

**The Monthly Report on Israeli Violations in Occupied  
Jerusalem during November 2016**

**Prepared by:**

Team of Monitoring Israeli Violations

Land Research Center- Arab Studies Society



**Eleventh edition of the tenth year**

## Violation of the right to housing- Home demolition

### Demolishing an under construction building in the Jerusalem neighborhood of

#### Beit Hanina

The occupation municipality bulldozers demolished on November 02, 2016 a residential building owned by Thalji Suleiman in the neighborhood of Beit Hanina under the pretext of building without a permit. According to the family, the building consists of two floors (4 residential apartments where each is 120 square meters).

The following table shows information about the sons of the owners and their apartments:

#	Citizen	Family	Children
1	Fahim Thalji Suleiman	8	6
2	Ayman Fahim Suleiman	7	5
3	Hanan Thalji Suleiman	7	5
4	Ramzi Thalji Suleiman	1	0
Total		23	16

Suleiman explained that the family started construction 2 years ago and the occupation municipality issued a demolition order five months month under the pretext of building without a permit. The family was able to postpone the demolition several times in an attempt to license the building.

The family added that the municipality decided yesterday to postpone the demolition for two more months but surprisingly raided the area this morning and executed the demolition operation.



## **Israeli Occupation Forces demolish structures in the Jerusalem village of AL-Isawiya**

Bulldozers of Israeli occupation municipality's demolished on November 08, 2016 the building of Ghanem Mustafa which consists of two floors. The first floor included commercial stores (120 m<sup>2</sup> each) while the second had an under-construction residential apartments with a total area of 220m<sup>2</sup>.

Ghanem said that he constructed the building to live in part of it and to lease the stores and make money. One store was leased for citizen Smaer Zeyad Al-Isawi, who used it to store some equipments. The other store was leased for citizen Said Showman, who intended to use it as a cosmetics store.

The second floor was supposed to be home for my sister Asmaa Mustafa; she is divorced and mother for three minors. Her house is inconvenient and small, said Ghanem.

Mustafa attempted to license his building and had appealed the demolition order but municipality crews didn't hesitate to execute the demolition and imposed a 265-thousnad NIS fine on him.

The area of Al-Isawiya is suffering from Israeli measures and restrictions seen in closures, checkpoints and harassments. Kids, women and elderly suffer from soldiers where dozens of youth get detained on daily basis. Houses and structures get demolished and sabotaged as a result.



## **Israel Municipality demolishes carwash in the Jerusalem town of Beit Hanina**

Dozers of Israel Municipality demolished on November 09, 2016 a carwash in the town of Beit Hanina on the claim of unlicensed construction.

It is reported that the carwash is founded at the junction of Dahyat Al-Barid and is only 20 meters from the apartheid wall, which separates Beit Hanina from Al-Ram town.

The structure is owned by the brothers Abdelra'ouf and Abdallah Maraqa.

### **Citizen Abdelra'ouf Marqa told Land Research Center the following:**

*" I built the carwash in 2012 on a 30 dunum plot. The demolition was carried out while interior was still inside including the washing equipments and water pumps. The demolition operation also reached out three containers; 12m<sup>2</sup> for each"*

It should be marked that the occupation's municipality carried out a demolition campaign on several structures and residences in Beit Hanina during the summer of 2016. All demolitions were carried out on the claim of unlicensed construction. Not only, the municipality confiscated many materials and caravans from the area.

In the same time Israel municipality demolishes structures and residences in Beit Hanina, an Israel construction company is currently implementing a huge commercial mall in the area. The mall is a supermarket chain called "Rami levi"; the owner of the brand name.

## **Two Jerusalemites self-demolish their apartments in the village of Jabal Al-Mukabir in Jerusalem**

On November 13, 2016, Ja'abees family self-demolished two residential apartments in the village of Jabal Al-Mukabir as per implementing an order issued by the District Court under the pretext of "unlicensed construction".

The first apartment is owned by Mohammad Salim Ja'abees where he lives with his family of 6 individuals including four children.

The second apartment is owned by Imran Salim Ja'abees where he lives with his wife, three children and parents ; the area of both apartments is nearly 190m<sup>2</sup>.

