



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 25 May 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

- Two Palestinians, who were shot and seriously injured by Israeli army fire in the Gaza Strip, have succumbed to their serious wounds. The two were identified as Ahmad Ali Qattoush, 23, died from serious wounds he suffered several days ago, after Israeli soldiers shot him with a live round in the head, east of the al-Boreij refugee camp, in Central Gaza. The second was identified as Mohannad Bakr Abu Tahoun, 21, died from serious wounds he suffered, after an Israeli

soldier shot him with a live round in the head, on May 14th. (IMEMC 25 May 2018)

Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained three young Palestinian men in Barta'a town, southwest of the northern West Bank governorate of Jenin. The IOA invaded Barta'a, searched many homes and property, before detaining three Palestinians from *Yassid* and *Qaffin* towns. The three Palestinians, who remained unidentified, work in Barta'a, which became isolated and surrounded by the illegal Israeli wall. The soldiers also installed a military roadblock, before stopping and searching dozens of cars, and interrogated scores of Palestinians, while inspecting their ID cards. (IMEMC 25 May 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a Palestinian political prisoner from Sur Baher village, south of occupied East Jerusalem, shortly after his release from prison after serving a prison sentence of 7.5 years. The detainee was identified as Mousa Hamada, 48. The IOA detained Hamada shortly after his release and moved him to the al-Maskobiyya detention and interrogation facility, in Jerusalem, without providing a justification for his arrest. (IMEMC 25 May 2018)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- Israel's Supreme Court approved the demolition and forcible transfer of the entire community of Khan al-Ahmar Abu al-Helu, a home to 35 Palestinian families with a total population of 180 people, for the expansion of more Israeli settlements on lands belonging to Palestinians despite a campaign by European governments to save it. The hearing had been the final appeal open to the village of Khan al-Ahmar, located close to several Israeli settlements east of Jerusalem. It was unclear when the demolition of the village would take place. (WAFA 25 May 2018).

Expansion of settlements

- Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman (Yisrael Beiteinu) announced that the High Planning Council (the body in the Defense Ministry's which oversees all construction in the occupied West Bank) is expected to advance plans for 3,900 settlement units next

week. Of that total, 2,500 units will reportedly receive final approval for construction and 1,400 will be advanced through the planning process. Peace Now estimates that 52% of the units will be located in isolated settlements. Lieberman – whom The Times of Israel and Haaretz note has repeatedly inflated settlement approval numbers in the past – said the specific plans set to advance will include: 400 units in the Ariel settlement (where a medical school financed by Sheldon Adelson was recently brought under Israeli domestic jurisdiction, in a case of de facto annexation. And where a future stop on the recently approved settler-only light rail is slated to be built.); 460 units in the Ma'aleh Adumim settlement; 250 units for an assisted living center in the Elkana settlement (where the settler-only light rail will also have a stop); 180 units in the the Talmon settlement; 170 units in the Neve Daniel settlement; 160 units in the Kfar Etzion settlement; 150 units in the Kiryat Arba settlement (where construction preparations for a new industrial zone – which in reality is a new settlement in Hebron – recently began); 130 units in the Avnei Hefetz settlement; 130 units in the Tene Omarim settlement; 80 units in the Hinanit settlement; 60 units in the Halamish settlement (where settlers have built a strategic outpost, with the protection of the IDF, in order to further restrict Palestinian access to the area); 45 units in the Ma'ale Efraim settlement; 40 units in the Avnei Hafetz settlement; 45 units in unspecified settlements. This will be the third meeting of the High Planning Council in 2018, in accordance with a reported agreement between Israel and the United States to consolidate and coordinate the number of times settlement plans are announced. The first regularly scheduled meeting of the year was in January, when 1,122 new settlement units were advanced, of which 352 received final approval for construction. The Council met again, unexpectedly in February, which Lieberman tried to minimize by calling it “less significant” because the majority of the projects approved were non-residential. In fact, the projects were extremely significant. All of the plans expanded the footprint of settlements located deep inside the West Bank – including plans for a race track and hotel in the Jordan Valley. One “unusual” plan even created a new outpost to house settlers evacuated from a different outpost (the Netiv Ha'avot outpost case that FMEP has covered in exhaustive detail). ([PEACENOW](#), [FMEP](#) 25 May 2018)

Other

- Israel called on the European Union on Friday to halt funding to more than a dozen European and Palestinian non-governmental

organizations that it says promote boycotts against Israel, saying the financial support violates the EU's stated policy that it opposes boycotts against the Jewish state. Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry published a report with a list of groups that it says receive EU funding and call for boycotts against Israel. It said some of the groups had links to terror groups while receiving EU money. The report was the latest salvo by Israel in its fight against a global movement calling for boycotts, divestment and sanctions. The movement has urged businesses, artists and universities to sever ties with Israel and it includes thousands of volunteers around the world. Supporters of the movement say the tactics are a nonviolent way to promote the Palestinian cause. Israel says the campaign often masks a more far-reaching aim to delegitimize or destroy the Jewish state. "The state of Israel expects the EU to act with full transparency and reveal the scope of its financial aid to organizations that have ties to terror and promote boycotts against Israel," the report said. "Israel strongly urges the EU to fully implement in practice its declared policy of rejecting boycotts against Israel, and to immediately halt funding to organizations which promote anti-Israel boycotts and delegitimization." The EU had no immediate comment. Israel said the NGOs received a total of 5 million euros (\$5.9 million) in 2016, the last year for which data was available, according to the ministry report. It accused some of the NGOs of having links to Palestinian terror groups, listing among others Norwegian People's Aid, which received more than 1.7 million euros (\$2 million) in 2016 and claiming the group had links to Palestinian terrorist groups. The US Justice Department announced in April that the group reached a settlement with the United States over accusations that it had provided "training and expert advice or assistance" to the Islamic terror group Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, as well as other Palestinian terrorist groups and Iran. As part of the settlement, NPA "admitted to and accepted responsibility for its conduct" and agreed to pay more than \$2 million. The US, along with the EU, considers Hamas a terror group. NPA said it wanted to see the list before commenting. Other groups singled out in Friday's report included the British organization War on Want, the Dutch anti-war group PAX as well as a number of Palestinian groups, including PNGO Net, an umbrella organization that works to coordinate Palestinian civil society. Munjid Abu Jaish of PNGO Net called Friday's report "another Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and their institutions." "We will continue our legal nonviolent struggle according to the international law, regardless of the results, because we believe in this path," he said. The call to the EU follows other steps Israel has taken to ratchet up its fight against the boycott movement.

