



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 21 February 2018

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

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a nonviolent procession at the main entrance of al-Bierah city, near Ramallah, and fired many concussion grenades. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)
- A Palestinian teen, identified as Ahmad Mohammad Abed-Rabbo Abu Hilo, 19, died from serious wounds he suffered last Friday, when Israeli occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian protesters

east of the al-Boreij refugee camp, in central Gaza. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)

- Several Israeli army jeeps invaded, the town of al-'Isawiya, in the center of occupied East Jerusalem, and shot a young man with a rubber-coated steel bullet. Mohammad Abu al-Hummus, a member of the Follow-Up Committee in al-'Isawiya. The IOA invaded the town, and randomly fired gas bombs and rubber-coated steel bullets, wounding a young man, identified as Mustafa Amer Mustafa, 28, while standing in front of his restaurant. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem, before stopping and searching many Palestinians. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained two Palestinian teenage boys, and a journalist, after the army attacked dozens of protesters near Ofer military base and prison, west of Ramallah, in central West Bank. The IOA resorted to the excessive use of force against Palestinian protesters, who gathered near Ofer during a court hearing for nonviolent activist Monther 'Amira. The IOA fired many gas bombs, concussion grenades and rubber-coated steel bullets at the protesters, causing many to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. The IOA also detained two Palestinian teenage boys, and a journalist identified as Mohammad 'Alwan. Furthermore, the IOA attacked many journalists with concussion grenades, and pushed them out of the area. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained twenty-one Palestinians, including a father and two of his children, from their homes, after invading and violently searching them, in several parts of the occupied West Bank. The detained Palestinians have been identified as: Ahmad Bassem Hamed, 20, Ramallah, Mahmoud Mohammad Jom'a, 21, Ramallah, Jihad Nidal Oleyyan, Ramallah, Ahmad Kathem Basbous, 20, Ramallah, Waleed Khader Nasser, 29, Ramallah, Ebada Najeeb, Jerusalem, Mohammad Najeeb, Jerusalem, Ahmad Atef Obeid, Jerusalem, Tamer Atef Obeid, Jerusalem, Omar Moheisin, Shu'fat – Jerusalem, Ahmad Sa'ad, Nablus, Husam Nidal Sa'lous, Nablus,

Yasser Husam Sal'ous, Nablus, Nidal Husam Sal'ous, Nablus, Abdullah Zoheir Walweel, 39, Qalqilia, Mohammad Abdul-Rahman Assaf, Qalqilia, Suleiman Ziad Nazzal, Qalqilia, Omar Suleiman Sabbah, 15, Bethlehem, Mo'tasem Sameeh al-'Amour, 26, Bethlehem, Hussein Mohammad al-'Amour, Bethlehem, and Najm Eddin Abu Jarour, 20, Hebron. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded a Palestinian medical center run by the Health Work Committee, near the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, in the southern part of the occupied West Bank, and detained a child. The IOA broke into their center, in the southern area of Hebron city, and detained the child, only thirteen years of age, before taking him to an unknown destination. The IOA used excessive force against the patients, and the workers, in the medical center. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a young Palestinian man from Qalqilia. The IOA invaded and searched homes in the city, and detained a young man, identified as Abdullah Walweel, 25. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched many homes in Qabatia town, south of Jenin, and detained Mohammad Abdul-Rahman Assaf, 20, and Suleiman Ziad Nazzal, 18. The IOA fired many gas bombs, concussion grenades at many youngsters, who hurled stones at the invading army vehicles. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched homes in several neighborhoods in the city of Nablus and detained four Palestinians, from the Northern Mountain area. They have been identified as Ahmad Sa'ad, Nidal Sal'ous, Yasser Sal'ous and Husam Sal'ous; the IOA cuffed and blindfolded them, before moving them to an unknown destination. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Bani Neim and Yatta towns, east and south of Hebron city, searched many homes and detained one Palestinian. The IOA detained Namedi Abu Jawar, 20,

from his home in Bani Neim, after searching the property and interrogating him, along with his family. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) searched homes in Yatta and summoned three siblings for interrogation in Etzion military base and security center, north of Hebron. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained at dawn, eight Palestinians, including children and a former political prisoner, in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank. The IOA invaded and searched many homes and interrogated several Palestinians before detaining the eight Palestinians. The detained Palestinians have been identified as: Ebada Najeeb, Shu'fat refugee camp – Jerusalem, Mahmoud Najeeb, Shu'fat refugee camp – Jerusalem, Omar Moheisin, Shu'fat refugee camp – Jerusalem, Ahmad Atef Obeid, al-'Isawiya town – Jerusalem, Tamer Atef Obeid, Ahmad's brother, al-'Isawiya town – Jerusalem, Omran Suleiman Sabah, 15, Hussein Mohammad al-'Amour, 17, and Mo'tasem Sameeh al-'Amour, 26. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)

