

ASSESSING THE IMPEDIMENTS BEFORE THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Israeli settlement Activities in the occupied
State of Palestine during the 1st Quarter of 2020,
(January – March) / 2020

<http://www.arij.org>



<http://www.lrcj.org/>



This REPORT is prepared as part of the project entitled *ASSESSING THE IMPEDIMENTS BEFORE THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION*, which is financially supported by the EU. However, the content of this paper is the sole responsibility of ARIJ & LRC and does not necessarily reflect those of the donors.

Quarterly Report
(January – March) /
2020



Violations of the Israeli occupation Army

Violations of the Israeli occupation Army during the month of January 2020

- Israeli police, assaulted several Palestinian worshipers and detained two of them while they were present at the Bab al-Rahma prayer area inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, in occupied Jerusalem. Police officers broke into Bab al-Rahma and physically assaulted the worshipers and attacked them with teargas, for no apparent reason. At least two of the worshipers were detained by the police during the attack. The prayer area was reopened in February of 2019, after it had been closed by Israeli police for 16 years, under the claim of a court order, which turned out to be false. (IMEMC 2 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at a Palestinian young man on a road near the settlement bloc of Gush Etzion, south of Bethlehem. The citizen suffered a bullet injury in one of his feet after soldiers opened fire at him near the Etzion junction in southern Bethlehem. (PALINFO 2 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) seized five tractors belonging to Palestinian farmers in Um al-Qaba area, in the Jordan Valley, northern occupied West Bank. The IOA seized the five agricultural tractors under the pretext of working in a “*closed military zone*.” The area is located in Area C of the West Bank, which is under full Israeli military control and where the Palestinian government has no jurisdiction. Israel seeks to displace the Palestinian population out of the Jordan Valley by any means, to allow greater numbers of illegal settlers to move in. (IMEMC 3 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted, several Palestinian Muslim worshipers in Bab ar-Rahma Mosque, in the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, in occupied East Jerusalem, and detained two. The IOA and police officers, invaded the holy site while trying to force the worshipers out, leading to protests. The IOA sprayed many worshipers with pepper-spray, and assaulted others with clubs and batons. The IOA also detained two young

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

men, identified as Mohammad Shawish and Abdulla al-Bizra, before moving them to an interrogation facility. (IMEMC 3 January 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured several Palestinians in Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron, in the southern part of the occupied West Bank. Several army jeeps invaded the ath-Thaher area, south of Beit Ummar, and attacked protesters with live rounds, gas bombs and concussion grenades. The IOA randomly fired gas bombs and concussion grenades, many of them striking homes in the area. Many Palestinians who suffered the effects of teargas inhalation, and some of the wounded fainted due to the severe effects. (IMEMC 3 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Shu'fat refugee camp, in occupied Jerusalem, before storming and ransacking several homes. (IMEMC 3 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) terrorized, Palestinian residents in the village of Ein Hilweh in the Jordan Valley region of the occupied West Bank after searching and ransacking residential tents. Five Israeli security guards in street clothes, stormed tents in the village, searched and ransacked them and terrorized their residents. The IOA invaded the village while the guards were conducting the search and remained there for two hours. (IMEMC 3 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained a young man from the city of Qalqilia, northern occupied West Bank. The IOA detained Ahmed Tawfiq Radayda, 37, from al-Ubeidiya, at the Za'tara military checkpoint, south of Nablus. The IOA searched Radayda, seized a sum of 4,000 shekels (\$1,151 USD) in his possession, and handed him a report for intelligence review, before releasing him. (IMEMC 5 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation authority (IOA) prevented Sheikh Ismail Hawahdeh, preacher of the Aqsa Mosque, from entering Jerusalem for the third consecutive week. Sheikh Nawahdeh is the only Aqsa Mosque preacher from the West Bank. (PALINFO 5 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Beit Ummar town, north of the southern West Bank city of Hebron, and injured many Palestinians protesting the invasion. Several army jeeps invaded the ath-Thaher area, close to Karmie Tzur settlement, which was built on private Palestinian lands, south of the town. The IOA attacked Palestinian protesters with live

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- fire, rubber-coated steel bullets, gas bombs, and concussion grenades, in addition to firing gas bombs directly at homes. Many Palestinians suffer the effects of teargas inhalation, while several others suffered cuts and bruises. (IMEMC 7 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided the home of Jerusalem's governor, Adnan Ghaith, in the occupied Jerusalem town of Silwan, and served his family a summon for Ghaith to appear before Israeli intelligence. Ghaith has been detained at least 13 times since he assumed the office of Jerusalem governor and was previously banned from entering the West Bank for a period of six months that was ultimately renewed. He was also banned from contacting a number of specific people. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
 - The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) and Police assaulted Palestinian Muslim devotees at the Bab Arrahma praying court and at the Bab Hetta court of Al-Aqsa mosque, in occupied Jerusalem. The IOA assaulted the congregation at Bab Arrahma court and abducted two Jerusalemite men and a woman, in the time of the evening prayer. The IOA also assaulted the congregation at Bab Hetta court and denied them access to the mosque. These attacks coincide with occupation police plans to issue a decision to seal Bab Arrahma gate completely, in order to Judaize the area. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
 - The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) invaded Aqabat Jaber refugee camp, southwest of Jericho city in the occupied West Bank, and injured many Palestinians during ensuing protests. The IOA shot six Palestinians with rubber-coated steel bullets, including one who was shot with three bullets in his left leg, and another Palestinian was shot in the forehead. Many Palestinians suffered the effects of teargas inhalation, especially at the entrance of the refugee camp, and in its center; most of them were in their owned homes. Furthermore, a Palestinian car crashed into an electricity pole after its driver lost control on his vehicles, due to the severe effects of teargas inhalation and concussion grenades fired by the soldiers. The IOA also invaded and violently searched many homes in the refugee camp, and interrogated the families. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
 - The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) attacked, many Palestinian worshipers in the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, in occupied East Jerusalem, and detained six Palestinians, including one woman. The IOA assaulted dozens of worshipers near Bab ar-Rahma, one of the gates of the Al-Aqsa Mosque,

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

before detaining the six Palestinians. The IOA attacked many Palestinians near Bab ar-Rahma while they were trying to enter Al-Aqsa for evening prayers. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained a wounded Palestinian teenage boy from the al-'Arroub refugee camp, north of the southern West Bank city of Hebron. The IOA stormed the homes of Hassouna Badawi, after smashing the main door, and conducted violent searches of the property, causing serious damage, before detaining his son Ahmad, 17. The IOA also attacked the family with clubs and batons, causing various cuts and bruises, and illegally confiscated 6000 Shekels (Around \$1730). (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
- During the weekly nonviolent protest in Kufur Qaddoum village in the northern West Bank, dozens of local residents suffered from tear gas inhalation when Israeli occupation Army (IOA) attacked demonstrators. The weekly anti-settlement march called for the opening of the main village street, which was closed by the IOA 16 years ago. The IOA fired tear gas canisters and metal bullets towards the participants in the march, which led to dozens of cases of gas inhalation, which were treated on the scene. (IMEMC 11 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation police decided to ban four Palestinian youths from entering al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem for 5-6 months. four Palestinians received the new order after they had served a week-long ban. Mohammed Zagher, Ahmad Rokon and Ahmad al-Shawish were ordered to stay away from al-Aqsa Mosque for five months and Emad Abu Sneineh for six months. Three of the Palestinian citizens affected by the entry ban are ex-prisoners who had served different periods in Israeli jails. (IMEMC 11 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) pumped huge amounts of rainwater into agricultural lands east of the Gaza Strip, causing planted crops to sink. Israeli authorities opened the rainwater collection dams along the border with the Gaza Strip, causing about 1,000 dunams of agricultural land planted with wheat, barley, peas, cabbage, and cauliflower to sink. (IMEMC 12 January 2020)
- The Israeli army opened, the dams that collect rainfall across the besieged Gaza Strip, flooding more than 1000 dunams of Palestinian farmlands. The Israeli Army opened the dams, located across the fence east of the Sheja'eyya neighborhood, east of Gaza city. This resulted in flooding more

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

than 1000 dunams, planted with Wheat, Barley, Peas, Cabbages, and cauliflower. The incident was the second since last week when the Israeli Army opened the dams and flooded hundreds of Dunams of Palestinian farmlands, east of Gaza Strip. (IMEMC 12 January 2020)

- Scores of Jewish settlers forced their way into the holy Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem under heavy police protection. 44 Jewish settler entered the Aqsa Mosque through Bab al-Maghareba. settlers conducted provocative tours in the holy Islamic site while listening to lectures on the alleged “Temple”. Israeli police deployed special forces within and outside the Mosque to protect the settlers while imposing restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshipers especially young men and women. (PALINFO 12 January 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinian citizens choked on tear gas o when Israeli occupation Army (IOA) attacked a mosque and several houses in Beit Ummar town north of al-Khalil. The IOA stormed al-Daher area in the town and heavily and randomly fired tear gas grenades at Palestinian homes. Dozens of residents suffered breathing difficulties as a result of inhaling tear gas and were treated in the field. (WAFSA 14 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) attacked a mosque with tear gas canisters and stun grenades. A number of Palestinian worshipers who were inside choked on tear gas. (PALINFO 14 January 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffered the severe effects of teargas inhalation, after Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Beit Ummar town, north of the southern West Bank city of Hebron, and fired gas bombs at homes and a mosque. Several army vehicles invaded the ath-Thaher area in the town, near the Karmie Tzur settlement, which was built on private Palestinian lands, and fired a barrage of gas bombs at homes and the local mosque. There were no protests in the town when the IOA invaded it and fired the gas bombs, however, the IOA repeatedly fire gas bombs and concussion grenades into areas they invade to force the Palestinian off the streets. Dozens of Palestinians suffered the severe effects of teargas inhalation, including those who were praying in the local Somoud Mosque. The IOA stopped many cars and interrogated the Palestinians while inspecting their ID card; the army later withdrew from the town, and there were no reports of arrests. (IMEMC 15 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Salem town east of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, and illegally confiscated a bulldozer owned by Ibrahim Issa. The Local Council in Salem is working on paving a

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

new road in Ras al-Ein area, north of the town, however, Israel is trying to stop the project. (IMEMC 15 January 2020)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) stormed a Palestinian-owned blacksmith workshop and confiscated its equipment in Kafr ad-Dik town, southwest of Salfit. The IOA seized the equipment of a blacksmith workshop owned by the Palestinian citizen Shaher Damra under "false pretenses". The IOA imposed a temporary closure on the same workshop about a year ago. (PALINFO 15 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) stormed a blacksmith shop in the town of Kafr Ad-Dik, located to the southwest of the occupied West Bank city of Salfit. The IOA ransacked the blacksmith shop and seized its contents "under false pretexts", a reference to the Israeli military claim that it was used for manufacturing weapons. The blacksmith shop was sealed shut one year ago. (WAFa 15 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) seized a bulldozer in the town of Salem, located to the east of Nablus city. The IOA seized the bulldozer, which belonged to Ibrahim Issa, as it was opening a road in the area of Ras al-Ain, to the north of the town. (WAFa 15 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) Invaded the ath-Thaher area, south of Beit Ummar, north of Hebron, and injured several Palestinians during ensuing protests. (IMEMC 16 January 2020)
- Israeli warplanes, bombed at least two posts across the besieged Gaza Strip. An Israeli drone targeted a post, northwest of Gaza city, causing fires to break out. In addition Israeli F-16 fighter jets pounded the same post with two missiles, causing extensive material damage to the nearby civilian homes. An additional strike was confirmed at a post in Jabalia town in the northern besieged enclave, and no casualties were reported. (IMEMC 16 January 2020)
- Several police officers barged into the Aqsa Mosque's Bab al-Rahma prayer building without removing their shoes. The police officers provocatively toured the Bab al-Rahma building, searched the place and used their cellphone cameras to photograph it. (PALINFO 16 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured several Palestinians during the weekly procession in Kufur Qaddoum village, east of Qalqilia, in northern West Bank. Dozens of Palestinians and international peace activists marched while carrying Palestinian flags and chanting against the ongoing illegal occupation. The IOA attacked the protesters with live rounds,

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- rubber-coated steel bullets, gas bombs and concussion grenades. Three Palestinians were shot with rubber-coated steel bullets, and dozens suffered the effects of teargas inhalation. (IMEMC 17 January 2020)
- Israeli warplanes bombed a Palestinian site in northern Gaza Strip. the warplanes fired three missiles at the site in northern Beit Lahia claiming that the raid was in retaliation to the launching of balloons carrying explosives towards Israeli settlements near the Gaza borders. (PALINFO 17 January 2020)
 - The Israeli police forces injured five Palestinian worshipers following the Dawn Prayer at al-Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem. The Israeli police chased and attacked the Palestinian worshipers who were attending the Dawn Prayer at al-Aqsa Mosque injuring five of them. At least three worshipers were detained and dragged to an undeclared destination. The Israeli police forces were angered by the scene of thousands of Palestinian citizens performing the Dawn Prayer at al-Aqsa Mosque, and stormed the site and violently attacked the worshipers. The number was estimated at 8,000. The worshipers, after the prayer, chanted slogans supporting al-Aqsa Mosque and vowing to protect it against Israeli attacks and settler raids. The Israeli police then broke into the site and brutally dispersed the worshipers. (PALINFO 17 January 2020)
 - Israeli police, stormed occupied Jerusalem's flashpoint Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, and assaulted Palestinian Muslim worshipers. Thousands of Palestinians rallied at the mosque compound following the Fajr Prayer, chanting slogans slamming Israeli intrusions into the site. Scores of police officers stormed the site, chased and assaulted the worshipers, inflicting injuries to dozens. Police opened fire towards the worshipers, injuring at least five with rubber-coated steel bullets. (IMEMC 18 January 2020)
 - Israeli occupation Army (IOA) detained five Finnish citizens, including a member of parliament, for allegedly attempting to cross the fence separating the 1948 occupied Palestinian territories and the blockaded Gaza Strip. The IOA detained Anna Kontula, a Finnish MP, and four other humanitarian activists, for trying to cross the fence in protest at the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The IOA also confiscated the Finnish detainees' passports and cell phones and interrogated them in preparation for their deportation to their country by force. (IMEMC 18 January 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Israeli police, stormed occupied Jerusalem's flashpoint Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, and assaulted Palestinian Muslim worshipers. Thousands of Palestinians rallied at the mosque compound following the Fajr Prayer, chanting slogans slamming Israeli intrusions into the site. Scores of police officers stormed the site, chased and assaulted the worshipers, inflicting injuries to dozens. Police opened fire towards the worshipers, injuring at least five with rubber-coated steel bullets. (IMEMC 18 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation authority (IOA) prevented last week 12 Palestinian passengers from traveling through Allenby (King Hussein) border crossing with Jordan. Those passengers were denied travel by the IOA for unexplained security reasons. (PALINFO 18 January 2020)
- After summoning him this morning, the Israeli security ordered the former Mufti of Jerusalem and current head of the Higher Islamic Council, Sheikh Ekrema Sabri, out of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound for one week. The Israeli security army raided Sabri's home in occupied Jerusalem and handed him a note ordering him to appear at a Jerusalem police station for questioning, with regard to his Friday sermon at Al-Aqsa Mosque, which they claimed incited the people against the Israeli occupation. Sabri, who often gives the Friday sermon at Al-Aqsa, was also told to appear at the police station in one week, for further interrogation, and possibly to extend his ban on entering Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site, for another week. (IMEMC 19 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided a Palestinian school and terrorized its students in the village of Deir Nizam, west of Ramallah in central occupied West Bank. The IOA invaded the school and ransacked classrooms, causing panic and fear among students as the IOA threatened to detain them. (IMEMC 19 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a Palestinian woman at Damascus Gate, one of the gates of the Old City of occupied East Jerusalem, allegedly after she attempted to stab them. Many IOA jumped at the woman near the heavily fortified military gate, and detained her, before moving her to an unknown destination. The IOA then closed Damascus Gate and all nearby streets, before preventing the Palestinians from entering or leaving the Old City. (IMEMC 19 January 2020)
- For the third consecutive time in one week, the Israeli occupation authority (IOA) flooded a vast tract of cultivated land with rainwater in the east of Gaza Strip after opening dams. The IOA intentionally opened the dams,

draining rainwater into the agricultural area of Shuja'iyya neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. As a result, over 1,000 dunums of land planted with wheat, barley, peas, cabbage, and cauliflower have been flooded and destroyed. (PALINFO 19 January 2020)

- A Palestinian young man suffered a rubber bullet injury during clashes between local youths and Israeli troops at the western entrance to Azzun town in the east of Qalqilya. A military jeep went on fire after it was attacked with Molotov cocktails during the events. (PALINFO 19 January 2020)
- In occupied Jerusalem, Israeli police forces raided a commercial store belonging to a Palestinian citizen in Issawiya Town and wreaked havoc on its contents. The Police also raided other stores in Ein Luza neighborhood in Silwan in search for West Bank workers. (PALINFO 19 January 2020)
- A young Palestinian man died, from serious wounds he suffered, on March 30th, 2018, after Israeli occupation Army (IOA) shot him with live fire. The Palestinian has been identified as Amer Manar Hajjar, 30, from the Saftawi area, north of Gaza city. Hajjar was participating in the Great Return March processions in the besieged coastal region when the IOA shot and seriously injured him. On the day of his injury, the IOA also killed seventeen Palestinians, and wounded more than 1416 Palestinians, including 758 who were shot by live ammunition, and 148 by rubber-coated steel bullets. At least twenty of the wounded Palestinians suffered life-threatening injuries, especially since the IOA used exploding bullets. (MEMC 20 January 2020)

Violations of the Israeli occupation Army during the month of February 2020

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) shot, 14 Palestinians, including ten with live ammunition, during protests on Palestinian lands east of Jabalia city, in the northern part of the besieged coastal region. The IOA stationed in their fortified sniper towers across the perimeter fence, shot ten Palestinians with live fire. Four other Palestinians were shot with rubber-coated steel bullets, and many others suffered the effects of teargas inhalation. In addition, the IOA fired an artillery shell into two areas east of the al-Boreij refugee camp, and al-Maghazi, causing damage. The Israeli Air Force also fired missiles into lands, east of Rafah, in southern Gaza Strip, causing damage, including in nearby homes and structures. Furthermore, Israeli war jets fired a missile into a site, east of the Sheja'eyya neighborhood, in Gaza city. The Israeli

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

army claimed it was retaliating to three shells, reportedly fired from Gaza, into open areas in nearby settlements; no damage or injuries were reported. (IMEMC 1 February 2020)

- A Palestinian child, identified as Ala' Hani al-'Abbassi, 15, died from serious wounds he suffered in mid-October of 2019, after the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) shot in southern Gaza. (IMEMC 1 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) shot two Palestinians with rubber-coated steel bullets, caused dozens to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation, and detained one, in Beita Village, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus. Dozens of Palestinians protested near the main junction of the village, before the IOA invaded the area and started firing rubber-coated steel bullets, gas bombs and concussion grenades. The IOA shot two young men with rubber-coated steel bullets, resulting in moderate wounds, and caused dozens to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. (IMEMC 1 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) assaulted, a young Palestinian man from Beit Ummar town, north of the southern West Bank city of Hebron, causing various cuts and bruises. The IOA stopped a young man, whose identity remained unknown at the time of this report, and detained him while inspecting his ID card at the entrance of the al-'Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron. The Palestinian is from Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron, and that he suffered various cuts and bruises before he was moved to a hospital in the area. (IMEMC 1 February 2020)
- A Palestinian boy was injured when the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) violently dispersed demonstrations in Qalqilya and Ramallah in the West Bank protesting the so-called "Deal of the Century". Violent clashes broke out in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilya, between Palestinian protesters and the IOA. A boy was injured as the IOA heavily fired live ammunition and tear gas grenades at the Palestinian protesters. (IMEMC 1 February 2020)
- Fierce confrontations were witnessed in Ramallah during a demonstration against the US alleged "peace plan" for the Middle East, known as the "Deal of the Century". The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) showered the protesters with rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas grenades while the latter responded by throwing stones and empty bottles. (PALINFO 1 February 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- The Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) prevented 9 West Bank Palestinians from travelling abroad through al-Karama crossing under "security pretexts" which the IOA refused to reveal. 16,332 Palestinians left the Palestinian territories and 15,790 returned via al-Karama crossing, the only outlet connecting the West Bank with the outside world through Jordan, during the same period. (PALINFO 1 February 2020)
- Israeli warplanes waged some aerial attacks on areas in the northern Gaza Strip after midnight, with no reported casualties. Two airstrikes targeted the site known as Palestine in northern Gaza shortly before a warplane bombed a cultivated plot of land in the same area. (PALINFO 1 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) attacked, dozens of Palestinian protesters with live rounds, rubber-coated steel bullets, gas bombs, and concussion grenades, wounding one journalist in the head, and causing many residents to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation, in Hebron, in southern West Bank. The IOA attacked dozens of students of Hebron University, by firing many live rounds and rubber-coated steel bullets, in addition to a barrage of gas bombs. The students were marching against the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine and the so-called "Deal of the Century". One journalist, identified as Abdul-Mohsin Shalalda, 27, was shot with a rubber-coated steel bullet in the head, and was rushed to Hospital. The Journalist suffered a fracture in his skull, and that he is currently in a stable condition. Many Palestinians suffered the effects of teargas inhalation and received the needed treatment. (IMEMC 2 February 2020)
- Israeli minister Naftali Bennett decided to freeze entry of cement shipments to the besieged Gaza Strip in response to what he called daily Palestinian attacks on Israeli areas. The Israeli army gave instructions, at the behest of Bennett, to suspend cement exports to Gaza and withdraw permits from 500 cement dealers. The measure, which is to take effect as of Sunday morning, was reportedly in response to daily Gaza attacks, which resumed recently after the Israeli occupation authority deliberately opened floodgates to dams and flooded vast tracts of farmlands and roads in the east of Gaza, causing considerable losses to the agricultural sector in particular. (PALINFO 2 February 2020)
- In Hebron, in southern West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured, many Palestinians, including a photojournalist, in the center of the city. He is the second to be injured by the army, in Hebron. The IOA

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- resorted to the excessive use of force against dozens of Palestinian protesters in the center of Hebron city, and forced all shops in the area to close. The IOA fired many rubber-coated steel bullets, gas bombs and concussion grenades at the protesters, in the Shuhada Street, while many local youngsters hurled stones at the military tower in that area. (IMEMC 3 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Bab az-Zawiya area, in the center of Hebron city, and attacked several Palestinians. (IMEMC 3 February 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked dozens of Palestinian protesters, wounding one journalist, identified as Abdul-Mohsin Shalalda, 27, with a rubber-coated steel bullet in the head, and causing many residents to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. (IMEMC 3 February 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) shot, two Palestinians, and caused several others to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation, during protests in Bab az-Zawiya area, in the center of Hebron city, in the southern part of the occupied West Bank. The IOA shot one Palestinian with a rubber-coated steel bullet in the eye, and another with a similar round that struck him in the back. Many residents suffered the effects of teargas inhalation. (IMEMC 3 February 2020)
 - A number of Palestinian civilians were suffocated on tear-gas, when the Israeli occupation army erected a military roadblock on Jenin Street, at the Nablus/Jaba junction. When Palestinians protested, the IOA fired tear-gas canisters, rubber-coated steel bullets, and concussion grenades towards the civilians. (IMEMC 4 February 2020)
 - Two Palestinian young men suffered rubber bullet injuries after the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) stormed Aqabat Jabr refugee camp, south of Jericho city, and clashed with local youths. The IOA intensively fired tear gas canisters and rubber bullets at angry youths after storming the camp, injuring two of them. Two injured young men reportedly suffered rubber bullet injuries. The IOA also kidnaped 32-year-old Emad Abu Hammad from his home in the same camp. (PALINFO 4 February 2020)
 - Armored Israeli bulldozers carried out a small-scale incursion into the east of Khan Yunis, south of the Gaza Strip. Some bulldozers advanced from a military post behind the security fence into a border area in the east of Khan

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Yunis and embarked on leveling tracts of land. Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at farmers working their lands in the east of Jabalia city in northern Gaza. Luckily, no one was hurt in the shooting attack. (PALINFO 4 February 2020)

- A Palestinian minor was pronounced dead after he was shot by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) during confrontations in al-Khalil City, south of the West Bank. Mohammed al-Haddad, 17, was shot in the heart and died immediately. Al-Haddad was killed during confrontations between IOA and Palestinian citizens in Bab al-Zawiya area in al-Khalil. (PALINFO 5 February 2020)
- The Israeli army fired, at least four missiles into a site, west of Khan Younis, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. The missiles struck a building, causing property damage, without leading to civilian casualties. The targeted site is known as al-Qadisiya. (IMEMC 5 February 2020)
- Israeli navy ships attacked, Palestinian fishermen in Gaza territorial waters, near Gaza city, by firing live rounds, and using water cannons against them and their boats. The navy attacked the fishing boats only three nautical miles from the shore, by firing many live rounds, in addition to using water cannons against them. The attack led to property damage and forced the fishermen back to the shore in fear of further escalation. (IMEMC 5 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked many Palestinian schoolchildren in Teqoua' town, east of Bethlehem, south of occupied Jerusalem in the West Bank. The IOA fired many gas bombs and concussion grenades at the student while heading to school. The attack caused anxiety attacks among the children. (IMEMC 5 February 2020)
- Violent clashes broke out in Jaba town, south of Jenin city, between local youths and the Israeli occupation Army (IOA). The clashes took place at the main entrance to Jaba town, where the IOA intensively fired tear gas canisters at young men. (IMEMC 5 February 2020)
- A 22-year-old Ahmed Abul-Rab, a resident of Qabatiya town in Jenin, suffered injuries after Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) physically assaulted him at a military checkpoint near Tubas city in the northern Jordan Valley. (PALINFO 5 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation navy on Wednesday morning opened machinegun fire at Palestinian fishermen and their boats off the northern shores of the besieged Gaza Strip. (IMEMC 5 February 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Israeli gunboats opened fire at and chased fishing boats in the northern waters of Gaza, prompting them to return ashore. Three Palestinian fishermen suffered injuries and their boat sustained some damage when Israeli naval forces attacked them off the shores of Gaza. (IMEMC 5 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) killed one Palestinian and injured at least seven others, including a Palestinian police officer, after the army invaded Jenin city and started the demolition of a home belonging to the family of a political prisoner. The IOA shot Yazan Monther Abu Tabeekh, 19, with two live rounds in the chest, causing very serious wounds before he was rushed to a hospital but died from his injuries. The IOA also injured at least seven other Palestinians, including two who sustained life-threatening wounds, and caused many to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. One of the wounded Palestinians is a police officer, identified as Lu'ay Ahmad Badwan, 25, from Azzoun town, who was shot by a live Israeli army round in the upper body. The bullet apparently struck his spine before he was rushed into surgery at the al-Razi hospital, in Jenin city. Badwan was shot by the IOA while he was standing near the door inside a police station in Jenin. (IMEMC 6 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) shot, a Palestinian cameraman working for Reuters, identified as Mohammad Abu Ghneima, and caused dozens of residents to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation, in addition to confiscating surveillance recordings, in Bethlehem, south of occupied Jerusalem, in the West Bank. Thirty Palestinians suffered the effects of teargas inhalation while the cameraman suffered a minor injury, after the IOA shot him with a rubber-coated steel bullet. The IOA also stormed and ransacked several shops and stores, and confiscated their surveillance recordings and equipment. The IOA also invaded many neighborhoods in Bethlehem city, and fired many live rounds, gas bombs and concussion grenades at Palestinian protesters, who hurled stones and empty bottles at them. (IMEMC 6 February 2020)
- First Lieutenant Tariq Lu'ay Badwan, aged 24, succumbed to injuries, inflicted by Israeli occupation Army (IOA), while he was inside a police station in Jenin, in northern West Bank. Lt. Badwan, from Qalqilia, died after he was shot and injured by the IOA while working at the special police headquarters in Jenin. Badwan was shot in the stomach. (IMEMC 6 February 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Israeli warplanes waged several air raids on different areas of the besieged Gaza Strip. Airstrikes targeted plots of agricultural lands in the east of Rafah, south of Gaza. An Israeli warplane also bombed a sanitation vessel near al-Shati refugee camp in the northwest of Gaza. (PALINFO 6 February 2020)
- The Israeli police banished two pro-Aqsa female activists from the Aqsa Mosque for four months. The women are an elderly woman called Nahida Abu Shaqra, the sister of Sheikh Ra'ed Salah, and a young girl called Samah Mahameed, both from Umm al-Fahm city in the 1948 occupied lands. Three Jerusalemite young men identified as Jameel Issa, Husam Iyad and Areen al-Za'aneen also received police orders banning their entry to the Aqsa Mosque for one week. Their entry ban orders will be renewed in one week, the police told them. (PALINFO 6 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) announced it was reducing the size of the Gaza fishing zone by a third in light of the continued launch of projectiles and airborne incendiaries towards Israeli areas. "Following security consultations, it has been decided today (Wednesday), to restrict the fishing zone of the Gaza Strip from 15 nautical miles to 10 nautical miles, starting from 4 p.m. until further notice," the Israeli military liaison to the Palestinians said in a statement published Israeli newspapers. (PALINFO 6 February 2020)
- A Palestinian citizen was injured when an Israeli sniper opened fire at him north of the Gaza Strip and injured him in the chest near the border fence east of Jabalia refugee camp in the northern area of the Gaza Strip. (PALINFO 7 February 2020)
- Israeli police, turned back busloads of worshipers en route from northern Israel to Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Police deployed at the entrances of Jerusalem turned back worshipers from Galilee and the Triangle region, in the north of present-day Israel, making their way to Al-Aqsa for Friday morning prayers. Police also barged their way into the flashpoint mosque compound, where they shoved and assaulted worshipers, following the morning prayer. (IMEMC 7 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured, dozens of Palestinians in Bab az-Zawiya area, in the southern West Bank city of Hebron, while Israeli settlers attacked many Palestinian cars, northwest of the city. The IOA invaded Bab az-Zawiya area, in the center of Hebron city, before breaking

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- and ransacking many homes, and occupied the rooftops of many buildings. The army fired a barrage of gas bombs, concussion grenades, and rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinians who protested the invasion. Dozens of residents suffered the severe effects of teargas inhalation. (IMEMC7 February 2020)
- Dozens of Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) were deployed in many areas around Hebron city, and several surrounding communities, and closed the main entrance leading to Sa'ir town, northeast of Hebron. (IMEMC 7 February 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked many protesters at the main entrance of the al-Fawwar refugee camp, south of Hebron, and closed its main iron gate. Similar invasions, and protests, took place in Beit Ummar town, and the al-'Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron, and the IOA also fired gas bombs, concussion grenades, and rubber-coated steel bullets.(IMEMC 7 February 2020)
 - A Palestinian teenager was pronounced dead shortly after he was shot and critically injured by Israeli occupation Army (IOA), north of Tulkarem in the occupied West Bank. Bader Nidal Nafla Harsha, 19, was fatally wounded by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) during protests near the village of Qaffin, in the northern West Bank. The young man was shot with a live round in the main artery in his neck, and died from his wounds. In a show of excessive use of force, the IOA resorted to the use of live ammunition, which penetrated the teen's neck, striking the main carotid artery, resulting in his death only minutes later. Bader was shot during protests that erupted near the illegal Israeli Annexation Wall, where many residents marched on their lands.(IMEMC 7 February 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the southern area of Jericho city, in the occupied West Bank, and attacked dozens of Palestinian protesters with gas bombs, concussion grenades and rubber-coated steel bullets, wounding many, in addition to detaining two. Dozens of residents held a nonviolent procession at the southern entrance of Jericho city, and chanted against the so-called "Deal of the Century," the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation, its constant escalations, and its colonialist activities. The IOA resorted to the excessive use of force against the protesters, causing dozens to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation, and abducted two Palestinians, including one from Aqabat Jaber Refugee camp.(IMEMC 7 February 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly procession in Kufur Qaddoum town, east of the northern West Bank city of Qalqilia, causing many injuries, and detained a Palestinian man. The IOA initiated the attack against the Palestinians, Israeli and international peace activists, just as the nonviolent protesters were gathering to begin their march in front of the local mosque. The IOA shot many Palestinians and an Israeli peace activist with rubber-coated steel bullets, in addition to causing several others to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. The IOA fired many live rounds at the protesters, and even targeted high-voltage electricity transformers. The IOA also detained one Palestinian, identified as Mohammad Roshdi Amer, 31, in addition to chasing dozens of residents while firing gas bombs, live rounds, and rubber-coated steel bullets. (IMEMC 8 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked, dozens of Palestinians at the northern entrance of Azzoun town, east of the northern West Bank city of Qalqilia, during the funeral procession of a Palestinian Lieutenant, identified as Tareq Badwan, 24, who was shot dead by Israeli army fire at a police headquarters in Jenin, also northern West Bank. The IOA closed the main entrance of Azzoun town, and resorted to the excessive use of force against the marchers, by firing a barrage of gas bombs, concussion grenades, and rubber-coated steel bullets. The attack led to several injuries, in addition to causing dozens of Palestinians to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. (IMEMC 8 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) shot five young Palestinian men and caused many to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation, in the al-'Arqa village, southwest of Jenin, in northern West Bank. The five men were shot with rubber-coated steel bullets, in their lower extremities. Many Palestinians also suffered the effects of teargas inhalation. The incidents took place after the IOA invaded the village and resorted to the excessive use of force against the local youngsters, who protested the invasion. (IMEMC 8 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) stormed Kafr Ni'ma town, west of Ramallah in the West Bank, provoking clashes with local young men. The IOA spread through the town's streets, encircled the industrial school before raiding it and confiscated security camera recordings from stores and homes. The IOA stormed the town as part of its manhunt campaign to look for wanted Palestinian. The IOA also shut down in the morning the

- barrier on the Enab road in the west of Deir Ibzi village and blocked movement of citizens and vehicles for some time. (PALINFO 8 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured many Palestinians near the Annexation Wall, west of Qaffin Palestinian town, north of Tulkarem, in northern West Bank. The IOA attacked many Palestinian protesters on their lands, near the wall and fired a barrage of gas bombs, concussion grenades, and rubber-coated steel bullets. At least two Palestinians were shot with rubber-coated steel bullets, and dozens suffered the effects of teargas inhalation. One of the injured Palestinians was shot with a rubber-coated steel bullet in the chest, and the other was shot with a similar round to his thigh. (IMEMC 9 February 2020)
 - Israeli tanks bombed two Palestinian sites north of the besieged Gaza Strip. Israeli tanks stationed at the border fence east of Gaza fired several missiles at two sites in the northern area of the Gaza Strip with no injuries reported. The Israeli occupation army claimed that prior to the attack a projectile was fired from the Gaza Strip towards neighboring Israeli settlements. (PALINFO 9 February 2020)
 - The Israeli Air Force fired, many missiles into several areas in Khan Younis, in southern Gaza Strip, Deir al-Balah, in central Gaza, and in Gaza city, causing excessive damage. The army fired at least ten missiles into an area, northwest of Khan Younis city, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, causing excessive property damage, and fire, to structures and the surrounding homes. The army also fired three missiles into a site, west of Deir al-Balah city, in central Gaza Strip, also causing excessive property damage. In addition, the army fired three mortar shells into a site near the Shuhada graveyard, east of Gaza Strip, causing damage. There have been no reports of civilian casualties. (IMEMC 10 February 2020)
 - Several armored Israeli military vehicles invaded Palestinian farmlands east of the al-Maghazi refugee camp, in central Gaza, and bulldozed them. The vehicles, including five bulldozers, came from a military base across the perimeter fence and invaded the lands through Abu Safiyya gate, east of al-Maghazi. The vehicles advanced dozens of meters across the fence, bulldozed large areas of farmlands, and installed sandhills. During the invasions, military helicopters and drones were seen flying over the area, and several parts of the Gaza Strip. The invasion came hours after the army carried out several airstrikes targeting a few areas in the besieged and improvised coastal region.(IMEMC 10 February 2020)

