mobile homes both in outposts and in settlements. **61 new public buildings** (such as schools, synagogues etc.) started to be built, alongside **87 structures for industry or agriculture** (53% of them in illegal outposts). **56% of the construction was in national-religious settlements** (1,065 units); **39% of the construction was in Ultra-Orthodox settlements** (741 units) and only **5% of the construction was in secular settlements**. **Advancement of Plans and Tenders in 2019 (January-December): 8,457 Housing units** were advanced through plans in 58 settlements. Almost 68% (5,783 housing units) of the planned units were east of the purposed Geneva Initiative border. Tenders were published for 1,761 housing units, 956 of them in settlements and 805 units in East Jerusalem Israeli neighborhoods. It should be noted that since January 2020 and before

the election on March 2nd, the Israeli government managed to advance plans for 7,582 units (including 3,401 units in E1) and to publish tenders for 3,332 units (1,785 of them in settlements and 1,547 in East Jerusalem, including in Givat Hamatos). ([PEACENOW](#) 18 March 2020)

- Construction in Settlements in the Jordan Valley in 2019: the following is an appendix to the 2019 yearly settlement construction report of Peace Now. Background: The Jordan Valley – Small settlements, huge amounts of land: Since 1967, Israeli governments have tried to encourage settlement in the Jordan Valley through various incentives. Recently, the prime minister announced plans to annex the valley. In September 2019, he presented an annexation blueprint map for 22.3% of the West Bank in the Jordan Valley, with 30 settlements and 18 illegal outposts. The so-called Trump Plan, crafted with ample input from Netanyahu, supports an annexation of the Jordan Valley although with a slightly different map than Netanyahu's. For the sake of the following report, the Jordan Valley boundaries were defined according to Netanyahu's proposed annexation map. Despite the efforts of various governments, all failed to bring a massive amount of settlers to the Jordan Valley. Currently, only 12,788 settlers live in the Valley—about 3% of the settlers (interestingly, in the East Bank, Jordan, the Jordanian government managed to bring hundreds of thousands of residents to the area with the same climate and distances from Jordanian populated centers). At the same time, the takeover of the Jordan Valley lands is almost complete. Since 1967, Israel has implemented a policy of dispossession of the Palestinians – an absolute majority of the land was seized for firing zones and training purposes, and hundreds of thousands of dunams were allocated to settlers for agricultural use. The Palestinians have limited areas where Israel allows them to build and live in small enclaves of about 5% of the Valley—in the Jericho area that is Area A, and in some small villages considered Area B. 95% of the Valley is considered to be Area C, under full Israeli control, and Israeli policy is not to permit any construction and development for the Palestinians. Thus, the reality in the Jordan Valley is one whereby a small minority of residents (12,788 settlers) control 95% of the land, while the Palestinian majority (52,950 – 81% of the Valley's population) are confined to small enclaves in the remaining 5% of the area. ([PEACENOW](#) 18 March 2020)
- A right-wing Israeli parliamentarian submitted two bills to the Knesset on Wednesday seeking to permanently annex the Jordan Valley, the

northern Dead Sea and the Hebron desert in the occupied West Bank to Israel, as well as impose the death penalty on Palestinian political prisoners. Miki Zohar, the head of the Likud faction in the Knesset, said that the two bills he submitted would “embarrass” former army general Benny Gantz of the Blue and White party and Avigdor Lieberman of Yisrael Beiteinu. Gantz is currently speaking with Israeli parties to form a coalition government after receiving a thin majority last week from Israeli Knesset members. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of Likud party, is maintaining contact with Gantz in a bid to form a national unity government, though the chances are slim that the two rivals will find common ground. Netanyahu is facing corruption charges and he could be sentenced to up to ten years in prison if convicted. Due to the [coronavirus pandemic](#), the first court hearing for Netanyahu's case was postponed this week to May. Gantz is still examining the possibility to enter an alliance with Lieberman and the Arab Joint List, a political coalition of parties representing Palestinian citizens of Israel, in order to form a government. Lieberman has long depicted the Palestinian community inside Israel as a “fifth column” and called them “enemies”. Nonetheless, he agreed with Gantz for the Joint List to provide parliamentary support to the coalition but not participate in the government. The Joint List opposes the annexation of occupied Palestinian lands and the death penalty. [Newspaper Israel Hayom](#) quoted Zohar as saying that his aim was to weaken Gantz's bloc. “Let's see this wonderful cooperation between the Joint List, Yisrael Beiteinu and Blue and White. We will see how they will work together [with] those who work against the state,” Zohar said. “Shall we see [Gantz and Lieberman] oppose these legislations in order to please their new friends from the Joint List?” In [December 2017](#), Lieberman - who then served as defence minister - introduced a bill allowing the use of the death penalty against Palestinian prisoners. The bill did not go through the Knesset. Israel has not carried out any executions since 1962, when Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann was hanged. Israel abolished the use of capital punishment for murder in civil courts in 1954, though it can still in theory be applied for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, treason and crimes against the Jewish people. ([MEE](#) 18 March 2020)