Mohammad Ja'abees explained that the two apartments were built 10 years ago on the family's land (1 dunum), and the municipality issued a demolition order against them under the pretext of building without a permit. The family attempted to obtain a building permit throughout the last 10 years but the municipality's court as well as the Magistrate and District courts refused to license the apartments and ratified the demolition order.

Ja'abees added that the municipality's court imposed a building violation fine on the family in which they were committed to paying in an attempt to license the apartments. Few months ago, the municipality forces them to self-demolish two room from each apartments under the pretext of recently adding them to the already existing building and threatened to impose new fines; the family executed the self-demolition order.





## **Israel Municipality forces two business owners to self-demolish their structures in Jerusalem**

On November 14, 2014 two Jerusalemite merchants self-demolished their stores in the neighborhood of Beit Hanina as per an order issued by the occupation municipality on the claim of unlicensed construction.

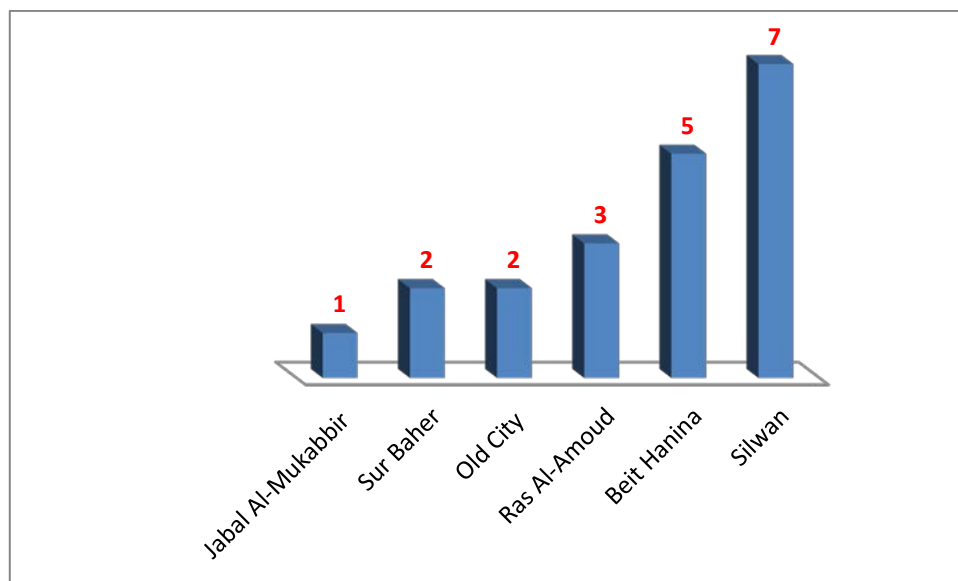
It is reported that the two stores are owned by Mohammad Najjar (Al-Jinan fruits and vegetables) and Nidal Gheith (Naser Co. for construction material). Noteworthy, the affected were given a 24 hour deadline to implement the order. In case the affected people fail to implement the order, the municipality will carry out the demolition and all expenses will be billed to the owners.

Mohammad Najjar explained that his store has been established since 2007 and 3 families live off it. It is 50 m<sup>2</sup> and has a 700 m<sup>2</sup> land around it.

Nidal Gheith said that his store is leased and is of 50m<sup>2</sup> in area.

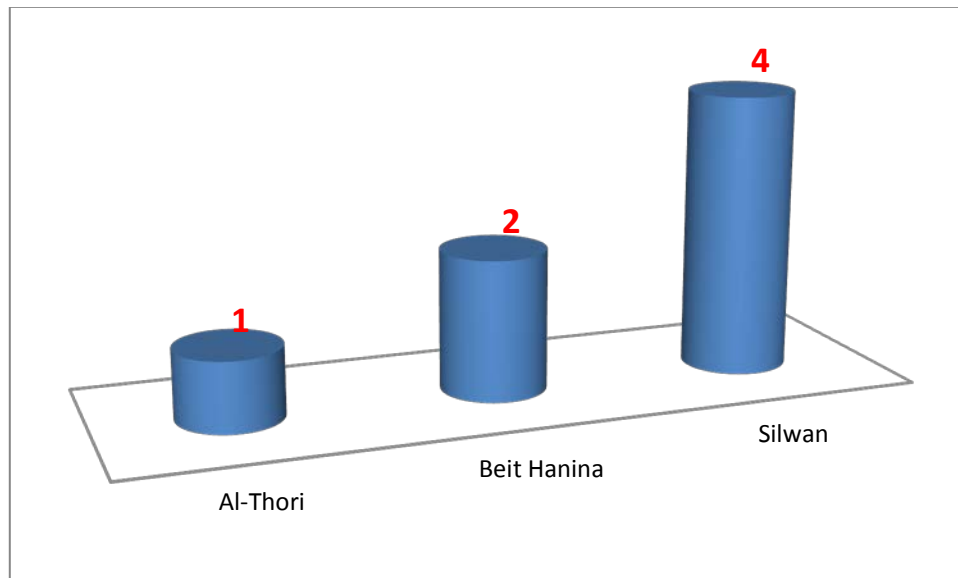
Gheith explained that he had to move his business to a new location in Beit Hanina despite that his regular customers know the old location.