- 14 Palestinians were treated for gas suffocation in Abu Dis to the east of occupied Jerusalem after Israeli occupation Army (IOA) fired dozens of gas canisters and sound bombs into the town. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at a number of schools and al-Quds University in Abu Dis. The IOA fired the bombs from an area behind the Apartheid Wall. (PALINFO 10 February 2020)
- At least 14 Palestinian citizens were injured during clashes with Israeli occupation forces (IOA) following a demonstration against the "deal of the century" near al-Bireh City. 14 Palestinians were treated for injuries caused by IOA rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters. Violent clashes broke out between the IOA and Palestinian youths taking part in a march against the so-called "deal of the century" at the northern entrance of al-Bireh City. (PALINFO 11 February 2020)
- Dozens of Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) broke into the Ibrahimi Mosque in al-Khalil with their shoes on. Groups of Israeli Army stormed the Ibrahimi Mosque and harassed Palestinian worshipers inside. The raid came a day after the Knesset's so-called Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee held a meeting Monday evening to set a date for the execution of new expansion projects at the Ibrahimi Mosque. (PALINFO 11 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) kidnapped a number of Palestinian citizens and confiscated one vehicle during large-scale campaigns in the West Bank. The IOA detained five Palestinian citizens, including minors, during home raids in al-Khalil, Ramallah and Qalqilya. The IOF broke into the detainees' houses and wreaked havoc on them. (PALINFO 11 February 2020)
- In al-Tira neighborhood in Ramallah, the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) clashed with Palestinian residents and seized a vehicle owned by one of them. (PALINFO 12 February 2020)
- Violent clashes broke out in Shu'fat refugee camp, east of Occupied Jerusalem, after the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) stormed a popular conference held in solidarity with Sheikh Ekrima Sabri and in protest at the US administration's peace deal. Israeli police and intelligence forces stormed the location of the conference, which was called for by noted Jerusalemite families, and forced the participants to leave the venue. The IOA also handed some participants summonses for interrogation over their organization of the event. Soon later, clashes erupted between the IOA and local youths upon the former's withdrawal from the place. (PALINFO 13 February 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Two Palestinian protesters, including a child, suffered from rubber bullet injuries and dozens from their exposure to teargas fumes during violent clashes with the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) in Qalqilya city. A 14-year-old child suffered a rubber bullet injury in his thigh and a young man was injured by a rubber bullet in his knee during the events. Dozens of young protesters also suffered from inhaling tear gas and received on-site medical assistance. (PALINFO 13 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation navy attacked Palestinian fishermen and their boats off the coast of the besieged Gaza Strip. Israeli gunboats opened machinegun fire at fishing boats in Gaza northern waters, forcing them to return ashore. Luckily, no one was hurt in the shooting attack. About 351 violations against Gaza fishermen were reported by different human rights groups during 2019. (PALINFO 13 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire toward a group of citizens to the east of Khan Younis City, southern Gaza Strip. The IOA opened fire at a group of young men and children who are residents of Kouza'a neighborhood, east of Khan Younis. No injuries were reported.(IMEMC 14 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) chased a number of Palestinian shepherds in al-Burj area of the northern Jordan Valley and detained some of them. The IOA detained at least three shepherds in al-Burj area, without stating if they were released later. (PALINFO 14 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) imposed financial penalties on Aref Daraghmeh and another citizen to allow them to get back their vehicles that had been confiscated about two months ago. Daraghmeh was handed a notice ordering him to pay a 3,000 shekel fine for his car, which had been seized about 50 days ago by the IOA when he was documenting Israeli demolitions in Ras al-Ahmar area. Another citizen called Mufdi Sawafta was also ordered to pay over 2,000 shekels in order to reclaim his agricultural tractor. The IOA appropriated the tractor about two months ago when Sawafta was working his land in al-Maleh area of the northern Jordan Valley. (PALINFO 14 February 2020)
- Israeli Occupation police attacked Palestinian worshipers following the dawn prayer at al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and arrested an elderly citizen. The Israeli police arrested an elderly Palestinian for distributing coffee to worshipers. The Israeli police further assaulted the worshipers who were present in Bab al-Asbat and Bab Hitta areas. The Israeli police

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

since the early morning hours have tightened restrictions in Jerusalem and the roads leading to al-Aqsa Mosque in an attempt to hinder the movement of the Palestinian worshippers taking part in the "Great Fajr (dawn) Campaign". (PALINFO 14 February 2020)

- The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) on Friday afternoon opened fire at a resistance post in the east of Khan Yunis, south of the Gaza Strip. (PALINFO 14 February 2020)
- The Israeli military patrols behind the border fence opened fire at an observation point belonging to al-Quds Brigades of Islamic Jihad in Khuza'a town, east of Khan Yunis. No casualties have been reported in the shooting attack. (PALINFO 14 February 2020)
- Scores of Palestinian citizens were injured when Israeli occupation Army (IOA) violently quelled demonstrations in several West Bank areas against the settlement and the "deal of the century". Violent clashes broke out between Palestinian protesters and IOA following demonstrations in different villages and towns in Ramallah, al-Khalil and Qalqilya. The IOF attacked the peaceful protesters with live ammunition, rubber-coated metal bullets, stun grenades and tear gas canisters injuring dozens of them. (PALINFO 14 February 2020)
- In Beit Ummar town in Hebron in southern West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) climbed the rooftops of Palestinian homes, assaulted their residents, and installed a checkpoint at the entrance of the town. Hundreds of Palestinians took to the streets in the West Bank to protest the recent "peace plan" announced by the US president Donald Trump, which is known as the "deal of the century", and the ongoing settlement expansion on seized Palestinian land. (PALINFO 14 February 2020)
- A Palestinian child was injured and a number of Palestinian citizens were arrested by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) in confrontations in Jerusalem and the West Bank. A child identified as Malek Essa was injured after he was shot by the IOA with rubber-coated metal bullets in al-Isawiya village, northeast of Jerusalem City. Essa's injury was described as "serious". (PALINFO 15 February 2020)
- Violent clashes broke out in Nabi Saleh village, west of Ramallah City, between the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and Palestinian youths. The

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

IOA fired tear gas canisters and rubber-coated metal bullets at the Palestinian youths who responded by throwing stones and empty bottles. (PALINFO 15 February 2020)

- In the village of Deir Nizam IN Ramallah Governorate, Palestinian residents marched at the entrance of the village and removed the metal gate and the cement blocks the IOF installed five days ago to obstruct their movement. The residents later clashed with the IOA who attacked them with live ammunition and tear gas canisters. No injuries were reported. (PALINFO 15 February 2020)
- Combatants For Peace (CFP) Activists participated in a volunteer day to plant olive trees on the lands owned by Yasuf village farmers, near Salfit in central West Bank. As the activists' bus from Tel Aviv reached the entrance of Yasuf, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed the street leading to the village and prevented them from entering. After being stopped and questioned by the IOA for a long time, the activists managed to reach the village, where the residents welcomed them at the Village Council. The activity, which is organized by "Stand Together" and "Rabbis for Human Rights", and aims at supporting the resilience of Yasuf village farmers who face escalating attacks by illegal colonialist settlers, and the Israeli occupation confiscation of their lands. (IMEMC 15 February 2020)
- A group of Palestinian worshipers, were brutally attacked by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) who prevented them from reaching the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, in occupied Jerusalem. Thousands of Palestinians flooded Jerusalem from all around Palestine as well as some from Israel, to perform the Fajr or early morning prayer, in defiance of the harsh Israeli restrictions. Those who were denied entry to the sacred compound, performed the Fajr prayer between the Hittah and Asbat gates, and then the IOA pushed the peaceful worshipers out of the old city of Jerusalem, causing elderly worshipers to fall. Meanwhile, the Israeli police imposed fines on those Palestinians distributing hot drinks and snacks to the worshipers.(IMEMC 15 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured many nonviolent protesters in Bil'in village, west of the central West Bank city of Ramallah, during the weekly procession against the illegal Annexation Wall and Colonies. Dozens of Palestinians, accompanied by Israeli and international peace activists, marched from the center of the Palestinians, carrying Palestinian flags and chanting for liberation, independence, national unity, resisting the

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

occupation and the release of all political prisoners. As the nonviolent Palestinian, Israeli and international peace activists marched from the center of the village towards the illegal Annexation Wall in Abu Lemon area, the IOA started firing a barrage of gas bombs and concussion grenades. Dozens of nonviolent protesters suffered the effects of teargas inhalation and received the needed treatment. (IMEMC 15 February 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) caused many Palestinians to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation, in addition to cuts and bruises, at the northern entrance of al-Biereh city, near Ramallah. The injuries happened when the IOA attacked a procession with rubber-coated steel bullet, gas bombs and concussion grenades.(IMEMC 15 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured many Palestinians, including a young man who was shot with a live round, after the army resorted to the excessive use of force against protesters in the villages of 'Aboud and Budrus, near Ramallah, in central West Bank. Dozens nonviolently marched in 'Aboud village, west of Ramallah, protesting the ongoing closure of the village's main road. The IOA installed an iron gate at the main entrance of 'Aboud, more than four days ago, and have since been keeping it shut. The IOA fired many live rounds, rubber-coated steel bullets and concussion grenades at the protesters. A young man was shot with a live round in his leg, suffering moderate wounds. Many Palestinians suffered the effects of teargas inhalation. In addition, the IOA attacked nonviolent protesters in Budrus village, west of Ramallah, and shot four with rubber-coated steel bullets, in addition to causing dozens to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. It is worth mentioning that a similar procession took place in Ni'lin village, west of Ramallah, where the locals, Israel and international peace activists marched carrying Palestinian flags and chanting against the so-called "Deal of the Century." (IMEMC 15 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured dozens of Palestinians in Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron, in the southern part of the occupied West bank. Several army jeeps invaded 'Aseed area in Beit Ummar, and resorted to the excessive use of force against Palestinian protesters. The IOA fired a barrage of gas bombs, concussion grenades and rubber-coated steel bullets at the protesters and many surrounding homes. Dozens of residents, including children, suffered the effects of teargas inhalation, and many others sustained cuts and bruises. The army also sprayed the protesters and

homes with wastewater mixed with chemicals. Furthermore, the IOA were seen choking a young Palestinian man after assaulting him and pinning him under their knees. The IOA also broke into and ransacked several homes, in addition to occupying their rooftops to use them as firing posts and monitoring towers. In addition, the IOA installed a roadblock at the main entrance of Beit Ummar, before stopping and searching dozens of cars, and interrogated the Palestinians while investigating their ID cards, in addition to detaining two young men for several hours.(IMEMC 15 February 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly procession in Kufur Qaddoum town, east of the northern West Bank city of Qalqilia, causing many injuries. The Palestinians, accompanied by international and Israeli peace activists, marched from the center of the village while chanting against the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine, its colonies and escalating violation. The IOA fired rubber-coated steel bullets, gas bombs, and concussion grenades, in addition to sponge-tipped bullets. Several Palestinians suffered the effects of teargas inhalation and received the needed treatment. (IMEMC 15 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem, especially the Old City and the al-Bawwaba areas, before storming and ransacking many shops. The IOA interrogated the many Palestinians in the stores, and questioned them while inspecting their ID cards. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) chased many Palestinian shepherds in the al-Borj area, in the Northern Plains of the occupied West Bank. The IOA attacked and chased many Palestinian shepherds, and forced them out of grazing lands. The attack comes just two after the IOA chased many shepherds in the same area, and detained a few of them. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired, a few missiles into a site in the besieged and impoverished Gaza Strip, causing damage, after the army claimed that two shells were fired from the coastal region. The army also revoked the permits of 500 merchants in addition to reducing the fishing zone. Israeli F16 warplanes fired missiles into a site west of Deir al-Balah city, in central Gaza, causing damage to the targeted location and several surrounding homes. Israeli war jets and drones were also seen and heard flying over several parts of the coastal region. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- The Israeli Navy has decided to reduce the fishing zone allotted to Gaza Strip, for the second time since Wednesday, when it reduced it from 15 to 10 nautical miles, in addition to denying the entry of construction materials into the coastal region. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)
- Members of the Israeli security service, raided Volunteer for Hope, an organization located in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Beit Hanina, under the pretext of holding “prohibited activities,” and gave its director, Silvia Abu Laban, a summons to appear before Israeli intelligence for interrogation. The Israeli Services seized four computers and other office belongings as they searched the building. (IMEMC 17 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) chased Palestinian shepherds in the northern Jordan Valley. The IOA chased a number of shepherds as they were grazing their livestock in the area of al-Burj, where they briefly detained a group of shepherds two days ago. (IMEMC 17 February 2020)
- Israeli navy ships attacked several Palestinian fishing boats with live rounds only three nautical miles from the shore in the besieged Gaza Strip. The navy ships fired many live rounds at the boats, in Palestinian waters in the northern part of the coastal region. The attack did not lead to any casualties but forced the fishermen back to the shore without being able to fish to provide for their families. It is worth mentioning that, four days ago, Israel unilaterally decreased the fishing zone from ten nautical miles to only five. (IMEMC 18 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation authority (IOA) prevented five Palestinian passengers from traveling through Allenby (King Hussein) border crossing with Jordan. The Palestinian Authority police said those passengers were denied travel by the IOA for unexplained security reasons. However, 5,164 Palestinians and foreign passengers were able to travel in both directions of the crossing on the same day, the police stated. Allenby crossing, also known as al-Karama, is a bridge that spans the Jordan River and connects the West Bank with Jordan. The bridge is the sole designated exit and entry point for West Bank Palestinians traveling in and out of the Israeli occupied territories. (IMEMC 18 February 2020)
- In Tulkarem, scores of Palestinians marched in protest at the US deal of the century, raised Palestine flags and burned car tires. The IOA attacked them with rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters. Dozens suffered

breathing difficulties as a result of inhaling tear gas. (MEMC 18 February 2020)

- In Ramallah, dozens of Palestinian citizens organized a demonstration in al-Mughayyir village to defend their lands against the seizure by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA). The IOA violently quelled the gathering, firing rubber-coated metal bullets, stun grenades and tear gas canisters at the villagers. A number of them choked on tear gas and were treated in the field. (MEMC 18 February 2020)
- In Qalqilia Governorate, a large number of Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) barged their way into Nabi Elias village, east of Qalqilia city, where they thoroughly searched several stores and checked the recordings of surveillance cameras. No detentions were reported though. (Wafa 19 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) conducted a raid in Anata town, north of Jerusalem, where they ransacked five houses, turning them upside down. One house owner was identified as a local anti-wall and settlement activist. (Wafa 19 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) shot and injured a Palestinian man near the border fence to the east of Khan Younis in the south of the Gaza Strip. The IOA stationed at Gaza's eastern frontier with Israel opened live fire towards a group of Palestinians near the border fence east of Khuzaa town, injuring one. The man was in moderate condition. (Wafa 19 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) confiscated a prefabricated classroom belonging to Susiya School in the east of Yatta town in al-Khalil. Israeli troops stormed Khirbet Susiya in the east of Yatta, raided the school and appropriated a prefabricated structure used as a classroom. The IOA also assaulted a number of local residents and rounded up one of them after beating him. (PALINFO 20 February 2020)
- A car filled with Palestinian teens was attacked by Israeli occupation Army (IOA). The car was driving near the Palestinian town of Beitin, east of Ramallah, when the IOA stationed at a checkpoint targeted the vehicle and began shooting. The IOA wounded a boy and abducted three others, after they shot up a vehicle east of Ramallah. The IOA opened fire on a vehicle that was traveling near the village of Beitin, east of Ramallah, and hit a teen, Mohammad Abdel Majeed Sarma, 16, who was driving the car. Mohammad was struck with a bullet in his abdomen and another in the

thigh. The other three teens in the car were detained by the IOA. They were identified as Mahmoud Muhammad Awawda (15 years old), Saif Al-Din Awawdeh (15 years) and Dhia Al-Din Awawdeh (15 years), all from the village of Deir Dibwan, located east of Ramallah. The IOA claimed that they shot the vehicle because it was driving in a suspicious manner, but did not provide details as to the nature of this ‘suspicious’ behavior.(IMEMC 21 February 2020)

- Dozens of Palestinian citizens, including a child and a journalist, were injured when Israeli occupation Army (IOA) quelled several demonstrations in the West Bank. The IOA violently attacked a peaceful demonstration in Kafr Qaddoum village in Qalqilya injuring two Palestinians. An Israeli army bulldozer attacked the demonstrators by pushing large rocks towards them injuring 9-year-old Moamen Shtewi and journalist Mohammed Enaya, 29. (PALINFO 21 February 2020)
- In Nablus, about 40 Palestinian citizens were injured by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas canisters in the southern village of Asira al-Qibliya. (PALINFO 21 February 2020)
- In Hebron, the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) dispersed an anti-settlement demonstration, attacked Palestinian citizens with batons and rifle butts injuring a number of them, and arrested a Palestinian youth identified as Mahmoud Warasneh, 19. (PALINFO 21 February 2020)
- In Ramallah, dozens of Palestinians took to the streets in Ni'lin village to take part in the weekly demonstration against the settlement. Scores of protesters were injured when the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) quelled the demonstration with live ammunition, stun grenades and tear gas canisters. (PALINFO 21 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly nonviolent procession against the Annexation Wall and Colonies in Bil'in village, west of the central West Bank city of Ramallah, causing many Palestinians to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. The protesters marched to Palestinian lands near the illegal Annexation Wall in Abu Lemon area, before the IOA started firing a barrage of gas bombs and concussion grenades at them. Many Palestinians suffered the effects of teargas inhalation, and others sustained cuts and bruises. (IMEMC 22 February 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Israeli police forces killed a Palestinian youth in Bab al-Asbat area near al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Israel claimed that Israeli police officers stationed at Bab al-Asbat opened fire at a Palestinian youth who allegedly attempted a stabbing attack. The young man was shot and deliberately left to bleed to death without being provided first aid. (PALINFO 22 February 2020)
- Violent confrontations flared up when Israeli occupation Army (IOA) violently dispersed a Palestinian demonstration in Kafr Qaddoum village, east of Qalqilya. The IOA attacked the peaceful demonstrators with rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas canisters. (PALINFO 22 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Teqoua' town, southeast of the city of Bethlehem, south of occupied Jerusalem, and attacked Palestinian protesters with rubber-coated steel bullets and gas bombs. Many Palestinians suffered the severe effects of teargas inhalation. Furthermore, the IOA attacked many journalists and detained a photojournalist, identified as Emad Jabarin, for several hours. (IMEMC 23 February 2020)
- In Qalqilia, in northern West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a child, identified as Ahmad Sameeh Labbat, 13, after the army attacked protesters near the military roadblock, south of the city. (IMEMC 23 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Beit Ummar town, north of the southern West Bank city of Hebron, and attacked Palestinian protesters, causing many to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. Many IOA invaded Abu at-Toaq area, near the main entrance of Beit Ummar, and fired a barrage of gas bombs and concussion grenades at the protesters, and several surrounding homes. Many Palestinians, including children, suffered the effects of teargas inhalation. (IMEMC 23 February 2020)
- One Palestinian young man was cold-bloodedly killed and another was seriously injured after their exposure to artillery shelling and intensive gunfire by the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) in a border area in the southeast of the Gaza Strip. Another three young men also suffered injuries as they tried to get to the victims and evacuate them. The Israeli targeting of the young men happened in the east of Abasan al-Saghira town, east of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza. Israel claimed a military force spotted two young men near the security fence and opened fire at them after they were suspected of their attempt to plant an explosive device in the area. Some young men risked their lives to reach the two victims to evacuate them and

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- managed to carry one of them suffering from serious injuries, while the other's body was appallingly abused and dragged by a military bulldozer into the Israeli side of the border fence. An armored bulldozer was filmed repeatedly crushing the body of the slain Palestinian with its blade, then grabbing the corpse with the blade and swinging it back and forth in the air. (PAL INFO 23 February 2020)
- Israeli warplanes targeted a group of Palestinians, striking north-west of Beit Lahia in the northern besieged Gaza Strip, with four rockets and a reconnaissance missile. The four Palestinians were injured by the airstrikes. (IMEMC 24 February 2020)
 - A number of locations in the northern and southern Gaza Strip were shelled by Israeli artillery without any reported injuries. Israeli tanks stationed along the borderline fence to the east of the Strip fired several missiles targeting a location to the northwest of Beit Lahiya town, in the northern Gaza Strip, and another to the east of the town of Khaza'a, east of Khan Younis in the southern Strip. Israeli warplanes are seen shelling sites and agricultural lands in the northern and southern Strip from time to time. Four Palestinians were injured in Israeli airstrikes on several sites in the Gaza Strip. (WAFSA 24 February 2020)
 - At least 27 Israeli air raids rocked different areas of Gaza. Four citizens were wounded during an air raid on al-Tufah area in eastern Gaza and two others in another attack on Rafah. Dozens of air-to-surface missiles were fired by different Israeli warplanes, causing damage to nearby homes and infrastructure. (PALINFO 24 February 2020)
 - A Palestinian citizen was injured, in an airstrike by Israeli occupation planes targeting his motorbike, east of Gaza City. The Israeli occupation planes targeted, with at least one missile, a motorcycle on Salah El-Din Street, east of the city, which resulted in one injured Palestinian civilian. Tensions have been running high in the besieged Gaza Strip, when Israeli occupation Army (IOA) killed a Palestinian and desecrated the slain man's body, also injuring several Palestinians that were attempting to rescue the body. (IMEMC 25 February 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked dozens of nonviolent Palestinian protesters near a military roadblock in the northern area of the Jordan Valley of the occupied West Bank, causing many injuries. The protesters marched against the ongoing illegal Israeli annexation of Palestinian lands, and Tel Aviv's policies aiming at the annexation of the

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Jordan Valley as part of the so-called “Deal of the Century,” which was presented by U.S. President D. Trump on January 28th. The protesters marched near Tayasir military roadblock, east of Tubas, before the IOA fired live rounds, rubber-coated metal bullets, gas bombs, and concussion grenades at them. (IMEMC 25 February 2020)

- Two Palestinian citizens suffered rubber bullet injuries when Israeli occupation Army (IOA) attacked the car they were aboard in the west of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. Two citizens arrived at the Palestine Hospital, suffering from injuries caused by rubber bullets. One of the victims was injured in his shoulder and the other in his leg, and their conditions were described as stable by the health ministry. The citizens were injured when the IOA unjustifiably opened fire at a car traveling on a road near Beit Sira town, west of Ramallah. Following the incident, the IOA stormed Beit Sira town and clashed with local youths. (PAL INFO 25 February 2020)
- Israeli warplanes launched at least four airstrikes on a Palestinian resistance site in the southern area of the Gaza Strip with no injuries reported. Meanwhile, Israeli tanks stationed at the border fence between the Gaza Strip and the 1948 Occupied Territories bombed another resistance site east of al-Bureij refugee camp in the central area of the Gaza Strip. (PALINFO 24 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the eastern area of Nablus city, in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, and injured twenty Palestinians, during protests that took place after the army accompanied hundreds of Israeli settlers in “Joseph’s Tomb” area. Several military jeeps stormed Amman Street and the vicinity of the historic site, and fired gas bombs and rubber-coated steel bullets towards dozens of young men, who protested the invasion. The IOA injured 20 Palestinians; four were shot with rubber-coated steel bullets, and 16 suffered the effects of teargas inhalation. The invasion was carried out by around 2,000 settlers, and dozens of soldiers in armored vehicles. (IMEMC 26 February 2020)
- Several Israeli military vehicles invaded Palestinian lands east of Khan Younis, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, while navy ships opened fire on fishing boats. Three armored D9 bulldozers, a digger, and a few military jeeps, advanced dozens of meters into Palestinian farmlands before bulldozing several sections and digging trenches. In addition, Israeli navy ships opened fire, and used water cannons, against Palestinian fishing boats

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- in Khan Younis sea, forcing the fishermen back to the shore without being able to fish and provide for their families. (IMEMC 26 February 2020)
- In Qalqilya, The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) kidnaped three citizens from their homes identified as Mohamed Shaath, Rami Senaineh and Ali al-Badawi. One of the Qalqilya detainees, Rami Senaineh, has a broken pelvis and uses a wheelchair. One young man suffered a rubber bullet injury in his neck during clashes between local youths and soldiers during the IOA campaign in Qalqilya city. (PALINFO 27 February 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured at least seventy Palestinians, including a child who was shot with a live round in his back, in Jabal al-'Arma Mountain, south of Nablus, in northern West Bank. Dozens of Palestinians went to the mountain to protest the escalating Israeli attempts to annex it from them, especially after the illegal colonists, squatting on Palestinian lands, have increased their calls for completely occupying it. Over 70 Palestinians were injured or suffered tear gas inhalation, including a child, who was shot with a live round in his back, to a nearby hospital. Among the wounded Palestinians, 32 suffered the effects of teargas inhalation, including one who was shot with a gas bomb in the head. 32 Palestinians were shot with rubber-coated steel bullets, including two who were shot in their heads, and one suffered fractures and bruises after falling while trying to avoid the army fire. The Israeli army pushed more troops into the area and declared the lands a closed military zone. (IMEMC 28 February 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured 191 Palestinians during confrontations in the village of Beita, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus. One of the wounded Palestinians is a child who was shot with a live round in the back. The injuries varied as some were shot with live fire, dozens were wounded by rubber-coated steel bullets, and at least 46 suffered the effects of teargas inhalation, in addition to one who was shot with a tear gas grenade in the head. (IMEMC 29 February 2020)
 - In Qalqilia, in northern West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) shot a young man with a sponge-tipped bullet in the head, and many others were injured by shrapnel of live ammunition during protests in Kufur Qaddoum, east of the city. (IMEMC 29 February 2020)
 - In Jenin, in northern West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained two young men in the al-'Arqa village, west of the city, and injured more than 60 Palestinians, including many who suffered the effects

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

of teargas inhalation. The IOA detained Amir Yousef Yahia and Nour Ibrahim Yahia, in the village after several army jeeps invaded it. Protests and dozens of injuries were reported in many parts of the West Bank, especially in Azzoun, near Qalqilia, in northern West Bank, Hebron governorate, in southern West Bank, Ramallah, and al-Biereh governorate, in central West Bank, Jericho, and many other areas. (IMEMC 29 February 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired a barrage of gas bombs, concussion grenades, and rubber-coated steel bullets, in addition to several live rounds at protesters and homes, in Shu'fat refugee camp, northeast of occupied Jerusalem. Protests took place when at least three army jeeps invaded the refugee camp. Dozens of residents suffered the effects of teargas inhalation, in addition to cuts and bruises. (IMEMC 29 February 2020)
- At least six Palestinians were injured by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) during the weekly protest against Israeli settlement construction, in the village of Kufur Qaddoum in the northern West Bank. The procession started in the center of Kufur Qaddoum, where the locals, accompanied by international activists, nonviolently marched while chanting against the ongoing Israeli occupation, its illegal colonies, and escalating violations. The IOA attacked the protesters with live fire, rubber-coated bullets, and teargas, while several youngsters burnt tires and hurled stones at the invading IOA. The IOA injured six Palestinians, and caused many to suffer the effects of teargas inhalation. One of the wounded is a child who was injured by fragments of a live round in the leg. (IMEMC 29 February 2020).
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) injured a number of Palestinians who were planting olive trees in protest at land confiscation in the northern Jordan Valley. The IOA heavily fired tear gas canisters at the protesters injuring some of them. A local committee against the settlement had called for a tree planting event in al-Baqi'ah plain in the Jordan Valley to defend Palestinian lands threatened with illegal seizure by the Israeli occupation authorities. (PALINFO 29 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) assaulted two Palestinian young men on a road in the south of Nablus, north of the West Bank. A bunch of IOA stopped two young men at the main entrance to Qaryut town and ordered them at gunpoint to sit on the ground before embarking on severely beating them. The victimized young men, whose identities are unknown, were let go after being detained for a while. (PALINFO 29 February 2020)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) violently suppressed a peaceful Palestinian march staged in the central area of al-Khalil city to mark the 26 anniversary of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and to condemn Israel's ongoing crimes against the Palestinian people. The IOA showered the participants with stun and tear gas canisters and physically assaulted many of them. The protesters marched to al-Shuhada street, which has been closed since the 1994 massacre that was committed by a Jewish at the Ibrahimi Mosque in the Old City of al-Khalil. (PALINFO 29 February 2020)
- Violent clashes broke out between Palestinian young men and the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) in Shu'afat refugee camp, northeast of Jerusalem. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) indiscriminately fired tear gas canisters during the events, causing some families near and inside homes and passersby to suffer from their exposure to gas fumes. (PALINFO 29 February 2020)

Violations of the Israeli occupation Army during the month of March 2020

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked activists planting olive trees in an area to the east of Tubas, in the northern Jordan Valley. The IOA attacked and dispersed activists participating in the tree planting event, which was called for by the anti-settlement and apartheid wall committee and national factions. No injuries or arrests were reported. (Wafa 1 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and settlers stormed the house of a Palestinian family in Hebron, after settlers accused the family of 'opening fire' at them. Palestinian Abu Shamsiyyeh family attempted to fight off the intrusion. (IMEMC 2 March 2020)
- Several Palestinians were injured, when Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at them as they peacefully defended a mountain in Beita town, south of Nablus, against a settler takeover. Palestinians gathered on the Jabal al-Arma mountain to protect their land, located in the northern occupied West Bank, from Israeli colonial theft. The IOA shot live-fire, rubber-coated metal bullets and tear-gas canisters in a show of excessive use of force. Two people were injured from live bullets, ten were injured from rubber-coated metal bullets, including a fracture as well as fifty protestors who suffocated on tear-gas. Mohammad Sayeh, a reporter, was shot by Israeli forces, whose condition was not known at the time of reporting. (IMEMC 2 March 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) raided several houses of freed prisoners in the town of Zawiya, west of Salfit, and seized funds from them, including: the house of the freed prisoners Raafat Rashid Abdullah Muqadi, Alian Rashid Abdullah Muqadi and Ahmad Hamdan Ali Musleh. The IOA seized around 50,000 shekels (\$14,500). (IMEMC, WAFA 4 March 2020)
- Israeli navy opened gunfire towards Palestinian fishermen who were sailing off the Gaza shore to the west of the town of Beit Lahia, north of the enclave. No injuries were reported, however. Despite the signed agreements between the Palestinians and Israel, which allow fishermen to go 12 nautical miles inside the Mediterranean Sea, the Israeli navy targets fishermen almost daily and does not allow them to go further than three nautical miles, which the fishermen say is not enough to catch fish. A large number of Gazans rely on fishing for daily living in light of the tight decade-old blockade imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip. (WAFA 4 March 2020)
- Two young men were wounded by rubber-coated metal bullets, while dozens more suffered the effects of tear gas inhalation, when Israeli occupation Army (IOA) invaded Kufur Qaddoum village and began assaulting non-violent demonstrators. The IOA suppressed the march by using gas bombs and rubber-coated metal bullets, which led to the injury of a young man with a metal bullet in the face, and another in his hand while dozens more were treated for the effects of tear gas inhalation. The march began after Friday prayers with the participation of hundreds of townspeople, who chanted national slogans calling for an escalation of popular resistance and rejecting the so-called “deal of the century”. (IMEMC 6 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the village of Al-Arqah, west of Jenin, and abducted three young men near the Annexation Wall. They also fired tear gas in the village, causing numerous cases of inhalation. The IOA detained the youths: Yazan Rasim Yahya, Qutaiba Musa Waked, and the freed prisoner Basil Nizar Waked, while they were near the Annexation wall constructed by Israel on the village lands. Clashes erupted with the IOA when they invaded the village near the wall of annexation, during which the soldiers fired tear gas canisters, causing numerous cases of tear gas inhalation. (IMEMC 6 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided student dormitories at Birzeit University in Ramallah, in the central West Bank, and detained five students. Israeli troops kidnapped five students at Birzeit University in Ramallah. The Israeli military raided a number of student dormitories in Ramallah, searched them and detained five students. The detainees have

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

been identified as Ahmad Farah, Mohammad Naser, Osaid Qaddumi, Barakat Raed and Rayyan Kharboush. Israeli authorities gave no reason for the abductions of the students. (IMEMC 7 March 2020)

- Dozens of Palestinians suffocated by tear gas used against them by Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) during clashes that broke out in al-Issawiyeh area in occupied Jerusalem. The IOA stormed several neighborhoods in Issawiyeh and assaulted residents, leading to clashes. Forces heavily fired stun grenades and tear gas canisters directly toward residents and their homes, causing dozens to suffocate due to tear gas inhalation. (Wafa 7 March 2020)
- Israeli navy attacked Palestinian fishermen's boats off the northern Gaza coast. The navy opened fire and water hoses at the boats that were sailing only three nautical miles off the coast and forced them to return to shore. One boat was damaged. Israel imposes a strict blockade on the Gaza Strip for the last 14 years, including occasionally not allowing fishing in Gaza waters, a main source of livelihood for the two million population of the beleaguered coastal enclave. (Wafa 7 March 2020)
- A number of Palestinian youth suffocated by tear gas fired by Israeli occupation army (IOA) during clashes that broke out in the town of Taqou' to the south east of the Southern occupied West Bank district of Bethlehem. Clashes erupted at the western entrance to the town of Taqou' between Palestinian youth and the IOA, during which the latter fired tear gas canisters and stun grenades toward youth. Several youth were reportedly treated at the scene from tear gas suffocation. (Wafa 8 March 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffocated during clashes with Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in the town of Qabatia to the south of Jenin, the northern West Bank. Clashes erupted during an Israeli military incursion into the town of Qabatia. The IOA fired a barrage of tear gas canisters and stun grenades toward residents, causing dozens to suffocate due to tear gas inhalation. (Wafa 8 March 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffocated, on tear-gas fired at them by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) during confrontations that erupted in al-'Isawiya area of occupied Jerusalem. The IOA stormed several neighborhoods in al-'Isawiya and assaulted residents, firing concussion grenades, and tear-gas canisters at Palestinian residents and homes, causing dozens of cases of toxic tear-gas inhalation. (IMEMC 9 March 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) fired tear-gas canisters and concussion grenades at Palestinian youths in the town of Taqou', southeast of the southern occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem. Confrontations flared up between Palestinian youths and Israeli occupation Army at the western entrance to the town of Taqou', which resulted in many of the youths to suffer the toxic effects of tear-gas, all of whom were treated at the scene. (IMEMC 9 March 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffocated, due to tear-gas inhalation, in the town of Qabatia, south of Jenin, northern occupied West Bank. Clashes broke out during an Israeli military incursion into the town, during which the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired a barrage of tear-gas canisters and stun grenades at residents, causing many cases of inhalation injury. (IMEMC 9 March 2020)
- More than 20 armed Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the land of Mohammad Mustafa Al-Hroub and uprooted more than 400 olive trees. Al-Hroub is a Palestinian farmer from the village of Wad Fukin, located southwest of Bethlehem. His land is located at the edge of the 1948 Armistice Line, and where the Israeli settlement of 'Tzue Hadasa' was constructed from another side of it. The JAI supported Al-Hroub with 400 olive trees, and also had two international groups to help him and his family plant them. The first planting day was through the Olive Planting Program in mid-February, and the second planting day was by Nord-Norge folkehøgskole students at the end of February. Each group planted 200 olive trees. Al-Hroub witnessed the uprooting and destruction of his olive trees, and he tried so hard to stop the attack by showing the IOA the official ownership papers of the land. The IOA did not stop uprooting the trees, and when they finished, they confiscated all the trees and declared the land as a 'State Land'. (IMEMC 10 March 2020)
- Flares lit up the sky over the eastern border area of Gaza City, as the Israeli occupation forces (IOA) intensively fired live rounds at agricultural plots of land. The IOA opened fire at cultivated lands east of Gaza City, for no apparent reason, in addition to firing flares that lit up the night sky over the area. A Palestinian observation point in the east of al-Maghazi refugee camp (central Gaza) also came under gunfire attack, with no reported casualties. (IMEMC 10 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) seized a large amount of money and gold during raids into homes of Palestinians southeast of the occupied West

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Bank city of Tubas. The IOA raided, searched and wreaked havoc to the house of Abdullah Daraghmeah and the house of his mother, searched both homes and seized money and gold worth over \$4,000. (Wafa 10 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) shot and injured 17 Palestinian civilians with live bullets and rubber-coated metal bullets, as well as firing tear gas at demonstrators who gathered at the Al-Arma Mountain south of Nablus, in the northern West Bank. The Head of the Committee Against the Israeli Wall and Settlements, Walid Assaf, was among those injured during the demonstration, which took place near the town of Beita, south of Nablus. Two Palestinians were hit with live bullets and both are in serious condition at Rafidia Hospital. In addition, four Palestinians wounded from rubber-coated steel bullets were also taken to Rafidia. Three others were taken to Huwwara hospital with complications resulting from tear gas inhalation. Among those injured was a reporter for Palestine TV, Bakr Abdel-Haq. The medical teams dealt with 17 injuries during the demonstrations taking place in the area, including two with live bullets, both of which are serious injuries. The IOA prevented ambulances from reaching the area, and the soldiers assaulted the Palestine TV crew. Israeli settlers began storming the mountain last night and are still in the place, explaining that hundreds of Palestinian citizens are still stationed on the mountain to repel the invasion of Israeli settlers. A large number of military jeeps stormed the mountain at dawn, and the IOA attacked a peaceful sit-in there, by firing a barrage of live bullets, metal bullets, and sound and gas bombs towards them, which led to the casualties. Hundreds of citizens flocked last night to the top of Mount Al-Arma, which belongs to the villagers of Beita, and held a sit-in there, following an invasion of the mountain by Israeli settlers. (IMEMC 11 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) injured, two Palestinians near Deir Nitham village, northwest of the central West Bank city of Ramallah. The IOA ambushed Palestinians on a road where Molotov cocktails are frequently hurled at army jeeps and colonialist settlers' cars, and opened fire at several residents, seriously wounding two with live ammunition. (IMEMC 11 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) killed a Palestinian child and wounded 14 other civilians, including a journalist during its suppression of civilian gathering on al-'Arma Mountain, southeast Beita village, Nablus, Northern West Bank. Two of the wounded were deemed in critical condition. The IOA backed by at least 40 military vehicles and 2 construction vehicles

