



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

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Ya'bad town, southwest of Jenin, before invading and violently searching many homes, and interrogated several Palestinians while inspecting their ID cards. (IMEMC 18 August 2018)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al Yamoun town, west of Jenin, before invading and violently searching many homes, of which,

the house of Jihad Mufeed Fareihat and his brothers were knowns. The IOA ransacked contents of the houses. (IMEMC 18 August 2018)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) killed two Palestinians and injured 270 others, including 60 who were shot with live fire. The IOA killed Karim Abu Fatayer, 30, by shooting him with a live round in his head, east of the al-Boreij refugee camp, in central Gaza. The Palestinian was shot in his eye, and the bullet exited through the back of his head after fracturing his skull and scattering his brain. The slain Palestinian is from Deir al-Balah, in central Gaza. Furthermore, the IOA killed Sa'adi Akram Abu Muammar, 26, east of Rafah, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. Sa'adi is a married father of two daughters, Rahaf, 5, and Aseel, 3, and his wife is seven months pregnant. The IOA injured 270 Palestinians in several parts of the Gaza Strip, during the Great Return processions;. Among the wounded are 60 who were shot with live fire, including 19 children, in addition to nine medics, who were injured by shrapnel or suffered the effects of teargas inhalation. The Israeli assaults bring the number of slain Palestinians since March 30th, to 170, in addition to 18300 who were injured. (IMEMC 18 August 2018)
- A Norwegian activist, was shot and injured with a rubber-coated steel bullet in the abdomen area as Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) forces quelled the weekly and peaceful anti-settlement demonstration in the village of Kufr Qaddoum, to the east of Qalqilia to protest Israel's closure of the main road that connects the village of Kufr Qaddoum with the city of Nablus, since 2003. (IMEMC 18 August 2018)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Jewish settlers chopped down dozens of olive trees in Arrabeh, a town south of the northern West Bank city of Jenin. Settlers from the illegal settlement of Dotan chopped the trees, many of them over 15 years old, planted in a land located near the settlement. (Wafa 18 August 2018)
- A group of Israeli settlers cut dozens of Palestinian olive trees in 'Arraba town, south of Jenin, in the northern part of the occupied West Bank. The settlers invaded an orchard, owned by a local resident identified as Nathmi Dheidi, near the settlement of Mevo Dotan. The

settlers cut dozens of olive trees, which were planted approximately four years ago. (IMEMC 18 August 2018)

- Israeli settlers uprooted dozens of olive saplings and destroyed a number of fully grown ones in the village of Ras Karkar, west of the West bank governorate of Ramallah. settlers broke into a privately-owned Palestinian land (owned by Khaled Samhan) in the northern part of the village of Ras Karkar and uprooted 70 olive saplings. They also destroyed a number of fully-grown olive trees. Settlers further sprayed Hebrew –language racist graffiti at the walls of a water well in the same area. (WAFA 18 August 2018)

Expansion of settlements

- Deep in the heart of the Israeli-occupied territories, this settlement of nearly 20,000 residents is enjoying a building boom like never before. And the signs of it are everywhere. At the eastern edge of Ariel, construction of a new hospital, complete with its own medical school, has entered the final stages. Across from the huge complex, a new shopping center has started to sprout up. On a hill that overlooks the main population center, ground is about to be broken on a new neighborhood that will include 839 housing units — the largest project of its kind in many years. And several kilometers to the west, at the Ariel industrial zone, new factory construction, following a period of stagnation, is under way. The locals have no doubt who deserves all the credit. “During the Obama years, everything here was frozen,” notes Daniel Kohavi, one of the original Ariel settlers. “But thanks to [Donald Trump](#), we’re starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.” Previous U.S. administrations viewed settlement activity as a major obstacle to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Not this one, though. Which explains why Mayor Eli Shaviro is feeling far more emboldened these days to discuss future plans. “In 15 years from now, Ariel will be a city with 100,000 residents,” he predicts, “three times as many factories, a huge university with a medical school, and many many young families looking for good education, employment opportunities and quality of life.” Until now, all the construction in Ariel has been concentrated on a swath of land that filled up just one quarter of the total area under the municipality’s jurisdiction. The new neighborhood of 839 housing units will for the first time in the city’s history be built outside it — as good a sign as any that a new era has indeed dawned. It is one of the biggest settlements in the [West Bank](#), fourth in population size, to be exact. And it is one of the most remote settlements — located almost 20 kilometers beyond the 1967 border —

