



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 04 January 2015

The daily report highlights the violations behind Israeli home demolitions and demolition threats in the occupied Palestinian territory, the confiscation and razing of lands, the uprooting and destruction of fruit trees, the expansion of settlements and erection of outposts, the brutality of the Israeli Occupation Army, the Israeli settlers violence against Palestinian civilians and properties, the erection of checkpoints, the construction of the Israeli segregation wall and the issuance of military orders for the various Israeli purposes.

The Violations are based on reports provided by field workers and/or news sources.

The text is not quoted directly from the sources but is edited for clarity.

The daily report does not necessarily reflect ARIJ's opinion.

Brutality of the Israeli Occupation Army

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent event in Far'un village, south of Tulkarm city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of three people. (Al-Quds 4 January 2015)
- Haitham Hijazi Ar-Rajabi was injured during clashes that erupted with the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Jabal Johar area in Hebron city.

The IOA used live bullets to attack Palestinians. (Al-Quds 4 January 2015)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in several areas and neighborhoods in Husan village, west of Bethlehem city. (RB2000 4 January 2015)

Israeli Arrests

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested three Palestinians from As-Sa'diya neighborhood in the old city of Jerusalem. The arrestees were identified as: Mahmoud Daoud At-Tiryaqi, Abdalla Abu Diyab and Ahmed Az-Za'aneen. (Waffa 4 January 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Abed Al-Hakim Shbeir (51 years) from Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip, while he was interviewing the Israeli Intelligence Police at Eirz (Beit Hanoun) terminal). (Pal Info 4 January 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested two Palestinians and summoned Ahmed Abu Ghrfa to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police in Gush Etzion settlement bloc, after storming and searching their family houses in Ad-Dhuhasha refugee camp, south of Bethlehem city. The arrestees were identified as: Tamer Harbi Sadoud (23 years) and Khalid As-Salhi (23 years). During the operation, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds 4 January 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) Mohammad Adel Asakrah (20 years) after raiding his family house in Bethlehem city. The IOA transferred the arrestee to known location. (Al-Quds 4 January 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Khadeja Khwis after stopping her at Bab Hutta, one of Al-Aqsa mosque gates, in Jerusalem city. (Zamn Press 4 January 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Mohammad Ali Sabah (20 years) after raiding his house in Tequ village, southeast of Bethlehem city. (RB2000 4 January 2015)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) summoned Ismail Daoud Nabhan (36 years) to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police in Gush Etzion settlement bloc after raiding his house in Hindaza village, southeast of Bethlehem city. (RB2000 4 January 2015)

Israeli Military Orders

- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to stop the construction in four agricultural and commercial structures in Idhna

town, west of Hebron city. The targeted structures are owned by: Abed Al-Hamid Suliman Abu Ijhish (owned a 800 square meters agricultural structure), Halmi Msalam At-Tmizi (owned 250 square meters commercial structure), Khalil Riziq Islimiya (owned 300 square meters structure) and Yousif At-Tmizi (owned 1000 square meters agricultural barracks. (Wafa 4 January 2015)

Other

- Netanyahu, Ya'alon agree to divert \$18m from defense budget to expand Beit El settlement. PM sought to allocate money last month as part of the agreement with Beit El settlers over the 2012 removal of five apartment buildings, but former Finance Minister Lapid blocked the move. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon agreed to use 70 million shekels (\$17.8 million) from the defense budget to evacuate a Border Police base in the Beit El settlement and to build infrastructure there for 300 new homes, Channel 10 reported on Sunday. The money had been promised by Netanyahu to Beit El settlers in return for their agreement to the state's removal in 2012 of five apartment buildings at the Ramallah-area settlement that had been built illegally on private, Palestinian-owned land. Haaretz reported in November that Netanyahu, under pressure from Housing Minister Uri Ariel, had ordered the transfer of the money to keep his side of the Beit El deal. Then-Finance Minister Yair Lapid blocked the move, saying it was up to the government to decide publicly on such an expenditure, and not a matter for the prime minister to decide quietly on his own. Netanyahu had made the decision and kept it under wraps rather than risk the political fallout that was likely to follow. His dismissal of Lapid and takeover of the Finance Ministry last month evidently gave the Beit El deal new life. It came about in summer 2012, when a Supreme Court petition by the anti-occupation NGO Yesh Din led the state to order the removal of five buildings, containing 30 populated apartments, that had been built without permits on Palestinian-owned land. The evacuation was carried out with the locals' consent, as a result of a pact worked out by cabinet Minister Gilad Erdan, with Netanyahu's approval. The deal included the transfer of government funds to expand the population of Beit El, which included the creation of temporary housing for the settlement's evacuees and the Defense Ministry's construction – which is taking place now – of 90 homes for settlers connected to Yeshivat Beit El. Lapid slammed Netanyahu for transferring the funds to Beit El. "The residents of Gaza vicinity communities were left without the protection of IDF troops today, but Netanyahu is busy winking at the

right," Lapid said. "He transfers 70 million shekels to Beit El and builds settlements instead of solving the housing problems faced by young couples in Israel. "As always, Netanyahu puts his narrow political interests ahead of the good of the public." ([Haaretz](#) 4 January 2015)