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

moved into al-'Arma Mountain, and proceeded to suppress a civilian gathering (dozens) who had an overnight sit-in starting at 20:00. on Tuesday, 10 March 2020, as IOF provided protection for settlers. IOF fired live and rubber bullets, as well as tear gas canisters at the civilian gathering in order to disperse them. Clashes erupted until 07:00 Wednesday morning. As a result, IOF aggression resulted in the injury of 14 civilians. Mohammed Abdulkarim Khassab Hamayel (15) was shot with a live bullet in the head and deemed critical, until his death was announced at 12:00 today at the Intensive Care Unit at Rafidia Hospital in Nablus. Among those wounded was journalist Baker Mohammed Abdulhaq (30) who was shot with a rubber bullet in his left leg while covering the incident for Palestine TV; two others were deemed in an extremely critical conditions, while dozens suffocated due to tear gas inhalation and were attended to in the field. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)

- At least two Palestinians, including a journalist, were injured by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) during the weekly protest against Israeli settlements, in the village of Kafr Qaddum in the northern West Bank .The IOA attacked the protesters by rubber-coated rounds and teargas, injuring two, including Ja'far Shtayyeh, a photojournalist affiliated with the Agence France-Presse. 17 others also suffocated from gas inhalation .(WAFa 13 March 2020)
- Two Palestinians, including a journalist, were shot by Israeli occupation Army (IOA), while 17 others suffocated, during the weekly protest, in the village of Kufur Qaddoum in the northern West Bank district of Qalqilia. The IOA fired rubber-coated rounds and teargas at the protesters. 2 people were shot with rubber-coated steel bullets, and 17 others suffered the toxic effects of tear-gas inhalation. Ja'far Shtayyeh, a journalist affiliated with the Agence France-Presse (AFP) was shot and injured by the IOA. (IMEMC 14 March 2020)
- A Palestinian young man suffered shrapnel wound in his back, when the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) fired towards a peaceful group, marching in Kufur Qaddoum town, east of Qalqilia. The IOA opened fire at the participants, injuring one Palestinian man in the back with shrapnel from live ammunition. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) closed most of the doors of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied Jerusalem, under the pretext of “precautionary measures against the Corona virus,” while allowing dozens of settlers to storm it. The IO closed the gates of the sacred Mosque, to

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Palestinian worshipers, with the exception of three doors, which are Hatta, Majlis and Silsilah. Illegal Israeli settlers were then allowed to storm the compound from the Mughrabi Gate, under the protection of the Israeli police. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) installed a military roadblock at the entrance of Kharrouba neighborhood, in the northern West Bank city of Jenin, before detaining many Palestinians while inspecting their ID cards. The IOA stopped and searched dozens of cars and residents and were questioning many Palestinians. Although the IOA did not detain any Palestinian in this incident, they detained many of them for a few hours, before eventually allowing them to leave. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)
- The Israeli police arrested Sheikh *Najeh Bukairat*, deputy director of the Administration of Islamic Awqaf and Aqsa Mosque Affairs, from his home in Sur Baher neighborhood, in East Jerusalem. (IMEMC 16 March 2020)
- Israeli police summoned Sheikh Omar Kiswani, director of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, for questioning at the Russian Compound interrogation center in West Jerusalem. The police summoned Kiswani to immediately appear before it without giving any reason for the summons. (Wafa 18 March 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffocated from teargas inhalation during clashes that erupted with Israeli occupation Army (IOA) in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya. The IOA raided the neighborhood, stopped Palestinian youths while walking in the streets, and stopped and searched dozens of vehicles before they randomly lunched teargas and stun grenades at peoples' homes. The IOA broke into homes, assaulted residents and arrested a Palestinian youth. The neighborhood has been subjected to constant assault by the IOA because its residents keep protesting Israeli occupation measures against them. (Wafa 19 March 2020)
- Israeli police summoned Sheikh Omar Kiswani, director of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, for questioning at the Russian Compound interrogation center in West Jerusalem. The police summoned Kiswani to immediately appear before it without giving any reason for the summons. (IMEMC 19 March 2020)
- The Salem Israeli court sentenced prisoner, Waleed Na'alwa, father of late [Ashraf Na'alwa](#), in the West Bank city of Tulkarem, for 18 months of imprisonment and 12 other months of suspended sentence for a period of five years, along with a fine of 3000 NIS (834 US Dollars). Waleed's wife, Wafa'a Mahdawi, who is being imprisoned by Israel, as well, was supposed

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

to be released from prison, however, another Israeli court postponed her release. (IMEMC 20 March 2020)

- A Palestinian citizen in his sixties was injured by rubber-coated metal bullets, during clashes with the Israeli occupation Army' in the village of Kafr Qaddum, east of Qalqilya Governorate. The IOA attacked the peaceful, weekly anti-settlement demonstration which demands the opening of the one and only road that has been closed by the IOA for over 16 years. The IOA attacked the demonstrators with rubber-coated metal bullets, sound and tear gas canisters, which resulted in the injury of a 63-year-old citizen with a metal bullet in the leg. (Wafa 20 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) located opposite Al-Aroub camp, fired sound and tear gas canisters towards the citizens at the entrance to the camp, on the pretext that they were throwing stones. (NAD 20 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired at the Al-Shuhada Street in the Old City of Hebron, tear gas and tear gas canisters towards the citizens, on the pretext that they were throwing stones. (NAD 20 March 2020)
- Israeli troops shot and wounded, a Palestinian teenaged boy in the northern West Bank city of Qalqilia. Israeli troops, positioned on the northern checkpoint of Qalqilia, opened fire indiscriminately on a group of Palestinian youths. (IMEMC 21 March 2020)
- Israeli police imposed new restrictions on Muslim worshipers who perform prayers five times a day, at the ancient holy Islamic shrine of Al-Aqsa mosque, in the occupied city of East Jerusalem. During the Friday Muslim sermon, Israeli police forces shut down a number of gates to the mosque and that much fewer worshipers were allowed to enter the holy site. As crowds of men, women and children, gathered around the gates, Israeli police responded by firing sound grenades to disperse the worshipers. The police threatened worshipers to stay away from the gates or else a fine of 5,000 New Israeli Shekels (\$1400 US), will be imposed on them. Two Palestinians, Mahdi Sayyad and Yousef Alshawish, received police warrants. (IMEMC 21 March 2020)
- A Palestinian man was injured when Israeli occupation army (IOA) violently dispersed the weekly demonstration against the settlement in Kufur Qaddoum village in the northern West Bank district of Qalqilia. The IOA dispersed the demonstrators by firing rubber-coated metal bullets, tear

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

gas canisters and stun grenades at them injuring a Palestinian man, identified as Moayyad Shtewi, 63, was injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet and treated by Red Crescent crews on the scene. Some Palestinians suffered severe breathing difficulties as a result of inhaling toxic tear-gas used as a crowd control measure by the IOA. (IMEMC 21 March 2020)

- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) issued a fine worth \$1400 to the head of the Waqf Council of Jerusalem, Sheikh Abdul-Azim Salhab, on the pretext of allowing Muslim worshipers into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied Jerusalem on Friday. An Israeli police force raided his home in occupied Jerusalem and handed him a fine order worth 5,000 shekels (about \$1,400) for not closing the compound to Muslim worshipers who entered the site yesterday to perform the weekly Friday prayer. (Wafa 21 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) in Ras al-Amud neighborhood of Jerusalem fired tear gas and tear gas canisters towards the citizens, on the pretext that they were throwing rocks while they were patrolling. (NAD 21 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) during a raid on Al-Issawiya village, fired sound and tear gas canisters towards the citizens, on the pretext that they were throwing rocks while they were searching and searching a house. (NAD 21 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) killed, a young Palestinian man near the entrance of Ni'lin village, west of the central West Bank city of Ramallah. The IOA shot Sofian Nawwaf al-Khawaja, 29, causing a very serious injury that resulted in his death shortly afterward. The IOA stopped and held a Palestinian ambulance while rushing to render aid to the Palestinian. Instead of allowing the Palestinian medics to render the urgently needed aid to the critically wounded young man, the IOA called for an Israeli ambulance while al-Khawaja continued to bleed. The Israeli army claimed that the IOA opened fire at several Palestinians who reportedly hurled stones at their jeeps. However, The slain Palestinian was not among the protesters but happened to be passing through the area along with his cousin. (IMEMC 23 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) held four Palestinian youths at an Israeli military roadblock, near Dutan colonial settlement, near Jenin city, in the northern occupied West Bank. The IOA stationed at the checkpoint,

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

held four Palestinian youths after having inspected them, along with many other local Palestinian vehicles. (IMEMC 23 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained two Palestinian brothers from Khirbet Ein al-Hilweh village in the northern Jordan Valley. Israeli military vehicles stormed the village, where soldiers rounded up two brothers, aged 65 and 52. A day before, Israeli settlers assaulted the son of one of the detainees, a shepherd, for herding his cows in the area. (Wafa 24 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in control of the old town of the divided southern West Bank city of Hebron barred Palestinian volunteers from disinfecting the neighborhoods and educating the local population on the coronavirus pandemic. The IOA prevented the volunteers trained by the health ministry from spraying the Palestinian neighborhoods with disinfectants and educating the residents on the deadly disease. The IOA forced the volunteers to leave the area without completing their mission. The volunteers wanted to help the local population living under Israeli military rule in that part of the city on how to deal with the disease and how to avoid it when they were forced to leave the area. More than 30,000 Palestinians live in the Israeli-controlled section of Hebron, known as H2, amidst several hundred fanatic settlers protected by a large Israeli army force. (Wafa 24 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire and injured a Palestinian youth near the village of Deir Nitham, west of Ramallah, and closed its entrance. The IOA shot the youth near the village, alleging he was throwing rocks at settlers' vehicles nearby. The youth was shot in the leg. The identity or condition of the youth was not known at the time of reporting. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)
- Scores of Palestinians suffocated from Israeli military teargas west of Shweika neighborhood, north of Tulkarem city in the northern West Bank. Heavily-deployed Israeli occupation Army (IOA) opened fire towards Palestinian farmers tending to their farmlands close to the military gate of the section of Israel's apartheid wall, located west of the neighborhood, causing scores to suffer from excessive tear gas inhalation. (Wafa 25 March 2020)
- Israeli war jets fired several missiles into a few areas in the besieged and impoverished Gaza Strip, causing damage. The army fired many missiles into an area, northwest of Gaza city, causing damage to homes and structures. The army also fired two artillery shells into an east, east of Gaza

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- city, causing property damage. Furthermore, the army also fired missiles into at least one site, east of Jabalia, in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, causing damage. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)
- Violent confrontations broke out between The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and Palestinian civilians in al-Mazra'a al-Gharbiya village, northeast of Ramallah City. A Palestinian journalist named Ahmad Abu Qare' was detained during the clashes and transferred to an unknown destination. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)
 - For the fourth day in a row, Shweika village in Tulkarem witnessed conflict between The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and Palestinians protesting Israel's illegal land seizure to make way for settlement expansion. The IOA fired rubber-coated metal bullets and tear-gas canisters towards the protesters. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)
 - In Qalqilia, The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) violently dispersed the weekly demonstration against the settlement in Kufur Qaddoum village, attacking Palestinian demonstrators with rubber-coated metal bullets and tear-gas canisters. The IOA injured a 50-year-old man, who was treated on site, in addition to causing many cases of suffocation from gas inhalation. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire today at Palestinian farmer and herders east of Khan Younis, in the south of the besieged Gaza Strip, and forced them to leave the area. The IOA stationed behind the border fence east of Khan Younis opened fire at herders east of Abasan town and at farmers east of al-Qarara town. No injuries were reported. (WAFA 28 March 2020)
 - One Palestinian fisherman was wounded by Israeli occupation Army (IOS) while fishing off the coast of the northern besieged Gaza Strip. The fisherman was in his boat fishing, when the IOA opened fire at him, wounding him with a rubber-coated metal round. The man was transferred to the Shifa' hospital where his condition was described as moderate. (IMEMC 29 March 2020)
 - Israeli police forces invaded the occupied city of East Jerusalem, storming a number of Palestinian neighborhoods. Israeli police forces invaded throughout Saturday night and early on Sunday, al-'Isawiya village and stormed a number of neighborhoods. Upon their invasion, crowds of Palestinian residents took to the streets, in protest, as Israeli police fired

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- tear-gas canisters and sound grenades, to disperse them. Police forces broke into several Palestinian homes in the village, which is located in northeastern Jerusalem, and detained one Palestinian, identified as Ayham Dary, 32. Along with the detention of Dary, the police stormed the homes of Palestinian youth, who have been ordered by the Israeli authorities to remain under house arrest. (IMEMC 29 March 2020)
- Israeli police detained four Palestinians for disinfecting public facilities near the Lions' Gate in the occupied city of Jerusalem. Palestinians have formed local emergency committees in villages and towns as part of precautionary measures to help detect suspected coronavirus cases at the entrances of the villages and towns and combat the spread of the virus. Such committees are chiefly concerned with examining Palestinian workers in Israel who return back to their homes to force them into 14-day mandatory home quarantine and enforce the lockdown on the Palestinian territories. (Wafa 29 March 2020)
 - The Shin Bet, Israel's intelligence agency, decided to renew the detention of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) member and Hamas leader, Hasan Yousuf, for four months, under administrative detention. Sheikh Hasan Yousuf, 65, was scheduled for release on March 31, 2020, and just two days before his release, according to his family, the Shin Bet placed him under administrative detention. After having served 1 year in Israeli prison, Sheikh Hasan Yusef will have served a total of 20 years. (IMEMC 30 March 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted Palestinian teams fighting coronavirus outbreak in Hizma town, north of the occupied city of Jerusalem. The IOA stormed the headquarters of the public emergency committees inside the town, turning it upside down. The IOA also assaulted members of the committees deployed at the entrance of the town as part of the precautions to combat the outbreak of the deadly virus. (Wafa 30 March 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed the town of Al-Issawiya, north of occupied Jerusalem, amid sound and tear gas fire towards the homes of the citizens. The IOA stormed the town, searched the vehicle of citizen Anwar Ubaid and tampered with its contents. No injuries or detentions were reported. (Wafa 30 March 2020)
 - Israeli troops detained four Palestinian residents in the West Bank city of Ramallah and the town of Albeira, after invading their towns and their homes. Among the four detained was a local lawyer, and that the detention

occurred in the early morning hours when Israeli troops invaded the Palestinian district of Ramallah. The Israeli troops broke into the home of the al-Barghouti family and vandalized the home itself, before they detained Omar al-Barghouti, the father of the late Saleh, who was killed by the Israeli military, and Asem, who is currently imprisoned by Israeli authorities. The army also detained the man's son, Mohammad. The family lives in Kober village, north of Ramallah city. (IMEMC 31 March 2020)

- Israeli troops invaded Budras village, west of Ramallah city and broke in the home of Mahmoud Marar and detained Mahmoud himself. (IMEMC 31 March 2020)
- In the town of Albeira, Israeli army broke into the home of Ja'far Erbash and detained J'afar. (IMEMC 31 March 2020)
- The Ramallah municipality moved quickly today to sterilize areas of the city raided this morning by Israeli occupation army (9IOA) to make sure they are clear from the novel coronavirus disease. In a precautionary move, city employees began since the morning sterilizing streets, public places and buildings raided by the IOA. The IOA incursions of Palestinian cities and towns threaten preventive measures taken by the Palestinian Authority to control the outbreak of coronavirus. There has also been suspicious behavior of a number of the IOA and settlers, which appeared to be an attempt to spread the infection and hold those responsible to account. (Wafa 31 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed the headquarters of the emergency committees in the town of Hizma, north of occupied Jerusalem and assaulted the emergency workers. The IOA rampaged the headquarters of the emergency committees before they assaulted and insulted the volunteers working at Palestinian checkpoints to prevent the movement of citizens to stop the spread of COVID-19. (PNN 31 March 2020)

Israeli Settler Violence

Israeli Settler Violence during the month of January 2020

- A Jewish settler driving at high speed ran over a Palestinian young man and injured him on a road in the east of Bethlehem city, south of the occupied West Bank. The victim was identified as 20-year-old Bilal Ghazal,

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- from Kisan village in southern Bethlehem. He has suffered moderate injuries. (PALINFO 2 January 2020)
- A young man was injured, on Thursday evening, after Israeli settlers rammed him with his car, near Bethlehem, south of occupied East Jerusalem, in the West Bank. The young man, Bilal Sa'id Ghazal, 20, suffered moderate wounds. The settlers rammed the young man with his car, before fleeing the scene. (IMEMC 3 January 2020)
 - A group of Israeli settlers desecrated the Aqsa Mosque's courtyards under tight police protection. Dozens of settlers entered the Mosque as usual through the Mosque's Maghariba Gate and toured its courtyards amid intensive presence of police forces around them and across the holy site. (PALINFO 5 January 2020)
 - Scores of Israeli settlers, invaded the Al-Aqsa Mosque's courtyards in Jerusalem, under tight police protection. Dozens of settlers entered the Mosque through the al-Maghariba Gate and toured its courtyards amid intensive presence of police forces. (IMEMC 6 January 2020)
 - Israeli settlers, chopped 50 olive trees belonging to Palestinian farmers in the village of al-Sawiya, to the south of the West Bank city of Nablus. Individuals from the settlement of Rahalim, which was built on al-Sawiya and nearby Yetma lands, were responsible for the deed. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) accompanied by settlers, bulldozed vast areas of land belonging to Palestinians in Hebron city, in the southern occupied West Bank. The Israeli bulldozers arrived in the early morning hours to bulldoze agricultural land belonging to a number of Palestinian residents in the city. One of the land owners, Samer Jaber stated that the Israeli machinery bulldozed at least 50 dunams of land in the vicinity of residents' homes and fields. The bulldozing operations are targeting over 100 dunams of Palestinian-owned land, located adjacent to the Kiryat Arba settlement, as a prelude to seizing it for the benefit of expanding the said settlement, which was built on Palestinian lands. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
 - Dozens of Jewish settlers forced their way into al-Aqsa Mosque on Wednesday through al-Maghareba Gate amid tight Israeli police guard. Jerusalem's Islamic Awqaf Department said that 45 Israeli settlers stormed al-Aqsa Mosque and carried out provocative tours inside the site before they left through al-Silsila Gate. Earlier in the day the Israeli police arrested a Palestinian worshiper at Bab al-Rahma prayer area near al-Aqsa Mosque

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- and transferred her to an Israeli detention center in the Old City of Jerusalem. (PALINFO 8 January 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked with stones Palestinian residents' homes in the village of Madama to the south of Nablus, in the northern West Bank. (Wafa 13 January 2020)
 - Groups of Israeli settlers broke into al-Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem under police guard and amid tightened restrictions on the Palestinian worshippers. About 80 Israeli settlers forced their way into al-Aqsa Mosque through al-Maghareba Gate and roamed the site while receiving presentations on the alleged "Temple Mount". Meanwhile, the Israeli police tightened entry restrictions on the Palestinian worshippers. Many of them had to wait for long hours at al-Aqsa gates and others were ordered to stay out of the mosque. (PALINFO 13 January 2020)
 - A teenage Palestinian girl was injured after an Israeli settler rammed her with his car near Bethlehem, south of occupied Jerusalem, in the West Bank. The wounded girl has been identified as Yasmin Khaled Ghazal, 17. Yasmin was walking to her school at the main entrance of the village, when the settler rammed her and fled the scene. (IMEMC 14 January 2020)
 - A group of Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian homes in Madama village, south of Nablus in the occupied West Bank. The settlers hurled stones at Palestinian homes in Madama village, prompting local residents to confront them and fend them off. (PALINFO 14 January 2020)
 - Dozens of Jewish settlers forced their way into al-Aqsa Mosque under heavy police guard, while restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshippers were tightened. 148 Israeli settlers, including 7 intelligence officers, broke into al-Aqsa Mosque in the morning. The settlers performed Talmudic rituals and roamed the site while receiving presentations on the alleged "Temple Mount". Meanwhile, the Israeli police forces stationed at al-Aqsa gates tightened restrictions on the Palestinian worshippers entering the mosque and scrutinized their IDs. (PALINFO 15 January 2020)
 - Israeli settlers flooded farmlands of the village of Jalboun, located to the east of the occupied West Bank city of Jenin, with wastewater. Settlers from neighboring settlements have been discharging their untreated sewage for several days through Israel's segregation wall. (Wafa 15 January 2020)
 - Israeli settlers erected several electric poles on Palestinian land in Khallet Hamad in the Jordan Valley. The settlers erected the electric poles to supply

power to a settler-colonial outpost that was established in Khallet Hamad in 2016. (WAFSA 15 January 2020)

- Scores of Jewish settlers desecrated the Aqsa Mosque under tight police protection. Students of religious institutes were among the settlers who toured the Mosque's courtyards in groups escorted by police forces. During the presence of settlers inside the Mosque compound, entry restrictions are imposed on Muslim worshipers at the entrances leading to the Mosque and their IDs are seized until they leave the holy place. About 34,706 settlers defiled the Aqsa Mosque in 2019, according to the Islamic Awqaf Authority. (PALINFO 16 January 2020)
- A horde of Jewish settlers tried to take over a house in Madama village, south of Nablus. The settlers stormed the house of Yehya Mohamed in Madama village in an attempt to seize it. The settlers occupied the rooftop of the house before they fled away after local residents showed up and fended them off. (PALINFO 16 January 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked several Palestinian homes with stones and glass bottles, in the southern occupied West Bank city of Hebron. Dozens of settlers from the Israeli settlement of KIryat Arba', **protected by a military escort**, hurled rocks and glass bottles at Palestinians' homes in Jaber neighborhood. The settlers also chanted profanities and racist slogans at the residents, harassing families with children. (IMEMC 19 January 2020)
- Dozens of Jewish settlers desecrated the Aqsa Mosque under tight police protection. 130 settlers entered the Mosque through al-Maghariba Gate and toured its courtyards under police escort. 32 students of religious institutes and universities were among those settlers. Some settlers were spotted performing Talmudic rituals in the eastern area of the Mosque. (PALINFO 19 January 2020)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers broke into al-Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem under police guard. 102 Jewish settlers stormed al-Aqsa Mosque while escorted by Israeli police forces. The settlers performed Talmudic rituals and roamed the site while receiving presentations on the alleged "Temple Mount" before they left through al-Silsila Gate. Meanwhile, tight restrictions were imposed on the Palestinian worshipers entering al-Aqsa Mosque. The Israeli police officers stationed at al-Aqsa gates searched them and scrutinized their IDs, and many worshipers were ordered to stay outside the mosque. (PALINFO 20 January 2020)

Israeli Settler Violence during the month of February 2020

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- A group of armed Jewish settlers violently assaulted a West Bank family, who lives in Jabel al-Rahma neighborhood in central al-Khalil. Armed settlers from the outpost of Ramat Yishai assaulted the Palestinian family near a military checkpoint on the road leading to Jabel al-Rahma neighborhood. 55-year-old Mohamed suffered bruises and his car sustained material damage in the attack. The aggression also caused extreme panic among other members of the family, who were in the car. The family members were on their way to hospital when the settlers intercepted their car at gunpoint and assaulted them. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stood idly by watching the settlers as they were attacking the family. (PALINFO 2 February 2020)
- Armed settlers stormed the neighborhoods of Jabel al-Rahma and Tel Rumeida in al-Khalil city and threatened to expel Palestinian families from their homes. They also brutalized local residents in these neighborhoods and obstructed their movement with the help of Israeli soldiers. (PALINFO 2 February 2020)
- Groups of Israeli settlers broke into al-Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem under police guard. Over 40 Jewish settlers stormed al-Aqsa Mosque, roamed its courtyards and performed Talmudic rituals. (PALINFO 2 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained Ahmad Abu Alia, one of al-Aqsa Mosque's guards, and transferred him to a nearby detention center. (PALINFO 2 February 2020)
- More than 140 Israeli settlers stormed, the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound via the Moroccan Gate, heavily protected by Israeli occupation Army (IOA). Several groups of settlers invaded the mosque, and toured its courtyards, guided by rabbis that gave settlers explanations on the alleged "Temple Mount." The IOA detained an Al-Aqsa Mosque guard, Ahmad Abu Aliya, and took him to an interrogation center. A female worshiper was also detained by Israeli police after being assaulted. (PALINFO, IMEMC 3 February 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian family, while they were at their home in Tel Rumeida neighborhood of Hebron city, southern occupied West Bank. Israeli settlers attacked his children while they were playing at the house, causing bruises to his 3-year-old daughter and terrorizing the rest of the children. Ramadan said the settlers attacked his family while the IOA observed, doing nothing to help the Palestinian family. (IMEMC 3 February 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Dozens of Jewish settlers desecrated the Aqsa Mosque's courtyards under tight police protection. 45 settlers entered the Mosque through the Mosque's al-Maghariba Gate and toured its courtyards under police guard. (PALINFO 4 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation police banished a Jerusalemite young woman called Aya Abu Nab from the Aqsa Mosque for four months on a charge of her frequent presence near or in the Mosque's Bab al-Rahma prayer area. (PALINFO 4 February 2020)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers escorted by police forces desecrated the Aqsa Mosque. At least 58 settlers entered the Mosque through al-Maghariba Gate and toured its courtyards under police guard. The Israeli police close al-Maghariba Gate, which is used by Jews to enter the Mosque, at 10:30 am after the settlers complete their morning tours at the holy site. Later in the afternoon, the same gate is reopened for evening tours by settlers. During the presence of settlers inside the Mosque compound, entry restrictions are imposed on Muslim worshipers at the entrances leading to the Mosque and their IDs are seized until they leave the holy place. (PALINFO 6 February 2020)
- A group of Israeli settlers squatting on Palestinian lands, attacked many cars at the entrance of Beit Anoun area, north of Hebron, causing damage. (IMEMC 7 February 2020)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers broke into al-Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem while accompanied by a large police force. 62 Jewish settlers stormed al-Aqsa Mosque under tight police guard. The settlers roamed al-Aqsa Mosque's courtyards and performed provocative rituals before they left. (PALINFO 9 February 2020)
- Scores of Israeli settlers broke into the Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem under heavy protection of Israeli special police forces. 79 settlers, including 30 students, provocatively toured the holy Islamic site. The Israeli police, meanwhile, imposed strict restrictions on the entry of Palestinian Muslims into the site. A Jewish organization had called for mass entry into the Aqsa Mosque on Monday to commemorate their so-called "Tu Bishvat" feast. (PALINFO 10 February 2020)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers broke into al-Aqsa Mosque amid heavy police presence and tight restrictions on Palestinian worshipers. Israeli police allowed 123 Jewish settlers to storm al-Aqsa Mosque in the morning. The settlers performed Talmudic rituals and roamed al-Aqsa courtyards while receiving presentations on the alleged "Temple Mount". Meanwhile, the Israeli police forces tightened entry restrictions on Palestinian worshipers.

Two worshipers named Areen al-Za'anin and Mohammed Amara were handed orders banning them from entering al-Aqsa Mosque for six months and four months, respectively. (PALINFO 11 February 2020)

- Dozens of Israeli settlers escorted by police forces desecrated the Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem. Police forces were deployed across the holy site as groups of settlers were touring its courtyards under security escort. During the presence of settlers inside the Mosque compound, entry restrictions were imposed on Muslim worshipers at the entrances leading to the Mosque and their IDs are seized until they leave the holy place. (PALINFO 12 February 2020)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers desecrated the Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem under tight police protection in groups. 122 settlers entered the Islamic holy site through al-Maghariba Gate and toured its courtyards. (PALINFO 13 February 2020)
- Settlers and right-wing activists warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he would lose votes for the March 2 election unless he applied sovereignty to the West Bank settlements now. "If you want the support of the Right – act like you are the leader of the Right," Samaria Regional Council head Yossi Dagan said as he addressed a rally of several thousand that was held on the street outside Netanyahu's Jerusalem residence. The crowd chanted "sovereignty now" and sang, "the Jewish people live." Netanyahu had initially pledged to apply sovereignty to all the West Bank settlements. But he held off at the request of the Trump administration, which wants both Israel and the US to jointly map out the territory, before any action is taken. At the rally, settlers urged Netanyahu to ignore Washington and focus on his voters at home. ([JPOST](#) 14 February 2020)
- Armed Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian shepherds in the town of al-Mughayyir, in central occupied West Bank, while grazing their livestock. Dozens of armed settlers chased and brutally assaulted several Palestinian civilians, forcing them out of their fields, injuring five, three of whom were transferred to hospital, suffering various fractures and bruises. Israeli military forces installed a flying checkpoint at the entrance of the village of al-Mughayyir, in central occupied West Bank, coordinated with the Settlers. (IMEMC 17 February 2020)
- Armed Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian shepherds while they were grazing their livestock in the town of al-Mughayyir, to the northeast of Ramallah city, and injured some of them. Dozens of settlers chased the Palestinian shepherds out of the grazing fields and brutally beat them up

injuring five of them with bruises and fractures, three of whom were evacuated to a nearby hospital for treatment due to their severe conditions. The IOA deliberately installed a flying checkpoint at the entrance of the village following the attack and prevented anyone from reaching the attacked shepherds. (Wafa 17 February 2020)

- Israeli Settler rabbi Yehudah Glick and dozens of Jewish settlers defiled al-Aqsa Mosque under tight police guard. Glick and scores of Israeli settlers forced their way into al-Aqsa Mosque through al-Maghareba Gate and carried out provocative tours inside the compound before they left through al-Silsila Gate. Meanwhile, the Israeli police tightened restrictions on the Palestinian worshippers entering the site and ordered many of them to stay outside. (PALINFO 18 February 2020)
- Thousands of Israeli settlers stormed the northern Jordan Valley villages of al-Burj and Umm al-Qaba. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) escorted a convoy of buses packed with hundreds of settlers into the two villages, and stayed there for over four hours. (Wafa)
- Thousands of Israeli settlers stormed the Palestinian villages of al-Burj and Umm al-Qaba in the northern Jordan Valley, northern occupied West Bank. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) escorted a *convoy of buses* packed with some 4,000 settlers into the two villages, where they stayed for more than four hours. The IOA manning the checkpoint of Tayaseer, east of Tubas city, closed it in both directions in the morning in a prelude to the settlers' invasion into the villages. (MEMC 21 February 2020)
- At least two Palestinians were injured on Friday when a group of Israeli settlers raided the village of Ein el-Auja, a small Bedouin hamlet to the north of Jericho. Dozens of armed settlers accompanied by attack dogs forced their way into the village and attempted to steal livestock belonging to local residents. The settlers clashed with local residents who attempted to fend off their attack, and at least two locals were injured by the settlers. The two, both are in their twenties and their condition was described as moderate. Shortly after the attack occurred, an Israeli army force broke into the village to provide protection for the settlers, and while they were there the force briefly detained two Palestinians from the village. (Wafa 21 February 2020))
- Two young men suffered injuries when a group of Israeli settlers physically assaulted them in Ras Ein al-Auja hamlet, north of Jericho city. Dozens of settlers escorted by dogs stormed the hamlet and tried to steal some sheep

- from local residents and beat two young men as they tried to fend them off. The wounded young men were identified as Hani Ata, 24, and Haitham Suleiman, 20. They suffered head injuries. The IOA stormed the area and provided protection for the settlers and detained two other young men for several hours. (PAL INFO 22 February 2020)
- Israeli settlers embarked on fencing large tracts of land in the northern Jordan Valley as they chased Palestinian herders out of pastures in the area. The settlers continued for the second day in a row encircling Palestinian-owned agricultural lands in the aforementioned area with fences, aiming to make it hard for land owners to access their lands and property. The settlers also chased herders off the targeted areas, noting that this will result in blocking thousands of dunams in the Jordan Valley. As a result, Palestinian herders and farmers will not be able to access their lands. (Wafa 23 February 2020)
 - Many Israeli settlers attacked several Palestinian shepherds in the at-Tiwana village, near Yatta, south of the southern West Bank city of Hebron. The Israeli assailants came from Havat Ma'on settlement and started hurling rocks at the shepherds. The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) came to the scene but did not intervene, and instead were trying to force the Palestinian shepherds away. (IMEMC 23 February 2020)
 - Dozens of Jewish settlers desecrated the Aqsa Mosque's courtyards under police protection. 48 settlers entered the Mosque through al-Maghariba Gate and toured its courtyards under police guard. Some settlers were reportedly seen performing rituals during their tours of the Islamic holy site. (PAL INFO 23 February 2020)
 - Israeli settlers, continued fencing large tracts of land in the northern Jordan Valley as they chased Palestinian herders out of pastures in the area. Israeli settlers continued for the second day in a row encircling thousands of dunams of Palestinian-owned agricultural lands. Settlers installed [fences](#) around large areas of grazing lands in the West Bank's Northern plains. (IMEMC 24 February 2020)
 - Groups of Jewish settlers stormed al-Aqsa Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem under tight police guard. 39 Israeli settlers broke into al-Aqsa Mosque while accompanied by a large police force. The settlers performed Talmudic rituals and roamed the site while receiving presentations on the alleged "Temple Mount". (PAL INFO 24 February 2020)
 - Israeli settlers destroyed Palestinian wheat fields with poisonous chemicals near al-Sakout village in the northern Jordan Valley. Israeli settlers sprayed

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- about 12 dunums of wheat fields with poisonous pesticides destroying and burning crops. (PAL INFO 24 February 2020)
- In the latest Israeli settler attack, Jewish settlers vandalized at least eight Palestinian vehicles in Yasuf village, located to the east of Salfit city in the West Bank. A group of settlers sneaked their way into the village, where they punctured the tires of at least eight vehicles. Settlers also scrawled graffiti threatening to kill Palestinians in “Judea and Samaria”, the Jewish nationalist name Israel gives to the occupied West Bank to reinforce its bogus claims to the territory and to give them a veneer of historical and religious legitimacy. A graffiti in Hebrew reading: “War would be waged [against Palestinians] in Judea and Samria” and followed by the ‘Star of David’ was written by Settlers. (Wafa 26 February 2020)
 - Scores of Israeli settlers forced their way into al-Aqsa Mosque through al-Maghareba Gate while accompanied by a large police force. Dozens of Israeli settlers broke into al-Aqsa Mosque, roamed its courtyards and carried out provocative rituals inside the compound. Meanwhile, Israeli police forces imposed tight restrictions on the Palestinian worshipers entering al-Aqsa Mosque. (PAL INFO 26 February 2020)
 - A number of Palestinian citizens were injured by Israeli gunfire and tear gas bombs at dawn during confrontations after hordes of Israeli settlers forced their way into Joseph's Tomb east of Nablus City. Israeli occupation Army (IOA) forces escorted about 2000 Jewish settlers into the site, which sparked confrontations with Palestinian residents. (PAL INFO 26 February 2020)
 - Israeli settlers uprooted hundreds of olive trees and vine trees in the town of al-Khader, south of the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem. Settlers from the Israeli settlement of Eliazar uprooted approximately 200 olive trees and 80 vine trees from Palestinian lands near the settlement. (IMEMC 27 February 2020)
 - Israeli settlers slashed tires of cars and wrote racist graffiti in the village of Yasuf in the north of the West Bank and broke into the city of Nablus under army protection. (Wafa 27 February 2020)
 - Israeli settlers vandalized at least eight Palestinian vehicles in Yasuf village, located east of Salfit city, central occupied West Bank. A group of Israeli settlers managed to sneak into the village late at night and puncture the tires of eight vehicles, as well as covering the vehicles with racist, anti-Palestinian graffiti. Some of the graffiti read “Kill Arabs”, “War Against

Arabs in Judea and Samaria” and “Price Tag” in Hebrew. (IMEMC 28 February 2020)

- Dozens of Israeli settlers attacked the town of Huwwara, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, before attacking homes and cars, causing damage. Many settlers squatting on private Palestinian lands, stormed the village, and fired many rounds of live ammunition. The settlers hurled stones at many homes and cars, causing damage. The Palestinians tried to defend their homes and chase the assailants away, before Israeli occupation Army (IOA), stationed nearby, fired many gas bombs and concussion grenades at them. The soldiers and the colonists then withdrew from the town.(IMEMC 28 February 2020)
- Israeli settlers chopped off about 200 grape trees belonging to a Palestinian farmer in the village of al-Khader, near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli Settlers broke into a grape-planted grove belonging to a Palestinian villager from al-Khader, before proceeding to chop off about 200 trees there. This was the second attack by settlers on the village since yesterday, when a group of settlers forced their way into another ranch and smashed dozens of grape trees that belong to local villagers. (Wafa 29 February 2020)
- A Palestinian man was injured after he was attacked by Jewish settlers near the village of Burqa, to the north of Nablus in the occupied West Bank. A group of settlers attacked and beat up a Palestinian farmer identified as Mahmoud Hussein Hajji, 58, while he was working in a farm of his own near the village. Hajji sustained a moderate injury and was moved to hospital for medical treatment. (Wafa 29 February 2020)

Israeli Settler Violence during the month of March 2020

- Israeli Settlers stormed the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque while accompanied by a squadron of Israeli police. In 2016, protests erupted at the embattled area after Israeli Settlers invaded the compound during the last 10 days of Islam’s holy month of Ramadan, in contravention of tradition. The Islamic Endowments Department in Jerusalem reported that the intruders wandered brazenly in the courtyards of the mosque. The Settlers entered the area through the Mughrabi Gate and made their way to the courtyard of the chapel of Mercy. They wandered the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyards, attended presentations on what they call the “Temple Mount” and then left the site through al-Silsila Gate. Meanwhile, Israeli police forces

imposed tight restrictions on the Palestinian worshipers entering the site and ordered many of them to stay outside. This not an isolated incident. On February 23rd, Israeli police had killed a young Palestinian man in the grounds of al-Aqsa. (IMEMC 3 March 2020)

