



# ARIJ Daily Report

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## 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 navy ships fired live rounds at Palestinian fishing boats near Beit Lahia, in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. (IMEMC 8 August 2018)
- Israeli F16 warplanes and drones carried out a series of air strikes targeting the northern part of the Gaza Strip, the western part of Gaza city, and Rafah city to the south, causing destruction to Palestinian properties. Two Palestinians were injured in a strike that targeted a

group of Palestinians in the western part of Gaza city. (IMEMC 8 August 2018)

- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) fired several missiles into various areas of the Gaza Strip, including a building in the Sudaniyya area of northern Gaza, which was first struck by three missiles, followed by an additional six missiles, just minutes later. Furthermore, an Israeli army drone fired a missile into a farmland near Salaheddin Gate, along the border with Egypt, south of Rafah, in southern Gaza. Two missiles were also fired at a marine club, west of Gaza city, while Israeli tanks fired several missiles at an observation post east of the Zeitoun neighborhood, east of Gaza city, in addition to a number of missiles fired into farmlands east of Abasan town, east of Khan Younis, in southern Gaza. The Israeli air force also fired a missile into an area where many Palestinians were picnicking, on the shore of Jabalia, in northern Gaza, causing damage but no injuries. (IMEMC 8 August 2018)

## **Israeli Arrests**

- The Israeli Occupation army (IOA) invaded the al-'Isawiya town, in occupied Jerusalem, searched and ransacked many homes and detained six Palestinians, identified as Yazan Na'aji, Omar Sayyad, Amir Karkash, in addition to a child, Mohammad Atiya, and two young men who remained unidentified. (IMEMC 8 August 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation army (IOA) invaded Baqat al-Hatab town, near the northern West Bank city of Qalqilia, and detained Aseed Barghouthi. (IMEMC 8 August 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation army (IOA) detained Ahmad Wael Oweida, 24, and Ahmad Hasan Abu Bakr, 26, from Tulkarem, in northern West Bank. (IMEMC 8 August 2018)
- In Ramallah, in central West Bank, the Israeli Occupation army (IOA) detained Samer Silmi Rimawi and Aziz Wael Rimawi, from their homes in Beit Rima town. (IMEMC 8 August 2018)
- The Israeli military court of Ofer decided to release four Palestinian journalists on condition of paying a 5000 ILS (approximately \$1,358)

bail. The Israeli prosecution requested the extension of their detention until Thursday, under the pretext of appealing the court's decision to release them. The four journalists were identified as Alla'a al-Rimawi, Mohammed Ulwan, Qutaiba Hamdan, and Husni Injas. The four were detained on July 30<sup>th</sup>. (IMEMC 8 August 2018)

## Expansion of settlements

- The state is planning to expand the isolated settlement of Amichai to nearly three times its current size so that it will include the [illegal outpost](#) of Adei Ad, Haaretz has learned. The immediate purpose of the expansion is to turn Adei Ad into a kind of distant neighborhood in Amichai. After the expansion, Amichai will be a large jurisdiction run by settlers in the heart of the West Bank. The area, known as the Shiloh Valley, is located north of Ramallah and the settlement of Ofra and south of the settlement of Ariel, and is outside of and quite a distance from what is usually referred to as the settlement blocs. Construction in this area is considered an obstacle to implementing the two-state solution. Administration by settlers will make it difficult to enforce planning laws there and will enable legal construction in the future. Sources familiar with the details of the plan conceded that at this point the goal of increasing the jurisdiction of Amichai is to legalize Adei Ad. Amichai was established for the settlers evacuated from the illegal settlement of Amona in the northern West Bank, and is now home to some 40 families. According to the plan approved at the time of Amichai's establishment, the state was to expand Amichai by 60 more housing units at first, and by about 300 more units in the future. These units were allocated a large area near the settlement of Shiloh and a few other relatively isolated settlements and outposts. The illegal outpost of Adei Ad, a few kilometers east of Amichai, was built on state land without legal permits. The state never evacuated it and declared on a number of occasions that it intended to legalize it. According to the Civil Administration map, which Haaretz has obtained, the Civil Administration intends to legalize a large area around Adei Ad, including the outpost itself, to nearly double the size of Amichai and to bring Adei Ad into its jurisdiction. The state's intention to expand Amichai came to light in an update the Civil Administration conveyed to Palestinians in legal proceedings against Amichai's current boundaries. The Palestinians, represented by the NGO Yesh Din, argue that expansion of Amichai will deny them access to their farmland. The Civil Administration revealed its decision in a letter by its infrastructure chief, Lt. Col. Mali Meiri, who noted that "the final municipal boundaries are subject to change in keeping with a

final decision” on the Palestinians’ court case. Yesh Din’s attorney, Shlomi Zecharia, said, “The inhabitants of the villages near the outpost have become hostages to the policy that abundantly rewards prizes and gifts to ideological criminals. Cutting off farmlands by means of a false [expansion of] jurisdiction is extreme, disproportionate and needless, and in fact is intended to perpetuate restrictions on and infringement of Palestinian property, this time under the official auspices of the government.” One of the immediate consequences of designating the expanded area as part of Amichai is that responsibility for enforcement of construction laws will no longer be in the hands of the Civil Administration, but rather will fall to the Mateh Binyamin Regional Council. Except in the rarest cases, the council does not enforce the law against illegal construction in its jurisdiction. Avi Roeh, who until recently was head of the Yesha Council of settlements, admitted on a number of occasions that he had been involved in establishing illegal outposts and structures. As a result of the transfer of administrative powers to municipal authorities at Amichai, the settlers will be able to build new structures illegally without effective enforcement. ([Haaretz](#) 8 August 2018)