The team of field research at Land Research Center documented 21 case of house self-demolition since the beginning of 2016. See below graph



**The graph illustrates the number of residences self-demolished by their owners between Jan.- Nov. 2016 by location**

Also, seven other Jerusalemites were forced to self-demolish their structures in Jerusalem .  
see below graph.



**The graph illustrates the number of structures self-demolished by their owners between  
Jan.- Nov. 2016 by location**





## **Dozers of Israel Municipality demolish the foundations of a Mosque in the village of Sur Baher**

Bulldozers of the Israeli municipality demolished on November 15, 2016 the foundations of Al-Munthar mosque in the area of Wad Al-Hummus of Sur Baher town, south Jerusalem city on the claim of "unlicensed construction"

**A member of the mosque committee, Mohammad Afaneh, told Land Research Center the following:**

*" It was planned to build a 200m<sup>2</sup> mosque on a plot donated by one of the heirs of Ahmad Al-Basit. Donations were collected from the area's residents to build the mosque since the area lacks one. There is only one mosque that is 1500m away from the neighborhood and the road to which is unpaved.*

*In September 2016, we started to build the foundations of the mosque by pumping cement on 200m<sup>2</sup>. One month later, employees from the municipality arrived at the location and notified us with stop-work"*

**He added:**

*" We didn't apply for a building permit knowing that the area is unplanned and the municipality never grants such permits in such areas. Also, the permit procedures might take up to five years.*

*On November 15, 2016 dozers of the municipality arrived at the place, closed the area and embarked on demolishing the mosque. The demolition operation lasted for 7 hours"*

It should be marked that many structures and residences in the area of Wad Al-Hummus are now threatened of demolition for they lack building permits\licenses. Noteworthy, the neighborhood is separated from Al-Sheikh village by the apartheid wall.

***Land Research Center sees that attacks and violations on worshipping places a clear-cut breach and contradiction with the international and lawful conventions, which stated the prohibition of any act of violation against historical and artistic sites in addition to worshipping places.***



### **Israeli Occupation Forces confiscate residential barrack from Jaba' town**

Israeli Occupation Forces accompanied by a staff from Israel Civil Administration raided on November 15, 2016 Al-Maa'zi Bedouin community, north Jaba' town and confiscated some residential and agricultural barracks gifted from ACTED organization to shelter the families affected by previous demolition operations.

It should be marked that the confiscation operation occurred without previous warning or notices. Israeli Occupation Forces arrived at the location and ordered owners of immediate evacuation before the soldiers dismantled the barracks and then confiscated them.



**Al-Maa'zi Bedouin community**

**The following table shows information about the affected people and their properties:**

Affected citizen	Family	Minors	Confiscated barrack\ area m <sup>2</sup>			Remarks
			Residential	Agricultural	Other facilities	
Najeh Ara'rah	10	6	One barrack (20)	Sheep barrack (16)	Metal slaps kitchen	Gifted from ACTED. The affected had his structures previously demolished
Raed Ara'rah	9	7	On barrack (20_	--	Metal slaps kitchen	Gifted from ACTED. The affected had his structures previously demolished
Ahmad Ara'rah	9	4	One barrack (20)	---	Metal slaps kitchen	Gifted from ACTED. The affected had his structures previously demolished
Hamil Hadhaleen	6	4	Wooden barrack (16)	---	Metal slaps kitchen	The affected had his structures previously demolished
Mohammad Hadhaleen	7	5	---	Sheep barrack (60)	---	Gifted from ACTED.
Younes Saray'a	4	2	Metal slaps barrack (20)	---	---	Gifted from ACTED. The affected had his structures previously demolished
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	