- Israeli settlers, uprooted dozens of olive and vine trees belonging to Palestinians in the town of Husan, west of the occupied city of Bethlehem. Israeli settlers from the settlement of Bitar Illit uprooted about 100 olive trees and 60 vine trees in lands belonging to Palestinians. (IMEMC 3 March 2020)
- Several Palestinian villagers from the West Bank village of Beeta, south of Nablus city, have been treated for injuries caused by live and rubber-coated steel Israeli bullets and tear gas. At least three of those villagers were shot and wounded by live bullets, while 20 others were injured by coated-steel bullets, with some 50 others debilitated by tear gas inhalation. Hundreds of local villagers in the area surrounding the Erma hilltop, protested an invasion by armed Israeli settlers of the area. The crowd of Palestinians faced a tough Israeli response, as the Israeli army unleashed live ammunition and fired dozens of tear gas canisters. (IMEMC 3 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers placed a fence around a privately-owned Palestinian land in the town of Beit Ummar, in the Hebron Governorate, southern occupied West Bank, in an effort to take it over. The settlers, under Israeli military protection, placed the fence around a 12-dunam plot of land, owned by Saqer Abu Ayyash, planted with almonds, grape vines, olive trees and forest trees. Abu Ayyash has fought a 20-year legal battle against the settlers to prove his ownership of the plot by presenting land deeds proving ownership. The settlers came back today and placed a fence around the land and when he showed up to stop them, they said he should go to the (Israeli military) Civil Administration and ask them about the land. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers, stormed the Sebastia archaeological site, in the north of the occupied West Bank, in what appeared to be an attempt by the settlers to take over the land. Roughly 50 settlers invaded the site, under the protection of Israeli occupation Army (IOA) who denied access to Palestinians. This site, he continued, has been a regular target of Israeli settlers, noting that an Israeli officer came to the site a day earlier raising suspicions that the settlers have the intention of taking control of the site. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Israeli settlers chopped Saturday 200 grapevines in Faghour area, in the al-Khader town, south of the West Bank city of Bethlehem, bringing the number of uprooted grapevines and olive trees in the West Bank to 780 in three days. The settlers chopped 200 grapevines, owned by a local farmer, identified as Mohammad Ibrahim Abu al-Kat'a. The attack took place in an area that is subject to frequent similar violations, and only comes a day after the colonists uprooted 300 grapevines, owned by Nasser Isamel Marzouq, near the illegal colonies of Daniel and Eliezer. (IMEMC 1 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers chopped 200 olive trees and 80 grapevines in lands, owned by Marwan Abdul-Salama Salah and Anas Fathi Salam, near Eliezer settlement. (IMEMC 1 March 2020)
- A Palestinian man was injured, after he was attacked by Israeli settlers near the village of Burqa, north of Nablus in the northern occupied West Bank. A group of settlers attacked and physically assaulted a Palestinian farmer identified as Mahmoud Hussein Hajji, 58, while he was working on his farm near the village. Hajji sustained a moderate injury. (IMEMC 1 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers embarked on razing tracts of land in the villages of Qusra and Jurish, to the south of the occupied West Bank city of Nablus. Settlers used bulldozers to raze lands in an area belonging to the aforementioned villages. (WAFa 1 March 2020)
- Jewish settlers chopped off about 200 grape trees belonging to a Palestinian farmer in the village of al-Khader, near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. Settlers broke into a grape-planted grove belonging to a Palestinian villager from al-Khader, before proceeding to chop off about 200 trees there. Dadou said this was the second attack by settlers on the village since yesterday, when a group of settlers forced their way into another ranch and smashed dozens of grape trees that belong to local villagers. (WAFa 1 March 2020)
- For the third consecutive day, Israeli settlers continued to cut down and damage trees in the lands of Al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem, raising the number of trees that were targeted to 780. The settlers cut down 200 vine trees in the "Fagur" area, owned by Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Al-Kat'a. The settlers cut down 300 vine trees in the lands of Nasser Ismail Marzouq in the "Zakandah" area between the settlements of "Daniel" and "EliAzar". Israeli settlers of "EliAzar" cut down 200 perennial olive trees and 80 grapevine trees in the lands of citizens Marwan Abdel Salam Salah

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

and Anas Fathi Abdel Salam Salah, located near the illegal settlement, bringing the total of what was cut down During the three days 580 vine trees, 200 perennial olive trees. (PNN 2 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Palestinian activists, planting olive trees to the east of Tubas, in the northern occupied Jordan Valley. The IOA attacked and dispersed activists participating in the tree planting event, which was called for by the anti-settlement and apartheid wall committee and national factions. Settlers are seen singing, dancing in attempts to incite the Palestinians into violence, no injuries or arrests were reported. (IMEMC 2 March 2020)
- A Palestinian man was injured, after he was attacked by Israeli settlers near the village of Burqa, north of Nablus in the northern occupied West Bank. A group of colonial settlers attacked and physically assaulted a Palestinian farmer identified as Mahmoud Hussein Hajji, 58, while he was working on his farm near the village. Hajji reportedly sustained a moderate injury and was moved to hospital for medical treatment. (IMEMC 2 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers from the Israeli settlement of Bitar Illit uprooted about 100 olive trees and 60 vine trees in lands belonging to Palestinians in Husan village west of Bethlehem city. (WAFSA 2 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers also uprooted today olive trees in the town of Bruqin, west of the northern West Bank city of Salbit. Settlers from the illegal settlement of Brukhin, built on the town's land, uprooted 20 olive trees and cut down 120 others belonging to two local residents. (WAFSA)
- Israeli Settlers chopped 12 olive trees in Kufr al-Dik land, west of Salbit. (WAFSA 2 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers placed a fence around a privately-owned Palestinian land in Beit Ummar, a town in the south of the occupied West Bank, in an effort to take it over. Settlers, under army protection, placed the fence around a 12-dunum plot of land planted with almonds, grape vines, olive trees and forest trees in the north of the town owned by Saqer Abu Ayyash. Abu Ayyash has been leading a 20-year legal battle against the settlers to prove his ownership of the plot by presenting land deeds proving ownership. "They came back today and placed a fence around the land and when I showed up to stop them, they said I should go to the (Israeli military) Civil Administration and ask them about the land," said Abu Ayyash. (WAFSA 4 March 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Israeli settlers and Israeli Occupation Army (IOA), on Saturday, stormed the village of Madama in the northern occupied West Bank city of Nablus. The indigenous Palestinians confronted the Israeli settlers, to which the IOA responded by firing tear-gas canisters, arresting one Palestinian young man, and causing several cases of inhalation injuries among the Palestinians resisting the invasion. (IMEMC 8 March 2020)
- Three Israeli Settlers attempted to kidnap two children, near Ramallah, in central West Bank. The three colonists were driving their motorcycles in the meadow of Turmus Ayya town, northeast of Ramallah, before forcing a Palestinian car to stop. The Palestinian driver of the vehicle, identified as Tareq Refa'ey, was with his two children, Adam and Noah, when the Israeli assailants attacked the car and attempted to snatch the two children from it, after smashing some of its windows. The father then sped away to avoid the assailants, who also threatened to open fire on residents in the area. (IMEMC 11 March 2020)
- A Palestinian woman and a youth were injured when Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian homes in the occupied city of Hebron in the south of the West Bank. The woman, in her 30s, and the youth, identified as Mohannad Jabari, were bruised when a group of settlers attacked homes in Wadi al-Hussein area located near the illegal settlement of Kiryat Arba in Hebron. (Wafa 11 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) accompanied, dozens of illegal Israeli colonialist settlers into the archaeological site in Sebastia Palestinian town, northwest of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, defying a closure by Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Nablus governor in an effort to stop the spread of coronavirus disease. The invasion comes in defiance of the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) to avoid large gatherings, in addition to a decision by the Palestinian governor, and the Tourism Ministry to close the site as a precaution, due to the current Coronavirus outbreak. The IOA closed many roads around the site, before invading it along with the illegal colonists. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- Several illegal Israeli colonists attacked a few Palestinian homes in Einabus village, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, causing damage. Israeli assailants infiltrated into the village and started hurling stones at two homes, owned by Awwad Amin Hamad and Shokri Shaqqour, causing damage to several windows. The colonists also attacked a car, owned by

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Hani Nabli, causing damage to its windows, and hurled stones at a few surrounding homes. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)

- The Israeli settlers invaded the eastern area of Burin town, south of Nablus, and partially damaged an under-construction Palestinian home, owned by Montaser Mansour. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- A Palestinian woman and a minor were injured, when Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian homes in the city of Hebron in the southern occupied West Bank. settlers attacked homes in Wadi al-Hussein area, located near the illegal Israeli settlement of Kiryat Arba, and assaulted the woman and the youth, identified as Mohannad Jabari. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- A number of Israeli settlers attacked, two young Palestinian men in Huwwara town, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus. The settlers chased and assaulted the two Palestinians, identified as Wa'ad Khammous and Salah Lufti. Two young men suffered various cuts and bruises, before the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) briefly detained them. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian herders while grazing livestock near the village of al-Mughayir, to the east of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. Settlers attacked herders and chased them out of the pastures and attempted to steal some of the livestock .The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in the area did not intervene to stop the settlers; rather they provided them with cover and protection .(WAFSA 14 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian herders as they were grazing their livestock near the village of al-Mughayir, east of Ramallah city, in the central occupied West Bank,. The settlers chased the shepherds out of the pastures and attempted to steal some of the livestock. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) made no attempt to stop the settlers; rather they provided them with cover and protection. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)
- Many Israeli settlers invaded, the western area of Huwwara town, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus, and caused damage to at least twenty cars, trucks and buses. The settlers hurled stones at more than twenty Palestinian cars and buses, causing excessive damage. The settlers fired many live rounds at random and fled from the village; there have been no reports of injuries in the incident. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- A group of Israeli settlers squatting on Palestinian lands invaded the al-Janiya Palestinian village, west of the central West Bank city of Ramallah. The settlers invaded the outskirts of the village, before the locals intercepted them, and started forcing them away. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) rushed to the area and started firing gas bombs and concussion grenades at the Palestinians to secure the retreat of the settlers. It is worth mentioning that this is the second attack against the village in the last few days. (IMEMC 15 March 2020)
- A group of armed Israeli settlers stormed, Palestinian-owned farmlands, close to Gush Etzion illegal colony, south of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. The settlers uprooted 50 fruitful trees, owned by a local farmer, Mahmoud Sa'd. Over the past three weeks, more than 1200 olive trees in the towns of al-Khader and Wadi Fukin, near Bethlehem, have been uprooted by armed colonial Israeli settlers. (IMEMC 16 March 2020)
- A Palestinian man was injured after being beaten by illegal Israeli settlers who broke into the site of abandoned Homesh settlement, south of Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank. Israeli settlers attacked and assaulted local villager, Mustafa Abu Za'bal. Abu Za'bal, who was working on his farmland near the abandoned settlement of Homesh, suffered minor injuries from the attack, also had his horse stolen by the settlers. (IMEMC 20 March 2020)
- A group of settlers entered the agricultural lands of the citizens on the northern outskirts of the village of Burqa, and cut down and uprooted a number of trees and vandalized water tanks owned by the citizen: Muhannad Yassin. (NAD 20 March 2020)
- A Palestinian man was injured after being beaten by illegal Israeli settlers who broke into the site of abandoned Homesh settlement, south of Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank. Israeli settlers attacked and assaulted local villager, Mustafa Abu Za'bal. Abu Za'bal, who was working on his farmland near the abandoned settlement of Homesh, suffered minor injuries from the attack, also had his horse stolen by the settlers. (IMEMC 21 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers set up tents and a caravan on a Palestinian land near the village of Khallet Hamad in the Jordan Valley region, the occupied West Bank. Israeli settlers are making use of the ongoing coronavirus crisis in order to expedite their settlement enterprise in the region, the latest of whose manifestation was today's installation of tents and a caravan in that

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

area. Settlers have further escalated their attacks against herders and farmers in the Jordan Valley in order to force them to leave the area. (Wafa 21 March 2020)

- A group of settlers entered the agricultural lands of the citizens near the Al-Tirah neighborhood of Ramallah city, and later withdrew. (NAD 21 March 2020)
- A group of settlers entered the agricultural lands of the citizens east of the village of Kafa, removed the fence surrounding the lands of the citizens, and destroyed pipeline carrying water. (NAD 21 March 2020)
- A group of settlers entered the agricultural land of the citizens in the Bab al-Wad area near the village of Cyrenaica and withdrew at 16:40. (NAD 21 March 2020)
- An Israeli settler exploited the full lockdown imposed in the occupied territories to raze Palestinian land between Rafat and Qalandia towns, northwest of Jerusalem. The settler razed a tract of Palestinian-owned land between the aforementioned towns, planted it with saplings and erected a fence around it. (Wafa 23 March 2020)
- Settlers constructed and paved a settler-only road and set up several mobile homes on Palestinian-owned land in Khallet An-Nahleh, south of Bethlehem. Settlers exploited the lockdown enforced on Bethlehem district over coronavirus spread to expedite the construction of this road. (Wafa 23 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked with stones Palestinian motorist in the north of the West Bank, causing damage but no injuries. A resident of Silat al-Dahr village, south of the northern West Bank city of Jenin was hit by settlers who threw stones at his car near his village breaking its windows and hijacking the car after he and his family were able to get out of it and run away. (Wafa 23 March 2020)
- Several Israeli settlers attacked, a Palestinian shepherd in Ein al-Hilwa area, in the West Bank's Northern Plains, while herding his cows. The young man, identified as Moheeb Fathi Daraghma, suffered several minor cuts and bruises. (IMEMC 23 March 2020)
- A group of Israeli settlers attacked homes in the southern area of Madama village, south of Nablus. The settlers came from Yitzhar settlement, which was built on Palestinian lands south of Nablus. (IMEMC 23 March 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Dozens of Israeli settlers, belonging to the Temple Mount group, stormed the vicinity of the Islamic holy shrine of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem. The group of settlers performed provocative rituals before leaving through the Bab Alselsela gate used by Palestinian-Muslim residents. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) escorted the settlers, while also restricting entry of Muslim Palestinian worshippers into the sacred Islamic compound. (IMEMC 23 March 2020)
- Nearly 1,600 trees have been vandalized by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank since the start of 2020, according to United Nations OCHA. According to the agency's latest [report](#), during the period 3-16 March, Israeli settlers vandalized at least 385 Palestinian-owned trees and vehicles in the West Bank. Three such attacks involved settlers cutting down or uprooting some 200 olive trees and 150 grapevines "belonging to farmers from Al Khader and Khallet Sakariya villages that are planted next to the Gush Etzion settlement area (Bethlehem), and 35 olive trees next to Bruchin settlement (Salfit)". Meanwhile, five additional attacks in the Nablus governorate, in northern West Bank, "involved slashing the tires of 11 vehicles in Huwwara town, hurling stones and damaging two houses and four vehicles in 'Einabus village, and vandalizing an uninhabited house in Burin village." In addition, UN OCHA stated, Palestinian residents of the 'Ein ar Rashash herding community near Ramallah, in central West Bank, reported 25 lambs "stolen by a settler residing in an adjacent settlement outpost". On top of the numerous incidents of attacks on Palestinian-owned property and livestock, Israeli settlers "physically assaulted and injured three Palestinians", including a woman, in three separate incidents in Al Auja town and the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron city (H2), in southern West Bank. "Additional settler attacks not resulting in injuries or damage were reported in the H2 area on 10 and 11 March, during celebrations of a Jewish holiday (Purim)," the UN OCHA report added. The UN OCHA report is issued once a fortnight, and documents human rights violations by Israeli forces and settlers, and the impact of occupation for Palestinians. Over the reporting period, UN OCHA documented the punitive demolition of two homes, as well as the demolition or seizing of an additional 14 Palestinian-owned structures on the grounds of a lack of building permits, displacing 29 people and affecting around 60 others. Israeli forces also "bulldozed a section of a dirt road connecting five herding communities in southern Hebron to their main service center", meaning that "residents must use a long detour to access their main service center and market in Yatta town". ([OCHA](#), IMEMC 23 March 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian shepherd in Ein al-Hilwa area, in the West Bank's Northern Plains. Several colonists assaulted a young shepherd while herding his cows in Ein al-Hilwa. The young man, identified as Moheeb Fathi Daraghma, suffered several minor cuts and bruises. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)
- A group of Israeli settlers attacked homes in the southern area of Madama village, south of Nablus. The settlers came from Yitzhar settlement, which was built on Palestinian lands south of Nablus, and added that the locals intercepted them, and forced them away. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian house in Burqa village, north of Nablus city in the northern West Bank. A group of settlers stormed the site of the former colonial settlement outpost of Homesh, evacuated in 2005, and attacked a Palestinian house in Burqa, causing damages it. (WAFSA 24 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked several Palestinian homes in the village of Madama, to the south of the occupied West Bank city of Nablus. A group of settlers from the illegal Israeli settlement of Yitzhar attacked homes in the southern section of the village. Residents confronted the settlers and pushed them out of their village, he said. No damage or casualties were reported. (WAFSA 24 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers damaged 50 olive trees and grapevines in al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem city. The landowner, entered his grove, located in proximity to the Gush Etzion colonial settlement bloc, but he was completely shocked to find out that settlers had damaged 40 grapevines and 10 olive trees. This was not the first time that settlers wreaked havoc in his land, and settlers were exploiting the lockdown enforced on Bethlehem district over coronavirus spread to expedite the destruction of Palestinian groves. (WAFSA 24 March 2020)
- An Israeli settler, exploited the lockdown imposed in the occupied territories to raze Palestinian land between Rafat and Qalandia towns, northwest of Jerusalem. The settler razed a tract of Palestinian-owned land between the aforementioned towns, planted it with saplings and erected a fence around it, before being spotted and repelled by staff from the Jerusalem Governor's Office. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Israeli settlers constructed and paved a settler-only road and set up several mobile homes on Palestinian-owned land in Khallet An-Nahleh, south of Bethlehem. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian residents of the village of Umm Safa, northwest of Ramallah, injuring two. Settlers attacked Palestinian farmers with sharp tools as they worked on their land, injuring two people. The settlers left their cattle to graze on Palestinian-owned land; the farmers reacted by rushing to protect their land from seizure, leading to confrontations between residents and illegal Israeli settlers. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) held one of the wounded Palestinians and closed roads leading to the village. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)
- Several illegal Israeli settlers invaded the sacred al-Aqsa Mosque, under police guard, despite the closure due to the coronavirus outbreak. Dozens of settlers, escorted by police officers, forced their way into al-Aqsa Mosque and performed Talmudic rituals near the al-Buraq Wall. (IMEMC 26 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers damaged 50 olive trees and grapevines in al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem city, in the southern occupied West Bank owned by Hisham Mohammad Sbeih. Upon entering his grove, near the Gush Etzion settlement bloc, he was completely shocked to find out that illegal settlers had damaged 40 grapevines and 10 olive trees. Israeli settlers are exploiting the lockdown enforced on Bethlehem district over the spread of the coronavirus, to ensure the seizure of more Palestinian territory. Sbeih added that this was *not* the first time that settlers wreaked havoc on his land. (IMEMC 26 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers damaged 50 olive trees and grapevines in al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem city. Hisham Mohammad Sbeih, the landowner, entered his grove, located in proximity to the Gush Etzion colonial settlement bloc, today, but he was completely shocked to find out that settlers had damaged 40 grapevines and 10 olive trees. He pointed out that this was not the first time that settlers wreaked havoc in his land, and that settlers were exploiting the lockdown enforced on Bethlehem district over coronavirus spread to expedite the destruction of Palestinian groves. (Wafa 26 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian herders and other civilians in the village of Al-Tuwani, south of the city of Hebron in the West Bank. Israeli settlers

- accompanied by attack dogs assaulted herders in the village and injured one of them in his abdomen and hand. (WAFSA 27 March 2020)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian herders and other civilians in the village of Al-Tuwani, south of Hebron in the southern occupied West Bank. Israeli settlers, accompanied by attack dogs, assaulted herders in the village and injured one of them in his abdomen and hand. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)
 - Israeli settlers attacked and injured 2 Palestinian farmers with sharp tools, as they worked on their land in Umm Safa, northwest of Ramallah. (IMEMC 28 March 2020)
 - Israeli settlers uprooted 300 Olive Trees in Al Qanoub area near Asfar Metzad settlement, between Bethlehem and Hebron Governorate. The trees are owned by Citizen Sameer Syed Shaladeh. (WAFSA 28 March 2020)
 - Israeli settlers set up tents in Tuqu' wilderness to the east of Bethlehem. The settlers set up three tents in a part of the wilderness, known as Jaljal, and voiced his concerns about the possibility of using the tents as quarantine places for settlers from nearby colonial settlements who contract the novel coronavirus. (WAFSA 30 March 2020)
 - Israeli settlers razed Palestinian land in the north of the West Bank near a settlement. Settlers have been working on several dunums of land in the villages of Jaloud and Qaryout, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus. The land is located near the settlement of Shavot Rahel and is planted with olive trees. (WAFSA 31 March 2020)

Home Demolition & Demolition threats

House Demolition & Demolition threats during the month of January 2020

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Atouf village, southeast of the city of Tubas, and dismantled tents and animal barns, and seized them. The IOA dismantled three residential tents and barns, located in the Jordan Valley, northern occupied West Bank. The confiscated tents and barns belong to Said Abu Daher, who had a similar experience with the occupation authorities last week. (IMEMC 1 January 2020)
- A Palestinian resident of Khirbet Ibzeiq, was ordered by the Israeli military government, to remove a room and a balcony built on his own land as well

as olive trees. The land, located north of the city of Tubas, in the Jordan Valley, northern occupied West Bank, is found in Area C, under full Israeli military rule. Ibrahim Mjalli, who received the order, said he was ordered by the army to remove a room, a balcony with metal roofing and a number of olive trees planted in his land, under the pretext that they are located in Area C. (IMEMC 1 January 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished, two Palestinian flats in Silwan town, south of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, in occupied East Jerusalem. Dozens of IOA and personnel of the Jerusalem Municipality, invaded the town, before surrounding the two flats. The IOA demolished the two flats, 100 square/meters each, owned by Yazid Khalayla and his brother Mohannad. The army claimed the flats were built without construction permits. The family managed to obtain court order halting the demolition, but the army went ahead and demolished the property anyway. (IMEMC 1 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) took over five Palestinian-owned homes and a water pipeline in al-Mintar area in the Bedouin desert of east Jerusalem. The seized homes belonged to five local residents. The IOA confiscated a plastic water pipeline in the area and threatened to confiscate another long-distance pipeline in al-Sawahira area. The IOA took this measure after Jewish settlers recently deployed prefabricated homes and water tanks in the area as a prelude to setting up a settlement outpost. (PALINFO 1 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) stormed the home of Palestinian prisoner Karmal and Qassam al-Barghouthi in Kobar village, northwest of Ramallah, and took their measurements as a prelude to demolishing it. Israeli troops encircled the house of al-Barghouthi family in Kobar before storming it. The IOA also wreaked havoc on furniture as they were searching the house and herded members of the family together into one room. The Shin Bet, Israel's internal intelligence service, had released the mother of the two prisoners, Widad al-Barghouthi, in last September after detaining her for 16 days. (PALINFO 2 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) notified the family of two Palestinian prisoners, of an order to demolish their home in Kobar town, northwest of Ramallah city. Widad Barghouthi, a media professor at Birzeit University, stated that the IOA broke into her family's house in the village, held the occupants in one room and inspected their ID cards. The IOA wreaked havoc on the home in addition to taking photos and measurements in preparation for the planned punitive demolition. Barghouthi, who teaches

media studies, was rounded up by the IOA during a predawn invasion into the village on September 1, 2019, and held for 16 days before being released on September 17. Barghouthi's sons, Karmel and Qassam, are currently imprisoned in Israel. Karmel, a 30-year-old father of two children who graduated from Birzeit University with a degree in accounting, was detained on September 1 at a military checkpoint while returning from a wedding party in Hebron. Qassam, 25, graduated from al-Quds University with a degree in journalism, was arrested a few days earlier during an Israeli incursion into his hometown. They have been detained purportedly for being affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). (IMEMC 3 January 2020)

- Israeli military ordered, a halt on the construction of a Palestinian-owned house in the village of Nahalin, near Bethlehem city. In addition, the Israeli military seized building equipment, including a pump and two cement mixers. An Israeli military force stormed the site of the construction and ordered the workers to stop the work, under the pretext of *lack of an Israeli building permit*. The area, in the southern occupied West Bank, is classified as C, which makes up about 60 percent of the West Bank and is under full Israeli administrative and military control, where Israel rarely issues construction permits to Palestinians, forcing them to build without one. (IMEMC 4 January 2020)
- At least 300 Palestinian buildings were demolished in Jerusalem, by the Israeli occupation authorities in 2019, compared to a 386 in other parts of the occupied Palestinian Territories. The largest demolition campaign was in Sur Baher when 82 Palestinian homes were demolished at once, and in Shu'fat refugee camp, 22 homes were demolished in one day. (Commission Against the Wall and Settlement 6 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) dismantled nine Palestinian-owned residential structures and seized them from the town of al-Ouja, in the Jordan Valley, occupied West Bank. The IOA dismantled nine *inhabited* structures out of 70 slated for demolition within a week. The structures were built by the municipality and funded by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Maan Development Center. The Israeli military declared the area of demolitions a '*closed military zone*' and barred journalists and activists from reaching it. (IMEMC 6 January 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Ras Al Auja, a community, located in 'area C' of the occupied West Bank, North of Jericho City, and home to 700-800 Palestinians, was stormed, by Israeli occupation Army (IOA) and teams of 'Civil Administration' staff. Over two hundred Israeli Army accompanied by the Israeli civil administration and bulldozers, stormed the Bedouin community and started demolitions without any prior notice. The IOA declared the area a 'closed military zone' and prevented journalists from reaching it or covering the incident before starting the demolition. Many locals tried to fight the IOA back and prevent them from demolishing their homes. Suleiman Ka'abneh, 50, was wounded when he refused to leave his home, and the IOA began demolishing his house while he was inside it. The IOA left Ka'abneh to bleed for an hour before allowing medical teams to reach him. (IMEMC 7 January 2020)
- Two siblings from Jabal al-Mokabber town, south of occupied East Jerusalem, were forced to demolish their homes to avoid the excessively high fines and fees, imposed on them by the Israeli City Council. Mohammad and his brother Maher Nassar, had to leave their homes, inhabited by 15 family members, including 11 children, and started demolishing their properties. Maher Nassar and his brother were only given one day to start the demolitions or face fines exceeding 80.000 Shekels. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
- Israel authorities notified Palestinians residents of its intentions to demolish four houses belonging to Palestinians in an area to the east of Yatta town. The Israeli Authorities stormed al-Tawana village, in Masafer Yatta area in the southern occupied West Bank Governorate of Hebron, and handed residents four demolition notices for their homes, citing denial of construction permit as a pretext. (IMEMC 8 January 2020)
- The Israeli-run Municipality of Jerusalem delivered at least 12 home demolition notices to Palestinian residents in the city's Al-'Isawiya town. The notices were issued under the pretext that the homes were built without a permit, rarely granted to Palestinians by the Israeli occupation authorities, especially in occupied East Jerusalem. Teams from the Israeli municipality took pictures of more than 50 buildings and homes in and around the neighbourhood. Some of the places where demolition notices were issued have been identified as Abu Al-Homs, Al-Dhahra, Abu Riyala, Al-Shaheed Yasser Arafat Street, Muhaisen neighbourhood and Olayan neighbourhood. The Olayan family, having lived in their home for three

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- years, were ordered by the Israeli authorities to empty their home within 21 days so that it is ready for “immediate” demolition. The family will be left homeless by the Israeli authorities. (IMEMC 9 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded, Ras Karkar village, west of the central West Bank city of Ramallah, and dismantled a Palestinian shed, before confiscating it. The IOA dismantled the 30 square/meter shed, owned by Emad Ghanem. The IOA confiscated the dismantled shed along with other property that was in it, before leaving the area. The army claims that the shed was installed without a permit from the Israeli “Civil Administration Office.” (IMEMC 9 January 2020)
 - A Palestinian family from Jabel Mukaber neighborhood resumed the demolition of its own house in compliance with an order issued by the Israeli municipality in Occupied Jerusalem. Sami Mashahrah, a member of the family, said that an Israeli municipal crew recently stormed his 60-square-meter house and forced them to demolish it to avoid paying exorbitant money to the municipality if it carried out the demolition. Sami lives with his mother and wife in this small house and they have no other place to live in. (PALINFO 9 January 2020)
 - A Jerusalemite homeowner called Ibrahim Mashahrah from Jabel Mukaber neighborhood in occupied East Jerusalem received a similar demolition notice from the municipality ordering him to raze his home. (PALINFO 9 January 2020)
 - The Israeli Jerusalem municipality forced the families of Nassar and Sarri to demolish their own homes in Jabel Mukaber to avoid incurring municipal demolition expenses. (PALINFO 9 January 2020)
 - The Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) knocked down a Palestinian structure in Ras Karkar village west of Ramallah City for allegedly being unlicensed. The IOA bulldozers, accompanied by armed forces, stormed the village, demolished a commercial facility and seized its equipment. The IOA claimed that the demolished building, which was owned by the Palestinian citizen Emad Ghanem, was built in Area C, which is exclusively administered by Israel, without a permit. (PALINFO 10 January 2020)
 - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) broke into the family home of Mohammad Walid Hanatsheh, in Attira neighborhood of the central West Bank city of Ramallah, and handed the family a military order to demolish their house. (IMEMC 11 January 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed the family of Yazan Mghamas, a military order to demolish their house in an incursion in Birzeit town, north of Ramallah. (IMEMC 11 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed a similar demolition order to the family of Mahmoud Atawneh in Beit Kahel town, northwest of Hebron, southern occupied West Bank. The IOA invaded Atawneh 140-meter-sized house, and took photos and measurements in preparation for the planned punitive demolition. (IMEMC 11 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA), for the second time, have ordered the punitive demolition of the family house of Ahmad Jamal Qunbu, a Palestinian in Israeli detention, who comes from the occupied West Bank city of Jenin. Qunbu's father stated that the Israeli authorities handed him a notice informing him of their intention to demolish the house, which was reconstructed after it was demolished for the first time in April 2018. The house is slated for demolition next Tuesday and is not solely owned by him but also by his disabled brother, and is inhabited by seven people. (IMEMC 12 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) ordered the punitive demolition for the second time of the family house of Ahmad Jamal Qunbu, a Palestinian prisoner in Israeli detention who comes from the occupied West Bank city of Jenin. Qunbu's father said that Israeli authorities handed him a notice informing him of their intention to demolish the house, which was reconstructed after it was demolished for the first time in April 2018. The house, slated for demolition next Tuesday, is not solely owned by him but also by his disabled brother, and is inhabited by seven people. (WAFSA 12 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) ransacked and teared down vegetable-selling stalls near Wadi Al-Khalil checkpoint, on the Hebron-Beersheba road. The IOA raided the stalls, which are used for selling vegetables, fruits and other food items, and ordered their Palestinian owners to leave the area, before proceeding to dismantle them and destroy their content. Losses were estimated at thousands of dollars. The IOA also threatened the owners not to return to the dismantled stalls or the vicinity of the checkpoint. The dismantled stalls are the main source of livelihood for their owners, and are also a preferred market for Palestinian workers who daily commute to Israel for their workplace and return home to the West Bank via the checkpoint. (WAFSA 12 January 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- The Israeli municipality in Jerusalem forced a Palestinian to demolish his own home, in the town of Jabal al-Mokabber, south of Jerusalem. The municipality required Sayel Ja'abis to demolish his home, under the pretext that he lacked a building license, giving him until Sunday to evacuate and demolish the house. (IMEMC 13 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) ransacked and dismantled stalls used to sell fruits and vegetables, near Wadi Al-Khalil checkpoint, in the southern occupied West Bank city of Hebron. The stalls were ransacked, their contents destroyed, and the Palestinian owners warned by the IOA, to stay away from the area. Estimated losses were valued at thousands of dollars. (IMEMC 13 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stopped work on a project to reclaim and rehabilitate lands and pave agricultural roads in the village of Al-Mughayyir, east of Ramallah, under the pretext that the area is classified as Area C, under full Israeli administrative and military control. An Israeli military crew stormed the area where the land is being reclaimed, forcing project workers to halt activities before seizing heavy machinery that was engaged in the opening of two kilometers of agricultural roads and the rehabilitation of 70 dunams of the village's land. The roads were part of a project implemented by the Agricultural Development Society – Palestinian Agricultural Relief – for the rehabilitation of around 400 dunams of land and the construction of agricultural roads. The project aims at serving farmers and enhancing their resilience in areas most affected by the presence of the occupation, in villages to the northeast of Jerusalem and in the village of Al-Mughayyir. (IMEMC 13 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded, Monday, Masafer Yatta village, south of Hebron in the southern part of the occupied West Bank, and handed demolition orders targeting eight Palestinian homes. Several army jeeps invaded Masafer Yatta, after surrounding it, and handed the demolition orders targeting the homes of Mohammad Mousa Makhamra, Ahmad al-Yatim, Mahmoud Issa Yatim, Khalil Issa Yatim, Ahmad Ismael Dababsa, Anan Mohammad Abed-Rabbo, and Qassem Abu Tohfa. (IMEMC 13 January 2020)
- The Israeli municipality in Jerusalem forced a Palestinian to demolish his own home, in the town of Jabal al-Mokabber, south of Jerusalem. The municipality required Sayel Ja'abis to demolish his home, under the pretext

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

that he lacked a building license, giving him until Sunday to evacuate and demolish the house. (IMEMC 13 January 2020)

- Two Palestinian residents of the occupied West Bank were forced, to demolish their own homes to avoid paying exorbitant costs if the Israeli West Jerusalem municipality demolishes them. Mousa Bashir and Ammar Nassar, from Jabal al-Mokabber neighborhood, south of occupied East Jerusalem, received demolition orders with a deadline, from the West Jerusalem municipality, for construction without a permit, and both proceeded to demolish their homes by themselves. (IMEMC 15 January 2020)
- In Yatta town, south of the southern West Bank city of Hebron, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a home, owned by Hussein Mohammad Salama, in the ad-Deerat area, east of Yatta. The IOA did not allow the Palestinian to remove his belongings from the property before demolishing it. (IMEMC 16 January 2020)
- The demolished home was 150 square/meters, and provided shelter to a family of ten. This was the second demolition of the property since last year, under the allegation of not receiving a permit from the so-called “Civil Administration Office,” the administrative branch of Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestine. During the invasion and the demolition, the IOA detained Mohammad Eyad Rib’ey, 19, and Zakariya Haitham Rib’ey, 18. The IOA also attacked the residents who gathered in the area and fired a barrage of gas bombs and concussion grenades at them; many Palestinians suffered the effects of teargas inhalation, in addition to cuts and bruises. (IMEMC 16 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Zeev area, east of Yatta town, and forced a Palestinian, identified as Ali Issa Abu Arram, to remove a structure, which was used as a carwash facility. (IMEMC 16 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished structures in Bir Una area of Beit Jala city, west of Bethlehem. Mohamed Zarina, owner of those structures, said that the IOA demolished a tent, a prefabricated home, walls and a gate in Bir Una area belonging to him, pointing out that he was not there when the demolitions happened. (PALINFO 16 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) razed two roads in the Ein Juwaiza area of Walaja village in the west of Bethlehem. (PALINFO 16 January 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Israeli bulldozers razed two roads in the village of al-Walaja, located to the west of the southern occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem. Israeli forces stormed Ein Jowaize area in the village and cordoned it off, before bulldozers razed the two roads. The Israeli bulldozers also handed a local Palestinian resident, identified as Walid Mahmoud al-Atrash, an order, notifying him of the imminent destruction of his recently-reclaimed 600 square meters of land. (IMEMC 17 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) bulldozed the barracks and tents of Palestinian civilian Muhammad Zreineh, in the Bir Ouna area of the town of Beit Jala, Bethlehem governorate, displacing his family and their livestock, for the fifth time. A large number of Israeli occupation soldiers, along with Israeli border guards and municipality crews stormed the area and bulldozed down the barracks and tents. Zreineh and his family are now homeless, they lived in the area they tended their livestock, to compound the losses, the family stated that 35 of their sheep went missing after the authorities demolished their encampment. (IMEMC 17 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) demolished the foundations of a new school that was in the process of being built, east of Yatta town, south of the southern occupied West Bank city of Hebron. The IOA came to the school, located close to the Israeli settlement of Beni Hefer, and began to demolish the foundation laid out for the construction, and no advance notice given to school administration. (IMEMC 17 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation municipality forced a Jerusalemite citizen to demolish his own house in Jabel al-Mukaber neighborhood at the pretext of unlicensed construction. Ammar Nassar, the homeowner, had to demolish the house after the municipality gave him until next Tuesday to raze it, or else he would have paid exorbitant money to the Israeli occupation authority if it had carried out the demolition. A family of six individuals, including four children, was living in the house and they have no other place to live in. The municipality had already forced Ammar's brothers, Maher and Mohamed, to demolish their own homes in the same neighborhood last week. The measure led to the displacement of 15 individuals, including 11 children. (PALINFO 18 January 2020)
- The City Council in occupied Jerusalem issued orders, instructing seven Palestinian families in Bab as-Silsila (Chain Gate) neighborhood to leave their homes due to ongoing Israeli excavations under them, rendering the properties unsafe. The excavations are carried out by the municipality of