- The Higher Planning Council \ the Subcommittee for Settlement put forward a plan to expand the Efrat settlement on the lands of Bethlehem, and put it up for opposition within a period of 60 days. The proposal for this plan came at a time when the Palestinian territories

are witnessing a movement ban and a quarantine to prevent coronavirus pandemic, and amid the declaration of a state of emergency and the closure of Israeli institutions that issue some of the documents necessary for the objection. Israel intends to confiscate about 569 dunums, 477 of which are outside the boundaries of the Efrat Settlement. This settlement plan aims to change the usage of lands from agricultural to building land in order to construct roads and open areas. (NBPRS 31 March 2020)

Erection of Israeli checkpoints

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened a few metal gates, to the south of the occupied West Bank district of Qalqilia, in order for Palestinians working in Israel to return home. The IOA opened the military gates of the apartheid wall in order to allow Palestinian workers to return from their workplaces inside Israel to their homes. The move is designed to sabotage the precautionary measures taken by Palestinian security forces and the Ministry of Health to contain the spread of the coronavirus in the occupied territories, including detection of suspected coronavirus cases among workers and forcing them into 14-day home quarantine. Over the past few days, a number of Palestinian workers who work inside Israel have been dropped off at checkpoints between Israel and the northern West Bank after displaying symptoms of the [novel coronavirus](#) - also known as Covid-19. This has compelled the Palestinian government to order all Palestinian workers in Israel to come back to the West Bank and enter a mandatory 14-day quarantine or risk facing unspecified penalties. (WAFA 30 March 2020)

Israeli Closures

- Several Israeli military checkpoints were installed at the entrances to towns and camps in the Hebron Governorate, and the vehicles of the Palestinians driving in those areas were searched and their identities checked. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)
- Israeli occupation authorities announced last night the full closure of all crossings with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as part of ongoing precautions against the spread of novel COVID-19 (coronavirus). Under the current closure conditions, workers, merchants and other permit-holders will not be allowed to enter Israel until further notice, with the exception of some permitted cases working in the vital healthcare sector. Palestinians working in Israel would have to find

accommodation at their employer's discretion in Israel without commuting back to their homes in the West Bank or Gaza at the end of the day, as is the case in the rest of the year. Previously, thousands of Palestinian workers in the West Bank and Gaza would commute to Israel via the border crossings in the early morning for their workplace, and would return to their homes in the evening. (WAFA 22 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) blocked off a number of entrances of villages and towns south of the southern occupied West Bank city of Hebron. The IOA closed the metal gates at the access roads to Dora town and Fawwar refugee camp, as well placing a new metal gate leading to Yatta town. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)
- Palestinian famers were surprised by Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) storming the greenhouses they were working in and forcing them to leave them while a bulldozer started to close nearby agricultural roads with dirt. The bulldozer of the Israeli army closed with dirt mounds agricultural roads linking the villages of Kafa and Shufa with a number of neighboring villages southeast of the northern West Bank city of Tulkarm. The Israeli army closed several roads used by local farmers to reach their lands and which are located near the settlement of Avni Haifetz, built on village lands, and thus preventing the movement of farmers, access to their farmland and grazing their sheep. The goal of closing these roads is for settlement purposes, to seize more Palestinian lands, and to protect settlers, especially one settler who unilaterally set up a mobile home and three plastic greenhouses in that area, in addition to raising more than 100 sheep grazing on local farmers' lands, and, who, under threat of arms and protected by the soldiers, assault farmers working on their land in that area. (WAFA 31 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) closed the Ibrahimi Mosque and prevented the guards from entering it without any justification, while only allowing the muezzin to enter for the call prayer. This behavior is considered as an Israeli attempt to fully control the Mosque, in a move that may continue beyond the end of the coronavirus crisis. (PNN 31 March 2020)
- In Jenin, the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) isolated about 8 thousand citizens in the eastern town of Barta'a, behind the apartheid wall under the pretext of preventing the spread of the Coronavirus. The IOA closed the Barta'a military checkpoint in both directions, the only exit