Source : Field observation- Department of Monitoring Israeli Violations- Land Research Center-2016

### **About Arab Al-Maa'zi:**

The Bedouin people residing in the area of northern Jaba' town are reported to be there since 30 years ago and never been attacked or targeted before. In 2013, the Israeli occupation authorities started a series of harassments and attacks on the area, targeting residents and their properties as well.

The residents of this area hail from Negev but were displaced in the aftermath of the 1948 war to the areas of Palestinian Jordan Valley (Al-Ghoor). Now, the occupation is working so hard to empty the areas of Al-Ghoor to serve colonial expansion plans.

**About Arab Al-Maa'zi community:**

It is located on lands from Jaba' town in east Jerusalem. The community is bounded by the bypass road no. 458 from the east, bypass road no.60 from the west, Adam colony from the south and Shei'r Benyamin colony from the north.

The community accommodates 8 Bedouin families including 60 members since 1974.

## **Dozers of Israel Municipality in Jerusalem demolish a residence and a stable in Al-Thori neighborhood**

The dozers of Israeli municipality in Jerusalem demolished on November 16, 2016 a residence relative to Shweiki family and horse stable in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Al-Thori on the claim of "unlicensed construction".

It should be marked that the demolished structures belong to citizen Alaa Issa Shweiki, whose family was rendered homeless due to the demolition.

It is reported that the occupation forces along with bulldozers raided Al-Thori and surrounded the establishments of Ala' Shweiki before proceeding with the demolition process.

The affected citizen, Ala' Shweiki, explained that the forces raided the area around 1:00 a.m. and surrounded a horses' barracks and an agricultural room. Around 4:00 a.m. municipality employees along with a bulldozer raided the area and carried out the demolition without prior warning or notice.

He also explained that the bulldozers demolished a 20-square meters barracks built from bricks and roofed with tin plates, and also demolished a 15-square meters room.

Shweiki pointed out that the establishment was built 5 years ago, and the municipality imposed a 40-thousand NIS building violation fine on him two and a half years ago which he was committed to paying; he was surprised by the sudden demolition.

Shweiki also explained that the bulldozers swept the land and removed around 20 fruitful trees of peach and pomegranate during the demolition process.



## **The occupation authorities demolish a residential building and storages in Wadi Al-Joz in Jerusalem**

The occupation municipality's bulldozers demolished on November 08, 2016 a residential building that is still under construction in the neighborhood of Wadi Al-Joz in Jerusalem.

Witnesses explained that the residential building consists of three floors and part of it was still under construction. The building has four apartments (120m<sup>2</sup> each)

The first floor contains 8 warehouses ( 30m<sup>2</sup> each) and the bulldozers executed the demolition operation on top of the contents of the warehouses. The second and third floors consisted of residential apartment where some of them were still under construction.

## Violation of the right to housing- seizure of properties

### Colonist seize a property in the Old City of Jerusalem

On November 20, 2016, a massive force from Israel Police and settlement associations seized the property of Al Bakri family in Bab Hutta area in the old city, under the pretext that the family has no “tenancy deposit protection”.

The property is composed of three rooms, toilet and a kitchen; it is inhabited by five members and their mom, Sa'dyyeh Bakri (60). The lady owner has been living there since 1989.

Land Research Center sees Israeli laws as "3rd generation law" that intend to expel Palestinians from their residences and lands as a complicity with settlement organizations that works so hard to take-over properties in the old city of Jerusalem to extend their control on it. This is to replace Jerusalemites with new colonists despite of this act being contradictory to all international Laws and human rights.



## **Judicial orders to evacuate 9 families from the neighborhood of Batn Al-Hawa in Silwan**

Ateret Cohanim institution handed on November 16, 2016 judicial orders to Shihadeh and Gheith families asking them to evacuate the land where their homes are built in the neighborhood of Batn Al-Hawa in Silwan south of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Six families of Shihadeh live in a three story building (6 apartments) where Ghaith families live in a two story building ( 4 apartments). A total of 60 members from the two families are now at risk of homelessness.