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

the occupied city and various settler organizations and aim at forcing the Palestinians out of their homes. This has been happening for years, especially in Bab as-Silsila (Chain Gate), Silwan town, and the Old City, and stated that this is all part of Israel's illegal policies targeting the existence of the indigenous Palestinian population in the occupied city. Twenty-two Palestinian families would lose their homes, especially after Israel already handed eviction notices to seven families, while the remaining orders will be handed Monday. (IMEMC 20 January 2020)

- An Israeli court ruled, in favor of the demolition of four Palestinian homes in Wad al-Hummus neighborhood, in Sur Baher town, southeast of occupied East Jerusalem. The homes are owned by Na'im Oleywa, Osama Hamad, Mohammad Abu Teir, and Na'im al-Atrash. The only building that is not inhabited yet, and is still under construction, is a three-story home, owned by Na'im al-Atrash. (IMEMC 20 January 2020)
- The Israeli District Court in occupied Jerusalem has ordered the removal of a Palestinian family from their residential building in Batn al-Hawa neighborhood, in Silwan town, to replace them with settlers. The court ruled in favor of Ateret Cohanim colonialist organization, that claims ownership of the land. The Rajabi family filed appeals with the court after receiving eviction orders in the year 2016 and has been trying to prove its ownership of the land and the building. The building is a three-story structure, with three apartments and houses sixteen Palestinians, including children, seniors and persons with special needs. Rajabi family has several residential buildings on more than five Dunams of privately-owned lands in Batn al-Hawa, located on basins #97, 76, 95, 88, 75 and 72. Ateret Cohanim is claiming the lands are owned by Jewish settlers, living in Batn al-Hawa, while the families, living in 35 buildings have official deeds of ownership of the lands that were purchased from their owners dozens of years ago. The organization claims that the Israeli High Court has ruled in favor of Jewish settlers from Yemen, granting them ownership. The court claims the lands were owned by the settlers before the year 1948. (IMEMC , [Haaretz](#) 20 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded, Umm al-Kheir village in Masafer Yatta area, south of the southern West Bank city of Hebron, and handed demolition orders targeting 18 homes. The homes are owned by members of the families of al-Hathalin, al-Masri, at-Tibna and al-Faqeer. The army is alleging the homes were built without permits from the "Civil

Administration Office,” the administrative and executive branch of Israel’s illegal occupation of the West Bank. It is worth mentioning that, last week, Israel issued demolition orders targeting eight homes, owned by Mohammad Mousa Makhamra, Ahmad Yatim, Ahmad Ismael Dababsa, Mahmoud Issa Yatim, Qassem Ahmad Abu Tohfa, and Anan Mohammad Abed-Rabbo. (IMEMC 20 January 2020)

House Demolition & Demolition threats during the month of February 2020

- The Israeli occupation authority (IOA) forced a Palestinian citizen in Khilat Abd neighborhood of Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem, to demolish his own home. The homeowner was identified as Ibrahim Erekat and he had to demolish a residential structure he lived in with his family to avoid incurring a heavy penalty if Israeli bulldozers came and removed it. (PALINFO 1 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) destroyed pipelines that were supplying the northern Jordan Valley village of Bardala with irrigation water, according to Ziad Sawafta, deputy mayor of Bardala village council. Mayor Sawafta told Wafa correspondence that Israeli forces regularly destroy the pipes supplying water for irrigation in Bardala, noting that the village suffers from water shortage due to Israel’s refusal to provide it with more than 100 cubic meters of water per hour, when the needed amount is 240 cubic meters. He added that this harms the agricultural crops, which is the village’s main source of income.(IMEMC 4 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished, a Palestinian home in Beit Hanina neighborhood, north of occupied East Jerusalem, under the pretext of being built without a permit. The owner of the demolished property was identified as Nidal Shawamra. The IOA broke into Nidal’s home and forced him, along with his family, out of the property, without allowing them to remove their furniture and belongings. The IOA then demolished the property rendering the family, including his elderly mother, homeless. Shawamra stated that he built the 120 square/meter property in the year 2018, on his own land, and added that Israel is claiming the land is “owned by Jewish settlers. (IMEMC 4 February 2020)
- A Palestinian resident of Jenin, northern occupied West Bank, was informed by the Israeli army that the house he rebuilt after it was demolished in 2018, will be demolished once again. Homeowner Jamal

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Qumba received a notice from Israeli occupation Army (IOA) informing him of the intention to demolish his house. An appeal by the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC) was made to the Israeli High Court, on his behalf was rejected. The army stated its intent to seize the land under the same pretext. Qumba said the 160-square meter houses 8 members of his family, belongs to his handicapped brother who has the land deeds to prove ownership of the house.(IMEMC 4 February 2020)

- The Israeli army notified a number of Palestinians in the northern Jordan Valley village of Fasayil of its intention to demolish their under-construction houses and animal barns, under the pretext that they were built without Israeli permission. (IMEMC 4 February 2020)
- Israeli municipal bulldozers escorted by police forces demolished the foundations of a house under construction in the Jabel Mukaber neighborhood in the southeast of Occupied Jerusalem. The structure belonged to a citizen with special needs called Ismail Qara'ain. The Israeli occupation municipality also destroyed a fence surrounding a piece of land in the same neighborhood. (PALINFO 4 February 2020)
- Israeli municipal employees surveyed vast areas in Wadi al-Rababa neighborhood in Silwan town, south of the Aqsa Mosque, as part of infrastructural works for the building of light rail lines in the holy city. (PALINFO 4 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a shack and seized another in the village of Deir Qaddis, north of the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah. The bulldozers stormed the area and proceeded to demolish one shack and seize another belonging to Anwar Nasser. (IMEMC 6 February 2020)
- The Israel occupation authorities, ordered a halt to the rehabilitation of a school playground in the village of Susiya, southern occupied West Bank. (IMEMC 6 February 2020)
- The Israel occupation authorities notified a Palestinian resident, Nael Abu Aqel, of Sebastia village in Nablus Governorate of its intention to demolish his structure, and ordered Malik Makhalfeh to remove his tent from the archaeological area of the village.(IMEMC 6 February 2020)
- An Israeli court ordered the eviction of Palestinian families from a building in Silwan district's Batan al-Hawa neighborhood, east of Occupied Jerusalem, at the pretext that it belonged to Jews in the past. The order was

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

issued in response to another eviction petition filed by Ateret Cohanim, a settler group seeking to increase the Jewish presence in east Jerusalem and the eviction of hundreds of Palestinians from the eastern part of the city. The order was issued by the Israeli magistrate court in Jerusalem and would lead to the evacuation of the families of Odeh and Shuweiki, who own the building. The court rejected all the objections put forward by the families against previous court eviction notices it received in 2018 from Ateret Cohanim, which claimed that the families had built their apartment building on land that was owned by Yemenite Jews before Israel's establishment in 1948. The court gave the families until mid-August to evacuate the building. Following multiple legal claims filed by Ateret Cohanim, the same court recently issued eviction orders against many Jerusalemite families living in Batan al-Hawa neighborhood. 84 Palestinian families living in Baten al-Hawa neighborhood received during the past years court eviction notices or orders. (PALINFO 6 February 2020)

- A Palestinian family from Jabal al–Mokabber village, in occupied East Jerusalem, was forced to demolish its own home in, after the City Council claimed that the land where the property is built is “state land” where constructions are prohibited. The owner of the property, Maha ad-Dibis, said she and her family had to demolish their own home, after receiving a demolition order several days ago, informing them that they have twelve days to destroy the property or face very high fines and fees, in addition to the cost of the demolition if the city uses its workers and machines. The home was built four years ago on land that has been owned by the family for many generations and added that the City Council is alleging the land has been confiscated and is considered a state-owned property. The city also imposed an additional 45.000 Shekels fine that the family has been paying over the last three years, in addition to paying legal costs to the attorney and the courts.(IMEMC 9 February 2020)
- The Israeli army, informed the family of Palestinian detainee, Qassam Barghouthi, of its intention to demolish the family’s home in the central West Bank village of Kobar. The army told the family that they have until Thursday to object to the order, but the family said it will not, since the court will rule against them, as they have in all similar cases. (IMEMC 11 February 2020)
- The Israeli municipality in Occupied Jerusalem displaced a Palestinian family after forcing it to demolish its own home in Jabel Mukaber neighborhood, southeast of the holy city. Al-Dabs family said that it carried

out an Israeli court verdict ordering it to raze the house within 12 days, adding that it had to comply with the order in order to avoid paying demolition expenses to the Israeli occupation authority (IOA). The family had tried for years to obtain a license for the house and incurred all legal expenses and a 45,000 shekel penalty for building with no license. The IOA claims the house was built illegally on land confiscated by the state, although the family has documents proving its ownership of the land. The house, built four years ago, was accommodating five individuals. (PALINFO 11 February 2020)

- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) bulldozed Souk al-Halal, a livestock market, in Wadi al-Samen area in the east of al-Khalil city. The market is an important cattle auction hub for Palestinian citizens and provides them with their livestock needs. The municipality affirmed that this market belongs to it, considering such Israeli measure as a flagrant violation of international treaties and agreements. (PALINFO 12 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) stormed Humsa at-Tahta hamlet in the northern Jordan Valley and delivered stop-work orders on housing and livestock structures. (PALINFO 12 February 2020)
- Employees from the Israeli army's civil administration escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) served notices ordering a local resident to stop building four structures to be used for housing and storing purposes. Mohamed Bisharat, the owner of these structures, had been ordered a month ago to remove other structures in the area at the pretext they were located on an archeological site. (PALINFO 12 February 2020)
- The Israeli Civil Administration confiscates a shack housing a family in Tal a-Smadi in the Jordan Valley. at around 12:00 A.M., Civil Administration personnel came with military jeeps and a crane truck to the community of Tal a-Smadi northwest of the village of al-Jiftlik, in the Jordan Valley. Sixteen families live in this community, 13 of them permanently and three on a seasonal basis. The forces dismantled and confiscated a shack that housed a family of three, including one child, and delivered a "warning order for cessation of antiquity destruction" to four other families. (PALINFO 12 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) demolished a Palestinian housing unit in the southern occupied West Bank city of Hebron, under the pretext that it is allegedly on "state lands" and is owned by Bilal al-Rajbi. The IOA accompanied by a bulldozer invaded Jabal Johar neighborhood in Hebron at 9 am and evacuated the 55-square-meter caravan. Bilal's family, consisting of seven members, have lived in the caravan since September

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

2019, when the army demolished their home the last time. (IMEMC 13 February 2020)

- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) notified Palestinian citizens of its intents to demolish their homes in at-Tuwani village, east of Yatta town in southern al-Khalil. The homes belong to Fadel Wamfadi, Rabhi Rab'iee and Khader Suleiman and are inhabited by their families. The IOA also confiscated a cargo truck carrying construction steel in at-Tuwani village. (PLAINFO 13 February 2020)
- The Israeli municipality of Jerusalem demolished a house belonging to a Palestinian citizen in the occupied Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan, under the pretext of being built without an Israeli permit. Homeowner, Iyad Shweiki said that two days ago, the crews of the Israeli municipality handed him the demolition order, which stated that the family must evacuate the house, where his family of six were living. The family of six have become homeless due to the Israeli policy of denying building permits to Palestinian citizens, and demolishing of Palestinian homes, while allowing illegal settlements to expand, in violation of International Law. (IMEMC 14 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation authority (IOA) forced Iyad Shuwaiki to demolish his own home in al-Thuri neighborhood, south of the Aqsa Mosque, and displaced his family in order to build a school in its place. The house was accommodating six members of Shuwaiki's family in addition to him and his wife. Shuwaiki received a notice giving him two days to remove the equipment he used to demolish his house and ordering him not to enter his land again. The Israeli municipality demolished another fence belonging to a Jerusalemite citizen near the razed house of Shuwaiki. (IMEMC 14 February 2020)
- In Hebron (al-Khalil), the Israeli occupation army demolished a Palestinian house in Jabel Joher area in the east of the city at the pretext it was located near the settlement of Kiryat Arba. The house belonged to Bilad al-Rajbi and was accommodating a family of five members. (IMEMC 14 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) closed water holes in Khirbet Allan, in Al-Jiftlik village of the northern Jordan Valley. An Israeli force from the occupation army and the so-called "Civil Administration" raided the area and closed water holes, explaining that the occupation is marketing false

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

arguments for closing water holes by alleging that these holes are illegal. (IMEMC, [BTSELEM](#) 17 February 2020)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) demolished a residential compound and confiscated its contents in the Tel Al-Samadi area of Al-Jiftlik, and ordered the evacuation of more than 15 facilities. The policy of eviction notifications was adopted by the occupation during the current year, as a new policy to displace the population and expel them from their areas of residence. (IMEMC 17 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) demolished a crude home, confiscated its content and handed local residents notices ordering them to evacuate over 15 homes and structures in Tel as-Samaddi area of al-Jiftlik village in the Jordan Valley. The military orders claimed the homes and structures are located in an archeological area in the Jordan Valley. (PALINFO 17 February 2020)
- Israeli bulldozers demolished an agricultural shack and razed land in Tarqumiya, to the west of the occupied southern West Bank city of Hebron. The IO bulldozers demolished the shack and razed about five dunums of land owned by Ibrahim Dababseh, a local resident. (Wafa 17 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) destroyed couplings in pipes providing water to al-Shunah area of al-Jiftlik village, located in the Jordan Valley to the north of Jericho. The IOA raided the village and proceeded to destroy the connectors supplying running water to Palestinian crops. Palestinians tend to install water connector to the main Israeli water carrier lines which supply between 400 and 700 cubic meters of underground Palestinian water per hour to the colonial settlements, which is for them the only way they can get water to their homes, crops and livestock as Israel bans them from building water pipes of their own. 17 February 2020)
- A Palestinian man from Jabal al-Mokabber town, south of occupied East Jerusalem, had to demolish his own home, to avoid excessive Israeli fines and fees. The Palestinian, Montaser Shqairat, had to demolish his two-story home after the City Council claimed that he did not obtain a construction permit. The city threatened to impose dozens of thousands of shekels in fines and fees if he does not destroy his home, in addition to billing him for the demolition costs if it was carried out by the city's workers and equipment. (IMEMC 18 February 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) destroyed couplings in pipes providing water to al-Shunah area of al-Jiftlik village, in the Jordan Valley, north of Jericho. The IOA invaded the village and proceeded to destroy the connectors supplying running water to Palestinian crops. Palestinians are forced to install a water connector to the main Israeli water carrier lines which supply between 400 and 700 cubic meters of underground Palestinian water *per hour* to the illegal colonial settlements. This is the only way Palestinians are able to get water to their homes, crops and livestock, as Israel bans them from building water pipes of their own. (IMEMC 18 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a horse barn and a cesspit in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabal al-Mukaber under the pretext of unlicensed building. The IOA escorted a bulldozer to Jabal al-Mukaber, where the heavy machinery proceeded to tear down the barn and the cesspit. Owner of the demolished structures was identified as Ahmad Warad al-Zatraa. Using the pretext of illegal building, Israel demolishes houses on a regular basis to restrict Palestinian expansion in occupied Jerusalem. At the same time, the municipality and government build tens of thousands of housing units in illegal settlements in East Jerusalem for Jews with a goal to offset the demographic balance in favor of the Jewish settlers in the occupied city. (Wafa 18 February 2020)
- Israeli police shut down a bakery shop and detained the owner in the Old City of Jerusalem. Israeli police shut down a bakery shop in Bab Hutta neighborhood, citing the distribution of ka'ek, a crusty bread with sesame seeds, to Muslim worshipers on last Friday free of charge as a pretext. The owner of the bakery shop, identified as Nasser Abu Sneina, was detained. (Wafa 19 February 2020)
- In their efforts to prevent education in the Palestinian areas classified as C, Israeli occupation Army (IOA) seized a caravan used as a school classroom in the village of Susiya, in Masafer Yatta cluster to the south of the occupied southern West Bank city of Hebron. The IOA seized the classroom caravan under the pretext of construction without permit. The IOA recently issued an order to halt the construction of a playing ground in the same school. (Wafa 19 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) seized a residential caravan in Birin village in Masafer Yatta cluster under the pretext it was placed at the site without a permit. The caravan was donated as a charity to two elderly

sisters, one 85 years of age and the second 65, to use as shelter and home. (Wafa 19 February 2020)

- The Israeli army issued demolition orders against four Palestinian residential structures in Masafer Yatta in the south of the occupied West Bank. The IOA raided Masafer Yatta and delivered the demolition notices to the four residents under the pretext that they were built without an Israeli permission. (Wafa 20 February 2020)
- The Israeli Supreme Court gave the go-ahead to demolish the Ramallah-area family homes of five Palestinian detainees. The Israeli court unanimously approved the demolition despite multiple petitions filed by the prisoners' families against the demolition. The court explained its approval by the need to "establish credible deterrence against attacks." (Wafa 20 February 2020)
- The Israeli Supreme Court gave the go-ahead on Wednesday for the military to demolish the family homes of five Palestinian detainees from the Ramallah area, and are serving long terms in Israeli prison camps. Israeli authorities decided that their families must also be punished, and that the homes of their parents, wives and children should be destroyed. The court explained its approval by the need to "establish credible deterrence against attacks." Collective punishment is a violation of international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention. (IMEMC 21 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished two Palestinian homes and two animal barns in Masafer Yatta, southern Hebron hills, under the pretext they were built without a permit. The IOA raided several areas in Masafer Yatta and demolished two 80-square-meter residential structures in al-Mafqara and in Rakiz hamlets. Israeli army bulldozers demolished two animal barns in Saffi hamlet in Masafer Yatta, in Area C, where Israel has full military and administrative control over the occupied West Bank. (IMEMC 27 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a Palestinian-owned house in the village of al-Walaja, northwest of the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem. Israeli forces raided the village and proceeded to demolish the 80-square-meter house, which belongs to Abdul Qader Abu Hammad, under the pretext it was built without a permit. The IOA demolished a workshop in another area of the village owned by Saleh Khalifah. (Wafa 27 February 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) forced a young Palestinian man to demolish his own home in Shu'fat town, in occupied Jerusalem, reportedly for being built without a permit. The Palestinian, Mohammad Abdul-Salam al-Bashti, 26, from Shu'fat town in Jerusalem, said that an Israeli court ordered him to demolish his home for being built without a permit, despite various appeals and fines. The court told him that if the City Council uses its workers and equipment in demolishing the property, he will be facing a 70,000 Shekels fine, in addition to other costs and penalties. The young man, who lived in the 129 square/meter two-story property with his wife, was ordered to complete the demolition before the end of the day, and started the demolition. Al-Bashti has been appealing with Israeli courts since March of the year 2019.
- A Palestinian, identified as Maher Siyam, had to demolish his home, in Silwan town, south of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, in Jerusalem. (Wafa 28 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) demolished four Palestinian-owned structures in Masafer Yatta, south of al-Khalil city in the West Bank. Israeli troops escorting bulldozers stormed different areas in Masafer Yatta and knocked down two homes and livestock stores at the pretext that construction in their areas are forbidden. The homes belonged to Mohamed Abu Arram and Ahmed Hamamdeh and the cattle structures belonged to Ezzat Zain and Kayed Zain. (PAL INFO 28 February 2020)
- Dozens of Palestinians were injured when Israeli occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly demonstration against the settlement in Kafr Qaddum village east of the West Bank city of Qalqilya. Confrontations flared up between Palestinian protesters and IOF soldiers after the latter dispersed the march with live ammunition, rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters. Six Palestinians suffered injuries by live and rubber bullets, while over 30 Palestinians choked on tear gas and were treated in the field. (PAL INFO 28 February 2020)
- The Israeli municipality in Occupied Jerusalem displaced a Palestinian family after forcing it to demolish its own house in Shu'afat refugee camp at the pretext of unlicensed construction. The homeowner, Mohamed al-Bashti, said that an Israeli court had issued a verdict ordering him to raze his home in Shu'afat camp or get prepared to pay about 70,000 shekels if the municipality carried out the demolition. Bashti had been trying to prevent the demolition of his two-story house since March 2019, pointing

out that he was living with his wife in the house. (PALINFO 29 February 2020)

- Citizen Maher Siyam, from Silwan town in the south of the Aqsa Mosque, started to demolish his own home under the same pretext after the Israeli municipality forced him to do so. (PALINFO 29 February 2020)

House Demolition & Demolition threats during the month of March 2020

- Palestinian homeowners in the southern West Bank village of Nahalin were informed by the Israeli military that one house will be demolished as two others were ordered to stop construction of their homes. One resident of the village has received a demolition order and two other residents ordered to stop work on building their homes under the pretext they were being built without a permit. The area in question is considered Area C, which is under full Israeli military rule and where Palestinians are denied the right to build even on their own land. It is also located on the outskirts of the village where only in this area the village can expand with the growth of its population. (Wafa 3 March 2020)
- The Israeli authorities demolished the second floor of a Palestinian-owned house in the town of Hezma, to the northeast of occupied Jerusalem, under the pretext that it was built without an Israeli permission. Staff from the Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem escorted by a bulldozer embarked on demolishing the second floor of the two story house, which was inhabited by Rami Khatib, his wife and six children. The municipality evacuated the house located on the main road near the Israeli separation wall before demolishing its second floor, which was built on top of a house constructed since the 1970s. (Wafa 3 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation authorities demolished the second floor of a Palestinian-owned house in the town of Hezma, northeast of the occupied city of Jerusalem, under the pretext that it was built without Israeli permission. The Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem, escorted by a bulldozer, evacuated the home, and proceeded to demolish the second floor of a two story home. The house, located near the Israeli annexation wall and built on top of a house constructed 40 years ago, was inhabited by Rami Khatib, his wife and six children, whom are now homeless. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- The Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem demolished part of a Palestinian-owned home in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabal a-Mukabir. Bulldozers of the Israeli municipality broke into Jabal al-Mukabir and demolished part of the house of Mr. Iyad Fatafta,, a local Palestinian citizen, under the pretext of construction without an Israeli permit. The demolition took place despite of an Israeli court's order putting the demolition on hold until further proceedings. (Wafa 4 March 2020)
- The Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem demolished part of a Palestinian-owned home in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabal al-Mokabber. Israeli bulldozers invaded Jabal al-Mokabber and demolished part of the home belonging to Mr. Iyad Fatafta, a Palestinian citizen, under the pretext that it had been built without an Israeli permit. Despite an Israeli court order to postpone the demolition until further proceedings, the occupation authorities proceeded with the demolition. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation authorities ordered three Palestinian families to stop construction on their homes in Nabi Elias village, east of the northern West Bank city of Qalqilia. The military claimed the homes were being built without an Israeli construction permit. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- The Israeli authorities ordered a halt on construction of agricultural structures in the village of Azzun Atma, to the south of the northern occupied West Bank city of Qalqilya. The IOA notified Farouq Quzmar of the order to stop building the structures, claiming they were being built without a permit. (Wafa 5 March 2020)
- The Israeli authorities destroyed a retaining wall for a farm in the village of Nilin, west of Ramallah. During the demolition of the wall, residents confronted the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) who assaulted and one youth and injured him, said the sources. (Wafa 5 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers demolished the family homes of two Palestinians in Ramallah and nearby Birzeit town, resulting in intense confrontations with local youths. A large Israeli army force invaded the town of Birzeit after midnight, and surrounded the family home of Yazan Maghames, the military bulldozers proceeded to level it to the ground. Youths confronted the IOA, who fired tear-gas canisters towards them and at homes causing many suffocation cases. At the same time, the IOA invaded the Ramallah neighborhood of al-Tireh and

demolished the family residence of Walid Hanatsheh, which is located in an apartment building. The army surrounded the 6-floor building, inhabited by 13 families, before proceeding to demolish the inner and outer walls of the Hanatsheh apartment. Hanatsheh and Maghames, are currently detained in Israeli. (IMEMC 6 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) seized construction equipment in Birin area, south of Hebron, in the southern occupied West Bank. The IOA seized two excavators belonging to local Palestinian resident Mohammed Abu Turkey. (IMEMC 8 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) notified a local Palestinian family in Yarza area, in the northern Jordan Valley, of an order to remove their residential tents and animal barns. The IOA handed a notice ordering members of Abu Thaher family to remove their residential tents and animal barns, which were already destroyed in December 2019 and January 2020. (IMEMC 8 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a Palestinian home in al-Ferdis village, in the Eastern Bedouin area, east of Bethlehem, south of occupied Jerusalem in the West Bank. The IOA invaded the village, and demolished a one-story, 130 square/meter home, owned by Hazem Hashem Abu Mheimeed. The army claimed that the home was not licensed by the so-called Civil Administration office, the administrative branch of Israel's illegal military occupation of the West Bank. The IOA also invaded and ransacked another home of the village, before withdrawing. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- A Palestinian family from Shuafat refugee camp in occupied Jerusalem embarked today on demolishing its own home after it was forced to do so by Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem to avoid paying exorbitant costs if the municipality carries out the demolition. Tareq Mohammad Ali said his family and he were forced to demolish their own home at the order of the Israeli High Court, under the pretext it was built without a permit. Ali said he had no option but to embark on the demolition in order to avoid paying unreasonable demolition costs to the Israeli municipality. (Wafa 13 March 2020)
- A Palestinian family from Shu'fat refugee camp in occupied Jerusalem began demolishing their own home. Tareq Mohammad Ali said his family and he were forced to demolish their own home at the order of the Israeli High Court, under the pretext it was built without an Israeli permit. The family, now homeless, was forced by the Israeli municipality of West

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Jerusalem to demolish its own home, in order to avoid paying excessive fines if the municipality carried out the demolition. (IMEMC 14 March 2020)

- Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) demolished two residential structures and an animal barn in the village of al-Sawahreh al-Sharqiya, southeast of occupied Jerusalem. The IOA stormed the village and demolished a residential structure and a barn belonging to one Palestinian resident, and then proceeded to demolish another shack and the foundation of a previously demolished home belonging to another village resident. Younes Jafar, a local member of Sawahreh municipality. The owners of the structures are Saleem Zahayka and Hasan Hadaleen respectively. (IMEMC 19 March 2020)
- Israeli authorities demolished two residential structures and an animal barn in the village of al-Sawahreh al-Sharqiya, southeast of occupied Jerusalem. Israeli Authorities reportedly stormed the village and demolished a residential structure and a barn belonging to one Palestinian resident, and then proceeded to demolish another shack and the foundation of a previously demolished home belonging to another village resident. The structures are owned by Saleem Zahayka and Hasan Hadaleen respectively. (IMEMC 20 March 2020)
- Israeli authorities banned, installation of *Palestinian-owned* solar panels and a green house in the northern occupied West Bank area of Al-Aghwar. An Israeli troop obstructed installation works in the Kherbet Aldeir village, within the Tubas governorate. Israeli authorities, escorted by the military, invaded the Kherbet Aldeir village, and handed warrants to local farmers, who were attempting to install solar panels and a green house on their farm land. The warrant states that the farmers are *not allowed* to embark on such works, by orders of the concerned Israeli authorities. (IMEMC, [Wafa](#) 25 March 2020)
- Officials from Israel's Civil Administration in the West Bank arrived with a military jeep escort, a bulldozer and two flatbed trucks with cranes at the Palestinian community of Kherbet Ibziq in the northern Jordan Valley. They confiscated poles and sheeting that were meant to form eight tents, two for a field clinic, and four for emergency housing for residents evacuated from their homes, and two as makeshift mosques. The army also confiscated a tin shack in place for more than two years, as well as a power generator and sacks of sand and cement. Four pallets of cinder blocks intended for the tent floors were taken away and four others demolished. As the whole world battles an unprecedented and paralyzing healthcare

crisis, Israel's military is devoting time and resources to harassing the most vulnerable Palestinian communities in the West Bank that Israel has attempted to drive out of the area for decades. Shutting down a first-aid community initiative during a health crisis is an especially cruel example of the regular abuse inflicted on these communities, and it goes against basic human and humanitarian principles during an emergency. (BTSELEM 26 March 2020)

- The Israeli Civil Administration is continuing its demolition routine where it demolished three seasonal homes of farmers who are residents of Jerusalem, in the village of 'Ein a-Duyuk a-Tahta west of Jericho. The IOA demolished three Palestinian-owned homes in the village of al-Diyouk, west of the occupied West Bank city of Jericho, under the pretext they were built without permits. The IOA and police accompanied bulldozers as they invaded the village in the early morning, and proceeded to demolish the three houses, each 120-square-meter in area, owned by Palestinian citizens from occupied Jerusalem and from the West Bank city of Hebron. (IMEMC, BTSELEM 26 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a farming shed and a water well in Deir Ballut town, west of Salfit city. The IOA escorted a bulldozer into Wadi Sarida area, where the heavy machinery tore down a farming shed and a water well belonging to Aziz Yusef Abdullah, a villager. The IOA were exploiting the lockdown enforced on the occupied territories over coronavirus spread to expedite the implementation of their schemes to seize Palestinian land. (WAFSA 26 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, reportedly spat on Palestinian-owned vehicles and property in a Hebron suburb. The IOA were seen spitting on Palestinian vehicles, which were parked in an industrial zone, located in Area C, where Israeli authorities maintain full control. The Israeli army frequently invades Palestinian-populated neighborhoods located in Area C, as classified by the 1993/1995 Oslo peace accords between Israel and Palestine. Despite the necessary precautions to avoid the spread of the Coronavirus, the IOA appear unconcerned with the potential spread of the virus among Palestinians. (IMEMC 27 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a farming shed and a water well in Deir Ballut town, west of Salfit city, according to a local official. The IOA escorted a bulldozer into Wadi Sarida area, where the

heavy machinery tore down a farming shed and a water well belonging to Aziz Yusef Abdullah, a villager. The IOA were exploiting the lockdown enforced on the occupied territories over the spread of coronavirus, to secure the implementation of the seizure of more Palestinian land. (IMEMC 27 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a residential structure and seized tents, in the Jordan Valley village of Ibziq, north of the occupied West Bank city of Tubas. The IOA stormed the village and destroyed a 70-square-meter shack along with two water pumps. The military also seized 8 tents, solar panels, spraying equipment, and building blocks, under the pretext that the equipment and shack were allegedly in a military zone. (Maannews, IMEMC 27 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) demolished a room belonging to a Palestinian villager in the village of Zawiya, near the West Bank town of Salfit. An Israeli army force accompanied by a bulldozer broke into the village before demolishing the room, which was used for agricultural purposes. The room belongs to a local villager identified as Salah Raddad. (Wafa 28 March 2020)
- Israeli authorities demolished a community clinic in Khirbet Ibziq village in the Jordan Valley, which was designated to deal with the novel coronavirus outbreak. Officials from the Israeli Civil Administration went to the village with a military escort, bulldozer and two trucks equipped with cranes to demolish community clinic and emergency housing. The officials seized poles and sheeting designated to form eight tents, two for a field clinic, two for a mosque, and four for emergency housing for people evacuated from their homes. A power generator, as well as supplies of sand, cements and cinder blocks to be used for the floor of the tents was also confiscated. (PNN 29 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) ordered a Palestinian resident of al-Tabban village in Masafer Yatta in the south of the West Bank, to stop work on an animal barn he was building. The IOA raided several villages in that area and ordered one man in al-Tibban to stop work on his 110-square meter animal barn. Residents of Masafer Yatta earn a living from raising and herding livestock, mainly sheep. (Wafa 31 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) demolished a Palestinian-owned house that was still in the construction stage in the northern West Bank village of Jubara, south of Tulkarm. The village was invaded by a large army force

who broke into the village early in morning with two bulldozers, closed all entrances to the village, cordoned off the area and proceed to demolish the one-floor house. The house owner had received a demolition notice from the Israeli military on the ground it was built without a permit. The army had demolished three other houses in the same area last year and seized three caravans, while several other houses are under threat of demolition under the pretext of construction without permit. (Wafa 31 March 2020)

- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) Khalaf A Rashayda family in Wad Ad Daraja near the Dead Sea a military order to evacuate their tin shacks and leave the area. (PNN 31 March 2020)

Israeli Military Orders

Israeli Military Orders during the month of January 2020

- The Israeli military issued orders, to seize 350 dunams (86 acres) of agricultural land in al-Khader and Irtas towns, south of the southern West Bank city of Bethlehem, The bypass road, planned solely for the purpose of settlement expansion, will make inaccessible the Palestinian owned agricultural land, adding that it will also take along with it 150 meters of land on both sides. (IMEMC 16 January 2020)

Israeli Military Orders during the month of February 2020

- Israeli authorities issued orders to seize a large tract of Palestinian agricultural land to the west of the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem. The Israeli Occupation Authorities (IOA) delivered orders to takeover dozens of dunums of Palestinian land, that are located next to the Israeli colonial settlement of Beitar Illit in favor of establishing an industrial zone and outposts. The land slated for takeover belongs to the Husan and Wadi Fukin villages as well as the depopulated village of al-Qabbu, all located to the west and southwest of Bethlehem. The threatened land is 622 dunums. (IMEMC 12 February 2020)
- Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu announced his decision to persist with the bombardment of the besieged Gaza Strip, after speaking with several Israeli officials, including the head of the Shin Bet security agency, defense minister, Naftali Bennett, and the head of National Security. The Israeli Army (IOA) warplanes targeted a post in the northern

part of the Strip. Palestinian officials said there were no casualties or injuries from the Israeli attacks. At noon, 14 rockets were allegedly fired from Gaza toward Israel, 12 of them were purportedly destroyed by the Israeli Iron Dome defense system, no reports of any injuries were reported at the time of reporting. This flare up of violence between the Israeli occupation and the Palestinian resistance group began on Sunday when Israeli forces killed Mohammad Ali Hasan an-Na'em, 27, a member of the Islamic Jihad resistance movement. The Israeli human rights group Adalah said the army committed a war crime in its actions dealing with the deceased Palestinian, with no respect for the sanctity of death. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) also condemned the army's despicable actions. (IMEMC 25 February 2020)

Israeli Military Orders during the month of March 2020

- Palestinians in the village of Nahalin, were informed by the Israeli military that one house will be demolished as two others were ordered to stop construction of their homes. One resident of the village, located in the southern occupied West Bank, received a demolition order, while two others were ordered to stop work on building their homes, under the pretext they were lacking an Israeli permit. The village in question is in Area C, under full Israeli military and administrative control, where Palestinians are denied permits to build on their own land. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)

Confiscation & Razing of lands

Confiscation & Razing of lands during the month of January 2020

- Israeli occupation bulldozers uprooted olive trees in Al-Jabaa village, south of Bethlehem. A large force of the Israeli occupation army, accompanied by two bulldozers, storming the area of Khalat Farawana. Israeli bulldozers proceeded to uproot olive trees on land belonging to two Palestinian citizens; Ezzat Abdullah Hassan and Ahmed Abdel-Latif. The Israeli army closed the area amid intensive *security measures*, and prevented landowners from approaching their land. (IMEMC 1 January 2020)

- The Israeli occupation authority (IOA) bulldozed Palestinian lands in Wadi al-Rasha village in the south of Qalqilya in order to build a road for Jewish settlers. (IMEMC 1 January 2020)
- Israeli bulldozers and construction vehicles embarked on preparing a vast tract of land for the building of a road in Wadi al-Rasha village near the villages of Ras Atiya and al-Dabaa in Qalqilya. The road will be built for settlers from the illegal settlement of Alfei Menashe, which has been expanding since it was built in 1981. (PALINFO (IMEMC 1 January 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) accompanied by bulldozers, invaded and bulldozed large areas of Palestinian lands in 'Asla village, east of Qalqilia, in northern West Bank. The invasion was carried out by many army jeeps, and bulldozers, after the IOA closed the area and prevented the Palestinians from entering it. The IOA started bulldozing large areas of private Palestinian lands, owned by many villagers, in order to expand the illegal Alfei Menashe Settlement. (IMEMC 2 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) bulldozed vast tracts of Palestinian land in Qalqilya, north of the West Bank, to expand an Israeli settlement. The IOA accompanied by several bulldozers, razed privately-owned Palestinian land in Asla village east of Qalqilya. The move is aimed at expanding the nearby Alfei Menashe settlement. (PALINFO 3 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) bulldozed and seized 127 dunums of Palestinian land in Kafr ad-Deik town, west of Salfit, in favor of settlement expansion. The IOA had razed a land owned by Abdalnaser Ahmad and set up a fence around it claiming that it is "state land". Ahmad has all the legal papers and documents which prove his ownership of the razed land. The Israeli government has recently okayed a plan to build new housing units to expand Brukhin settlement west of Salfit. (PALINFO 13 January 2020)
- The Israeli military issued orders, to seize 350 dunams (86 acres) of agricultural land in al-Khader and Irtas towns, south of the southern West Bank city of Bethlehem, The bypass road, planned solely for the purpose of settlement expansion, will make inaccessible the Palestinian owned agricultural land, adding that it will also take along with it 150 meters of land on both sides. (IMEMC 16 January 2020)