but not the most remote. Still, among the big settlements, it is the most remote, and among remote settlements, it is the biggest. Which is why Ariel, often likened to a finger on the map, has long been a key obstacle to any future peace accord. It was 10 years ago that the last serious round of peace talks was held between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. At the time, Israel presented a map for a two-state solution that included Ariel on its side of the border. The Palestinians rejected the notion, saying it violated two of their core principles for any agreement based on land swaps: They would only consider handing over settlements situated near the 1967 border, and even then, only settlements that did not interfere with the territorial contiguity of the future Palestinian state. Aware of such problematics, the [Geneva Accord of 2003](#), a civil society effort of prominent Israelis and Palestinians, stipulated that Ariel should remain on the Palestinian side of the border. As the city celebrates its 40th anniversary this month, the consensus here is that this isn't going to happen — certainly not anytime soon. “There's absolutely no chance,” proclaims Shaviro. “Any talk about such a possibility is completely irrelevant.” For years, notes Kohavi, the settlers of Ariel lived under the threat that one day, they might be forced to leave. “If in exchange, Israel would have signed a sustainable peace agreement, then I believe that most people here would have agreed to go without a fight,” says the 71-year-old former gym teacher. “We are a city of law-abiding citizens, after all. But today, it seems to me there is a consensus in Israel that Ariel is not going to be returned.” Kohavi, his wife and three children were among the original 40 families that moved here in August 1978. “We were told that a new agricultural settlement was being built in Samaria and that each family would receive 4 dunams (1 acre) of land,” he recounts. “What awaited us upon our arrival was a tiny box of a house, 46 square meters in area (495 square feet), with an itsy-bitsy garden outside. But who complained?” What prompted him and his family to leave their comfortable home in the seaside town of Herzliya for an isolated settlement without any running water or electricity? “Good old Zionism,” responds Kohavi. The original group of Ariel settlers was made up largely of employees of the country's two large military companies — Israel Aircraft Industries (now Israel Aerospace Industries) and Israel Military Industries. Kohavi didn't work for either, but had heard about the plan to form a new community in the Samarian hills from his father-in-law, then a union leader at Israel Military Industries. “I loved the idea,” he recalls. Among the first Jewish settlements in the West Bank, Ariel took root soon after the right-wing Likud assumed power in Israel. The document that paved the way for its establishment, however, as locals like to point out, was

signed a few years earlier by Shimon Peres, when he served as defense minister in the Labor government. The early pioneers, like Kohavi, had no connection to Gush Emunim, an Orthodox, right-wing movement considered the driving force behind the settlement enterprise. Rather, they were secular Israelis, often supporters of the Labor party. “We didn’t even have a synagogue here at first,” recalls Kohavi over coffee in his spacious three-story home — a dramatic upgrade from his humble beginnings here. The next wave of settlers he describes, in rather derogatory terms, as “Zionist by default.” These were Israelis, he explains, who were less driven by idealism and more by the possibility of obtaining relatively cheap housing fairly close to the center of the country. They were followed in the 1990s by a very large group of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, who now account for close to 40 percent of the population. About 10 years ago, Ariel received its first big infusion of religious residents when a contingent of settlers [evacuated from Gush Katif](#) in the Gaza Strip moved in. During the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, which erupted in the early 2000s, the population of Ariel hardly grew at all. Excluding natural population growth, Central Bureau of Statistics figures show that during that period, when traveling on West Bank roads was often perilous, more people moved out of the settlement than moved in. The population only started to rebound about five years ago. In 1998, on its 20th anniversary, Ariel was officially recognized as a city, and in 2012, following years of controversy, the college established within its perimeters several decades earlier was finally [accredited as a university](#). Shabtay Bendet, an anti-occupation activist, notes that these were two hard-won achievements for [Ron Nachman](#), one of the original founders of Ariel who served as mayor from 1985 until his death in 2013. “Nachman invested huge efforts in normalizing this settlement and making it seem part of Israel proper,” notes Bendet, head of the Settlement Watch team at Peace Now, an organization that has long advocated for a two-state solution. “Most places in Israel don’t get recognized as cities unless they have 20,000 to 30,000 residents. Ariel became a city when it had just 11,000 residents. Why was this so significant? Because maybe you can uproot a settlement, but you don’t uproot a city. The same holds true for the university. Why was it so important for him to get it accredited? Because when a place has a university, that means it’s established — no pulling it out of the ground.” Just how badly Ariel wants the rest of the world to ignore its problematic location is evident in its municipal website. The English version describes its geographical setting as “the heart of Israel,” the Hebrew version taking it a step further, using the term “the heart of the State of Israel.” Since Israel never annexed the West Bank, that is a