for the people of the village and its surroundings. (NBPRS 31 March 2020)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) closed the Al-Jeeb military checkpoint that connects the Al-Khalaila neighborhood and the village of Nabi Samuel with the Al-Jib town, northwest of Jerusalem. (NBPRS 31 March 2020)

Other

- Vote count shows settlers came out in droves for Netanyahu; Yamina, Otzma fell: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spent a great deal of time beyond the Green Line campaigning ahead of Monday's election, seeking to remind locals of all he has done and will continue to do to further expand and entrench their presence there. On Monday, settlers returned the favor, giving the premier's Likud party more support than any other faction among Israelis in the West Bank. Of the roughly 460,000 settlers, 29.7 percent of voters cast their ballots for Likud — a jump of 7.3 percentage points over the September election. Likud has been the most popular party beyond the Green Line in the past, but that has generally been the case when the national religious parties were split. Moreover, the 6.9 point gap in support between Netanyahu's party and the second most popular one, Yamina, is the largest it's been in decades. The increase in support was most evident in city-settlements that were already Likud strongholds, such as Ma'ale Adumim and Ariel, the 3rd- and 4th-largest settlements, with some 40,000 and 20,000 residents, respectively. In Ma'ale Adumim, Likud climbed from 49% of the vote in September to 59% of the vote in April, and in Ariel, it jumped from 44% to 52% of the vote. ([TOI](#) 5 March 2020)
- Israeli authorities, in February, arrested a total of 41 Palestinian children, imprisoning 20 of them in Ofer prison, according to the Committee of Prisoners and Former Prisoners. The Committee explained that, of the children arrested last month; 20 were kidnapped from their homes, 6 from the streets, 1 for not having permission, 6 were summoned for interrogation and then arrested, and 8 were arrested at military checkpoints. The committee said that two of the children arrested in February were brutally beaten during their arrests and interrogations, while many others were forced to pay heavy fines, estimated at 41,000 Shekels (over \$11,000). ([IMEMC](#) 10 March 2020)
- With annexation of all West Bank settlements hanging in the balance, the 245,072 eligible settler voters had more at stake than most of their

counterparts in the March 2 election. Residents of Judea and Samaria, which make up some six or seven mandates, are considered to be the bedrock of the Likud and Yamina parties, and as such were heavily courted by politicians in the last election. ([JPOST](#) 10 March 2020)

- Despite a refusal by the Palestinians to be involved in any negotiations and a lack of government in Israel, US President Donald Trump's administration will push forward with the "[Deal of the Century](#)" peace plan, including giving White House approval to Israeli annexation, senior presidential adviser Jared Kushner told US senators in a closed-room meeting last Wednesday, Channel 13's diplomatic correspondent reported through Axios. The news comes just following Israel's third election within a year, which has seen the country still divided as no clear winner has emerged from the political deadlock. Despite this, it seems the Trump administration feels both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his chief political rival, Blue and White leader Benny Gantz, will both support the annexation. Though US and Israeli officials [met in Jerusalem two weeks](#) ago to discuss which areas of the West Bank over which the Trump administration is ready to recognize the application of Israeli sovereignty, Kushner has stated that the overall demarcation process will take months. In the meantime, he urged the Palestinians to start negotiating, saying that they could improve their position through negotiations, but they only have themselves to blame if it goes ahead without their approval, the Axios report stated. The Palestinians have stated their refusal to accept the Trump administration's peace plan well before the plan was even unveiled, and since then have refused to budge on the issue. In addition, the Palestinian Authority has been cracking down on any perceived efforts of "normalization" of ties with Israel in the months since the plan was unveiled. According to Kushner, who presented the senators with the same presentation used at a UN Security Council meeting in February, the situation has become increasingly worsened due to two specific factors: Increasing expansion efforts by Israel in the West Bank, and the increasing dependence of Palestinian leaders on foreign aid. According to a senior White House official, "Kushner's message was that every time negotiations failed, the Palestinians got more money and Israel was able to keep expanding the settlements, but the peace process became a false notion and didn't solve anything. Both parties' leaderships just kept getting what they want without improving the lives of the people." Kushner cited the support of many Arab states, as well as the EU's lack of opposition to the plan, as reasons why it could still go forward. "Nobody can say we didn't give the Palestinians a chance to go back to the table," a White House