Confiscation & Razing of lands during the month of February 2020

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Israeli settlers from Karnei Shomron settlement razed tracts of Palestinian land in Jinsafut village in Qalqilya province to build new housing units. Palestinian farmers in Jinsafut said that they have lost their most fertile lands to Israeli settlement expansion which is witnessing an unprecedented increase in the area. (PALINFO 5 February 2020)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) pumped large amounts of rainwater into agricultural lands east of besieged Gaza. The IOA opened rainwater dams along the border with the besieged Gaza Strip, causing farmlands east of Gaza City to sink. This is the fifth time this season Israeli forces have caused damage to large amounts of crops in the already-starved Gaza. This repeated move has caused Palestinian farmers in Gaza losses estimated at half a million dollars. (PALINFO 10 February 2020)
- Israeli bulldozers continued to level dozens of dunums of Palestinian land in Hares village, west of Salfit in the occupied West Bank, to prepare the area for the expansion of the settlement of Ariel and the construction of new factories. The bulldozed land, about 250 dunums, belongs to the Islamic Awqaf Authority and is located between Hares village and Burqin town. The Israeli occupation authority bulldozed over 100 dunums of this land about one month ago and resumed its leveling activities again with no prior notice. The same bulldozers also destroyed a cultivated plot of land belonging to a local farmer called Omar Fazaa in a nearby area. (PALINFO 12 February 2020)
- A Palestinian-owned house in the Old City of occupied Jerusalem, partially collapsed as a result of ongoing underground excavations by Israeli authorities and illegal settler organizations, Mr. Thaher Sharabati said his house sustained minor landslides during the recent low pressure and the accompanying heavy rainfall, which he said were the result of the ongoing Israeli excavations. Sharabati lives in the house together with the rest of his 8-member family. The underground digs by Israeli settler organizations in Jerusalem without any consideration for the safety of the Palestinian families living there have posed serious threats to the Palestinian population. (IMEMC 13 February 2020)
- Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) have started construction work on a new road that would link the Israeli settlements of Eli and Shilo in the north of the occupied West Bank with the Jordan Valley. The settler-only road is about eight kilometers long, and passes through fertile agricultural lands in the Palestinian villages of Duma, Telfit, Qaryut and Al-Mughair, south of Nablus all the way to the village of Fasayil in the central Jordan Valley. The new road is one of the most dangerous projects implemented by the Israeli

- government in terms of the size of the land seized to construct it and restrictions imposed on the movement of Palestinians. In 2014, the Israeli government approved a huge plan to construct dozens of roads and bypass roads for Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank, with the aim of seizing tens of thousands of acres of Palestinian land. ([MEM](#) 14 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) bulldozed privately-owned Palestinian lands in Burin village, south of the northern West Bank city of Nablus. The IOA bulldozed and uprooted the lands in Ein al-Jiniyya area, in Jabal Salam al-Farsi Mountain. The bulldozing took place on private property near the Yetzhar settlement. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)
 - The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) invaded, Palestinian lands in the villages of Iskaka and Yasuf, east of Salfit city in central West Bank, and started bulldozing them to expand a Settlement. The 50 dunums- land are privately owned by the villagers and are in the eastern area of Iskaka and the southern area of Yasuf. Israel is trying to expand the Nofei Nehemia and to install new segregated roads. (WAFSA, IMEMC 17 February 2020)
 - Several armored Israeli military vehicles invaded Palestinian farmlands near Beit Lahia, in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, and opened fire at farmers in Khan Younis, in southern Gaza. Several army vehicles, including bulldozers, invaded Palestinian farmlands north of Beit Lahia, and started uprooting sections close to the perimeter fence. The Israeli army fired sporadic rounds of live ammunition during the invasion, before withdrawing to the military base, across the fence. (IMEMC 17 February 2020)
 - Israeli military army stationed on military towers across the fence, east of Khan Younis, fired many live rounds at farmers on their lands, forcing them away. (IMEMC17 February 2020)
 - Israeli bulldozers proceeded to raze Palestinian lands in the village of Huwwara, south of the northern occupied West Bank city of Nablus. Israeli bulldozers have been razing lands since the early morning hours near the village's military checkpoint in preparation to build a bypass road for the settlers. Israeli government issued a decision to build the 7-kilometer-long road in April, whose establishment will lead to the seizure of more than 400 dunums of land from seven villages to the south of Nablus. The opening this road will cause losses in agricultural lands and will contribute to Israel's apartheid system of separate roads to settlers and the original Palestinian inhabitants of the area. Israel also started the construction of an

8-kilometer-long road that would connect the colonial settlements of Eli and Shilo in the Nablus district with other colonial settlements in the occupied Jordan Valley to the east. (IMEMC 25 February 2020)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) demolished a house and a car garage in Bethlehem, south of Jerusalem. A bulldozer escorted by a large number of Israeli troops stormed al-Walaja village, northwest of Bethlehem, and demolished a house in Khilat al-Hoor belonging to a Palestinian citizen called Abdul-Qader Abu Hammad. The IOA also demolished a garage in Khilat al-Samak area belonging to a local resident called Saleh Khalifa. The IOA claimed as always that the demolished structures had no licenses. (PAL INFO 27 February 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) demolished four Palestinian-owned structures in Masafer Yatta, south of al-Khalil city in the West Bank. Israeli troops escorting bulldozers stormed different areas in Masafer Yatta and knocked down two homes and livestock stores at the pretext that construction in their areas are forbidden. The homes belonged to Mohamed Abu Arram and Ahmed Hamamdeh and the cattle structures belonged to Ezzat Zain and Kayed Zain. (PALINFO 28 February 2020).

Confiscation & Razing of lands during the month of March 2020

- Israeli settlers began razing tracts of land in the Palestinian villages of Qusra and Jurish, to the south of the occupied West Bank city of Nablus. Settlers used bulldozers to raze lands in an area belonging to the aforementioned Palestinian villages. (IMEMC 2 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed the neighborhood of Al Jaidi in the northern occupied West Bank city of Qalqilia, where wide confrontations occurred with Palestinian youths, during which Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired live ammunition, sound grenades, and tear-gas canisters towards the youths. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)
- In the village of Qusra in the northern West Bank city of Nablus, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Palestinians resisting the levelling operations of the agricultural land. Israeli heavy machinery and IOA stormed the village and started a large-scale leveling operation in Mount Najma. The IOA attacked two unarmed young Palestinian men, beating them with rifles while the bulldozers continued to level the lands. The injured young men were identified as Mahmoud Owdeh and Thaer Hasan. The IOA fired tear-gas canisters and rubber-coated metal bullets at the

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Palestinians resisting land annexation, causing injuries. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)

- Several Israeli military vehicles invaded the southern besieged Gaza Strip in eastern Rafah. Five bulldozers entered through Mutebeq military entry, invading 50 meters into Palestinian lands, in eastern Rafah, erecting barbed wire in the area to prevent Palestinians from entering. Additionally, the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) fired tear gas canisters at farmers in Sreij, in eastern Khan Younis. Also, off the coast of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza, Israeli gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats, no casualties were reported. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) razed Palestinian-owned lands in the area of Wadi al-Makh'rour, to the west of Bethlehem city in the occupied West Bank. Israeli bulldozers Israeli forces imposed a curfew in the area and prevented citizens from entering or leaving it, before embarking on razing about five dunums of private-owned land. Wadi al-Makhrour is a popular hiking space for Palestinians. It is best enjoyed during the late afternoon in the summer when the sun is about to set. The area encompasses both natural and agricultural landscapes and is well known for its ancient terraces and stone towers called qusur, built of neatly placed rocks that used to serve as storage rooms for various crops planted in the wadi. (Wafa 4 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) bulldozers razed Palestinian lands in Shweier village in the northern Jordan Valley after forcing local shepherds to leave the area. The IOA who did not give a reason for the Israeli action. (Wafa 4 March 2020)
- Israeli vehicles leveled several dunums of Palestinian agricultural land in Beit Jala and the Jordan Valley. Israeli bulldozers raided Makhrour in Beit Jala, south of Jerusalem, and razed five dunums of land belonging to, Ramzi Qaisiyyeh, a Palestinian citizen. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- In the Jordan Valley, The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) expelled shepherds from Shwei'er in the north, and leveled agricultural land. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)
- Near the West Bank city of Nablus, The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked villagers in Qusra who resisted an Israeli operation destroying Palestinian agricultural land. (IMEMC 5 March 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- Palestinian landowners in the Silwan neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem blocked an intrusion attempt by a team from the Israeli Nature Preservation Authority, according to one of the land owners, Saeed Abbasi. Members of the so-called Israeli nature authority stormed his 4-dunam plot of land in Silwan, which is planted with olive trees, in an attempt to seize the land, under the pretext of performing excavations in the area. The Israeli occupation seeks to seize the entire 60-dunam area of Silwan, known as Wadi al-Rababa, to turn it into a public park. Landowners in the Wadi al-Rababa area, are currently waging a legal battle to stop the Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem and nature authority from taking over their land. (IMEMC 12 March 2020)
- Workers for Israel’s Nature and Parks Authority began development work on several plots of privately owned Palestinian land in the Ben Himmon Valley area, located just south of the Old City of Jerusalem between the Abu Tor and Silwan neighborhoods. These plots of land surround a cultural center and cafe [run](#) by the radical Elad settler group. They are part of an area over which Elad seeks to expand its control through elaborate plans involving touristic developments. The legal status of the land in question has been the subject of an ongoing legal dispute for nearly a year — a dispute which has seen an Israeli judge revoke several of the “gardening orders” which the Jerusalem Municipality issued in order to seize the land. In [June 2019](#), the Jerusalem Municipality issued “gardening orders” to take control of 12 plots of privately owned Palestinian land near the Elad development, ostensibly to add new landscaping, new terraces and a new walking path. “Gardening orders” allow Israel to “temporarily” take over privately owned land for what are public purposes (like establishing a parking lot or public garden), based on the argument that the owners are not presently using the land. Importantly, as Emek Shaveh notes, the 12 plots in question are located in an area declared by Israel to be a national park, meaning that private landowners are legally barred from using their own land. Under these orders, this control would be for a period lasting 5 years, with the likelihood of extensions after that — tantamount to expropriation. (EMEKSHEVA 12 March 2020)
- Israeli army bulldozers began razing Palestinian-owned farm lands in the occupied West Bank village of Jaloud, south of Nablus city. The new bulldozing started in area 13, known as the ‘Pats’ site. Jaloud village is already surrounded by a number of illegal colonial settlements, mainly on the eastern and western sides of the village. The bulldozing by the Israeli army, comes following remarks by Israeli defense minister, Naftali Bennet,

in which he announced his government's plans to expand the Shevout Rachile colonial settlement, to five times its current size, as well as connecting the Shilo and Shevout Rachile Settlement with other settlements. (IMEMC 24 March 2020)

- Israeli authorities in the northern West Bank city of Nablus, warned Palestinian residents in the area, that Israeli occupation army would soon uproot dozens of trees in the tourist zone of Almasoudiya. Israeli authorities handed over warrants to Palestinian residents in the Almasoudiya zone, that the authorities would soon remove the trees. The area in question is considered to be a historical one and that it contains some ancient monuments including trees that are all traced back to the Ottoman Empire era, some five hundred years ago. The action would further Israel's colonial settlement plans on Palestinian-owned lands. (IMEMC 30 March 2020)
- Israeli authorities in the northern West Bank city of Nablus, warned Palestinian residents in the area, that Israeli occupation army would soon uproot dozens of trees in the tourist zone of Almasoudiya. Israeli authorities handed over warrants to Palestinian residents in the Almasoudiya zone, that the authorities would soon remove the trees. The area in question is considered to be a historical one and that it contains some ancient monuments including trees that are all traced back to the Ottoman Empire era, some five hundred years ago. The action would further Israel's colonial settlement plans on Palestinian-owned lands. (IMEMC 30 March 2020)

Expansion of settlements

Expansion of settlements during the month of January 2020

- In two consecutive meetings on 5 and 6 January 2020, the Higher Planning Council of the Civil Administration advanced construction plans for 1,936 settlement housing units. 89% of the units promoted are in settlements that Israel may have to evacuate under a future peace agreement with the Palestinians (Geneva Initiative proposed borders). 1,150 of the units were approved for deposit (phase one of the planning process), while 786 units were approved for validation (final approval, though some larger settlements additionally require a tender). Noteworthy plans: Mitzpe Danny – A plan of 180 units was deposited for this illegal outpost of about

50 families, established in 1999 partially on private Palestinian land. The plan is thus intended to retroactively legalize the outpost and thereby whitewash an illegal settler takeover of private Palestinian land. Haresha – Haresha is an illegal outpost, established in 1997 on private Palestinian land and undefined land. About 70 families reside there. Over the years, a survey process was carried out in the area on which the outpost was established and was declared state land, except for part of the access road to the outpost, which was paved on private Palestinian land. A plan for 258 housing units was advanced to the validation stage (final stage), despite not having an access road built on state land. For the purpose of legalizing the outpost, Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit issued an opinion permitting Palestinian lands to be temporarily confiscated and to pave the rest of the access road with a tunnel under the land to the outpost. Mitzpe Yericho – A plan to retroactively legalize 147 illegal housing units in this settlement has now received approval (validation stage). Complete List of Plans Advanced: Rechelim – 7 units. Elon Moreh – 107 units. Zufim – 92 units. Etz Efraim – 10 units. Ariel – 12 units. Givat Ze'ev – 136 units. Karnei Shomron – 120 units. Ma'aleh Adumim – 63 units. Mitzpeh Yericho – 147 units. Halamish – 100 units. Mitzpe Danny (to be legalized as part of Ma'ale Mikhmas) – 180 units. Almon (Anatot) – 91 units. Shvut Rachel (formally part of Shilo) – 204 units. Talmon – 224 units. Haresha (to be legalized as part of Talmon) – 258 units. Kochav Yaacov – 160 units. Peduel – 25 units. [Click here for the full spreadsheet on these plans advanced.](#) ([PEACENOW](#) 6 January 2020)

- A Designer Villa With a Sprawling View of the Occupation: Today, when one goes through the front door of Idris Abdullah's house, one is confronted by an iron fence, its closely fitted bars topped with snarls of barbed wire, part of the fence that surrounds the nearby settlement of Leshem, in the central West Bank. Until a few years ago, what greeted one instead on departing the house was an olive grove. On the hilltop beyond the fence, a new neighborhood of villa-style homes is under construction, being built by workers from Hebron. A truck from the Shomrat Hazorea furniture company is already unloading merchandise in the yard of one of the new dwellings, and next door some trendy garden furniture has already been set up. When the Palestinian construction workers finish building these designer homes, the iron gate in the fence will be shut, and farmer Amar Abdullah, who is one of the owners of this land, who is accompanying us as we drive around, will no longer have access to the remnants of his olive grove. Meanwhile, sewage from plastic pipes that

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

emerge from under the Leshem villas is seeping into the grove and forming a puddle there. Deir Ballut, a large Palestinian village of 5,000 residents, is visible on the hill across the way. From every window in Deir Ballut, you have a view of the settler suburb that's going up on what local folks say is their private property – and which Israel declared “state land” in 1981, as per its usual plundering method. Deir Ballut's fields of wheat and vegetables lie in the fertile valley between the Palestinian village's hill and the settler hill where Leshem, an extension of the nearby Alei Zahav settlement, is growing apace. On every high hill, and even on those that are of lower elevation, wherever you look in the West Bank, there's a settler suburb for people who are seeking “quality of life” close to Metropolitan Tel Aviv. It's very crowded here, in this part of the territories, not far from the Green Line. From here one can see Peduel and Bruchin, two more settlements where construction is booming; on the road nearby is the Palestinian-owned Peace Car Wash. Leshem's new homes are increasingly encroaching on the iron fence surrounding it, approaching the first houses of Deir Ballut. Two months ago, the villagers were informed by the Palestinian Authority's Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission, that Israel intends to expropriate a strip of land 100 meters deep along the entire length of the Leshem fence. Ever since then, emotions have been running especially high in Deir Ballut. For full article, click here ([Haaretz](#), 18 January 2020)

- Governmental plan would expand Jerusalem further to west, damaging green areas: The Construction and Housing Ministry as well as local and national planning authorities are currently examining controversial plans that would expand Jerusalem westward into still-natural, green expanses. Environmental groups have warned about the serious dangers to flora and fauna posed by the schemes. The suburban area in question, known as the White Ridge, lies between the Ir Ganim neighborhood and the Yad Kennedy Memorial in southwest Jerusalem, near the Ora Junction. According to the first phase of the White Ridge plan, 5,000 residential units would be built on the green ridge in the area. While that scheme is still being discussed, the ministry has already begun considering construction of an additional 1,500 units abutting the new neighborhood, also at the expense of the remaining natural areas there, as part of a second stage of development. Past attempts to build in the vicinity were torpedoed. In the 1990s, after a long fight by environmental organizations, Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski ultimately canceled a plan for westward expansion as part of the Safdie project, due to pressure from environmentalists. However, in

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

recent years, under pressure from the Finance Ministry, proposals for the White Ridge have resurfaced. In July the District Planning Committee rejected efforts to oppose the first stage and gave it a green light, and about two weeks ago it was brought before the National Planning and Building Council. In around two months the district committee will discuss appeals submitted against the plan, and it is expected also to be reach the Supreme Court since a petition from the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council has also been filed. Today, as in the past, "green" groups and activists in Jerusalem claim that in addition to harming the landscape, the animals, vegetation and natural areas surrounding Jerusalem's southwestern suburbs, the initial phase of construction scheme would dry out Ein Lavan, a large spring under the White Ridge that attracts many hikers. The committee, for its part, says that the spring won't be harmed. The Housing Ministry reports that it has already begun its initial examination of the second-stage proposal. But environmental organizations are furious because they had been told that the first stage of the White Ridge plan was supposed to constitute the last effort to expand Jerusalem into the remaining open areas around it. In all the discussions, they told us that this was the last 'sacrifice' of open expanses in Jerusalem," said Liron Dean of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. "The plan has barely been approved and already they're beginning to plan exactly what they said wouldn't happen." According to Naomi Tsur, chairwoman of Sustainable Jerusalem, "Sustainable planning of a city requires development and increased [population] density within the existing boundaries of construction, and preventing the creation of a suburb that destroys natural resources and requires endless additional, heavy infrastructure." The White Ridge plan would allow urban renewal entrepreneurs to build some of the new units in the developing areas. Urban renewal programs aimed at upgrading 1950s' housing projects in the adjacent neighborhoods of Kiryat Yovel and Kiryat Menahem are supposed to make them more worthwhile and less crowded. But Tsur said it's all an excuse to expand the city at the expense of open spaces. "In effect, we're replacing yesterday's slums with tomorrow's slums," she said. The Housing Ministry said: "The plan for building in Jerusalem is in preliminary stages. In light of findings in the coming year and in cooperation with the planning organizations, we will decide whether there are reserves for additional expansion in the area. "The Housing and Construction Ministry invests a great deal in planning urban surroundings to make them efficient and high quality and invests in the relationship between them and the natural surroundings. For example, the

ministry invests in testing by hydrologists and ecologists so that the runoff water won't cause damage, but will enter the groundwater without harming nature. The ministry is doing a lot to solve the major housing shortage in Jerusalem." ([Haaretz](#), 20 January 2020)

Expansion of settlements during the month of February 2020

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) began the groundwork for the construction of a road that would connect the settlements in the northern occupied West Bank with those in the Jordan Valley. The planned 8-kilometer-long road would connect the settlements of Eli and Shilo in Nablus Governorates with settlements in the Jordan Valley, describing the move as one of the most serious Israeli projects aimed to seize more Palestinian land and further restrict Palestinian movement. The fertile agricultural lands which Israeli is exploiting belongs to the Palestinian villages of Duma, Talfit, Qaryout, and al-Mughayyir, south of Nablus, and to the villagers of Fasayel in the central Jordan Valley. (IMEMC 13 February 2020)
- The Israeli Ministry of Housing announced that it plans to construct thousands of new Israeli settlement units in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Kafr Aqab, in violation of international law and all past signed peace agreements, and even violating the Trump-Kushner Plan, which had designated the neighborhood as part of the fast-shrinking Palestinian territory. The Trump-Kushner 'Deal of the Century' had considered Kafr Aqab as one of the few Palestinian areas to be left under Palestinian control. But the Israeli Ministry of Housing has other plans for the land in question, including displacing the existing Palestinian population and replacing them with Jewish-only settlements. According to the Israeli paper Ha'aretz, the new settlement "will be built on the lands of Qalandiya Airport, up to the separation wall, so that the wall separates the new settlement neighborhood and Palestinian areas in the Jerusalem area, such as Kafr Aqab." The plan for the new settlement includes about 1,200 acres, and will include the construction of 6 to 9 thousand housing units, with shopping centers comprising an additional 300,000 square meters. The Israeli Ministry of Housing claims that the land is owned by the state and the National Fund for Israel, but acknowledges that a large proportion of the land is owned by individual Palestinian owners. According to the plan, ownership will be redistributed in the area before the licenses are issued, without the consent of the landowners. The settlement plan includes lands

at the airport “Atarot” (Qalandia), which was closed by the Israeli authorities when the Second Intifada broke out in September 2000. Haaretz pointed out that the settlement plan was drawn up several years ago, and it was frozen on more than one occasion due to international political pressure rejecting settlement in the occupied territories in 1967. This included opposition from the previous American administration, headed by Barack Obama at the time, who opposed settlement expansion in Jerusalem. According to Haaretz, “the Trump peace plan’s chapter on Jerusalem includes a section titled ‘Special Tourist Area.’ The plan specifies that ‘The State of Israel should allow for the development by the State of Palestine of a special tourism zone in Atarot, in a specific area to be agreed upon by the parties.’ “This zone, according to the peace plan, ‘should be a world class tourist zone that should support Muslim tourism to Jerusalem and its holy sites,’ and would include restaurants, shops, hotels, cultural centers, and other tourism facilities, along with ‘state-of-the-art public transportation that provides easy access to and from the holy sites.’” But with this announcement from the Israeli Housing Ministry, it seems that Israeli officials are already thwarting the proposal for a Palestinian tourist area in Atarot, by pre-emptively constructing a colonial settlement that encompasses the entire neighborhood around Atarot and displaces the thousands of Palestinian residents who live there. ([PEACENOW](#), IMEMC, Haaretz, [JPOST](#), [Haaretz](#) 19 February 2020)

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the construction of thousands of housing units in Israeli settlements in Jerusalem. Netanyahu said there are plans for at least 4,000 houses to be build, with 3,000 of the units set to be constructed in the settlement of Givat HaMatos in south Jerusalem and another 1,000 in Beit Safafa, a Palestinian town in East Jerusalem, and is meant to benefit the local residents. The announcement comes less than two weeks before the March 2 election and eight years since the plans for construction in the area had been put forward but halted due to international pressure. Netanyahu said the plan is meant to connect all parts of the "united" Jerusalem and establish a new Jewish neighborhood. “Today, I announce the establishment of Har Homa Heh, a neighborhood in which we will build 2,200 residential units. This is another approximately 12,000 residents. Har Homa will be a neighborhood with around 50,000 residents. This is like an average-sized city in Israel, just in this neighborhood alone.” ([Ynetnews](#) , [JPOST](#), [PEACENOW](#) , [Haaretz](#) 20 February 2020)

- We are building up Jerusalem and the outskirts of Jerusalem. I gave an immediate directive, to deposit plans to build 3500 housing units in E1," the prime minister said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu crossed a diplomatic redline Tuesday when he announced he would advance plans for the construction of 3,500 homes in an undeveloped area of Ma'aleh Adumim known as E1. The settlement, the third largest Jewish West Bank city, is located just east of Jerusalem. Israel considers [Ma'aleh Adumim](#) and the E1 section essential to safeguard a unified Jerusalem. "We are [building up Jerusalem](#) and the outskirts of Jerusalem," Netanyahu told a largely right-wing crowd at the annual Besheva conference in Jerusalem. "I gave an immediate directive, to deposit plans to build of 3,500 housing units in E1," he said to applause. "This thing has been frozen," Netanyahu said, adding that E1 building has "enormous significance," and "I believe that everyone here understands what that is." Netanyahu also confirmed that a tender had been published this week for 1,077 homes for a new Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem, called Givat Hamatos, in the south part of the capital not far from PA-controlled Bethlehem in area A of the West Bank. Both projects had been diplomatically sensitive because the Palestinians and much of the international community believe they harm the territorial contiguity of a future Palestinian state. Under former president Barack Obama, the US pressured Israel not to advance either project. The E1 neighborhood, first put forward by former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, has been viewed as particularly sensitive. Every prime minister since Rabin has promised to build there, but no one ever has, apart from an isolated police station atop the hill of E1. Netanyahu renewed his E1 pledge in 2012 in response to a UN General Assembly decision to upgrade Palestinian status to that of a nonmember state, a move that was considered to be a de facto recognition of Palestinian statehood. But nothing ever came of that pledge, which was similarly made during an election period. At that time, Netanyahu was under pressure from the former Obama administration not to make a move on E1. The Trump administration presumably has no issue with E1 construction, given that it has already said Israel can apply sovereignty to all the settlements, simply not at this time. This presumably includes E1, which is located within Ma'aleh Adumim's municipal boundaries. MA'ALEH ADUMIM Mayor Benny Kashriel has long argued that the area is needed to allow for population growth in his city of some 38,000 people. "This is a celebratory day for Ma'aleh Adumim," he told The Jerusalem Post. "Building in E1 is a housing solution for many young couples... It promises territorial

contiguity with Jerusalem.” Kashriel said he believes Netanyahu because the professional staff has already been ordered to work on submission of the plans to the Higher Planning Council for Judea and Samaria. Yesha Council head David Elhayani, who is also Jordan Valley Regional Council chairman, welcomed Netanyahu’s “important decision,” which he said would enable a “broad and strategic” link between Jerusalem and Ma’aleh Adumim. Palestinian officials on Tuesday condemned the E1 project and warned that Israeli policies would lead to further tensions with the Palestinians. PLO Secretary-General Saeb Erekat tweeted about the E1 project: “If carried out, it is the end of two states.” Palestinian Authority spokesman Nabil Abu Rudaineh said Netanyahu’s announcement “is the result of the biased and dangerous American policy in favor of Israeli occupation.” Netanyahu’s decision, he said, “challenges the statement that was passed unanimously on Monday by the UN Security Council to refrain from undermining the viability of the two-state solution.” Abu Rudaineh warned the Israeli government against continuing “with this escalated policy that will not bring security and stability to anyone but, rather, increase tension and violence in the region.” On February 24, the Security Council heard a briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, on the latest developments concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In a closed-door meeting, Security Council members reiterated their support for a negotiated two-state solution, drawing applause from the PA leadership in the West Bank, Abu Rudaineh said. PLO Executive Committee member Hanan Ashrawi denounced the announcement as a “premeditated and clear step that deals a final and decisive blow to the practicability of the two-state solution formula and leaves no room for doubt about Israel’s agenda for permanent occupation.” Noting that the Israeli government had recently announced plans to build new housing units in Jerusalem, she said: “These announcements specifically target areas in and around occupied Jerusalem. They effectively and practically encircle the occupied capital and carve it out of the occupied Palestinian territory while dividing the rest of the West Bank into two separate parts.” (J POST 25 February 2020)

- A tender was issued Monday for 1,077 homes in a new Jewish neighborhood on east Jerusalem's Givat Hamatos, not far from the Palestinian city of Bethlehem, Peace Now said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pushed forward the project to help cement Israel’s hold on a [united Jerusalem](#). Peace Now has warned that it would “sever” the territorial contiguity of a Palestinian Jerusalem-Bethlehem metropolitan

area. “Construction in Givat Hamatos is a serious blow to the two-state solution. This is the last point enabling territorial continuity between Bethlehem and east Jerusalem,” the NGO said. Bids open March 5 and close on June 22. Peace Now further stated that the IDF’s Higher Planning Council for Judea and Samaria intends to meet on Thursday to advance plans for building 1,148 homes in West Bank [settlements](#). Among the projects on the agenda is a new industrial park, Sha’ar Hashomron, which will be located near Kalkilya. The council will also move on a plan for 620 homes in the settlement of Eli, which had been frozen due to a High Court of Justice injunction against the project. The court removed that injunction last week. All of Israel’s building measures over the pre-1967 lines fall within the parameters of the Trump peace plan. But the Palestinians and the United Nations, as well as Peace Now, are holding out for a two-state solution based on the pre-1967 lines, with east Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital. With an eye to that parameter, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov spoke against Israel building over the pre-1967 lines, as well as Israeli moves to advance sovereignty, when he addressed the UN Security Council in New York by video from Jerusalem. “The Secretary-General [Antonio Guterres] has consistently spoken out against unilateral steps and plans for annexation,” Mladenov said. “Such steps, including the possible annexation of territory in the West Bank or similar moves, would have a devastating impact on the prospect for a two-state solution. They would close the door to negotiations, have negative repercussions across the region, and severely undermine opportunities for normalization and regional peace.”(J POST 25 February 2020)

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that he gave the approval for the construction of 3,500 units in illegal Israeli colonies, in the E1 area between Ma’ale Adumim colony and occupied Jerusalem. Netanyahu stated that the United States and its President D. Trump recognizes what he called “Israel’s sovereignty in the Jordan Valley of the occupied West Bank, the areas north of the Dead Sea, and in every part of the West Bank.” Referring to the so-called “Deal of the Century,” Netanyahu stated that he has ordered the construction of 3500 units, in E1. Netanyahu stated that he is reviving larger construction and expansion plans of the colonies in the occupied West Bank, a move that is meant to prevent any continuity of a future Palestinian state, and only aims at more annexation of Palestinian lands, and more construction of colonies, in direct violation of International Law, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and various

United Nations and Security Council resolutions. The Israeli Prime Minister also reiterated the demand that the Palestinians must recognize what he called the “unified Jerusalem,” as the capital of Israel – thereby nullifying any Palestinian claim to the city. He demanded that the Palestinians agree to what he called “disarming Hamas, stopping incitement and implementing a democratic constitution. In response to Netanyahu’s declaration of expansion of Israeli colonies, Dr. Saeb Erekat, Chief Palestinian Negotiator, and Secretary-General of the Palestine Liberation Organization, stated that Netanyahu’s announcement of massive colony expansion is unprecedented, and is a direct result of Netanyahu’s meeting with U.S. Ambassador Friedman in which the two consulted over which Palestinian land would next be taken by force and annexed into Israel. In addition, Netanyahu’s government declared that 1,000 new Israeli-only colonial settlement units would be constructed in the settlement of Givat Hamtos, south of Jerusalem. And Netanyahu announced a plan to construct another 5,200 colonial settlement units in East Jerusalem. (IMEMC 27 February 2020)

Expansion of settlements during the month of March 2020

- The Defense Ministry has green-lighted planning for what it called a “sovereignty road” that would allow Palestinian traffic to bypass Israeli settlements in the E1 area of the West Bank. “We’re applying sovereignty in deeds, not words,” Defense Minister Naftali Bennett said on Monday, as he made a subtle dig at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for not having already annexed all of the West Bank settlements, including the area outside of Jerusalem where the road is located. As part of his re-election campaign, Netanyahu last month agreed to advance plans for [3,500 new homes](#) in an unbuilt area of the Ma’aleh Adumim settlement, known as E1. To make the project tenable for area Palestinians, roads are needed that would allow them to bypass that area, so that they could have continuous travel between their communities. The overall transportation project has been called the “fabric of life” road. [Bennett](#) has now pushed forward with a road that would link the Palestinian village of Azzim outside of Jerusalem with the neighboring villages and towns of Anata, Hizme and A-Ram. In his announcement to the media, the defense minister explained that this would be a “separate road” for Palestinians in the E1 area, which would allow for vehicles with Palestinian license plates to move on a separate

route from those with Israeli license plates, so that they would not have to cross inside the Ma'aleh Adumim bloc. Bennett said that, "Today we are giving a green light to the sovereignty road and embarking on the process of connecting Jerusalem with Ma'aleh Adumim. The project will improve the quality of life for the residents in the area, avoid unnecessary friction with the Palestinian population and, most importantly, allow for continued settlement construction." Peace Now said it was disingenuous for the Defense Ministry to speak of improving life for the Palestinians when its sole concern was settlement expansion. Palestinians and the international community have opposed the E1 project. They have argued that it destroys any possibility of a contiguous Palestinian state and thus makes such a state untenable. Peace Now similarly said that the road project was "bad for Israel" because it eliminated the possibility of a two-state resolution to the conflict. ([IPOST](#), [PEACENOW](#) 9 March 2020)

- While the public's attention is focused on the coronavirus and the endless attempts to form a government, "life itself" continues as usual: Israel has started planning a new road in the West Bank that Defense [Minister Naftali Bennett](#) has already nicknamed "the sovereignty road." [This is a separate road](#) for Palestinians, and it will let Israel build a settlement in the E1 region. E1 is an area of 12 square kilometers (4.6 square miles) that has been appended to the municipality of Ma'aleh Adumim. Plans to build in this area have been frozen for years because construction there would sever the West Bank in two – a step with dramatic political and diplomatic ramifications. The new road ostensibly solves this problem. Its declared intention is to divert Palestinian traffic from Route 1 to a road that will pass through the area's Palestinian villages and leave Route 1 "free" of Palestinians. In Bennett's sanitized language, this "will prevent unnecessary friction with the Palestinian population." The new road will let Israel continue building the separation barrier around Ma'aleh Adumim and E1 and bar Palestinian access to Route 1 in the section closest to these areas. It's a continuation of [the "apartheid road"](#) that has separate lanes for Israelis and Palestinians with a wall dividing the lanes. The new road is supposed to run underneath the separation barrier. According to Bennett, this will negate the claim that Israel is severing the West Bank in a way that doesn't enable Palestinian movement, because Israel will be creating "transportation contiguity" for them. The road will join Route 443, which separates the villages to its north and south, and the underground roads beneath it that connect those villages – roads that Israel, without shame, calls "fabric of life roads." To all this should also be added the "bypass"

roads that Israel has planned and built in the West Bank in recent years – they bypass Palestinian villages and allow settlers to travel through the West Bank without fear of encountering the local people. At least Bennett isn't hiding his plans. The press statement that announced construction of the new road ended with the words “applying sovereignty – in deeds, not in words.” To the defense minister's credit, it must be said that he makes a mockery of any pretension that Israel is managing the West Bank for the benefit of the Palestinians and their “fabric of life.” But when this announcement is added to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statements a few weeks ago that Israel should resume construction efforts in E1, it's clear where his right-wing government will be heading if it remains in power – toward annexing territory and deepening apartheid via separate roads and legal systems. ([Haaretz](#) 11 March 2020)

- **This is Not a Drill: the Past Week's Settlement Announcements:**
Exactly one year ago, in February 2019, in the run-up to the first round of Israeli elections in the past year, we wrote: *“Like most people, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is a creature of habits - and one of those habits relates to how he uses the issue of Jerusalem in elections. In the past, Netanyahu has repeatedly used last-minute Jerusalem related events in order to energize his base. Exploiting Jerusalem for electoral gain can be viewed as part of his electoral modus operandi. ...[T]he potential is high for a Netanyahu-led inflammatory Jerusalem-related event - for example, a move to strengthen Israel's control over or foothold within East Jerusalem, or in adjacent areas of the West Bank - in the weeks or days before election day (April 9)”*. Among the potential inflammatory schemes likely, we cited the approval of E-1 and the publication of tenders at Givat Hamatos. On February 20, one week before the third national elections in one year, as Netanyahu is fighting for his political survival, our worst fears indeed did materialize. Netanyahu announced the approval of construction at E-1, Givat Hamatos, and Har Homa, and these three schemes had been preceded by a similar announcement regarding Atarot. The announcement was initially so fraught with errors and generalities that some hoped that this might be theater in the service of Netanyahu's re-election campaign. Nothing can be further from the truth. In the days that followed, and one week before the elections scheduled on March 2, Netanyahu backed up words with deeds, issued tenders at Givat Hamatos, ordered the statutory approval of E-1, green-lighted statutory deliberations over Har Homa E and yet an additional expansion of Givat Hamatos. Two of these schemes, the Givat Hamatos tenders and the statutory approval

of E-1, are the two most devastating settlement developments since 1967. They are a clear and present danger, posing an immediate threat to the possibility of any two-state outcome. Dovetailed with the recently released Trump initiative and the approaching annexation scheme, they threaten to condemn Israel to perpetual occupation, the gravest existing threat to the long-term viability of the State of Israel. Whereas Givat Hamatos tenders and the decision on E-1 are both dangerous and imminent, and will be very difficult to stop, the plans regarding Har Homa E, Atarot and the expansion of Givat Hamatos (as opposed to the tenders) are only in the embryonic stages. Consequently, we will commence our analysis with the two “doomsday” plans, and conclude with a brief description of the less immediately dangerous plans. ([t-j](#) 11 March 2020)

