



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.



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Israeli Arrests

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded a Palestinian school in Orif village, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, detained two children and forced the school shut until further notice. Dozens of IOA surrounded the school before invading it, and detained two children, identified as Dia' Shehada and Mohammad Safadi. The IOA forced all students and staff out of the educational facility and shut it down. The army invaded the school after the IOA invaded surrounding areas, and fired at many Palestinians who protested the invasion and hurled stones at them. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Ramallah in central West Bank and detained Ibrahim Hammad and Rami Nabil Hamdan, from Silwad town, east of the city. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Esmat Sameeh and Mohammad Sameeh, from Deir As Sudan village, northwest of Ramallah. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Abdul-Hafeth Awni Thieb, from the al-Mazra'a ash-Sharqiya village, east of Ramallah. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- In Nablus, in northern West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Haitham Mahmoud al-Aqra', from Qabalan village. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Saleh Najeh Musallam, from Talfit in Jenin Governorate. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- In Bethlehem, south of occupied Jerusalem, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Mohammad Samir al-Azza, 17, and Mohammad Ahmad al-Barbari, 18, from their homes in the al-Azza refugee camp. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- In Hebron, in southern West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Hamza Bajes from Halhoul town. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Azzam Asafra, from Beit Kahil town, north of the city of Hebron. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Several Israeli settlers illegally squatting on Palestinian lands, south of Nablus in northern West Bank, invaded and bulldozed the lands, to prepare for a new segregated road. The settlers brought a bulldozer and started uprooting the Palestinian lands to prepare from the new road. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- Scores of Israeli settlers forced their way into al-Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem under Israeli police guard. 60 Settlers stormed al-Aqsa Mosque in the early morning hours while accompanied by a large police force. Meanwhile, restrictions were tightened on the Palestinian worshipers entering the mosque, and many of them were ordered to return or stay away from the site. (PALINFO 4 December 2019)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and t Israeli municipal staff arrived in the Abu Nuwwar community, located near the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim, where they dismantled and seized a shack. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- The Israeli municipal staff, under the protection of Israeli military army, barged their way to Abu Hindi Bedouin, near Abu Dis town in Jerusalem and razed two residential structures. The shack and structures were purportedly demolished for being built without the rarely-granted Israeli permits. Abu Nuwar is a Palestinian Bedouin community in Area C, with approximately 670 Palestinian residents (88% refugees), a portion of whom reside in the community on a seasonal basis. The community is one of the 46 Bedouin communities in the central West Bank at-risk of forcible transfer because of the coercive environment exerted on them, including a “relocation” plan advanced by the Israeli authorities. It is also one of the 18 Palestinian Bedouin communities in the eastern Jerusalem governorate that are located in or next to an area slated for the E1 settlement plan, aimed at creating a continuous built-up area between the Ma’ale Adumim settlement and East Jerusalem. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)

Expansion of settlements

- The Israeli Occupation Municipality in Jerusalem have launched a large settlement scheme aim toward the construction of 11,000 settlement units on Qalandia's airport lands in order to expand the Attarot settlement, and in an attempt to impose sovereignty on occupied Jerusalem, and to separate it from its Palestinian surroundings, as well. Qalandia airport has been closed, by Israeli authorities, since the outbreak of the second Intifada, in the year 2000. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- The Israeli government has started building 176 settlement units in the illegal Nof Zion settlement, located on the slopes of the Mount of Olives, to the south of the occupied Jerusalem. With the completion of these units, Nof Zion will have about 550 housing units (i.e., the largest settlement in the Palestinian neighborhoods of Jerusalem). The above mentioned land was legally disputed, but was finally taken by Israeli businessman Rami Levy, along with Australian Jewish businessman and Skype founder Kevin Bermeister. The current construction is in its first stage, and the second stage of the project includes 2 plans to build 350 housing units, a hotel, and an air train. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem submitted project number 77679-04-101, called the Completion of the Tunnel, which seizes 44 dunams, including the opening of an underground tunnel from Hebron to Masarra, in order to transform the open area into a transportation network station.
- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem is currently preparing a structural plan under number 0465229-101, starting from Sultan Suleiman Street up to the Masrara neighborhood, including several residential and all commercial neighborhoods in the city. The project covers an area of 700 dunams and is planned to serve as an alternative to the traditional commercial centers in Arab Jerusalem. (IMEMC 4 December 2019)
- An Israeli settler organisation is renting out part of a plot of expropriated Palestinian land to the Jerusalem Municipality who gave them the land in the first place. According to *Haaretz*, Israeli authorities pay "nearly 1 million shekels (\$224,000) a year to the Amana settlement organisation in exchange for operating a welfare department in one floor of an office building that the group bought from the government for that same price." Amana, a group dedicated to settlement development in the occupied