official told Channel 13. "If they want to talk we are ready. We think we can make it better for them, but if not the world is going to move on without them. We are not going to do things in the same stupid manner it was done before. We are going to keep moving forward." The Trump peace plan, entitled "Road to Prosperity," was first unveiled by Trump and Netanyahu in January 2020. Under the deal, the Trump administration will recognize the annexation of and application of Israeli sovereignty over 30% of the West Bank. ([jpost](#) 8 March 2020)

- The Trump administration will no longer refer to Arab residents of Jerusalem as Palestinians. In a new human rights report released on Wednesday, the US for the first time calls the Arab residents of the capital "non-Israeli residents who live in Jerusalem." The annual State Department report evaluates the state of human rights across the world. It has a chapter dealing with the situation in Judea and Samaria and Jerusalem. In recent years its terminology has changed regarding those areas. Two years ago, the report decided to omit the term "occupied" in reference to Judea and Samaria, and last year the report included strong rebukes of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas over their violation of human rights rather than just over Israel's record. The administration's latest decision is in keeping with its principled stance of sticking to the truth and facts on the ground. The administration told Israel Hayom that the new definition of Arab residents in east Jerusalem reflects the reality in the capital,: On the one hand the Arab residents are not Israeli citizens but on the other hand, there is no Palestinian state either, and hence they cannot be considered Palestinian citizens. In one paragraph dealing with the shortage of classrooms in the city, the report refers to Arab citizens in east Jerusalem without using the word "Palestinian" to describe their lack of Israeli citizenship: "Based on population data from the Central Bureau of Statistics, the NGO Ir Amim estimated in previous years a shortage of 2,500 classrooms for non-Israeli children resident in East Jerusalem and 18,600 non-Israeli children in Jerusalem were not enrolled in any school." A senior administration official told Israel Hayom that "the goal of this report is to maximize accuracy. Being accurate and factual has been the hallmark of this administration's foreign policy." The official added: "This report brings the region closer to peace because as it has been said repeatedly, peace can only be built on a foundation of truth, anything else will crumble and fail." The administration further said that it was surprised by the strong disavowal by Israeli Arabs in northern Israel of the president's peace plan and its call for land swaps that would have some Israeli Arabs live in a new Palestinian state. One

administration official said that for dozens of years, Arabs in Israel have called themselves Palestinians and therefore the US can't understand why they are so vehemently against becoming citizens of the Palestinian state. "This is a mystery," an official said. ([Israel Hayom](#), [Reuters](#) 9 March 2020)

- The Israeli Army's Plunder in the Service of the Occupation: Soldiers seized tens of thousands of shekels in a West Bank village last week. One man had to cancel his wedding and another lost the payment for a machine he'd sold. Little matter that they had proper documentation. ([Haaretz](#) 12 March 2020)
- U.S. State Department Now Calling East Jerusalem Palestinians 'Arab Residents': The change in terminology comes amid increased disputes following the release of the Trump Mideast plan. The U.S. State Department changed its standard description of East Jerusalem Palestinians from "Palestinian residents" of the city to "Arab residents" or "non-Israeli citizens" in an annual global human rights report released on Wednesday. The overwhelming majority of [East Jerusalem's](#) more than 340,000 [Palestinians](#) identify as such. The Palestinians have long sought the city's east, which Israel captured in a 1967 war and later annexed in a move not recognized internationally, as capital of a future state. Palestinians in Jerusalem hold Israeli residency permits but few have citizenship in Israel, which considers the entire holy city as its eternal, undivided capital. Jerusalem is also home to more than 500,000 Israelis. The change in U.S. terminology comes amid increased wrangling over the contested city following the release of President Donald Trump's [Middle East plan](#), which says Jerusalem should "remain the sovereign capital of the State of Israel" under any Israeli-Palestinian peace accord. State Department reports on human rights practices from 2018 and 2019 referred to East Jerusalem Palestinians as "Palestinian residents of Jerusalem" in sections on civil judicial procedures, discrimination and freedom of movement. Those same sections in the 2020 report referred to Palestinians as "Arab residents" or "non-Israeli citizens". Israel embraced Trump's Middle East plan, released in January, while Palestinians rejected it out of hand, in part because it designated the urban sprawl to the north and east of Jerusalem but cut off from it by an Israeli military barrier as a future Palestinian capital. The Palestinians have boycotted Trump's peace efforts since he recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in 2017 and later moved the U.S. Embassy there, accusing Washington of pro-Israel bias. ([Haaretz](#), Reuters 12 March 2020)