- It took less than a year for the government to start [building](#) new neighborhoods in [Jerusalem](#) beyond the Green Line, following the Six Day War. As part of the need to restore the Hadassah Hospital and Hebrew University on Mount Scopus – which were cut off for 19 years from the rest of the city – the first aim was to create continuity between the Jewish neighborhoods and connect Mount Scopus with the western side of the city. Ramat Eshkol was the first of the new contiguous neighborhoods, soon followed by French Hill, Givat Hamivtar and Ma’alot Dafna. Ramat Eshkol was also the first neighborhood, which from the outset the initial plans included buildings higher than four stories. Some few years later, its first tower was added – a ten-story building on the Eshkol Boulevard. ([jpost](#) 12 March 2020)
- **The yearly construction average since Trump’s administration is 25% higher than during the Obama years.** A. Highlights – Settlement Construction In The West Bank, 2019: (East Jerusalem excluded). **11 New settlement outposts (illegal agriculture farms) were established in 2019**, all of them in areas that Israel will need to evict under a two state solution (east of the Geneva Initiative proposed border). **1,917 new housing units** began construction in 2019. **Yearly average of construction since Trump’s administration (2,267 units) is 25% higher than the yearly average under Obama’s administration (1,807 units).** In the last 3 years there were 6,800 new units (yearly average of 2,267 units) according to Peace Now’s count. 2,783 units in 2017; 2,100 units in 2018; and 1,917 units in 2019; compared to an average of 1,807 units per year in the years 2009 – 2016: 1,174 units in 2009; 1,545 units in 2010; 1,792 units in 2011; 1,554 units

in 2012; 1,684 in 2013; 3,100 in 2014; 1,800 in 2015; and 1,814 in 2016. **Nearly 63% (1,200 housing units)** of the new construction was in settlements east of the proposed Geneva Initiative border, i.e. settlements likely to be evacuated in a two-state agreement. At least 10% (195 housing units) of the construction was illegal, in illegal outposts. The vast majority of new construction, 91% (1,764 housing units), was for permanent structures, while that the remainder was mobile homes both in outposts and in settlements. 61 new public buildings (such as schools, synagogues etc.) started to be built, alongside 87 structures for industry or agriculture (53% of them in illegal outposts). 56% of the construction was in national-religious settlements (1,065 units); 39% of the construction was in Ultra-Orthodox settlements (741 units) and only 5% of the construction was in secular settlements. Advancement of Plans and Tenders in 2019 (January-December): 8,457 Housing units were advanced through plans in 58 settlements. Almost 68% (5,783 housing units) of the planned units were east of the purposed Geneva Initiative border. Tenders were published for 1,761 housing units, 956 of them in settlements and 805 units in East Jerusalem Israeli neighborhoods. It should be noted that since January 2020 and before the election on March 2nd, the Israeli government managed to advance plans for 7,582 units (including 3,401 units in E1) and to publish tenders for 3,332 units (1,785 of them in settlements and 1,547 in East Jerusalem, including in Givat Hamatos). ([PEACENOW](#) 18 March 2020)

- Construction in Settlements in the Jordan Valley in 2019: the following is an appendix to the 2019 yearly settlement construction report of Peace Now. Background: The Jordan Valley – Small settlements, huge amounts of land: Since 1967, Israeli governments have tried to encourage settlement in the Jordan Valley through various incentives. Recently, the prime minister announced plans to annex the valley. In September 2019, he presented an annexation blueprint map for 22.3% of the West Bank in the Jordan Valley, with 30 settlements and 18 illegal outposts. The so-called Trump Plan, crafted with ample input from Netanyahu, supports an annexation of the Jordan Valley although with a slightly different map than Netanyahu's. For the sake of the following report, the Jordan Valley boundaries were defined according to Netanyahu's proposed annexation map. Despite the efforts of various governments, all failed to bring a massive amount of settlers to the Jordan Valley. Currently, only 12,788 settlers live in the Valley—about 3% of the settlers (interestingly, in the East Bank, Jordan, the Jordanian government managed to bring hundreds of thousands of

residents to the area with the same climate and distances from Jordanian populated centers). At the same time, [the takeover of the Jordan Valley lands is almost complete](#). Since 1967, Israel has implemented a policy of [dispossession of the Palestinians](#) – an absolute majority of the land was seized for firing zones and training purposes, and [hundreds of thousands of dunams were allocated to settlers for agricultural use](#). The Palestinians have limited areas where Israel allows them to build and live in small enclaves of about 5% of the Valley—in the Jericho area that is Area A, and in some small villages considered Area B. 95% of the Valley is considered to be Area C, under full Israeli control, and Israeli policy is not to permit any construction and development for the Palestinians. Thus, the reality in the Jordan Valley is one whereby a small minority of residents (12,788 settlers) control 95% of the land, while the Palestinian majority (52,950 – 81% of the Valley's population) are confined to small enclaves in the remaining 5% of the area. ([PEACENOW](#) 18 March 2020)

- A right-wing Israeli parliamentarian submitted two bills to the Knesset on Wednesday seeking to permanently annex the Jordan Valley, the northern Dead Sea and the Hebron desert in the occupied West Bank to Israel, as well as impose the death penalty on Palestinian political prisoners. Miki Zohar, the head of the Likud faction in the Knesset, said that the two bills he submitted would “embarrass” former army general Benny Gantz of the Blue and White party and Avigdor Lieberman of Yisrael Beiteinu. Gantz is currently speaking with Israeli parties to form a coalition government after receiving a thin majority last week from Israeli Knesset members. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of Likud party, is maintaining contact with Gantz in a bid to form a national unity government, though the chances are slim that the two rivals will find common ground. Netanyahu is facing corruption charges and he could be sentenced to up to ten years in prison if convicted. Due to the [coronavirus pandemic](#), the first court hearing for Netanyahu's case was postponed this week to May. Gantz is still examining the possibility to enter an alliance with Lieberman and the Arab Joint List, a political coalition of parties representing Palestinian citizens of Israel, in order to form a government. Lieberman has long depicted the Palestinian community inside Israel as a “fifth column” and called them “enemies”. Nonetheless, he agreed with Gantz for the Joint List to provide parliamentary support to the coalition but not participate in the government. The Joint List opposes the annexation of occupied Palestinian lands and the death penalty. [Newspaper Israel Hayom](#) quoted Zohar as

saying that his aim was to weaken Gantz's bloc. "Let's see this wonderful cooperation between the Joint List, Yisrael Beiteinu and Blue and White. We will see how they will work together [with] those who work against the state," Zohar said. "Shall we see [Gantz and Lieberman] oppose these legislations in order to please their new friends from the Joint List?" In [December 2017](#), Lieberman - who then served as defence minister - introduced a bill allowing the use of the death penalty against Palestinian prisoners. The bill did not go through the Knesset. Israel has not carried out any executions since 1962, when Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann was hanged. Israel abolished the use of capital punishment for murder in civil courts in 1954, though it can still in theory be applied for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, treason and crimes against the Jewish people. ([MEE](#) 18 March 2020)

- The Higher Planning Council \ the Subcommittee for Settlement put forward a plan to expand the Efrat settlement on the lands of Bethlehem, and put it up for opposition within a period of 60 days. The proposal for this plan came at a time when the Palestinian territories are witnessing a movement ban and a quarantine to prevent coronavirus pandemic, and amid the declaration of a state of emergency and the closure of Israeli institutions that issue some of the documents necessary for the objection. Israel intends to confiscate about 569 dunums, 477 of which are outside the boundaries of the Efrat Settlement. This settlement plan aims to change the usage of lands from agricultural to building land in order to construct roads and open areas. (NBPRS 31 March 2020)

Erection of Israeli checkpoints

Erection of Israeli checkpoints during the month of February 2020

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) continued, for the sixth consecutive day, to impose tight security measures on movement of Palestinian citizens on roads near the villages and towns of northwestern Ramallah. The IOA shut down the road barriers on the main roads leading to villages and towns in the northwest of Ramallah, set up new checkpoints and obstructed the movement of Palestinian citizens and their vehicles. Such Israeli restrictions on movement always cause a heavy build-up of traffic on the roads, especially when citizens go to and come from their workplaces and schools. The villages and towns affected by these Israeli measures are Beit Rima,

Nabi Saleh, Deir Ghassana, Deir Nidham, Aboud, and Kafr Ein (all in Ramallah), as well as Qirawa, Kafr ad-Dik, and Burqin in western Salfit. (PALINFO 15 February 2020)

- In Ramallah, in central West Bank, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) placed concrete blocks at the main entrance of Deir Nitham village, west of the city, completely closing it. The IOA placed concrete blocks, and an iron gate, at the main entrance of the village a few days ago, but the locals managed to remove them and reopened the road. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) sealed off the main checkpoint of Tayaseer, east of Tubas city, in the northern West Bank. The IOA manning the checkpoint closed it in both directions, disconnecting Tubas from the northern Jordan Valley and forcing Palestinians to look for longer routes to reach their destinations. Israeli severely restricts Palestinians' freedom of movement through a complex combination of approximately 100 fixed checkpoints, flying checkpoints, settler-only roads and various other physical obstructions. (Wafa 21 February 2020)

Erection of Israeli checkpoints during the month of March 2020

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened a few metal gates, to the south of the occupied West Bank district of Qalqilia, in order for Palestinians working in Israel to return home. The IOA opened the military gates of the apartheid wall in order to allow Palestinian workers to return from their workplaces inside Israel to their homes. The move is designed to sabotage the precautionary measures taken by Palestinian security forces and the Ministry of Health to contain the spread of the coronavirus in the occupied territories, including detection of suspected coronavirus cases among workers and forcing them into 14-day home quarantine. Over the past few days, a number of Palestinian workers who work inside Israel have been dropped off at checkpoints between Israel and the northern West Bank after displaying symptoms of the [novel coronavirus](#) - also known as Covid-19. This has compelled the Palestinian government to order all Palestinian workers in Israel to come back to the West Bank and enter a mandatory 14-day quarantine or risk facing unspecified penalties. (Wafa 30 March 2020)

Israeli Closures

Israeli Closures during the month of February 2020

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) sealed off all entrances to the village of Kisan, east of Bethlehem, southern occupied West Bank, as a prelude to take over a piece of land there. Ahmad Ghazal, Kisan deputy head of village council, said Israeli military forces stormed the village amid intensive security measures and sealed off all entrances, preventing residents from entering or leaving the village. He said Israeli forces informed him of their intentions to take over a piece of land in the village, and confiscate all equipment in the area, where a new Palestinian school project recently began.(IMEMC 3 February 2020)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) announced tightening restrictions on the movement of goods into the Gaza Strip and on the movement of merchants/businesspersons in response to incendiary balloons and projectiles fired towards Israeli communities near the Gaza Strip. In a press release, Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, Maj. Gen. Kamil Abu Rokon, announced freezing facilitations relevant to commerce, economy and movement across checkpoints, including decreasing the number of businesspersons permits and ceasing import of cement to the Gaza Strip. The Coordinator proclaimed that these measures are in response to *violence* against Israel in its border area with the Gaza Strip and launching projectiles towards Israel. According to PCHR follow-up, Israeli authorities informed the Presidential Committee for Goods Coordination in Gaza that its decision to ban the entry of cement into the Gaza Strip is effective as of February 1, 2020. Simultaneously, IOF annulled 460 exit permits previously issued for businesspersons from the Gaza Strip. It should be noted that this decision followed Israeli authorities' decision 3 days earlier to allow entry of the type of cement used for tiling through Kerm Shalom crossing in a departure from the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM) managed by the United Nations. While entry of cement used to make concrete was sustained through GRM. This decision falls under the Israeli closure policy imposed on the Gaza Strip since June 2007, as tight restrictions are imposed on the movement of persons and goods ever since. In terms of commercial crossing, Israeli authorities have 62 items listed on the "dual-use" items, these items include basic materials and commodities. Furthermore, Israeli authorities continue to ban Gaza exports except for a marginal amount that does not exceed 5.7% of the Gaza monthly exports prior to June 2007. As to crossings dedicated for the movement of individuals, IOF continue to impose extreme restrictions on the freedom of movement of the Gaza population through Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing and only allows a limited number of categories with great

limitations. These newly adopted measures by Israel will deepen the humanitarian and living crises of the Gaza Strip, especially under the skyrocketing unemployment, poverty and food insecurity. The Gaza unemployment has reached 45%, a total of 217,100 thousand workers unemployed, while more than 50% are under the poverty line according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics poverty in the Gaza Strip is 53%, and more than 67% of the Gaza population suffer from food insecurity according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is greatly concerned about IOF's decision to tighten the Gaza closure for its grave consequences on the economic and living conditions of the Gaza Strip population. PCHR believes that this decision is a form of collective punishment and retaliatory action committed by IOA against Palestinian civilians. (PCHRGAZA , IMEMC 6 February 2020)

- Israel reinforced closure of two access roads to the village of Deir Nidham, northwest of the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, already closed with a metal gate and a concrete barrier, with dirt mounds. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) added dirt mounds to the two northern entrances to the village despite the fact that they have been shut for a while with a metal gate and a concrete barrier to make it harder for even people to walk through them on foot, let alone drive their cars. Only one access road remains for the village, on the eastern side, but that one also has an iron gate installed and a permanent military checkpoint where people are usually stopped and inspected, often delayed for hours. (WAFSA 20 February 2020)
- A Palestinian bakery in the heart of Old Jerusalem has been forced to close by Israeli authorities after 60 years in business. The reason provided for the forced closure was that the bakery had been providing baked goods to Palestinian worshipers headed to Al-Aqsa Mosque to pray. The Israeli occupation government in Jerusalem ordered the owner of the bakery, Abu Naser Abu Sneineh, to cease providing ka'ek – an oval shaped bread with sesame seeds that is extremely popular in Palestine – to people praying at the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Israeli municipal authorities that gave the order did not say why it was a problem for the bakery to be distributing ka'ek to worshipers (IMEMC 24 February 2020)
- Israel closed Gaza's border crossings and the entire fishing area as a ceasefire agreed between Israel and the Palestinian factions in Gaza went into effect on the 24th of February 2020. But before the ceasefire went into

effect at 10:00 p.m. local time, a barrage of rockets fired from Gaza fell in southern Israel for the second day in a row in retaliation for Israel's airstrikes that medical sources said resulted in the injury of at least five people in addition to eight others injured when an Israeli Iron Dome missile fell near a house in Shajaiyeh neighborhood, east of Gaza City. Israel ordered shut down until further notice of Karm Abu Salem/Kerem Shalom border crossing, which is considered Gaza's only commercial crossing with Israel, except for food, fuel and medical supplies, Erez/Beit Hanoun border crossing except for humanitarian cases and the entire fishing area, one of Gaza's main income sources. Israel claimed the strikes came in response to rockets fired by Islamic Jihad operatives in Gaza into southern Israel that did not cause any injury or damage. Wafa 25 February 2020)

- The Israeli occupation authorities (IOA), decided to close the territories from next Monday, through Tuesday. The closure will include the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and that the authorities cited parliamentary Israeli elections, which are slated for Monday, March 2, 2020. However, the decision excludes humanitarian cases, involving patients in need of treatment, at Israeli or West Bank hospitals. Other categories of Palestinian travelers will be barred from crossing into Israel-ruled regions. Both Gaza and the West Bank are populated by Palestinians, who have nothing to do with Israeli elections. Closing their territories affects the movement of both people and goods, as Israeli border crossings are the main gateways, in and out of Palestinian territories. Israeli elections, to be held next Monday, are the third round after two similar rounds in April and September of last year, had failed to bring an elected Israeli government. (IMEMC 29 February 2019)

Israeli Closures during the month of March 2020

- Several Israeli military checkpoints were installed at the entrances to towns and camps in the Hebron Governorate, and the vehicles of the Palestinians driving in those areas were searched and their identities checked. (IMEMC 4 March 2020)
- Israeli occupation authorities announced last night the full closure of all crossings with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as part of ongoing precautions against the spread of novel COVID-19 (coronavirus). Under the current closure conditions, workers, merchants and other permit-holders will not be allowed to enter Israel until further notice, with the exception of some permitted cases working in the vital healthcare sector. Palestinians working in Israel would have to find accommodation at their employer's

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

discretion in Israel without commuting back to their homes in the West Bank or Gaza at the end of the day, as is the case in the rest of the year. Previously, thousands of Palestinian workers in the West Bank and Gaza would commute to Israel via the border crossings in the early morning for their workplace, and would return to their homes in the evening. (Wafa 22 March 2020)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) blocked off a number of entrances of villages and towns south of the southern occupied West Bank city of Hebron. The IOA closed the metal gates at the access roads to Dora town and Fawwar refugee camp, as well placing a new metal gate leading to Yatta town. (IMEMC 25 March 2020)
- Palestinian farmers were surprised by Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) storming the greenhouses they were working in and forcing them to leave them while a bulldozer started to close nearby agricultural roads with dirt. The bulldozer of the Israeli army closed with dirt mounds agricultural roads linking the villages of Kafa and Shufa with a number of neighboring villages southeast of the northern West Bank city of Tulkarm. The Israeli army closed several roads used by local farmers to reach their lands and which are located near the settlement of Avni Haifetz, built on village lands, and thus preventing the movement of farmers, access to their farmland and grazing their sheep. The goal of closing these roads is for settlement purposes, to seize more Palestinian lands, and to protect settlers, especially one settler who unilaterally set up a mobile home and three plastic greenhouses in that area, in addition to raising more than 100 sheep grazing on local farmers' lands, and, who, under threat of arms and protected by the soldiers, assault farmers working on their land in that area. (Wafa 31 March 2020)
- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) closed the Ibrahimi Mosque and prevented the guards from entering it without any justification, while only allowing the muezzin to enter for the call prayer. This behavior is considered as an Israeli attempt to fully control the Mosque, in a move that may continue beyond the end of the coronavirus crisis. (PNN 31 March 2020)
- In Jenin, the Israeli occupation Army (IOA) isolated about 8 thousand citizens in the eastern town of Barta'a, behind the apartheid wall under the pretext of preventing the spread of the Coronavirus. The IOA closed the Barta'a military checkpoint in both directions, the only exit for the people of the village and its surroundings. (NBPRS 31 March 2020)

- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) closed the Al-Jeeb military checkpoint that connects the Al-Khalaila neighborhood and the village of Nabi Samuel with the Al-Jib town, northwest of Jerusalem. (NBPRS 31 March 2020)

Other Related News

Related News during the month of January 2020

- The Jerusalem City Council approved a plan “to construct an educational campus for Education Ministry schools near the city’s Arab Shuafat and Anata neighborhoods...outside the pre-1967 borders but within Jerusalem’s municipal borders.” “These schools will be an alternative to the UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) schools which currently dominate the area,” says the news website, adding that the project will cost NIS 7.1 million (\$2,055,617). “UNRWA in Jerusalem represents the only UNRWA entity under full Israeli control,” says David Bedein, the Center for Near East Policy Research, author of *Roadblock to Peace – How the UN Perpetuates the Arab-Israeli Conflict* and an active voice in efforts to reform UNRWA. “Given the fact that Israel can act to assert its control over UNRWA policies in Jerusalem, the previous Mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barkat, in his final few months in office in 2018, suggested that Israel terminate UNRWA’s operations in Jerusalem,” Bedein told *United With Israel*. “Picking up where Barkat left off,” he added, “Jerusalem’s new Deputy Mayor, Fleur Hassan-Nahoum, now serving Arab communities in Jerusalem, has embarked on an ambitious program to counter the influence of the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA in Jerusalem’s schools.” “As the holder of the Foreign Relations Portfolio in the Jerusalem Municipality, it is my responsibility to inform the donor countries about UNRWA [of] the lack of proper education in their schools,” Hassan-Nahoum wrote on Facebook on Monday. She says that the main issued to be addressed must be “how we need to change the UNRWA curriculum for the sake of the children growing up in eastern Jerusalem. The curriculum does not have proper Hebrew or secular studies lessons and perpetuates terrorism. The lessons in the UNRWA textbooks are about incitement against Israel and anti-Semitism. The children graduate UNRWA schools not knowing Hebrew, English, and math at the level that makes it possible for them to work in and integrate into the modern world.” The Jerusalem deputy mayor says that her “plan is to replace the UNRWA curriculum with a curriculum of opportunity in order to provide the necessary skills for children to become

high level workers and members of society.” ([ARUTZ 7](#), [UFI](#) 3 January 2020)

- An Israeli ministerial committee will convene Sunday to discuss the annexation of the Jordan Valley despite a warning by the International Criminal Court's prosecutor. The panel is convening despite a warning by the International Criminal Court's prosecutor that declarations on extending Israeli sovereignty in the West Bank could be used in an investigation into Israeli officials if one were to open. However, Israeli premier Netanyahu has conceded in the past that a transition government would have difficulties promoting the move. The insistence on moving forward with the discussions are mainly to show that the idea has not been abandoned due to international pressure. The committee, convened for the first time since its establishment, will discuss preparations ahead of submitting an official proposal to annex the Jordan Valley when it's feasibly legal. Members of the committee are expected to craft an official annexation proposal to the government or the Knesset. The committee is headed by Netanyahu's office director General Ronen Peretz and its members include representatives of the foreign ministry, the army and the national security council. (Haaretz, [PALINFO](#) 5 January 2020)
- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday said the decision of the International Criminal Court's prosecutor to launch an investigation of war crimes allegedly committed in the West Bank, including the building of settlements there, will not prevent Israel from further expanding those Israeli towns. "This will not deter us – not in the slightest," he said, referring to Fatou Bensouda's December 20 announcement that she found "reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation into the situation in Palestine." In her statement, which followed a five-year preliminary examination, the prosecutor determined that Israeli settlements in Palestinian-claimed territory may constitute a war crime. Netanyahu made the comments at a conference of pro-settlement advocates in celebration of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's recent statement on the legality of Israeli settlements. "Pompeo's declaration is the appropriate response to the scandalous decision of the International Criminal Court in The Hague to investigate the settlement enterprise in Judea and Samaria, which, brazenly, is considered a war crime," he said, referring to the West Bank by its biblical name. "As opposed to the views of some in the European community who view Pompeo's declaration as a step that distances peace, I say the exact opposite: This declaration advances the chances of peace, because peace must be based on truth and not lies," Netanyahu added.

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Netanyahu went on to vow that he would not allow a single settlement to be uprooted, under any peace plan. The idea of “ethnically cleansing” the West Bank of Jews was inadmissible and must be discarded, he argued. “We never lost our right to live in Judea and Samaria,” he went on. “The only thing we lost, temporarily, was the ability to assume our rights after 1948, between the War of Independence and the Six Day War. And when we returned there, we didn’t return to a strange land that we stole from its previous owners,” Netanyahu said. “This is a total distortion of the historical truth.” The current US administration and its pro-Israel positions present great opportunities, the prime minister said, going on to hint at his desire for US President Donald Trump to win another term in the White House. A window of opportunity is currently open, he said, but it will remain open only “for a brief period of time — I hope it won’t be so brief, but I can’t go into it now,” he said to applause from the audience. Notably, in his 25-minute speech, Netanyahu did not mention his promise to annex large parts of the West Bank, including the entire Jordan Valley and all settlements. He also did not explicitly rule out the creation of a Palestinian state on parts of the West Bank. Trump’s special envoy to the peace process, Avi Berkowitz, was in Israel earlier this week to discuss the administration’s plan to publish its long-expected peace proposal. Neither Netanyahu nor US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, who also addressed the conference, revealed any details about the plan. On November 18, Pompeo declared that the “establishment of Israeli civilian settlements in the West Bank is not per se inconsistent with international law.” In a video message recorded for Wednesday’s conference, which took place in Jerusalem’s Menachem Begin Heritage Center, the US top diplomat reiterated his position on settlements, stressing that the administration rejects the so-called Hansell Memorandum, which under president Jimmy Carter determined that Israel’s establishment of civilian settlements in the territories captured in 1967 is “inconsistent with international law.” “It’s important that we speak the truth when the facts lead us to it, and that’s what we have done,” Pompeo said. “We’re recognizing that these settlements don’t inherently violate international law. That’s important. We’re disavowing the deeply flawed 1978 Hansell Memo, and we’re returning to a balanced and sober Reagan-era approach, and in doing so, we’re advancing the cause of peace between Israelis and Palestinians.” In 1981, president Ronald Reagan partially repudiated the memorandum, declaring that the settlements are not necessarily illegal, though he stressed that they are harmful to peace efforts. The pro-settlement Kohelet Policy

Forum, which co-sponsored the conference, celebrated Pompeo's explicit disavowing of the memorandum. "American Policy is now clearer than ever: Jews living in Judea and Samaria is not a crime," said Eugene Kontorovich, who heads Kohelet's international law department. "For decades, the obscure Carter-era memo was used as justification for anti-Israel policies despite the fact that its conclusions were rejected by subsequent administrations," he said. "Secretary Pompeo's statement at the Kohelet conference today makes clear the US's wholesale rejection of the legal theory that holds that international law restricts Israeli Jews from moving into areas from which Jordan had ethnically cleansed them in 1949." Also speaking at the conference, Defense Minister Naftali Bennett vowed to advance the annexation of Area C – the swaths of the West bank that include the settlements and that under the Oslo Accords are under full Israeli civilian and military control. "I want to explain that as the defense minister, I declare a policy that Area C belongs to the State of Israel," he said. For many years, Jerusalem helped Palestinians build up houses there, he claimed, vowing to halt that trend. "We're not the UN, we're the State of Israel, and our political interest is to capture and settle Israel's territory," he went on. His goal was to apply Israeli sovereignty over Area C "in very little time," he added. "Not merely settlements, not just one bloc or another." Bennett then added what may be interpreted as a condition for his New Right party to join the coalition that may be formed after the March 2 Knesset election. "The mission of the next government is to break out and apply sovereignty over Greater Jerusalem, Ma'aleh Adumim, the Etzion bloc, Givat Zeev, the Jordan Valley and everything in between," he said. Foreign Minister Israel Katz, too, addressed the conference, saying that Israel has a historical right to settle the West Bank and calling for the annexation of the Jordan Valley. ([TOI](#) 8 January 2019)

- Israeli Defense Minister Naftali Bennett announced on Wednesday the establishment of a task force to develop and legalize unauthorized outposts in Judea and Samaria. Speaking at the Kohelet Policy Forum Conference in Jerusalem, he said, "We are launching a campaign for the future of Area C; it started a month ago and I'm announcing it here today." Bennett said that he aims to increase the number of Israeli citizens in Area C, which represents 60 percent of the West Bank and is under full Israeli control, from 400,000 to one million within the next 10 years. "We are not occupiers in our homeland, we are not occupiers in our own land, we are not like the Belgians in the Congo," he said. "The State of Israel's policy is that the land

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

in Area C belongs to [Israel].” U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, also speaking at the conference, confirmed that U.S. policy also states that “Israelis, Jews have the right to live in Judea and Samaria.” Also at the Kohelet Policy Forum Conference, Blue and White head Benny Gantz ruled out a merger with other parties, though he suggested that a merger between the Zionist parties to the left was necessary for Blue and White “to lead a government of change, hope and come out of the next elections as the largest party in the Knesset.” Though Labor-Gesher chairman Amir Peretz had suggested a merger with the Democratic Union and Blue and White on Tuesday, Gantz said that “Blue and White will continue to be the governing alternative at the center of the map and won’t team up with other parties— not to its left nor right.” JNS is more than just another news website and syndication service. It is an organization devoted to nonstop reporting, and telling the truth about Israel and Jewish issues unburdened by the biases and institutional blinders that distort so much of what we read, hear and see about these topics elsewhere in the secular and even Jewish press. At JNS, you get the facts about Israel and Jewish issues without the bias that so often tilts the argument against the Jewish state. JNS articles and columns are republished every week by digital outlets and print newspapers across the globe. But in the age of round-the-clock news coverage, advertising and syndication revenues are not enough to support our continued growth. We need your financial help to keep JNS on target as we continue our fair and accurate reporting. Please help us take JNS to the next level with a tax-deductible sponsorship, either on a recurring monthly basis. Jewish News Syndicate is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. ([JNS](#) 8 January 2019)

- Defense Minister Naftali Bennett announced Wednesday that he had established a task force to develop plans for the future of Area C of the West Bank and then advocate on behalf of the plans. Legal sources familiar with Bennett's plan said it may present some legal difficulties, as some of the proposed moves are effectively equivalent to annexing parts of the West Bank. [Bennett](#) is a leader of the Hayamin Hehadash party, which has supported expanded [settlement](#) activity. “We are launching a campaign for the future of Area C; it started a month ago and I’m announcing it here today,” Bennett told a conference of the Kohelet Forum, a nationalist and economically conservative lobby. “The State of Israel’s policy is that the land in Area C belongs to [Israel].” All of the settlements are in [Area C](#), which comprises the 60 percent of the West Bank that is under full Israeli control, unlike other areas of the territory, where the Palestinian Authority exercises at least partial control. Over the past few weeks, leading

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

settlement activists have been invited to a series of meetings with Bennett's chief of staff, Itay Hershkowitz, where they raised a number of issues they believe could be advanced in the coming months, despite the limitations imposed on the current caretaker government, which will remain in office at least until the March 2 Knesset election. The matters selected by Hershkowitz and the settlers include those that up to now have been seen as explosive. They include allowing Jews to privately buy land in the West Bank and hooking up unauthorized settlement outposts, including isolated ones, to water and electricity. The settlers are also seeking to have unauthorized outposts near established settlements recognized as neighborhoods of the settlements. Hershkowitz had directed the work of the forum, but on Thursday Bennett announced that Koby Eliraz, who was dismissed as the defense minister's aide on settlement issues last June, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was also serving as defense minister, was appointed as the forum's director. Settler leaders were lobbying for his appointment. Some sources have said Eliraz had made several demands before accepting the nomination, one of which is to appoint external legal advisers to work with the heads of some of the units at Israel's Civil Administration in the West Bank, including land registration, infrastructure, transportation, water, archaeology and agriculture. One of the main items on the list of settler demands is the cancellation of the need for transaction permits that have limited the purchase of West Bank land by Jews. The change would permit Jews to buy land in the West Bank as individuals. Current law in the territory only allows individual Jordanians, Palestinians and "foreigners of Arab origin" to buy land there. Israeli Jews can only buy through corporations and only with the approval of the head of the Civil Administration. There would also be an effort to look into repealing a military order that allows the head of the Civil Administration to evict settlers who are using privately owned Palestinian land even if the landowner hasn't filed a complaint over the use. This issue has been heard by the Supreme Court, which ruled that the current policy is vital to maintaining order in the West Bank. For years the settlers have also been claiming that many unauthorized outposts are actually neighborhoods of adjacent settlements. There are dozens of such outposts. The forum plans to find a way to change the legal definition of "neighborhood" so that the outposts can fall within the jurisdiction of the nearby settlement and benefit from the jurisdiction of the settlement over the outpost. There is also an effort to legalize some 30 sheep farms in the West Bank that were established without authorization and are subject to pending demolition

- orders. Senior settlement sources say that they are projects that help both farmers and teens at risk, but defense officials argue that it is a way to establish additional unauthorized outposts because the farms attract young people who stay on the premises. ([Haaretz](#) 9 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) last week prevented 20 West Bank Palestinians from travelling abroad through al-Karama crossing with Jordan. The IOA allowed about 52,000 passengers to travel through al-Karama crossing in both directions last week. Meanwhile, 20 Palestinian citizens were banned from travel for "security reasons" which the IOA refused to reveal. (PALINFO 11 January 2020)
 - Defense Minister Naftali Bennett approved Wednesday the establishment of seven new national parks and nature reserves in the West Bank, with some apparently to be built on privately owned Palestinian land. This is the first time that the establishment of new nature reserves has been declared in the West Bank since the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993, but there have been changes to the borders of existing reserves over the years. The land on which the reserves are planned to be built is in Area C, the part of the West Bank under full Israeli control. Defense officials said the new reserves encompass 130,000 dunams (32,000 acres), most of which belongs to the state, while some of the land was bought by Israelis. Some 20,000 dunams of the land slated for construction is privately owned by Palestinians, according to the left-wing organization Peace Now. In addition, a Bedouin community that lives on one of the lands, will be effectively barred from further building. Aside from establishing the new reserves, Bennett approved the expansion of 12 existing reserves. His decisions gave governmental approval to plans that Israel's Civil Administration in the West Bank had been working on since 2018. Bennett's announcement means that Palestinian land owners may be barred from growing crops or pasturing their flocks there. Exact restrictions will depend on the specific rules set for each reserve. "Today, we're giving a great boost to the Land of Israel and continuing to develop Jewish settlement in Area C through actions, not words," Bennett said. "There are nature sites with stunning landscapes in Judea and Samaria," he added, using the biblical name of the areas comprising the West Bank. "We'll expand the existing ones and also develop new sites. I invite all Israelis to get up and roam through the land, come to Judea and Samaria, hike, discover and continue the Zionist enterprise." In late December, the Israel Hayom daily reported that Bennett had ordered the West Bank's land registry transferred from the Civil Administration to the Israel Land Registry, better known as the Tabu.

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

But legal experts told Haaretz that this move is likely to encounter many obstacles, since it would effectively constitute the annexation of Area C. Last week, Bennett announced the appointment of Kobi Eliraz as head of a “forum for the campaign over the future of Area C,” whose job is to promote the establishment of settlements in Area C. Eliraz served as the defense minister’s adviser on settlement affairs until last June. ([Haaretz, TOI](#) 15 January 2020)

- Israeli ‘housing council’ has approved a plan to build four new prisons in the occupied territories as the occupation accelerates its arrest campaign against Palestinians. The council authorized construction of the prison complexes, south of the Israeli city of Haifa, each of which would be comprised of a detention center, a police station and a court. The new prison complexes would fit 4,000 political, criminal, and minor detainees, and is expected to be completed in 2040. (IMEMC 15 January 2020)
- The Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs has stated that the Israeli occupation state has made 54,000 Shekel profit off the Palestinian children who were imprisoned in Ofer jail last December. 38 Palestinian children were sent to Ofer jail last month, increasing the total number of children jailed in Ofer to 82. 20 children were sentenced to jail periods that range between one week to 23 months. One child was also slapped with a four-month arbitrary administrative detention, without charges. The Israeli authorities jailed 379 children (under the age of 18) in Ofer jail and imposed 513,100 Shekel of fines on them. It is worth mentioning that Israel is currently holding captive at least 5700 Palestinian political prisoners, including 220 children, 38 women, and 6 legislators. Among the detainees are more than 500 who are held under the arbitrary Administrative Detention orders, in addition to six legislators, and 700 ailing detainees, including those who have cancer and other serious conditions, and are not provided the specialized care they desperately need. (IMEMC, CDEA 17 January 2020)
- The Israeli occupation Army (IOA) prevented the opening of the second semester for two schools in the occupied Palestinian city of Jerusalem. Palestinian schools Al-Wad al-Sadiq and Al-Fursan, were closed under the pretext that the schools lack construction permits. (IMEMC 17 January 2020)
- Bennett Orders to Bar Some Left-wing Activists From West Bank: Defense Minister Naftali Bennett ordered the Israeli army on Saturday to issue restraining orders that would bar Israeli left-wing activists from entering the West Bank. Bennett's decision targets specifically some 30 activists

- operating with the "Anarchists Against the Wall" organization, a direct action group whose members oppose the construction of the Israeli barrier along the Gaza Strip, and the Israeli West Bank separation barrier. Among the members of the group sanctioned by Bennett is Haaretz employee Jonathan Pollak, who is currently under arrest for his participation in anti-occupation protests. According to a statement released by the defense minister, such warrants have so far only been issued against right-wing Jews who were suspected of carrying out hate crimes that had targeted Palestinians, but now they will also be "used against anarchist activists from the left." Administrative restraining orders are usually issued by the Israeli military, signed by the chief of an army command and are under judicial review. Bennett added in his statement that "forces on the field have been instructed to act firmly against this activity in order to disperse the protests and minimize the damage to Israeli soldiers." However, he did not detail what measures security forces will take. According to Bennett, members of Anarchists Against the Wall act "usually in coordination with Palestinian activists and other radical left-wing organizations to carry out violent provocations in the Judea and Samaria [West Bank] area, in four main centers of activity: Bil'in, Naalin, Kadum and Nabi Salah." He went on to claim that "the violent events are meant to rile up [people in the] area, defile property and hurt Israeli army soldiers, while causing serious damage to the image of the State of Israel in the world." Jonathan Pollak was arrested in his office at the Haaretz building last week, following a criminal complaint filed against him by the right-wing organization Ad Kan in 2018. Ad Kan -Young people for Israel had complained that Pollak attacked soldiers during demonstrations in Ni'lin, Nabi Saleh and Bil'in. Pollak did not attend the hearings on the issue, prompting the court to issue a subpoena last year. About seven months ago, Ad Kan took to social media to call on the public to give it any information about Pollak's whereabouts. Pollak claimed at the time that his home address and place of employment were posted online. Pollak wrote in Haaretz after his arrest that his refusal to recognize the court's legitimacy is based on two main grounds. First is that his "Palestinian comrades do not enjoy the luxury of being tried in the relatively comfortable conditions of the Israeli courts," and second is that "all Israeli courts, military or otherwise, lack any legitimacy to preside over matters of resisting Israeli colonial rule." (Haaretz, 18 January 2020)
- Israeli Minister of Defense Naftali Bennett, gave the Israeli army instructions that restrict the activities of peace activists who participate in the weekly protests against the apartheid wall in the occupied West Bank.