Israeli Settler Violence

- A number of masked settlers descended from the general direction of the Yitzhar settlement in the West Bank towards the village of Einabus, where they beat a Palestinian shepherd and injured a number of sheep. (JPOST 21 February 2018)
- A Palestinian man was assaulted in the northern West Bank by masked Israelis who also killed five of his sheep. The man said he was herding his flock of around 70 sheep near the Nablus-area village of Einabus when several Israeli men came from the direction of the Yitzhar settlement. The settlers attacked him and slaughtered five of his sheep, while a number of the animals ran away. ([Haaretz](#) 21 February 2018)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- Many Israeli army jeeps and bulldozers, in addition to police officers and workers of the City Council, invaded Shu'fat neighborhood, after isolating it, and demolished a home and a barn, owned by Saleh Abu Khdeir. The home was 115 square meters, and was built in 2006.

Owner of the house previously paid two fines of a total of 50.000 Shekels. (MEMC 21 February 2018)

- In Beit Hanina, north of Jerusalem, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded al-Ashqariyya neighborhood, and demolished a hair salon for women, owned by Daoud Moheisin which was only 30 square meters. (MEMC 21 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Ar Rweisat area in Al Walajeh village northwest of Bethlehem city and notified to demolish a number of agricultural rooms under the pretext of un-licensing. (Wafa 21 February 2018)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) handed citizen Alaa al-Batran a demolition order targeting his house in Wad al-Naqiya area in Idhna town, west of Hebron under the pretext of lacking building permits. (Wafa 21 February 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed Shadi 'Adnan Abu Zeltah and Sufian Abu Zeltah demolition orders targeting their homes in the area of Khallet Ibrahim west of Idhna town near the Separation Wall under the pretext of lacking building permits. (Wafa 21 February 2018)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers raided the Jenin-area village of Thahr al-Maleh and razed nearly 50 dunums (12 acres) of land, consisting of dozens of olive trees, allegedly in order to build a section of Israel's separation wall around the illegal Israeli settlement of Shaked. Palestinian residents of the village have been "left with no road to lead to their lands from the northern side of the village," adding that once the sections of the wall is completed, it will "eat up" more than 1000 dunums (247 acres) of lands belonging to residents from Jenin-area towns such as Yaabad and Nazlat al-Sheikh Zaid. (Maannews 21 February 2018)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) razed 6 dunums of agricultural land planted with field crops in al-Baqa'a area east of Hebron, located along the Israeli bypass road near the settlement of Kiryat Arba. The IOA also uprooted trees and field crops in the area around the house. The land is owned by 'Ata Jaber. (Wafa 21 February 2018)