## **Israeli Closures**

- Israeli Occupation Authorities (IOA) announced that they will be closing the Ibrahimi Mosque for 24 hours for the Jewish holidays, starting today at 10:00 pm until Thursday at the same time. The closure means that the Muslim worshipers will not be allowed to enter the mosque to pray, the Adhan (call for prayers) will not be raised. Meanwhile, groups of Israeli settlers are expected to enter the mosque to celebrate their holiday. (PNN 8 August 2018)

## **Other**

- In the latest development involving Israeli authorities’ efforts to evict Bedouin residents of the West Bank village of Khan al-Ahmar, the government informed the High Court of Justice on Tuesday that it would prepare a permanent site near the West Bank settlement of Mitzpeh Yeriho if residents agree to leave without resistance. The relocation site would house 80 of the Jahalin Bedouin families in the area east of Jerusalem, including the residents of Khan al-Ahmar. Khan al-Ahmar residents have been waging a high-profile battle to stay at their current location, despite a court ruling that their village was built without authorization and must be evacuated. Their case has received international media attention, some of which focused on a school

building in the village that was [constructed of tires](#). At a hearing in August, the High Court confirmed that the residents must leave and that the only question is where they would go. The state told the court on Tuesday that its consent to prepare the site next to Mitzpeh Yeriho is contingent on the written agreement of all the members of the Jahalin tribe not to resist eviction. Dozens of Bedouin families from the tribe who were expelled from the Negev in the 1950s have lived since then in Khan al-Ahmar. In August, the state proposed to the court that the residents move at least temporarily to a site known as Jahalin West, not far from Khan al-Ahmar, but would also entertain preparation of another permanent site. The state also undertook to provide large tents to the families from Khan al-Ahmar who move to West Jahalin. The 255-dunam (64-acre) site near Mitzpeh Yeriho is state-owned land and is about 8 kilometers (5 miles) from Khan al-Ahmar. The state noted, however, that the plan would require the expropriation of privately owned land for an access road to the site and said utilities could also be hooked up from nearby. ([Haaretz](#) 8 August 2018)

- The state is willing to allow six women cancer patients to leave the Gaza Strip for the West Bank for treatment that is not available in the West Bank, or to go abroad for treatment they cannot afford. However, it will not allow the women, who are severely ill, to go to either of two Palestinian hospitals in East Jerusalem which can treat them. The state prosecutor's office informed the NGO Gisha of its decision in a letter, referring to a [High Court of Justice](#) petition seeking to overturn the ban on seven women patients leaving the [Gaza Strip](#) because they are first degree relatives of Hamas members. One of the seven women who petitioned the High Court is not a relative of a Hamas member, and she was told she can resubmit her request for an exit permit, according to the District Coordination and Liaison office. Attorney Arin Safdi-Atila of the State Prosecutor's Office wrote Gisha that her office had been informed that "it had been decided to permit the entrance of the petitioners to Israel only for the purpose of passage from there to receive medical treatment in the West Bank or abroad." Gisha's attorneys, Muna Haddad and Sigi Ben-Ari, responded Monday to the state's proposal that it meant "continued prevention of essential and very urgent medical care to save the lives" of the petitioners. The seven Palestinian women have been waiting for between three and six months for a response to their exit applications. In May and June, the District Coordination and Liaison Office informed the women that they could not leave the Strip because they were related to Hamas members. Four of the women were referred by the Palestinian Authority for radiation treatments and chemotherapy at Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem (one of them is the woman who has now been told

she is not a relative of a Hamas member), and three others were referred to Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem for complicated surgery to remove tumors from their skull. Because the treatments the women need are not available in West Bank hospitals the Palestinian Health Ministry refers West Bank residents requiring such treatments to East Jerusalem hospitals. The PA funds these treatments, but not treatments abroad if there is an alternative in the Palestinian healthcare system. The criterion of family relationship to a Hamas member as an official reason to prevent patients leaving the Gaza Strip for treatment is relatively new. It was added in response to a demand by the family of Hadar Goldin, who was killed in the 2014 Gaza war and whose remains are still being held by Hamas. In January 2017 the security cabinet voted to cut the number of humanitarian exit permits to Hamas members and their relatives as one way of pressuring the organization to release two Israeli civilians who entered the Gaza Strip years ago and to return the bodies of the soldiers killed, Goldin and Shaul Oron. Implementation of the cabinet decision began only at the end of 2017 after the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (to which the District Liaison Office belongs) obtained information from the Shin Bet security service that it did not previously have, COGAT said. ([Haaretz](#) 8 August 2018)