Noteworthy, the settlement organization "Ateret Cohanim" claim that the Israeli Supreme Court acknowledged ownership of the colonists from Yemen to the land of "Batn Al-Hawa".

It is reported that 30-35 residential buildings are established on the lands that are at risk of being seized by Ateret Cohanim. Nearly 80 families consisting of 436 individuals live in those buildings. All of the residents have been living in the neighborhood for dozens of years after buying the land from the previous owners using official documents.

Zuheir Rajabi explained that 71 families of the locals of Batn Al-Hawa have received judicial orders by Ateret Cohanim institution since September 2015. The locals have responded to the orders and lawsuits filed against them, and a hearing session will be held at the end of the current month to hear the claims of both sides.



# Confiscation

## Israeli Occupation Forces confiscate water tanks and mobile toilets in Sateh Al-Bahar area

It is reported that a massive force from the Israeli occupation army raided on November 01, 2016 the Bedouin community Arab AL-Kaa'bnah, south Jericho city and confiscated four water tanks (1m<sup>3</sup> each) and three mobile toilets that were gifted by ACF due to the hard life conditions and Israeli practices the residents of the area endure.

It should be marked that this is the second confiscation operation in the area in less than three months. On June 05, 2016, Israeli Occupation Forces confiscated six rooms and a caravan used as a kindergarten from the Bedouin community. For further information, please read the special report ([LINK](#)).

### Photos 1-2: general view of the Bedouin community





**The following table shows information on the affected people and properties:**

<b>Affected citizen</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Minors</b>	<b>Confiscated items</b>
Mohammad Kaa'bnah	6	4	Water tank+ mobile toilet
Oudeh Kaa'bnah	7	3	Water tank+ mobile toilet
Akram Kaa'bnah	4	2	Water tank+ mobile toilet
Fahmi Kaa'bnah	7	4	Water tank
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4 tanks+ three mobile toilets</b>

Source : Field observation- Department of Monitoring Israeli Violations- Land Research Center-2016

It should be marked that the Bedouin community of Arab Al-Kaa'bnah is one of 46 communities founded in the Palestinian Jordan Valley (Al-Ghoor) that are threatened of forcible displacement. Over the past ten years, this very community was demolished many times, the latest of which was in 2014.

The community is inhabited by 13 Bedouin families that live primitive life and depend on livestock as the only source of income.

Sateh Al-Bahar is founded to the east of Mizpe Yeriho colony; more specifically in the area known as Al-Nabi Mousa. Residents of the area have been living there since 25 years ago and are threatened of forcible displacement, taking in consideration that the occupation claims the area closed military zone.

## Attacks on religious sites

### Israeli government to ban "call for prayer" via speakers in occupied Jerusalem

**Israeli occupation government approved on November 13, 2016 bill banning Muslims' call for prayer in occupied territories.**

The Ministerial Committee for Legislation affiliates to the Israeli occupation government approved the bill just after Israeli right wing PM Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to support it.

The bill mentioned giving proxy to the minister of interior to sign a decision allowing the use of speakers in special occupations for the call of prayers. This was on the claim that hundred thousands of Israelis "suffer" the "noise" of the five time call for prayers throughout the day.

The bill will be discussed in the Israeli parliament in three stages (modification, edition and validation). If majority of members vote in agreement to the bill, it gets approved effective in short time.

Land Research Center sees this bill as a discriminative one aiming directly at dishonoring Islamic holy sites. Noteworthy, this bill was previously deposited for discussion but was suspended for a while. Now, it is recalled during this term of parliament.

It should be marked that the ceremonies Jewish people conduct at the wailing wall are reported extremely noisy until late hours of night. Not only, such ceremonies force Jerusalemites to shut down their shops and stores. Roads get closed and movement becomes restricted to all. As a result, Jerusalem becomes a closed military area with thousands of soldiers deployed in city at time of ceremonies.

The status quo in the Old City of Jerusalem should be preserved in line with international laws, which also prevent the "occupier" from taking any measures to change the occupied city's historical identity. Those annoyed by the call for prayers were illegally placed in an occupied land.