Expansion of settlements

- The first homes in the newly created Amihai settlement were installed on an empty hilltop in the Binyamin region of the West Bank on Wednesday. The small, white structures were trucked into the site by the Civil Administration of Judea and Samaria, and placed onto plots with cranes. By Friday, 36 modular dwellings will be ready for families from the Amona outpost who have waited over a year for to replace their homes that security forces destroyed last February. Many of the families have spent that year living in the Ofra field school dormitory. “After a long battle, we see the light at the end of the tunnel,” said activist Avichai Boaron, an Amona evacuee who led the campaign to save the original community that had been located on a hilltop on the edge of the Ofra settlement. He added that he saw the placement of the homes as an important step in the battle to annex Area C of the West Bank. Area C, created in the 1995 Oslo II Accord, constitutes about 61% of the West Bank, and includes all the Israeli settlements. “It’s a very short road from here to [the application of] sovereignty in Judea and Samaria,” Boaron said. As a result of the Amona struggle, the Knesset passed legislation in 2015 to authorize illegally built homes in West Bank settlements and outposts, which like Amona, had been built on private Palestinian property. The legislation also provides compensation for the Palestinian land owners. The High Court of Justice is adjudicating the legality of that law. The Amona outpost was illegally built on private Palestinian property, with NIS 2.1 million from the Construction Ministry. It was excluded from the legalization because the High Court had already ruled that it must be razed. To compensate the Amona families, the government authorized the first new settlement in more than 20 years, in the area of the Shiloh settlement, which is located some 27 kilometers over the pre- 1967 lines. Boaron said that the “more than anything else, the establishment of new settlement after so many years of drought, is a significant achievement for the Amona [Israeli] discourse and consciousness [on the issue].” He added, “Judea and Samaria is no longer in Israel’s backyard, but rather an indispensable part of the country. Its residents are not people without a home, but citizens with equal rights.” The homes in Amihai are an expression of this new reality, said Boaron. “Israel is now establishing a new settlement in the full light of day, and not as a thief in the night,” said Boaron. The left-wing NGO Yesh Din: Volunteers for Human Rights, which had petitioned the High Court for Amona’s demolition, said that the placement of the homes in Amihai was a sign of the government’s desire to continue to occupy the West Bank. “The state has established a new settlement in violation of international law,” the NGO said. It has done so “to compensate a group of people who were evicted from land that they

stole after they spent years ridiculing the rule of law and the property rights of the Palestinians,” Yesh Din said. ([JPOST](#) [YNETNEWS](#) 21 Haaretz 2018)

- The Jerusalem Municipality’s planning committee will consider Town Planning Scheme 125195, aka the Southeastern Gilo Master Plan. According to the plan, 2,992 units could be built in a new neighborhood on the southeastern slopes between Gilo and Bethlehem, to the west of the Route 60 tunnel road. While there have been rumblings about this scheme in the past, the February 21st meeting formally launches the statutory planning process. This is what we reported in July 2017. “A plan likely to be included in TP 125195 is Ahuzat Nof Gilo, which is in an embryonic stage, having not been approved or advanced in any significant way. The Ahuzat Nof Gilo plan provides for the construction of 2500 new units, located beyond the expropriation land Gilo, in the direction of Bethlehem and the Bethlehem checkpoint, on mainly private land (including Palestinian private land acquired by Israeli developers and “church” lands).” With the initiation of this process, the details of the plan are no longer a matter of conjecture. In 1995, Israel made a commitment to the U.S. government that no additional land in East Jerusalem would be expropriated for the purposes of building or expanding settlement neighborhoods. That commitment has guided the boundaries of Israeli settlement expansion in East Jerusalem in the ensuing years. While the scope of the expropriations under this scheme will be limited, this significantly contravenes the spirit of that undertaking, significantly expanding the built-up footprint of the Gilo settlement. Even though the planning process of this new neighborhood in Gilo is likely to be complex, the filing of the plan is a significant step that confirms a major shift in Israeli settlement policies in East Jerusalem, with far-reaching implications. ([TI](#) 21 February 2018)

Erection of Outposts

- The state on Tuesday asked the High Court of Justice for a three-month extension to carry out the eviction of the Netiv Haavot outpost in Judea. The court ordered the eviction of 15 homes in the outpost in 2016. The ruling stated that the homes must be demolished by March 6, as they are partially or completely built on private Palestinian lands. In addition, the state asked the court to legalize six homes built partly on private lands. The High Court, however, has denied similar requests in the past, lowering expectations it will comply with the motion. The state explained that it was seeking a commitment from the families that they will leave their home in a peaceful manner and will not resist the

move in a violent manner. The state's motion included statements signed by the families that are facing eviction, saying, "Out of respect for Israeli soldiers and out of the responsibility to educate our children not to resort to any resistance or violence, we will, with a heavy heart, vacate our homes and refuse to allow those opposing it [the eviction] to enter our homes, as much as we are able." The statement said the residents' pledge was not conditional on the High Court's ruling on the state's motion for an extension, and that the families would abide the court regardless of what it decides. The state's motion noted that "the state has yet to complete all the necessary procedures needed to empower the authorities charged with ensuring a peaceful eviction that will minimize the effects on the residents. "A peaceful eviction is greatly in the public's interest and its importance cannot be overstated," the state said. After the request was submitted, the residents said in a statement that they were forced to "sign the document for the demolition to be postponed and stop 15 families with 62 children from being left behind without shelter. The Netanyahu government has sunk to new lows in its mishandling of the settlement enterprise in general and Netiv Haavot in particular." "We hope the government will come to its senses and stand by its promises to legalize Netiv Haavot and allow an urban construction project for 350 housing units," the statement said, further expressing hope that "the High Court of Justice will approve the motion and not leave us and our children without shelter, as was the case for previous evacuees." The left-wing group Peace Now called the state's motion "imprudent," saying that the court "gave the government a year and a half to prepare for the eviction, but the government did not do a thing to be ready on time. The landowners have been waiting for 17 years to return to their lands and they have had enough of delays and promises." ([ISRAELHAYOM](https://www.israelhaya.com) 22 February 2018)