- Like every other declaration of intent by U.S. President Donald Trump or his aides, the recent statement about the need to change UNRWA's mandate sounded at first like a gut reaction voiced without having studied the issue thoroughly, or perhaps a trial balloon. But on second thought, it meshes well with other administration steps to undermine and dismantle existing international arrangements – the nuclear deal with Iran, America's relationship with other NATO countries, trade agreements. Like its withdrawal from the Iran deal, America's attitude toward UNRWA – which cares for Palestinian refugees – has clear Israeli fingerprints. Last year, Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely urged Washington to move to close the agency in order to abolish the Palestinians' refugee status. Former MK Einat Wilf, who represented first the Labor Party and then the breakaway Atzmaut party, has repeatedly urged the same. The UN Works and Relief Agency began operating on May 1, 1950, with the temporary mandate of aiding refugees from Palestine in various ways until a "just resolution" to their problem would be found. But because such a solution hasn't yet been found, the UN General Assembly extends the agency's mandate every few years. Depending on circumstances, this mandate has sometimes been expanded to include other Palestinian populations, like those displaced in 1967, or Gaza residents who aren't refugees but have suffered from Israeli military attacks. Its latest

mandate runs through June 2020. The problem with UNRWA, from the perspective of the Israelis and Americans who want it dismantled, isn't that it funds aid to the needy. The problem is that the organization's decades of existence is a Palestinian political achievement, reflecting an international consensus that Palestinian refugees are in a different category than other refugees. Other refugees had and have states that, in principle, they can or will be able to return to once the crisis that created their problem ends (like Rwandan and Syrian refugees), or alternatively, can move to (like ethnic Germans expelled from Eastern Europe or ethnic Greeks expelled from Turkey). But the Palestinian refugees lost their homeland. They aren't allowed to return to the state – Israel – established on its ruins and have no state of their own. As long as there is no agreed upon solution to the conflict which led to the loss of their homeland, their descendants inherit their refugee status, regardless of their economic situation. The UN General Assembly, which adopted Resolution 194 (on the right of Palestinian refugees to either return or accept compensation, whichever they choose), is the one that extends UNRWA's mandate every few years. When the UN's member states keep extending UNRWA's mandate, the Palestinians' political interpretation of this decision is that they are reiterating, again and again, that something remains unfinished and subject to dispute even about Israel within the pre-1967 lines, and that there are people still waiting to realize their right to return and live within those borders. In practice, the nations of the world don't stand behind the statement implicit in the extension of UNRWA's mandate and in Resolution 194, which was never implemented. Neither do they stand behind many UN resolutions against the settlements and haven't insisted on their implementation. But in international relations, UN resolutions were and still are a Palestinian political asset. This is the Palestinian asset that Washington, following the lead of Israeli rightists and centrists, is now trying to liquidate. But it won't be able to do so without undermining the UN's status or dictating new rules of behavior and voting that go beyond its veto power in the UN Security Council. Trump's threat to punish countries that vote against America's position in the UN by cutting the American aid they receive remains in force. The more time passes, the clearer it becomes that these Trumpian gut reactions follow a logical and consistent line of thought and action. Therefore, it's not hard to imagine the moment when America will vote at the UN against extending UNRWA's mandate. And there will be countries that will fear to vote against America's will. The administration's first tactic was to cut UNRWA's funding, which it has already done. This is in line with the expected cut in USAID donations to the Palestinian Authority and Israel's financial



assault on the PA – deducting payments to the families of Palestinian prisoners from the customs duties Israel collects on the PA’s behalf and is obligated to transfer to the Palestinian treasury. In recent years, America has been UNRWA’s largest donor, surpassing the European Union. But the Clinton and Obama administrations can’t be suspected of supporting UNRWA to promote the Palestinian refugees’ return to their homeland; quite the contrary. American and European donations to UNRWA, as well as to other aid organizations and the Palestinian Authority, have been primarily hush money. They were meant to compensate for the West’s unwillingness to pressure Israel to allow implementation of UN resolutions regarding the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. International, and especially Western, donations, which rose following the 1993 Oslo Accords but have dropped over the last decade, compensated the Palestinians for the losses Israeli policy caused their economy (movement restrictions on goods and people, Israeli control of the West Bank’s Area C and the siege of Gaza). These donations subsidized the Israeli occupation under cover of peace negotiations. They prevented mass impoverishment and social explosions, produced layers of Palestinian bureaucracy that were dependent on them and had an immediate interest in preventing social and political unrest. The Trump Administration is trying to shatter this post-1993 arrangement. It intends to leave Israeli superiority in place but to stop trying to conceal or soften it through financial compensation to the Palestinians. It evidently thinks this tactic will make it easier for it to impose the “deal of the century” – that is, the surrender agreement – on the Palestinians. ([Haaretz](#) 8 August 2018)