



ARIJ Daily Report

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem
Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966
pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt

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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 naval forces opened fire at Palestinian fishermen off the coast of Beit Lahiya in the northern besieged Gaza Strip in the early hours with one fisherman being shot in the head with a rubber-coated steel bullet, a week after he was detained by Israeli forces while fishing. The 22-year-old Auranus al-Sultan was in a stable condition after sustaining a head injury from the rubber bullet. The young fisherman was among five Palestinian fishermen [who were detained last week](#), after

Israeli naval forces opened fire on them and seized their boats. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)

- The Israeli occupation authorities, particularly the West Jerusalem municipality, continued reprisal measures against Palestinian residents of Jabal al-Mukabber in East Jerusalem. Residents said crews from the municipality and police have intensified their raids of homes and businesses, imposing taxes and giving orders for home demolitions under the pretext of building without a permit. In addition, police issue tickets to drivers and cars parked on the streets. Residents said they have been subjected to collective punishment as a result of the incident. (WAFA 23 January 2017)
- The Israeli Occupation aircrafts sprayed herbicides onto farmland along the eastern part of Absan Al Kabeera, Absan Al Saghera and Khuza'a communities east of Khan Younis. (WAFA 23 January 2017)
- Clashed erupted between the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) and Palestinians in Tequ village southeast of Bethlehem city near the military tower that was recently erected at the entrance of the village. The IOA fired Teargas and sound Bombs at Palestinians. (SAFA 23 January 2017)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli occupation Army detained nine Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem and the Jerusalem Governorate of the West Bank. The detainees were identified as Adam Mahmoud, Samer Atiyeh, Ahmad Ubeid, Muhammad Mahmoud, Muhammad Atiyeh, and Ahmad Tarwa were detained in the neighborhood of Issawiya. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army detained Mamduh Ajluni and Ahmad Badriya in the Old City of Jerusalem. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army detained Mahmoud al-Zaghil in Ras al-Amoud. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army detained three Palestinians in the northern occupied West Bank Governorate of Nablus. The three were identified as Raed Bahinjawi, Khalid Nimr Fayad, Naim Fathi Qandil, and Ahmad Othman Dweikat. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army detained two Palestinians from the Balata refugee camp, three Palestinians from Askar refugee camp, and one from the village of Askar al-Balad. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army detained Ahmad Nour Nour al-Din Rayan, 15, from the Qalqiliya-area village of Azzun. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army detained Taher Jamal Kamil in the town of Qabatiya in the Jenin district. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)

- In the southern occupied West Bank Governorate of Bethlehem, the Israeli occupation Army detained Mahmoud Atallah Mashayekh, Ali Muhammad Abu Srouf, Mahmoud Ibrahim al-Khatib, Anas Muhammad Taqatqa, and Uday Thabta. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)The Israeli occupation Army detained two Palestinians from Aida refugee camp, while another was detained from the village of Beit Fajjar south of Bethlehem. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)
- In the Hebron Governorate, The Israeli occupation Army detained a Palestinian girl identified as Thuraya Abu Sil, as well as Mahmoud Abu al-Zgharit in the al-Arrub refugee camp. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army detained Muhammad Ahmad al-Hur from Surif town in Hebron. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)
- The Israeli occupation Army detained Muhammad Abd al-Halim Sawaifa in the old city of Hebron. (MAANNEWS 23 January 2017)

Israeli Settler Violence.

- Israeli settlers renewed their incursions to Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city from Bab Al Magharbah (Al Mughrabi gate) under the Cover of the Israeli security Police and toured in the courtyard of Al Aqsa Mosque. (Wafa 23 January 2017)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem handed out military orders to Palestinian home owners in Ebeidat neighborhood in Jabal Al Mukkabir town in occupied East Jerusalem under the pretext of unlicensed building. The orders were dated back to the 22nd of 2016, but were delivered to Palestinian home owners only yesterday. Note that two months ago, the Municipality of Jerusalem delivered notifications to the entire neighborhood residents asking them to see the Municipality for “using an unlicensed real state” in the town. The threatened neighborhood is located in close proximity to Zahava Tzion settlement. (SAFA 23 January 2017)

Israeli Military Orders

- The Israeli Civil Administration delivered a seizure order which targetes 15 dunums of land in Al Ghawwet area in Al Khader village West of Bethlehem city under the pretext of being classified as “State Land”. The notified land is owned by Abed Mustafa Issa. The land is cultivated with Olive Trees. (QudsPress 23 January 2017)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) seized contents of two shops in the village of Husan, west to Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. The IOA raided the village and seized construction materials as well as tools from a car mechanic shop under the pretext the owners did not have permits. The IOA distributed leaflets warning residents against throwing rocks at settlers' cars and threatening of collective punishment against the entire village if this continues. (Wafa 23 January 2017)