clear misrepresentation of the facts. Indeed, even the current Israeli government, the most right-wing in the nation's history, does not claim that Ariel or any of the other West Bank settlements are part of the State of Israel. Of the 45 plants located in the Ariel industrial zone, about a five-minute drive out of the city, Achva is among the largest. A manufacturer of halva, tahini and sweets, this privately owned company, with an annual turnover of about 200 million shekels (\$54 million), exports to the United States, Canada and South Africa. To enable further growth, it is now building a second factory, just across the way from its existing premises. Of its 235 workers, about half are Palestinians from nearby villages. Originally established in Tel Aviv almost 90 years ago, Achva relocated to the West Bank in 1997. "We moved here because it was the cheapest place close to the center of the country," says Yaakov Malach, the CEO and owner. Responding to international calls to boycott products made in the Israeli settlements, a growing number of companies operating in the West Bank have [moved back inside the country's internationally recognized borders](#) in recent years. Malach says he has no plans to relocate again and describes the boycott movement as "more of a nuisance than anything else." "The only thing customers really care about," he says, "is whether something tastes good or not." Still, he does not flaunt his controversial location. The timeline of key events published on Achva's website suffices with the following description of its 1997 relocation: "The factory, which has been based in south Tel Aviv and Yehud, moves its facilities to a spacious building that brings all the production lines under one roof." There is no mention of where that spacious building is. The mailing address is listed as Nes Ziona, a town in central Israel. Yuri Smirin, Achva's production manager, left St. Petersburg in 1990 and has been living in Ariel ever since. Asked if he was worried that the city where he lives and works could one day be handed over to the Palestinians as part of a peace deal, he responds: "Not at all. This area has no future without the existence of Ariel." Guiding visitors on a tour of the plant, he points to a group of Palestinian workers huddled around a machine. "Just look at them," he says. "You see how they're all smiling." Actually, they're not. Bendet is a relatively recent convert to the Israeli anti-occupation movement. In his previous life, as a religious settler, he spent quite a few years living not far from here in the small settlement of Rehelim. That gives him some firsthand knowledge of how Ariel impacts the region. "By creating a buffer between the northern and southern parts of the West Bank," he says, "it makes any future Palestinian state unviable. But besides that, it is also causing damage in the present because its continued expansion impinges on the ability of the surrounding Palestinian villages to

develop and grow.” But won’t the Palestinians in the area at least benefit from the new medical center, which officials in Ariel insist will serve the population of the entire region? Bendet laughs at the suggestion. “For Palestinians to enter Ariel, they need a special permit from the Israeli Civil Administration,” he notes. “Do you think that someone in the throes of a heart attack is going to stand in line at the Civil Administration offices to get that permit?” ([Haaretz](#) 18 August 2018)

Other

- Next month will see the 25th anniversary of the first Oslo accord, while soon Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will mark a decade in power – round dates that give us a chance to examine in-the-box thinking. The conventional view is that this land is full of settlers, that the right is taking advantage of its long stretch in power to deepen its hold, and that the two-state solution is dying. But is all of that really so? To address this issue, Haaretz analyzed the [settlers’](#) population dispersal in the [West Bank](#) and compared the number of settlers in strategic centers on the eve of [Netanyahu’s](#) ascent to power and their number now. The examination revolved around two questions: 1) How many settlers were added to the isolated settlements over the past decade? 2) What is the minimum number of settlers who must be evacuated in order to divide the land and draw a border between Israel and Palestine? The conventional wisdom on the right is that half a million settlers have created an irreversible situation and that the partition of historical Palestine and the establishment of a Palestinian state are no longer achievable. So often has that mantra been sounded that many groups on the left have started to adopt it. Just four months ago, the novelist [A.B. Yehoshua](#) wrote in [Haaretz](#), “But above all, the two-state solution is fading because of the constantly expanding settlements in Judea and Samaria. Indeed, according to many experts who are familiar with the demographic and geographic reality, it is no longer possible to divide the Land of Israel into two separate sovereign states.” Yehoshua isn’t the only one to adopt this notion. Haaretz columnist Gideon Levy is awed by the number of settlers, regardless of where they’re concentrated. In [an October 2015 op-ed](#), he said the two-state solution “has been missed. Those who wanted a Jewish state should have implemented it while it was still possible. Those who set it on fire, deliberately or by doing nothing, must now look directly and honestly at the new reality.” But Yehoshua and Levy are both wrong. Let’s look at the map. Most of the Israeli suggestions for resolving the conflict have included the territorial arms that extend deep into the