Palestinian territory, only received the plot – located in Sheikh Jarrah, occupied East Jerusalem – from the government in the first place “after it was expropriated from a Palestinian family”. Amana operates under the Yesha Council, an umbrella organisation of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. According to *Haaretz*, it is “the most important independent body for the establishment of new settlements and the expansion of existing ones in the West Bank.” The land in question – on which Amana has built an office building – “belonged to the Palestinian Abu Ta’ah family, which lives nearby”, *Haaretz* reported. Over a period of a number of years in the 1990s and 2000s, Israeli authorities worked with the settlers to advance the expropriation of the plot, in order to enable Amana to build the structure. These plans advanced even while the land still officially belonged to the Abu Ta’ah family. In 2016, “the Jerusalem District Court denied a petition from the Abu Ta’ah family against the expropriation process and the transfer of the land to Amana”. In 2017, the construction of the building was completed, after which Amana signed an agreement with the Jerusalem Municipality for the latter to rent the ground floor. The space now contains a welfare office serving the residents of settlements in northern occupied East Jerusalem. While Amana paid the state 913,000 shekels (\$262,000) for the land, it “now receives the same amount it paid for the entire plot every year in return for renting out only the ground floor”. Peace Now told *Haaretz* that the affair shows how Israeli authorities want to keep Amana happy. “After it received the land that was expropriated in a dubious process without a tender, Amana is profiting in three ways: It built a luxurious office building for itself in the midst of a Palestinian neighbourhood; it also strengthens the settlement it built by bringing in Israeli visitors to the welfare office inside the Palestinian neighbourhood; and has treated itself to a nice income of about a million shekels a year at our expense and with the help of state and municipal institutions.” (*Haaretz*, [MEM](#) 4 December 2019)

- Building permits in settlements in the Samaria district have increased by 50% over the past five years, the head of the Samaria Regional Council Yossi said on Wednesday. His comments, made at the Eilat Real Estate Conference, corroborate the recent trend dramatic increases in the approval of settlement housing construction plans in the West Bank settlements in general, according to [Peace Now](#). And while construction planning is increasing, the discretionary funds the government is

investing in the settlements has also increased significantly in recent years, in which the annual average for such spending over the past two years is approximately 50% higher than the average over the past 15 years. At the same time, the Jordan Valley Regional Council has launched political campaign to get the Blue and White Party to join effort to [annex](#) the West Bank region. This heightened settlement activity is thought to be connected to the much softer stance the Trump administration has taken towards the issue, a policy which was underlined last month when the US reversed a previous policy stance to determine that Israel's West Bank settlements are not illegal. "One of the clear signs of the change that is happening in Judea and Samaria, and the understanding of more and more investors, is that Samaria is not the next thing but is the thing, is that the number of building permits that has gone up significantly in recent years," said Dagan, noting the 50% increase over the last five years. According to Peace Now, the number of plans for housing units in Judea and Samaria as a whole that have received initial or final approval since the beginning of the Trump administration has risen threefold over the figures for the latter years of the Obama administration. The average number of housing units approved in the three years since Trump was elected is some 6,899 housing units, almost twice the average of some 3,635 units in the three years preceding him. In addition, Peace Now issued a report on Tuesday demonstrating that discretionary spending by the government in the settlements has increased by 50% in the last two years. Included in this spending is expenditure by various ministries outside the general budget, including from the Interior, Housing, Education, and Energy and Water ministries, as well as the National Roads Authority. These funds go towards housing unit construction, as well as for internal roads, buildings for educational, social and religious purposes, commercial centers and industrial parks. Along with the increased planning approval for new housing units and the increased government investment in the settlements are greater political demands for annexing portions of the West Bank, calls which increased on Wednesday. Head of the Jordan Valley Regional Council David Elhayani said that recent developments of a "tectonic shift" in opinion towards the settlements, including the US policy that the settlements are not illegal, are an "opportunity not to be missed," and announced a new public advocacy campaign for the annexation of the Jordan Valley region. The campaign appears to be spawned by the current political paralysis, Elhayani saying that "local politics must not be allowed to harm the window of

opportunity that we have received,” and adding said that time is running out. Elhayani pointed specifically to the Blue and White Party as “the last obstacle” for the application of Israeli sovereignty over the Jordan Valley, and said that he expected that party leader Benny Gantz to “show leadership” and assist in this endeavor. During the September election campaign, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised to apply Israeli sovereignty to the Jordan Valley, while Blue and White leader Benny Gantz said the Jordan Valley would always remain under Israeli control. A spokesperson for Blue and White did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the new campaign. ([IPOST](#) 4 December 2019)