Expansion of settlements

- Two adjacent settlements in the West Bank have announced plans to fight Israel over planned evacuations and demolitions of illegally built houses. It seems the settlement of Ofra is aiming to expand rapidly without complete official permission to do so. Within roughly a week, a third site of mobile homes was being set up in the settlement – two of which are illegal and only one of which has received permits. Ofra is just a few hundred meters away from the illegal outpost of Amona, where, in the meantime, settlers have announced the resumption of their battle against eviction, in contrast to their word to the courts. This third site in Ofra consists at this point of about ten caravans, which have been positioned without permission from the civil administration. A similar "compound" had been set up next to the settlement's cemetery, for which the settlers did have permits, but there is another illegal one set up next to Ofra's chicken coops. There are sources which claim permits were received for the third site. Altogether the three new concentrations in Ofra have about 30 caravans, which, say the sources in the know, are earmarked for nine families being evicted from other houses in the settlement that were illegally built, and for housing people evicted from Amona. The nine illegal homes in Ofra and the outpost of Amona are supposed to be vacated this February, by court order. Meanwhile, the settlers in Ofra escalated their struggle against the state, announcing Sunday that they had decided to go on hunger strike outside the Knesset from next week. The settlers are demanding that the state recognize their status but have not provided further specifics. Meanwhile, on Sunday night the Amona settlers sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Education Minister Naftali Bennett, announcing that they were reinstating their battle against evacuation, and called on the public to come to Amona to show solidarity. It bears noting that the Amona settlers had undertaken before the High Court of Justice not to oppose

their eviction, in exchange for which the court agreed to postpone the move from December 2016 to February 2017. The stated grounds for reinstating their struggle is that they were deceived, they say: The original plan for their eviction, that they move into caravans placed right around the original site of Amona, has become unworkable because the land slated for their arrival turns out to be privately owned, not abandoned, they claim. Since they and the general public were deceived, they write, they have "no choice" but to reinstate their struggle and called on "our thousands of supporters" to come to Amona and do everything in their power to prevent their eviction. The civil administration is suggesting a new solution for the Amona evacuees based on splitting up three lots of land ostensibly owned by Palestinians, into bits that are claimed by present Palestinian owners and bits that were owned by Palestinians but are considered to have been abandoned. ([Haaretz](#) 23 January 2017)

Erection of Israeli checkpoints

- The Israeli occupation Police set up a military checkpoint in Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in the heart of Jerusalem city. The police stopped Palestinian cars and checked ID cards. Residents of the area also reported that the Israeli Police issued traffic tickets to some Palestinian drivers. (Wafa 23 January 2017)

Israeli Closures

- The Israeli occupation Army blocked off a main commuter entrance point leading to a number of villages west of Bethlehem (Husan, Battir, Nahalin, Wad Fukin) in the southern occupied West Bank for unknown reasons. The IOA closed off the main road in both directions in the Aqbat Hasna area that leads to the villages of Husan, Battir, Nahalin, and Wadi Fukin and hindered Palestinian access to the area. (Maannews 23 January 2017)

Other

- Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barakat holds direct talks with White House officials to fulfill President Donald Trump's pledge to relocate the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to the capital. Noting that the US president plans on conducting hearings to discuss the contentious move, Barkat called Trump "a true friend of Israel who keeps his promises." ([IPOST](#) 23 January 2017)

- Transportation Minister Israel Katz presented the security cabinet with the principles of what he dubbed the “Israeli initiative,” a multi-pronged diplomatic plan he hopes can be coordinated with the new Trump administration. This is the latest in a growing number of ideas for addressing the Palestinian issue that have emerged from ministers and Knesset members in recent weeks coinciding with the change of government in Washington. Katz, who also holds the Intelligence and Atomic Energy portfolios, said that in light of the “complicated” regional and global reality, Israel should initiate a widespread program that would include the following: Building an artificial island off the coast of Gaza that would be linked by a bridge to Gaza and give the Palestinians an outlet to the world without endangering Israeli security. The island would include a port and both desalination and power plants that would serve the Gaza Strip. The linking up of the country’s rail lines with Jordan, which would serve as a land port that could be used by Sunni states in the East to transport their goods to Haifa, through the Jezreel Valley. The Palestinian Authority, according to this plan, could also be hooked up to this as well, something that could have a significant economic impact. The establishment of a “Greater Jerusalem” metropolitan area – similar to what exists in London and Paris – through expanding the capital’s borders to strengthen the Jewish majority by extending Israeli sovereignty to settlements in close proximity to Jerusalem, such as Ma’aleh Adumim, Givat Ze’ev, Gush Etzion and Beitar Illit. These areas would retain their municipal independence, but be a part of Greater Jerusalem. A similar municipal authority would be established for the Arab Jerusalem neighborhoods beyond the security fence, which today are cut off from all Jerusalem municipal services. Katz’s plan also calls for clarifying Israel’s construction policies beyond the Green Line to the new US administration that would allow for building throughout Jerusalem, and would also allow for construction on state land within the municipal boundaries of the settlements in Judea and Samaria. “This plan strengthens Israel’s position and improves the situation in the region and does not preclude the possibility of negotiations or arrangements in the future,” Katz said. He made clear that he does oppose Bayit Yehudi head Naftali Bennett’s plan of extending Israeli law to Area C, which would necessitate the granting of citizenship to the 150,000 Palestinians who live there. ([IPOST](#) 23 January 2017)
- [Amona rabbi](#): Legalize Amona: Amona rabbi says government did not keep promises, says if Maaleh Adumim can be annexed, Amona can be legalized. : Amona's Rabbi Yair Frank states that Amona residents are renewing