Erection of Israeli checkpoints

- The Jerusalem Municipality was getting set to make life harder for the residents of the embattled village of el-Walajah. This is now coming to pass: Israel has started building the new Ein Yael checkpoint between Jerusalem and the settlement of Har Gilo, at the southern exit of Jerusalem. The checkpoint will block Walaje's residents from accessing their lands, and cut them off from the Ein Haniya spring and related water resources. As explained in the excellent report prepared by Peace Now on this issue: "The Ein Haniya spring, which lies along the Green Line on land belonging to the Palestinian village of al-Walaja in the Nahal Refa'im area, has been used for generations as a source of

drinking water, irrigation, sustenance for sheep and crops, and for recreation. The spring is also a tourist attraction for many Israeli travelers from Jerusalem and the surrounding area. For decades, the spring served both Israeli and Palestinian visitors, with no disruptions. In 2010, Israel completed its Separation Barrier adjacent to al-Walaja, separating it from the spring and some 250 acres of their agricultural lands. Despite this, the residents could still go around the barrier and access the area by car or by foot because the existing checkpoint was some 1.5 kilometers beyond the spring.” The move comes as part of the Municipality’s decision, supported by the government, to designate the area as an Israeli national park. The decision to move the Ein Yael checkpoint is designed, deliberately, to prevent el-Walajah’s resident from accessing the park. Following the inauguration of the area as a national park by Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat and Tourism Minister Ze’ev Elkin (Likud), construction works for the relocation of the checkpoint started on February 12, 2018, without a permit being issued and in contravention of a court order requiring the Municipality to suspend all work in order to enable el-Walajah’s residents to appeal the Municipality’s decision. ([II](#) 21 February 2018)

Israeli Closures

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed Abda Junction, south of Hebron, for several hours after alleging finding a suspicious object, and continued the closure of the iron gate at the entrance of the al-Fawwar refugee camp, for the third day. (IMEMC 21 February 2018)

Other

- The Trump Administration has reportedly started moving ahead with its plan to relocate the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Below is an examination of what is known so far about these plans. According to the best available sources, the current plan is to locate the new embassy at the site of the Diplomat Hotel, the rights to which were purchased in 2014 by the United States and located in the Arnona neighborhood, adjacent to the American Consulate’s Consular Services building, built there several years ago. The lease for use of the property, which is currently functioning as an elder-care facility for immigrants from the former Soviet Union, is due to end in two years, and notice has already been given that it will not be renewed. There have been numerous reports according to which the Trump Administration plans to adapt and upgrade the existing building to U.S. standards and needs, rather than constructing a new