Earlier this year, Israel identified 20 activist groups from around the world whose members would be banned from entering the country over their calls to boycott the Jewish state. For its part, the EU has recommended that its member states put special labels on exports from Israeli settlements in the West Bank. It has stopped short of banning settlement products, but they do not receive the same tax exemptions that products made in Israel receive. The EU has upheld the free expression rights of its citizens to call for a boycott of Israel but has stressed that the body opposed any boycott of Israel. In the years since its formation, the BDS movement has seen limited success among progressive audiences, persuading several church organizations to divest themselves of Israel-related investments and garnering support on US college campuses. Recently, pop singer Lorde joined a number of other artists who have canceled performances in Israel amid pressure from BDS activists. Even so, a slew of other musicians have defied boycott calls and performed. Israel has also enjoyed new economic partnerships and diplomatic ties despite calls for boycotts, and it has become a top destination for international sporting and cultural events. Earlier this month, Israel became the first non-European country to host stages of the Giro d'Italia cycling event. ([TOI](#) 25 May 2018)

- The Palestinian Government strongly condemned, on Thursday, a new Israeli military order affecting the so-called Area C, which amounts to more than 60 percent of the total area of the occupied West Bank and which is under full Israeli military and administrative control. “This illegal development would generate more crimes against Palestinian rights of access to a safe and stable living environment and would worsen the already dire conditions of 393,000 Palestinian citizens,” the government said in a statement issued by the Prime Minister’s Office. On May 9, the Israeli military published military order 1797 with the main objective of expediting Israel’s unlawful demolitions of Palestinian infrastructure in Area C. The new order further expands the authority of the Israeli army’s so-called “civil administration” to unilaterally target and demolish Palestinian structures within 96 hours, irrespective of the status of the underlying land or the issuing of building permits. According to Wafa, the Palestinian government said that it consistently strives to support Palestinian citizens residing in the so-called “Area C”, which includes supporting their resilience and protection from Israeli violations. However, it said, “it is important

to mention that Palestinians living under a belligerent military occupation are, under the international humanitarian law, a 'protected population', which obligates the occupying power to protect the occupied population. Israel has not merely neglected its duties as an occupying power, but rather has proactively and willfully done the opposite, flagrantly violating the inalienable rights of the occupied Palestinian population." It said that "despite of the international community's constant rejection and condemnation of the Israeli illegal colonial practices, the new order comes as a measurement against International aid actors to prevent any legal action against future Israeli illegal orders, which has proven quite successful in preventing or delaying of the illegal demolitions until now. Therefore, Israel is using the new order to continue its unlawful demolition policies to drive Palestinian citizens away from their land and pave the way for the establishment of additional illegal colonial settlements." The Palestinian government urged third states, international partners and the international community at large to take concrete steps against the Israeli government to rescind the military order, which it said violates article 49 and 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, as well as the recent United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres statement, that "forcible transfer does not necessarily require the use of physical force by authorities, but may be triggered by specific circumstances that leave individuals or communities with no choice but to leave; this is known as a coercive environment." The Palestinian government also called on the international community "to not only hold Israel accountable for its numerous violations of the rights of the Palestinian people, but also to tackle the root of the problem, namely Israel's seemingly open-ended belligerent occupation, which prevents Palestinian citizens from ever achieving a just and fair peace based on the internationally-backed two-State solution." In related news, the Palestinian presidency has condemned an Israeli court decision to demolish and uproot the Bedouin community of Khan al-Ahmar in the Jordan Valley, about 15 kilometers to the east of Jerusalem. "This policy of ethnic cleansing is considered to be the worst form of racial discrimination, which has become the predominant feature of the practices and decisions of the Israeli government and its various instruments," said the presidency in a press statement referring to the

Israeli decision. The statement continued: “The only objective of this abhorrent racist policy is to uproot the legal Palestinian citizens from their land to control it and to replace them with strange settlers.” The presidency called upon the United Nations and the signatories to the Geneva Conventions and other international institutions to take urgent action to prevent this ‘racist’ decision and to provide international protection to the Palestinian people. On the international spectrum, Al Ray Palestinian Media Agency reported that 76 members of the US House of Representatives signed a letter, addressed to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, demanding to stop the policy of destroying Palestinian homes in the occupied West Bank with the aim of expanding settlements. According to Haaretz, Democratic part members of Congress called for a halt to the demolition of Palestinian houses in Susya village, Hebron. It pointed out that US lawmakers drew conclusions from Netanyahu’s view that, while the village of Susya is becoming piles of rubble, Jewish settlements in its surroundings are flourishing and expanding. The paper quoted a senior official of the liberal-leaning American Jewish organization, J Street, as saying that the move is considered to be, perhaps, the biggest move by Congress against the settlements. ([IMEMC](#) 25 May 2018)

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