their battle for legalization. "Unfortunately, today we are looking at the land in question, and there are no buildings. There isn't even a single tractor. The agreement we made with the government is officially dead," Rabbi Frank said. "The Prime Minister and his overnment made promises, but they have not been kept. There are two weeks left before the court-ordered bulldozers arrive and demolish our homes. "The most logical solution is simply to legalize the homes in Amona and Ofra. This is an historical opportunity for both Israel and the US. If we're already talking about bigger solutions such as annexing Maaleh Adumim, it's not a big deal to prevent the destruction of Amona. "If, G-d forbid, Amona isn't legalized and the government deal falls through, we will encourage people to return to Amona. We're against violence, there will be no civil war and we won't harm a single person. But we will ask people to come join our protest, and to be there with us on that awful day. "Amona's residents still hope the decision makers will wake up and save us and the nine houses in Ofra. We have turned to Likud and to the Jewish Home, and we hope they will help us. "We feel the government did not actually take responsibility for carrying out their promises. We feel like we were tricked. They could have done things differently. So now we are going back to our original request to leave Amona in its place on the same mountain, and to legalize it as is. "And if that does not happen, we will all be here together," Rabbi Frank concluded. ([INN](#) 23 January 2017)

- Minister of Agriculture Uri Ariel (Jewish Home) slammed the Security Cabinet for its decision to push off deliberations on the proposed annexation of Maale Adumim until after Prime Minister Netanyahu meets with the new American president, Donald Trump. Speaking with *Army Radio*, Ariel also expressed skepticism over pledges on Sunday to open up construction in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria. "Let's see it [happen] in the field; we'll judge it by the practical results. So far the Israeli government has not put up any tenders [for construction]." Ariel called the decision to delay legislation to annex Maale Adumim "a mistake", saying as a sovereign nation, Israel had no obligation to coordinate its actions with any other powers. "It looks like the [Trump] White House said 'Don't surprise us'," said Ariel, "but we don't need to surprise – just announce that we are doing this [annexing Maale Adumim]. We are a sovereign state and not the 51st star on the American flag. We need to annex Maale Adumim because it is ours. The citizens living in Judea and Samaria deserve the same rights given to residents everywhere else in the country." Maale Adumim, home to 40,000 Israelis, is just east of Jerusalem, and is widely considered to be a "consensus community", enjoying support from both the Israeli left and right. On Sunday the Security Cabinet

voted unanimously to **delay discussion on a bill** to annex Maale Adumim backed by Land of Israel Lobby chairman Yoav Kish (Likud) until after the meeting between Trump and Netanyahu, expected in early February. The two leaders spoke Sunday night (Jerusalem time), **in a phone call** just under 30 minutes long Trump later described as "very nice". During the conversation, **Trump invited Prime Minister Netanyahu** to meet with him in Washington DC next month. ([INN 23 January 2017](#))

- [Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu](#) assures Diplomatic-Security Cabinet that Maaleh Adumim will remain a permanent part of Israel, envisions all settlements under Israeli sovereignty. PM describes to Likud ministers a Palestinian state on limited terms. A new spirit seems to be sweeping through the Israeli government with the start of the new U.S. administration. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the Diplomatic-Security Cabinet Sunday that "building in Jerusalem will continue without restrictions, and Maaleh Adumim will remain under Israeli sovereignty in any future agreement" with the Palestinian Authority. "Soon, I will also announce extensive construction in settlement blocs in Judea and Samaria. Under my vision, all the settlements will be under Israeli sovereignty," Netanyahu said. The prime minister spoke at a cabinet discussion on Israeli policy in Judea and Samaria now that U.S. President Donald Trump has taken office. The discussion took place after Habayit Hayehudi leader Naftali Bennett refused to allow the Ministerial Committee on Legislation to postpone a debate on a bill that would apply Israeli sovereignty to the Jerusalem suburb of Maaleh Adumim. Netanyahu had asked that the committee meeting on the issue be postponed until after his planned meeting with Trump next month, so as not to surprise the new U.S. administration with unexpected moves. The Diplomatic-Security Cabinet voted unanimously to wait until after the Netanyahu-Trump meeting to discuss the bill. Also on Sunday, a meeting of Likud ministers was the scene of an intense diplomatic discussion. Science and Technology Minister Ofir Akunis told Netanyahu that "the Trump administration is an opportunity to spell out Likud's policy. I oppose a Palestinian state." Netanyahu replied: "If you knew what I was offering the Palestinians for a state, you might change your position." The prime minister explained that he was offering the Palestinians a state on a limited scale, which he described as a "state minus." After the sit-down with his faction ministers, Netanyahu entered the weekly cabinet meeting, where he said, "No one looks out for the settlement enterprise more than the Likud government and I do, and we'll continue to look

out for it wisely and responsibly, for the good of the settlements and the good of Israel." ([ISRAELHAYOM](#) 23 January 2017)

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