embassy building at the site. This process is expected to take at least three years. As a temporary measure, the Embassy could be housed in the Consular Services building, with the building being retrofitted for this purpose. If the Trump administration genuinely wants to move swiftly (and there have been reports to this effect), something like this will likely take place. The State Department spokesperson stated that the Trump Administration's Fiscal Year 2019 budget has prioritized funding for a U.S. embassy in Jerusalem "once design and construction plans are finalized." It is not clear to what extent the State Department will be in a position to advance the implementation of these plans before the lease of the Diplomat Hotel ended. In the 1980s, the U.S. acquired from the Israeli government a plot of land located on the Hebron Road, and loosely designated it for a future Embassy. The land in question had served as the site of the officers' quarters of the British Mandate's Allenby Compound. Fate would have it that this piece of land had been expropriated by the British Mandate for that purpose from the Khalidi family - a very prominent and well-connected Jerusalem family. When the subject of building a U.S. Embassy at the site came up in the 1990s, the Khalidi's began a campaign against the construction, based on the fact that the land had been expropriated from them. This fight was, in effect, overtaken by events. After 9/11, it became clear that new security requirements U.S. diplomatic facilities worldwide disqualified the Hebron Road site as location for a future the Embassy. Since then, the Hebron Road site has not been used by the U.S. for any purpose, nor are we aware of any plans in this regard. While many considerations no doubt went into the selection of the site of the Diplomat Hotel for the new U.S. embassy, one of the reasons may be that this site - unlike the Hebron Road site - is not embroiled in that kind of controversy. The site of the planned new U.S. Embassy is located in an area that was created in southern Jerusalem after the signing of the 1949 Armistice Agreement. This is a large swathe of land around UN Headquarters (Government House), surrounded on all sides by the Green Line (that is, it was an area "between the lines"). By agreement between Israel and Jordan, this area was divided into three zones: the UN Zone (which exists to this day in the area immediately around Government House); an Israeli Zone (to the east of Talpiyot), and a Jordanian Zone (to the north of Sur Bahir). This area has alternately been called "no man's land," "a demilitarized zone" and "a civilian zone." None of these terms is accurate. Both the Jordanians and Israelis maintained a permanent civilian presence in their respective zones between 1949 and 1967 - hence, the area was not "no man's land." Parts of the populated areas of Jabel Mukaber were inside the zone, and the Palestinian villagers of the surrounding areas used the

lands for agricultural purposes (like the harvesting of olives). In the Israeli zone, the civilian presence in the Israeli area was even more significant. The kibbutzniks of Ramat Rachel were in permanent possession of large orchards, which they tended to and harvested – and it is on these orchards that 20% of the new neighborhood will be built. Likewise, both the Israelis and the Jordanians had a military presence (some of it significant) in their respective zone between 1949 and 1967 - so it is inaccurate to call the area “either demilitarized” or a “civilian” zone. (TJ 21 February 2018)

- The proposal that will be brought to the cabinet for evacuating the 15 illegally built homes at the Netiv Ha'avot outpost in Gush Etzion is expected to cost Israeli taxpayers between 50 million and 60 million shekels (\$14.3 million to \$17.1 million), sources involved said Wednesday. According to two sources familiar with the details, the Prime Minister's Office has agreed to these sums, which will cover all the components of the evacuation, including compensation to the settlers and the regional council, the division of structures that might be able to be saved from total demolition because only parts of them are on private Palestinian land and the construction of new homes for those whose homes cannot be saved under any legal scenario. A spokesman for the settlers' task force said Wednesday night that they “Are still in discussions” and that the sum isn't final. The state on Tuesday petitioned the High Court of Justice to postpone the demolition of the homes on the grounds that new temporary homes must be built for the evicted families first. The homes had been scheduled for razing in the first week of March; the state now wants a June 15 deadline. The petition states that it was filed at the behest of the prime minister and defense minister, with the acquiescence of the attorney general. The new temporary houses are due to go up right next to the outpost on land not privately owned by Palestinians. In 2016 the High Court of Justice ruled that the houses built on private Palestinian land without building permits should be torn down in whole or in part. In its petition Tuesday, the state described its plan to “carry out the court's ruling peacefully” – that is, without leading to violent resistance by the outpost's residents. During the past few days the settlers promised to leave peacefully if the court approves the postponement. A similar plan had been reached for the evacuation of Amona, another illegal outpost, a year ago. Despite the residents' undertakings, the two-day evacuation was marked by violence, especially after hundreds, possibly thousands, of people showed up on the hilltop to protest, many of whom barricaded themselves in the local synagogue. Dozens of police officers were injured. One of the sources familiar with the eviction proposal said the settlers had at first

demanded tens of millions of shekels more. According to the source, 10 million shekels will come from the budget of the Prime Minister's Office while the rest will come from shaving the budgets of other ministries. Deputy Health Minister Yaakov Litzman has announced that he opposes any cuts to the Health Ministry budget for any reason, including this. Of the 15 homes, six are only partially situated on private Palestinian land. These are the homes that the government hopes to "saw off," so that the parts not on private land, although built without permits, will not be destroyed. Yoav Horowitz, Netanyahu's chief of staff, has told the settlers that the prime minister and defense minister had agreed on a budget for the Netiv Ha'avot plan. On Monday, Netanyahu met with the leaders of the parties in his governing coalition to approve an award of 20 million shekels (\$5.7 million) to the 15 families. ([Haaretz](#) 21 February 2018)