- Palestinians, settlers, greens declare victory in court ruling on separation barrier. After 3-year battle, judges freeze state's plan to build fence at UNESCO-protected environmental site near village of Battir, after army, government decide it wasn't such a security priority after all. The High Court on Sunday froze proceedings over the state's plan to build the separation barrier past the West Bank village Battir, whose ancient agricultural terraces, which villagers are still farming, were recognized last year by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Villagers and Israeli environmentalists claimed victory in their three-year battle against the plan. "This triumph is a victory for Palestine as a whole," Akram Badir, head of the local council in Battir, south of Jerusalem, told the Palestinian news agency Ma'an. "This is a great achievement for everyone who cares about preserving our environmental and cultural heritage," said Gideon Bromberg, head of Friends of the Earth – Israel. "The High Court today put an end to the web of deception and foolishness the defense ministry has engaged in over the construction of the separation barrier in this unique part of the world." Along the way, the villagers and Friends of the Earth-Israel were joined in their petition by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, which took the highly unusual step of coming out strongly against the Defense Ministry's plan. Others joining the extraordinarily broad coalition of opponents included Gush Etzion settlers and the Gush Etzion Field School. A turning point in the controversy came three months ago with an interview given by Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon to Makor Rishon newspaper, in which he said the ministry had no plans to go forward with construction at any time soon. "It's not a priority at all," Ya'alon said. "I could use the excuse that we don't have the money, but the point is that I don't see a need at the moment for a fence around Gush Etzion." Right after the interview was published, the petitioners submitted it to the court, saying it contradicted the state's long-held contention that construction of the barrier at Battir was a matter of utmost urgency because it was the last unfenced stretch between the West Bank and Israel. Between Ya'alon's interview and the state's announcement that there was no money for the construction because of the government's collapse and consequent failure to pass the 2015 budget, the court decided on Sunday to vacate the petitions. Thus, it effectively forbade the government from constructing the barrier at Battir before submitting a new building

plan, which would be subject to further court challenges. Court President Asher Grunis ruled if the government decided later to go ahead with the construction, it would have to inform the petitioners ahead of time to allow them time to prepare their legal responses. Attorney Michael Sfar, who represented Friends of the Earth – Israel, said the court's ruling suspends for a long time the possibility of extending the separation barrier past Battir. "The ruling does not say it's forbidden to build, but the judges, after three years of deliberations, basically say that on the day [the state] decides to build, everything will start from the beginning," Sfar said. Grunis wrote, "Inasmuch as the [state] contended throughout the various stages of proceedings that there was a vital security need to construct the barrier along a route next to Battir, at this point the defense minister position is that building the separation barrier along this route (while stressing its security importance) is not of a priority that would justify building it at this time." Said Bromberg, "It's just too bad that the army chose to waste everyone's time for two whole years with its claim about an immediate security need, when it had no intention, according to its recent declarations, to build the fence in the area." ([Haaretz](#) 4 January 2015)

- Peace Now: Gov't Gave More Money to 'Settlements' in 2014. Far-left group claims Interior Ministry granted 3.5 times more money to Judea-Samaria in 2014. But could froze funds be the cause? Extreme leftist group Peace Now has accused the Interior Ministry of granting Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria an unprecedented amount of government funding on Sunday, stating in a report that the state granted "settlements" 3.5 times the money granted to Israeli cities and towns within 1949 Armistice Lines. The Interior Ministry said in response that the grants and budgets are given to local authorities according to standards established based on specific criteria and based on government decisions. It added that regional councils in areas of greater danger from terrorism, such as Judea-Samaria, are entitled to special security budgets at the government's discretion. **Year of the frozen funds** If true, the report could reflect the government's decision to unfreeze funds to Judea-Samaria after months of political waffling from former Finance Minister Yair Lapid (Yesh Atid). Lapid had frozen the transfers, which constituted normative funds for security and other local matters, to the regional councils for months over claims of a "lack of transparency" regarding how they were being used. For Lapid, the recent freeze that was lifted is far from his first. In February, the Yesh Atid party head took similar measures against the residents of Judea and Samaria, and did the same two months later - when roughly 563

million shekels (\$162,173,276) earmarked for the Housing Ministry were cut until further notice. As such, it is possible that more transfers were made to Judea and Samaria Regional Councils in 2014 than in years past - due to the fact that other areas of Israel regularly receive their funding on time from the sitting government. 2014 also saw an unprecedented crackdown on terrorism in Judea and Samaria as well, prompting high defense expenses, after the abduction and murder of Israeli teens Naftali Frenkel, Eyal Yifrah, and Gilad Sha'ar in June. ([Israeli National News](#) 4 January 2015)

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