Palestinian parts of the West Bank, which would necessitate the annexation to Israel of the settlement blocs. Two such arms exist in the center of the country, one to Ariel and the other to Kedumim, via Karnei Shomron. From Jerusalem an arm was extended eastward to Ma'aleh Adumim, southward to Gush Etzion and northward to Beit El. At the Camp David summit in 2000, Israel suggested extending a long arm from Beit She'an to Jerusalem so that the Jordan Valley would remain inside Israel. Another idea was to lease for a long period a stretch of land that would include several of the Hebron Hills settlements and Kiryat Arba. If these arms are lopped off, what would remain is a Palestinian area that enjoys territorial contiguity and includes 33 isolated settlements. The population of these settlements, which are completely detached from the settlement blocs, is listed at 46,000, meaning 9,800 families at most – a number comparable to a large neighborhood in Israel. More families live in Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood alone. The evacuation of 33 isolated settlements would not be enough to attain the Palestinians' consent to end the conflict; a final-status accord would call for complex solutions. But it would be enough to demarcate a border between Israel and Palestine, unilaterally or in an agreement for a limited period. In the past decade, the right has enfeebled the law-enforcement system, fought the media and incited against the left and the Arabs, but when it comes to settlement deep within Palestinian territory, it hasn't achieved a strategic change. The Netanyahu governments have indeed diverted budgets to paving roads that will hamper partition, and the planning institutions are working away. But the growth rate in the isolated settlements under Netanyahu has been 400 families a year – not a number that shifts tectonic plates. How is it that the right boasts about hundreds of thousands of settlers, while actually it would be possible to divide the land with the evacuation of 9,800 families? There are two explanations. One is that the vast majority of the settlements were built near the Green Line in order to expand the waists of Israel's two metropolitan centers, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The large settlement concentrations lie east of Tel Aviv (near the separation barrier) and around Jerusalem – in Gush Etzion, Ma'aleh Adumim and the Route 443 area. The second explanation is that the largest increase in the number of settlers has been in the neighborhoods of East Jerusalem and in the ultra-Orthodox cities of Modi'in Ilit and Betar Ilit, adjacent to the Green Line, which will remain part of Israel in every scenario, and which are thus irrelevant to the partition issue. A decade ago, the number of settlers in these two towns stood at 73,000; today this number tops 130,000. This neither improves nor reduces the prospects of a border being drawn between Israel and Palestine. To scuttle

partition, the right must increase the number of settlers who live in the areas between the Palestinian cities, thereby precluding territorial contiguity. But the map shows that the right-wing governments have left whole regions, in both the north and south of the West Bank, almost free of settlers. After the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank in 2005, only four settlements remain in the triangle between Jenin, Nablus and Tul Karm – Shavei Shomron, Hermesh, Einav and Mevo Dotan. One might have expected Netanyahu and Naftali Bennett's Habayit Hayehudi party to want to beef up Israel's hold in this area. But during the past decade these settlements have grown by a minuscule number, just 140 families. A similar situation exists in the southern West Bank. Between the southern approaches of Bethlehem, running east of the settlement of Efrat, and the northern approaches of Hebron, there is only one settlement, Karnei Tzur. In the past 10 years this strategic settlement has grown by only about 80 families. Another tactic for scuttling partition has been to seize the hills around metropolitan Palestine and surround them with Jewish settlements. That tactic was partially applied around all the West Bank's big cities. Thus Elon Moreh, Itamar and Bracha are settlements that were established around Nablus. Together with the tactical reason for intensifying construction in them, the government had another reason to develop them: Itamar and Elon Moreh were the targets of two of the critical terrorist attacks in the past decade (the [massacre of the Fogel family](#), in 2011, and the [murder of the Henkin couple](#), four years later). Netanyahu and the right-wing ministers routinely declare that terror will be answered with construction. But declarations are one thing and actions another. In the past 10 years, only 350 new families have joined those three settlements. The maps and numbers leave no room for doubt: When it comes to construction in the settlements, Netanyahu is like an old refrigerator – freezing almost everything and making a lot of noise. ([Haaretz](#) 18 August 2018)

- How Israeli Right-wing Thinkers Envision the Annexation of the West Bank. From granting the Palestinians the right to vote in Jordan to expelling them creatively – how rightists propose to apply Israeli sovereignty in the Palestinian territories. ([Haaretz](#) 18 August 2018)