- 'Deal or No Deal': Declassified Oslo Accords Documents Show Uncertainty from All Sides: Expelling settlers from Hebron, an undivided Jerusalem and a Palestinian state – When Rabin complained to Arafat and Peres admitted a historic mistake. ([Haaretz](#) 13 March 2020)
- The Palestinians on Monday submitted their observations to the International Criminal Court regarding the ICC prosecutor's request for a determination on the scope of its jurisdiction in the "State of Palestine." On January 28, the ICC Pretrial Chamber ordered setting the procedure and schedule for submission of observations on the prosecutor's request, resubmitted on January 22, under article 19(3) of the Rome Statute related to the scope of the court's territorial jurisdiction in the "Situation in the State of Palestine." The Pretrial Chamber invited Israel and the Palestinians to submit written observations on the ICC prosecutor's request no later than March 16. In their observations, the Palestinians said: "The State of Palestine affirms that it has sole sovereignty over the territory of the State of Palestine, occupied in 1967, which comprises the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, and which is also recognized by the international community." They said the "State of Palestine recognizes that the court plays an important role in bringing justice to the most serious crimes of concern to the international community." The Palestinians welcomed the submission of several lawyers, professors and human-rights defenders, "reaffirming that the Court has a jurisdiction over the territory of the State of Palestine, thus leaving no doubt over who is entitled to the territory, including in particular the submissions of the League of Arab States and the Organization Cooperation." The Pretrial Chamber had ruled that other states, organizations and/or persons may submit written observations by the March 16 deadline. It said any observations should be limited to the question of jurisdiction set forth in the prosecutor's request. The Palestinians wrote: "Other submissions on behalf of Palestinian victims demonstrate how a decision denying the territorial scope over the entirety of the territory of Palestine would contradict the object and purpose of the court, of ending impunity and holding perpetrators accountable for their crimes. "The State of Palestine looks forward to an expeditious ruling from the Pretrial Chamber I, in accordance with the Chambers Practice Manual, which sets a timeframe of 120 days, preventing any further delay in the prosecutor's opening of an investigation into the situation in the State of Palestine." The Palestinians said they "stand by the independent nature of the court, a pillar of the rule of law," adding that it was the responsibility of all

states to protect its independence. “The situation in the State of Palestine remains the ultimate test of the court’s impartiality as well as the state parties’ universality of international justice. “The State of Palestine reaffirms its solid commitment to upholding its legal obligations as a state party to the Rome Statute and will continue to fully cooperate with the court,” the Palestinians wrote. ([IPOST](#) 17 March 2019)

- In the midst of global preoccupation with combating the outbreak of the Coronavirus COVID19, the Israeli forces continue to storm Palestinian cities, assaulting the civilian population, without taking any preventive measures, and completely ignoring the dangers this behavior might cause in light of the spread of the infection in Israel, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor (Euro-Med) said in a press statement. It said it followed with a great concern reports of suspicious behaviors of Israeli soldiers and settlers, during the storming of Palestinian houses, as some of them spat at parked cars, ATMs and shop locks, which raises fears of deliberate attempts to spread the virus and cause panic in the Palestinian society. Since the Palestinian government has declared a state of emergency in the Palestinian Territories on March 6, as a preventive measure to control the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus, Euro-Med has documented 207 Israeli incursions into Palestinian cities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. These incursions included the arrest of 191 Palestinians, attacks on dozens of others, and demolishing Palestinian houses. The majority of these operations took place without any preventive measures and without soldiers wearing appropriate masks to prevent the spread of the virus. ([WAFA](#), EUROMED 31 March 2020)