The decision is made in cooperation with Israeli army and police. It noted that the decision was taken against left-wing activists, claiming that they make chaos. The Israeli army accused the activists of provoking members of Israeli army in the areas where protests took place, against West Bank settlements, such as Bil'in, Ni'lin and Kufr Qaddoum. Bennett said: "No one has the right to harm our soldiers, it is time to stop these provocations and crack down on them." Dozens of local and international peace activists have participated weekly in demonstrations against the apartheid wall, in the occupied West Bank, for many years.

- In West Bank, Jewish Settlers Recruit Nature to Their Mission – With the High Court's Consent: "What you're doing is provocation," Supreme Court Justice Menachem Mazuz scolded attorney Eitay Mack this past Sunday. Mazuz was referring to a petition that seeks to annul the Umm Zuqa nature reserve and Firing Zone 903 in the northern Jordan Valley, due to discrimination against Palestinians in favor of Jewish settlers. Several people present at the hearing said the justice did not just scold, but actually shouted at the lawyer. This hearing brought together – and not for the first time – three Israeli traditions. The first is creating nature reserves, national parks and firing zones as a sure method of narrowing the Palestinian expanse. The second is the High Court's persistent disregard for this methodical dispossession. The third and youngest tradition, which is attempting to shake up the existing order, is activism in defense of the right of Palestinians to access their land. The hearing took place several days before Defense Minister Naftali Bennett announced seven new nature reserves in the West Bank and the expansion of 12 others (including Umm Zuqa). The defense minister's press release stated with typical bravado: "For the first time since the Oslo Accords, good news for the settlements in Judea and Samaria [as if settlement in the West Bank had remained stagnant since 1994]. Today we are giving great reinforcement to the Land of Israel and continuing to develop Jewish settlement in Area C. With actions, not words. In Judea and Samaria there are nature sites with incredible landscapes. We will expand the existing ones and also develop new sites. I invite all Israelis to go explore the land, to come to Judea and Samaria, to hike, to discover and to continue the Zionist project." Even without knowing about Bennett's upcoming announcement, by labeling the petition a "provocation," Mazuz gave his seal of approval to the Zionist project and the discrimination enacted through the use of nature reserves. Mazuz is no pioneer, however. The High Court justices have been doing this for decades by declining to address Israel's discrimination in planning policies in the

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

West Bank. The “provocative” petition was filed on behalf of 40 Israeli activists who, on a regular basis, accompany Palestinian shepherds and farmers as they are threatened by the army and [settlers](#). They hoped against hope to draw the attention of Justices Mazuz, Anat Baron and Hanan Melcer to the unequal treatment of Jews and Palestinians when it comes to Israeli declarations, on various pretexts, of closed areas and the ensuing dispossession of Palestinians. It is forbidden to build in nature reserves, and yet [Israeli Jews built “Uri’s Farm”](#) in Umm Zuqa. Despite demolition orders, the outpost is expanding. Dror Etkes, who researches the Israeli policy of grabbing Palestinian land in the West Bank, estimates that this outpost stretches over 2,000 dunams within the nature reserve and firing zone. Not only is the outpost expanding, its residents also harass Palestinian shepherds and prevent them from bringing their sheep to the pastures they had used for years before the outpost appeared. Since the outpost was erected, IDF soldiers have also been chasing the shepherds and their sheep out of the area. The petition details dozens of incidents in which Palestinian shepherds were harassed by settlers and soldiers. Meanwhile, Jewish residents of the outpost or other Israeli Jews go about working a 92-dunam plot unhindered, raising crops smack in the middle of the firing zone, which in some parts overlaps with the nature reserve. Palestinians who work their (private or leased) land in the firing zone are penalized: The Civil Administration and the army destroy their crops and confiscate their tractors. Just last week, the army confiscated four tractors in Wadi al-Maleh in the northern Jordan Valley. In response to the Umm Zuqa petition, the state confirmed that the outpost was built illegally within a nature reserve and partially within Firing Zone 903. The attorney on behalf of the state also hinted that the state is not committed to evacuating the outpost, [despite the demolition orders](#) that were issued against the structures there. “Why didn’t you petition to dismantle the outpost?” Mazuz angrily asked Mack, who replied that it is not his job to ask the state to enforce its laws. “Maybe the settlers’ cows ate all the irises, so it’s no longer a nature reserve,” said Mack, continuing to rile up the justice. Attorney Roy Shweika of the State Prosecutor’s Office said that the training drills carried out in the firing zone “are integral to preparing the army for an emergency,” arguing that Zone 903 had become more important in recent years. “If there are such intensive drills going on in the firing zone, how are settlers allowed to live and grow crops there unhindered?” Mack asked. His arguments made no difference. The justices rejected the petition and the petitioners were forced to pay 10,000 shekels in court costs. The outpost known as “Uri’s Farm” was built

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

three years ago. The State's response to the petition mentioned that the outpost had already been moved once and that the residents dismantled some of the structures themselves after the petition was filed. There is no explanation for the fact that the outpost, which maintains a large flock of sheep and cows, still exists and is expanding. Israeli official sources told Haaretz in the past that the [IDF brigade](#) in the area protects the outpost from obeying the demolition orders. This isn't the only Israeli outpost located in a nature reserve, which, like other West Bank reserves, contains both public and private Palestinian land. At the start of the last decade, the Alonei Shiloh outpost was illegally built in the Wadi Qana reserve and later authorized as a part of the Karnei Shomron settlement. A few years later, the Civil Administration approved removing area from the same nature reserve to retroactively authorize another outpost, El Matan. The residents of the Palestinian village of Dir Astiya, whose agricultural lands became part of the reserve, are restricted from working their plots. [The Havat Skali outpost](#), an outgrowth of the Elon Moreh settlement, was erected in the Har Kabir reserve and the road that leads to the Nahalat Yosef outpost passes through the same reserve. Residents of the villages of Salem, Dir al-Khatab and Azmut have extremely limited access to their own lands in the same area. A small part of the Tekoa D outpost is within the planned Nahal Tekoa nature reserve. An Israeli official source who wished to remain anonymous says there are 51 nature reserves under Israeli authority in [Area C](#) (62 percent of the West Bank), and their total area is 500 thousand dunams. The new nature reserves announced by Bennett cover about 130 thousand dunams, says the same source. But, as Dror Etkes found, at least three of the seven "new" reserves were previously declared as such: Nahal Og, Wadi Malha and the [Southern Jordan Valley](#) reserve. Rotem-Maskiyot has already been proposed but is being presented as new, said Etkes. He added that Bennett is playing with the names of the reserves and thinks that, "despite Google, he'll be able to conceal from right-wing voters the fact that these are [nature reserves](#) that were already declared decades ago." Etkes calls this "a provocative and meaningless PR election stunt, meant only for Bennett's personal gain, rather than an initiative with any significant ramifications in the field." New or old, the goal of the nature reserves – to dispossess Palestinians – remains the same. Shweika, from the State Prosecutor's Office, refuted the claim of discrimination. But his answer unwittingly revealed the mechanism involved: He said that entry to the nature reserve is permitted equally to all populations, but since a substantial part of the reserve overlaps with the firing zone, entry to those

areas is only permitted after prior coordination with the army. The justices, who were satisfied with this answer, apparently believe that a Palestinian who lives in a tent threatened with demolition and an Israeli veteran of an elite army unit can coordinate their entry into the area with the military on equal terms, and both requests will be handled equally without bias. Grazing herds in the nature reserve also requires permission from the authorities, Shweika wrote. In other words – what the petitioners call harassment and discrimination is just strict enforcement of the rules of conduct in the nature reserves. Shweika says that when military drills are not taking place, the closure orders are not strictly enforced, but that this is not the case when there is a risk of friction between the two populations. “Friction,” in military jargon, is settlers harassing Palestinians. Based on evidence recorded by the petitioners, and on the experience of the past decades, closure orders are imposed on the Palestinians and their Israeli activist escorts. The ones who initiate the friction are the settlers, but the orders do not apply to them and they are allowed to continue expanding their outposts. ([Haaretz](#) 19 January 2020)

Related News during the month of February 2020

- [Israeli War Minister Naftali Bennett](#)’s decision to stop agricultural trade with the Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank came into force on Sunday morning. Israeli channel 13 claimed, according to Al Ray, that Bennett’s decision was made allegedly in response to the Palestinian boycott of importing cattle and other livestock from Israel. Last September, the Palestinian government announced a complete halt to the import of livestock from Israeli occupation. It attributed the decision to its policy of economic disengagement from the “occupation economy.” (IMEMC 3 February 2020)
- [Israeli War Minister Naftali Bennett](#) decided, last night, to freeze entry of cement shipments to the besieged Gaza Strip, in response to what he called daily Palestinian attacks on Israeli areas. According to Maariv newspaper, the Israeli army gave instructions, at the behest of Bennett, to suspend cement exports to Gaza and withdraw permits from 500 cement dealers. The measure, which is to take effect as of Sunday morning, was reportedly in response to daily Gaza attacks, which resumed recently after the Israeli occupation authority deliberately opened floodgates to dams and flooded vast tracts of farmlands and roads in the east of Gaza, causing considerable losses to the agricultural sector in particular. (IMEMC 3 February 2020)

- The Trump administration released its long-delayed, much-discussed and highly-controversial peace plan to considerable Israeli acclaim and overwhelming Palestinian protestation last week. View of the border area between Israel and Egypt as it seen from Route 10, southern Israel, on December 5, 2018. (Yossi Zeliger/Flash90) Its main points are by now well known. If implemented, the proposal would hand some 30 percent of the West Bank, including the Jordan Valley, to Israel. A future Palestinian state over the remaining 70% would have restricted sovereignty, especially where its defense is concerned, with Israel maintaining security control over the West Bank's airspace and border crossings into Jordan. There would be no right of return for refugees or the descendants of Palestinian refugees into Israeli territory, and a Palestinian capital would be declared in East Jerusalem, but only in its easternmost sections that lie outside of Israel's security barrier, some of which, like Abu Dis, are considered part of Jerusalem by Palestinians but not by Israelis. Meanwhile, the Palestinians would need to recognize Israel as a Jewish nation-state. All of that was enough for many observers and pundits to call the US proposal the most pro-Israel in the 27-year history of the peace process. US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu participate in a joint statement in the East Room of the White House, in Washington, DC, on January 28, 2020. (Sarah Silbiger/Getty Images/AFP) The Palestinians have long asserted that the pre-1967 borders should be the basis from which to begin negotiations for a two-state solution with East Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital. The new map pushes those borders deep into the West Bank and accepts numerous longstanding Israeli demands from the Palestinians as key planks of the plan — such as Palestine's demilitarization. The Trump administration has argued its new map recognizes the realities on the ground of Israeli settlement expansion and security needs — and may constitute the Palestinians' "last chance" to stop Israel from "expanding" further and secure for themselves a state. At the same time, the discussion around the American proposal has sometimes overlooked some of its key stipulations and suggestions — some of them favorable to Israel, but not all. These include a re-examination of the prohibition on Jewish prayer on the ultra-sensitive Temple Mount, the idea of a deeply controversial remarketing of a handful of Arab Israeli towns adjacent to the West Bank to the new Palestinian state, the transfer of a section of Israeli territory south of the West Bank to the Palestinian state, the release of many Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, and a strangely shaped new section of the Palestinian state that runs nearly half the length

of the Israel-Egypt border — but does not touch the border, which remains in Israeli control. 1. Temple Mount prayer The Trump plan appears to both support and reject Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount, a contradiction Trump administration officials tried to explain by saying Jewish prayer would be permitted only by “agreement of all the parties.” Muslim men attend Friday prayers on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem’s Old City on January 31, 2020. (Ahmad Gharabli/AFP) The US plan calls for maintaining the decades-old “status quo” on the Temple Mount – according to which only Muslims may pray at the site, while Jews are permitted only restricted visits — but appears to contradict itself in stating: “People of every faith should be permitted to pray on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, in a manner that is fully respectful to their religion, taking into account the times of each religion’s prayers and holidays, as well as other religious factors.” The situation at the holy site — the holiest place in Judaism, and the third holiest in Islam — is acutely sensitive. The proposal has already drawn ire and even a veiled warning from Jordan, long the agreed-upon “custodian” of the holy site. Right-wing Israeli Jewish religious groups have recently made efforts to pray at the Temple Mount and stepped up their visits to the site. Palestinians and Jordanian authorities have opposed such visits as provocations, and have expressed concerns that Israel intends to take over the site or partition it. The Israeli government has repeatedly said it has no intention of changing the arrangements. Illustrative: Israelis walk by the Dome of the Rock Mosque in the Temple Mount compound in Jerusalem, June 2, 2019. (AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean) 2. Arab Israelis remarcated to Palestine The Trump administration provided two maps with its proposal, but did not demarcate the current Green Line on the maps, leaving some guesswork as to how the new lines compared to the existing ones. Vision for Peace Conceptual Map published by the Trump Administration on January 28, 2020 Those who superimposed the Trump maps with the current situation and carefully read the administration’s “vision” document could better understand two unexpected elements of the plan: talk of the possible handing of several Arabpopulated Israeli towns in the north to the future Palestinian state, as well as the reallocation to a future Palestine of a significant stretch of semi-arid desert near Arad. The dark green section in the map attached to the above tweet shows areas earmarked, and possibly earmarked, to be handed by Israel to the Palestinians. The most controversial areas are, not surprisingly, the ones populated by Israeli citizens. The plan envisages a possible ethnic division of the land – the core of international partition plans of the past, but an idea that has been called

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

racist when applied by present-day Israel to its Arab minority. The plan suggests entire towns, including Umm al-Fahm, Ar'are and others in the so-called "Triangle" area adjacent to the northern West Bank, could be handed over to the Palestinian state, but does not explicitly state whether those towns' residents would see their Israeli citizenship revoked in favor of a Palestinian one. Aides to Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday rejected the remarcation idea. 3. The southern West Bank grows I recreated the map Kushner/Dermer/Friedman/Berkowitz/Greenblatt attached to their plan. I had to make some judgement calls because some key parts were hidden under a bridge/tunnel marker. pic.twitter.com/vsJC7tubEU – Dan Rothem (@drothem) January 30, 2020" " The dark green area just below the West Bank includes semi-arid desert, and is today home to a sparse population of Bedouin and some military training areas. It marks a third significant chunk of what is Israeli territory intended for land swaps with the future Palestine, to compensate for the 30% of West Bank territory – notably including the Jordan Valley area and all the settlements – that is to be annexed by Israel with American backing. The two other chunks of Israeli territory to be swapped are both in the Negev, near the Israel-Egypt border. A view of the Ma'ale Adumim settlement in the West Bank, Jan. 28, 2020. (Menahem Kahana/AFP) 4. Lines in the sand One of those two Negev chunks is designated in the plan for a large Palestinian industrial zone. The other is intended as a residential and agricultural area still further south. Both sit on a strip of future Palestinian territory attached by a thin line to the Gaza Strip; this line of new Palestinian areas stretches nearly half the length of the Israel-Egypt border, but doesn't touch the Egyptian border itself, where a narrow Israeli-held band controls the border clear up to Gaza. Asked to comment on the feasibility of that stretch, the plan's chief architect Jared Kushner told the Egyptian outlet El Hekaya on Saturday, "We have one of the biggest developers in the Middle East who will hopefully announce soon that he's going to come on board to help us do a master plan for the new additions in Gaza." He did not name the developer, but said the individual would help establish a high-tech manufacturing industrial zone and a residential agricultural zone for Palestinians in the two pockets. Israel's border with Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. (Judah Ari Gross/Times of Israel) 5. Cover-ups The White House has lauded its plan by saying it places some 97% of Israelis living in the West Bank within contiguous Israeli territory and some 97% of Palestinians in the West Bank within contiguous Palestinian territory. By "contiguous," Trump administration officials mean a series of "bridges and tunnels" set

down in the plan that would allow Palestinians and Israelis to travel over and under each other between areas belonging to their respective states without having to pass through Israeli checkpoints or drive around the other side's enclaves, Kushner said on Saturday. But some observers have noted that the American "conceptual map" provided with the peace plan was drawn for clarity rather than detail, and places large circular crossing symbols at sites where those bridges and tunnels would be placed – covering up their actual locations and much of the surrounding areas where the plan envisages them being constructed. With its thickly drawn lines, the map is as vague about Palestinian interconnectedness as it is about how Israelis will access 15 Israeli enclaves that require them to drive through Palestinian areas. Vision for Peace Conceptual Map published by the Trump Administration on January 28, 2020 As such, it's not clear from the plan exactly how many passages would need to be built, how long each would stretch, and where these passages might create bottlenecks for the flow of people and goods inside a "contiguous" Palestinian state. 6. Freeing prisoners, but not murderers In a final, largely overlooked clause, the plan also calls for Palestinian prisoners to be released from Israeli prisons, except those convicted of murder, attempted murder or conspiracy to commit murder, or those who are Israeli citizens. ([TOI](#) 3 February 2020)

- The so-called "Trump Plan" proposes for Israel to annex large, invasive swaths of the West Bank, while entertaining an idea for Israel to swap out populated Israeli territory in the Wadi Ara region to a Palestinian statelet and to remove the citizenship of hundreds of thousands of Arab citizens of Israel. Both of these aspects of the plan make them a non-starter for Palestinians, are morally indefensible, and pose critical questions on Israel's security and democracy. To read more on why Israel must oppose the Trump annexation plan, read Peace Now's full paper here. Data on the plan's annexation and populated land swaps reveals the following: 30% of the West Bank to be annexed by Israel: 327,070 Palestinians to officially be brought under Israeli sovereignty – 107,070 (West Bank) + 220,000 (East Jerusalem). 647,072 Israelis to officially be brought under Israeli sovereignty – 412,798 (settlements), 14,274 (settlement enclaves in Palestinian territory), 220,000 (East Jerusalem). Israeli territory equal to 13.5% of the West Bank to be swapped out to a Palestinian statelet. 132,028 Arab citizens to be swapped out according to the Trump Plan map. 257,050 Arab citizens to be swapped out according to the Trump Plan list. 120,000 East Jerusalem Palestinian non-citizen permanent residents to be swapped out. ([PEACENOW](#) 5 February 2020)

- The Israeli occupation army (IOA) announced it was reducing the size of the Gaza fishing zone by a third, in light of the continued launch of projectiles and flaming balloons toward Israeli territory. “Following security consultations, it has been decided to restrict the fishing zone of the Gaza Strip from 15 nautical miles to 10 nautical miles, starting from 4 p.m. until further notice,” the Israeli military liaison to the Palestinians said, in a statement published in Israeli newspapers, Days of Palestine reports. However, it should be noted that such attacks on Israeli areas resumed recently after the Israeli occupation authority deliberately and repeatedly opened floodgates to dams and flooded vast tracts of farmlands and roads in the east of Gaza, causing considerable losses to the agricultural sector in particular. (IMEMC 5 February 2020)
- Around a week after [the ruling ordering the Nasser Rajabi family](#) to leave their home (three families with 22 persons), [the Magistrate’s Court ruled](#) last week that the Duweik family would have to evacuate its house in favor of settlers in Batan al-Hawa until August 2, 2020 (five families with 26 persons). Yesterday, [the Magistrate’s Court ruled](#) that the Shweiki and Odeh families should be evacuated from their house by August 15, 2020 (three families with 19 persons). The lawsuits are part of [a series of dozens of eviction lawsuits](#) filed by people from Ateret Cohanim settlers group against some 84 Palestinian families living in the Batan al-Hawa in Silwan, putting a community of 700 people in danger of being evicted. The settlers’ claims are based on the fact that in the late 19th century the land was allocated by its Jewish owners to a Jewish trust for the benefit of the poor Yemenite Jews of Jerusalem. Today, in the name of the same trust, settlers seek to evict the Palestinian families who built their homes lawfully on that land after 1948. Since 2015, 14 families have been evacuated from Batan al-Hawa. The three judgments this month ordered the eviction of another 11 families with 57 persons, and another some 80 other families are in court in eviction cases. In all cases of the past month, families intend to appeal to the district court, a procedure that usually takes several months to a year. ([PEACENOW](#) 6 February 2020)
- More than 100 House Democrats signed a letter to US president Trump rejecting his Middle East peace plan (informally known as the deal of the century), saying it would “harm Israelis and Palestinians alike and push them toward further conflict.” The two-page letter, led by Democratic Congressmen Alan Lowenthal (Jewish) and Andy Levin, warned that Trump’s plan “paves the way for a permanent occupation of the West Bank.” “It does not have our support, and the Israeli government must not

- take it as license to violate International law by annexing all or portions of the West Bank,” their letter read. The House in December passed a bipartisan resolution Lowenthal and affirming US support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that is achieved through direct negotiations and without any unilateral annexation of territory. The Democratic lawmakers accuse Trump of “an inappropriate intervention in the coming Israeli elections by releasing his peace plan while Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu is facing formal corruption charges. (PALINFO 7 February 2020)
- Israel has begun preparing a precise map of the parts of the West Bank it will [annex](#) in accordance with the new US peace plan, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Saturday. “We are in the middle of the process of mapping out the territory that will be part of Israel according to the Trump [plan](#),” Netanyahu said at a Likud event in Ma’aleh Adumim. “It won’t take much time... Within a few weeks, it will happen.” ([IPOST](#) 8 February 2020)
 - The Jerusalem municipality on Thursday rescinded a decision to name streets in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan after rabbis. A municipality official said that a tour of the area made it clear that residents of the streets were primarily Arabs, and that it had been recommended that the streets be given more neutral names, the Walla news site reported. A city committee in June 2019 approved a proposal to name streets in the area after rabbis and Yemenite Jewish community leaders who lived in the area in the past, including the rabbis Avraham Al-Naddaf, Shalom Halevi Elsheich and Yosef Medmoni. The committee’s proposal was met with some internal resistance, but the mayor’s office claimed that the streets in the proposal did not have Palestinian residents and that the plan could go forward. Silwan residents petitioned the decision to the Supreme Court, saying that “giving Jewish names to streets and alleyways in a neighborhood which has an overwhelming majority of Arab residents infringes on their rights of identity and respect.” The petition said that forcing Jewish street names in the neighborhood disregarded residents’ heritage, identity and culture and was an attempt to marginalize them from the city’s public spaces. ([TOI](#) 8 February 2020)
 - Israel's war minister Naftali Bennett has ordered a ban on the transfer of Palestinian agricultural products to Jordan, the Occupied West Bank's only direct export outlet to the outside world. The so-called Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, that all Palestinian agriculture

products would be banned from export to world markets through Jordan starting Sunday, 9 February 2020. The move is part of the sanctions that Israel has placed on the Palestinian Authority after the latter limited the import of calves from Israel. Last week Israel decided to stop agricultural imports from the Palestinian Authority. (PALINFO, Haaretz 9 February 2020)

- Israel banned the export of Palestinian produce via Jordan, the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories Maj. Gen. Kamil said, marking a further escalation in a trade dispute between Israel and the Palestinians that began in October. According to the office of Defense Minister Naftali Bennett, the move is part of the sanctions that Israel placed on the Palestinian Authority after the PA [limited the import of calves](#) from Israel. The sanctions are tiered, and will be increased so long as the crisis remains unresolved. For full story , read here ([Haaretz](#) 8 February 2020)
- Israel has begun to draw up maps of land in the occupied West Bank that will be annexed in accordance with US President Donald Trump’s proposed peace plan, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday. “We are already at the height of the process of mapping the area that, according to the Trump plan, will become part of the state of Israel. It won’t take too long,” Netanyahu said at an election campaign rally in the Maale Adumim settlement. Netanyahu said the area would include all Israeli settlements and the Jordan Valley - territory Israel has kept under military occupation since its capture in the 1967 Middle East war but which Palestinians want in a future state. “The only map that can be accepted as the map of Palestine is the map of the Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital,” said Nabil Abu Rdainah, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Prospects for annexations, which have already been widely condemned, are unclear. Israel will hold a national election on March 2 and Netanyahu, who is facing criminal corruption charges, is hoping to win a fifth term in office. He presently heads a caretaker government, whose legal authority to annex territory is still undecided by judicial authorities. ([NST](#) 9 February 2020)
- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that Israel will only extend sovereignty to the Jordan Valley and areas of the West Bank with the agreement of Washington, taking another step back from his initial declarations that he would speedily move ahead with the measure. Many settler leaders, along with Defense Minister Naftali Bennett, have been urging Netanyahu to immediately begin the process of extending sovereignty — tantamount to annexation — ever since US President Donald

Trump allowed for it in his peace plan, unveiled last month. But Washington has since made it clear it wants Jerusalem to wait until at least after the coming March 2 elections in Israel before taking any steps. Speaking at a tree-planting ceremony in the Mevo'ot Yericho settlement in the Jordan Valley to mark Tu Bishvat, the Jewish new year for trees, Netanyahu said the consent of the Palestinians is not necessary. "We will do this with the agreement of the Americans, because what we are doing is not unilateral," Netanyahu told members of the Jordan Valley Regional Council. "Trump said he will recognize sovereignty in the Jordan Valley, the northern Dead Sea, and all the settlements in Judea and Samaria," he said. "It does not depend on the agreement of the Palestinians. We are, at the moment, dealing with the mapping." The prime minister said Trump has made good on previous promises to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the US embassy to the city in 2017, to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, and to pull out of a nuclear deal with Iran in 2018 – all moves strongly backed by Netanyahu. "Now he is saying that he will recognize sovereignty after the work, that we are in full swing of, is completed," Netanyahu said. ([TOI](#) , [MFA](#) 10 February 2020)

- The UN human rights office released a list of more than 100 companies it said are complicit in violating Palestinian human rights by operating in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. The UN step is considered the first-ever international attempt to name and shame businesses that have ties with Israel's illegal settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, released a statement along with the report, saying she was "conscious this issue has been and will continue to be highly contentious." "However, after an extensive and meticulous review process, we are satisfied this fact-based report reflects the serious consideration that has been given to this unprecedented and highly complex mandate, and that it responds appropriately to the Human Rights Council's request contained in resolution 31/36," she added. In 2016, the UN Human Rights Council adopted resolution 31/36, requesting the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to produce a report investigating the "implications of settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including east Jerusalem." Due to Israeli and US pressure, the publication of the report was delayed for years to the disdain of human rights groups around the world. The release of the report on Wednesday was swiftly criticized by Israel and its supporters. Israeli

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

foreign minister Israel Katz called it a “stain” on the OHCHR, and threatened to take action against the council by Israel. The report names 112 business entities the office says it has reasonable grounds to conclude have been involved in different activities related to illegal settlements. They include Airbnb, Booking.com, Expedia Group and Motorola Solutions. However, the report does not call for sanctions or have any concrete impact on the companies. Human Rights Watch (HRW), a vocal critic of Israel’s settlement activity, applauded the report. “The long-awaited release of the UN settlement business database should put all companies on notice: To do business with illegal settlements is to aid in the commission of war crimes,” Bruno Stagno, HRW’s deputy executive director for advocacy, said. The list contains names of 94 Israeli and 18 international companies — that have ties to illegal settlements, and are involved in one or more of the following 10 activities as stated by the OHCHR. (IMEMC 13 February 2020)

- Israel has suspended its ties with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights several hours after the UN body published a list of 112 companies that do business in West Bank settlements. FM Israel Katz’s office said that the Minister ordered the “exceptional and harsh measure” in retaliation for Michelle Bachelet’s office “serving the BDS campaign,” referring to the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement. Katz intends to protect the companies operating in Israel, his office stated. He claimed that by publishing the list, the Human Rights Council joined the anti-Israel boycott movement, but stressed that the database is not legally binding. [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu](#) also slammed the council and similarly vowed to fight the database, Al Ray Palestinian Media Agency reports. “Not for nothing have I already ordered the severing of ties with it. It was also not for nothing that the American administration has taken this step together with us,” he added, referring to the Trump administration’s June 2018 decision to leave the council, citing its “chronic bias against Israel.” The chairman and ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday slammed a report by a United Nations human rights body for blacklisting U.S. companies that operate in the Israeli-controlled parts of the West Bank. In separate statements, Sen. Jim Risch (R-Idaho), the panel’s chairman, and Sen. Bob Menendez (N.J.), the committee’s top Democrat, criticized the report as politically motivated and encouraging the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against Israel. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Wednesday identified at least six American companies, including Airbnb, Expedia, Tripadvisor, Booking

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

Holdings Inc., General Mills and Motorola, as operating in “illegal” Israeli settlements The United Nations views Israeli settlements as illegal under international law. “I am conscious this issue has been, and will continue to be, highly contentious,” said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Bachelet. “However, after an extensive and meticulous review process, we are satisfied this fact-based report reflects the serious consideration that has been given to this unprecedented and highly complex mandate, and that it responds appropriately to the Human Rights Council’s request contained in resolution 31/36,” she said, referring to the council resolution that asked for the report. (IMEMC 13 February 2020)

- The Israeli occupation authorities last week prevented 57 Palestinians from the West Bank from travelling abroad through al-Karama border crossing with Jordan. 57 Palestinian passengers were banned from travel through al-Karama crossing for "security reasons" which the Israeli authorities refused to reveal. (PALINFO 15 February 2020)
- Global ecommerce web giant Amazon has been accused of discriminating against Palestinians by offering free shipping to illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank, but not to Palestinians living in the same area. In findings released in an investigation by the *Financial Times*, the newspaper discovered that by taking all of the illegal settlement addresses and entering them into Amazon’s delivery portal, the company extends its website’s offer of free shipping “if your shipping address is in Israel, your items are eligible, and your total order meets the minimum free shipping threshold of \$49.” However, customers who list their address as “the Palestinian Territories” are forced to pay shipping and handling fees starting from \$24. Amazon spokesman Nick Caplin told the paper that Palestinians can only circumvent the issue “if a customer within the Palestinian Territories enters their address and selects Israel as the country, they can receive free shipping through the same promotion.” All the company’s deliveries have to pass through Israel in order to reach the occupied West Bank, causing long delays, Days of Palestine reports. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)
- The US government has appointed members of a committee tasked with mapping out areas of the occupied West Bank that Israel plans to annex as part of President Donald Trump’s self-proclaimed “Deal of the Century.” A senior Trump administration official told Israel Hayom daily that US ambassador to Israel David Friedman will lead the joint committee. Other committee members will include Friedman’s senior adviser Aryeh Lightstone, and Scott Leith, a US National Security Council expert on Israel. Israeli members will include tourism minister Yariv Levin and Israeli

ambassador to the United States Ron Dermer. The committee was announced by Trump last month during the unveiling of his scheme, which would see Israel control swathes of the West Bank in violation of the fundamental rights of the Palestinians. Trump said the joint committee would be formed to “convert the conceptual map into a more detailed and calibrated rendering so that recognition can be immediately achieved.” There is still no set timeline for when the committee will finish its work, but Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been pressured by right-wing lawmakers in recent weeks to announce the immediate annexation of all settlements before Israelis head to the polls. (IMEMC 16 February 2020)

- A plan by an Israeli group to hold a Burning Man-style event in the deserts of the occupied territories has sparked frustration among Palestinians and dismay from Israeli festival enthusiasts who say it goes against the original event’s founding principles. The annual gathering in the Nevada desert in the US, with its massive art installations, costumes and symbolic burning of an effigy of “The Man”, has gathered a global following. In Israel, its official partner, Midburn – which combines the Hebrew word for desert, “midbar”, with “burn” – has been running events, or “burns”, since 2014. But since the group had trouble finding a location in Israeli deserts, several “burners” broke away to form their own, unofficial festival. Organisers say the Dead Sea Burn event has already received approval by Israel’s military for up to 15,000 people to assemble on land near the border with Jordan, the Dead Sea and the Palestinian city of Jericho. It will still need Israeli police permissions before it can go ahead in April. Yaron Ben Shoshan, who is a joint-lead on the project, says he has been pushing for Palestinians to attend and argues his efforts are not political, although he understands why people would see it that way. The bad side is fighting about the area and arguing with each other and making the gap deeper. The other way of reacting is to say, ‘we have an opportunity here to show our leaders that we as people can communicate and enjoy ourselves together’.” However, the military has far more restrictive rules for Palestinians who live in the area than it does for Israelis. West Bank Palestinians who would like to attend need first to secure permission from the Israeli army, organisers say. The location at which the event is scheduled to take place belongs to a territory claimed by Israeli settlements, which are often built on land taken from Palestinians. Local Palestinian residents and authorities were not consulted. ([The Guardian](#) 16 February 2020)

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- The members of a joint US-Israeli committee tasked with mapping out areas of the West Bank that Israel intends to annex as part of US president Donald Trump's deal of the century (peace plan) have reportedly started their work. The committee includes US ambassador to Israel David Friedman and his adviser Aryeh Lightstone, as well as Scott Leith, director of the Israeli and Palestinian affairs at the US national security council. The Israeli members are tourism minister Yariv Levin, Israeli national security council chief Meir Ben-Shabbat, the prime minister's office director-general, Ronen Peretz and Israel's ambassador to the US Ron Dermer. The committee will work on producing maps of the occupied Palestinian areas where Israel have been given the green light by the US administration to annex to its sovereignty. Friedman, a known supporter of Jewish settlements, had told reporters at the White House immediately after the Trump administration's peace plan was announced that Israel could "annex settlements at any time" and "should not wait at all" to do so. Under the plan, the US administration has approved Israel's intent to annex about 30 percent of the West Bank and Jerusalem, including all of the illegal settlements and the Jordan Valley. (PALINFO, [JPOST](#) 17 February 2020)
- A Palestinian family living on the border between the Jerusalem-area village of Beit Izja and the Jewish [settlement](#) Givon Ha'hadasha have found themselves living in an isolated sectioned-off area surrounded by the settlement. The Gharib family claims that they built the home more than 40 years ago on land they claimed has belonged to their family since the Ottoman period. When Givon Ha'adasah was founded in 1977, the Israeli founders claimed ownership of the land surrounding the Gharib family's home, according to a report by BBC's Middle East correspondent Tom Bateman, who ran a video segment titled "The Palestinian family with its own checkpoint." For security purposes, the perimeter of the family's home was enclosed within a fence standing six meters high all around – leaving the family with only one entrance and exit as well as their own personal checkpoint. Pointing to an orange gate, Sa'adat Gharib tells Bateman: "This is a special entrance for the occupation army. For any problems facing them, they come from this gate. They close off the entrance of the house, and we can't come in or out. They see this as protection for the settlers." When the security fence was initially built, the family claimed that the entrance-exit was consistently closed – forcing them to negotiate with security officials in order to leave their house, according to Haaretz. The family told Bateman that their housing situation was similar to living in a prison, due to the amount of control Israeli security forces have over his family home,

mainly regarding the lone entrance-exit leading into the village of Beit Ijza – which could be closed off at any moment – as well as the closed-circuit cameras surrounding and watching his property 24/7. To enter Givon Ha'hadasha, which is right outside the fence, Bateman had to travel through Palestinian neighborhoods, winding roads and even protests – a drive which took roughly an hour and a half – in order "to get right [back to] pretty much where we started." Givon Ha'hadasha resident Ilanit Gohar, whose family built their house 25 years ago, told Bateman that the Gharibs had chosen their own lot. He chose this type of living," said Gohar to the BBC. "Once it was ruled that these lands aren't his, and that they belong to the State of Israel, he can't stop people [from] settling on this land. We can't move him, [but] he won't move us." Within the implication of the new Trump peace deal, without any changes, Givon Ha'hadasha, home to some 1,000 Israelis, would become recognized internationally as a formal part of Israel. ([IPOST](#) 17 February 2020)

- Authorities have given approval to move forward with a controversial plan to place a train station in the heart of Jerusalem's Old City and whisk tourists from Ben-Gurion Airport to the Western Wall, Transportation Minister Bezalel Smotrich's office said Monday. In a statement, Smotrich's office said the plan, initiated by his predecessor Israel Katz, had been hindered over the past year, without elaborating. However, following a directive from Smotrich, the National Planning and Building Council approved a new route for the train, the Transportation Ministry said. It did not specify the details of the altered route. The plan involves extending the high-speed Jerusalem-Tel Aviv train line to the Old City. The plan would involve constructing two underground stations and excavating over two miles (three kilometers) of tunnel beneath downtown Jerusalem and under the politically and historically sensitive Old City – a project likely to raise fierce opposition by archaeologists, religious authorities and Palestinians. The Western Wall is the holiest site where Jews are allowed to pray. Smotrich praised the development as "historic," adding in a statement that the new train line "is huge news for Israeli residents and the millions of tourists who come to Jerusalem." "We are also succeeding in promoting the Zionist and Jewish agenda," he said. The plan was first introduced by former transportation minister Katz in 2017, who said the Old City train station would be named after US President Donald Trump, who had recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital a month earlier. Transportation Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadia said at the time that the project was

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

- estimated to cost more than \$700 million and, if approved, would take four years to complete. ([TOI](#) 17 February 2020)
- The government has approved a plan on Monday to extend the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem train line to the Western Wall, under pressure from Transportation Minister Bezalel Smotrich of the far-right Yamina alliance – and despite objections from planning professionals. Several planning officials said the chances of the extension actually being built are virtually nil. However, the decision, made by the National Infrastructure Committee, means a lot of money will now be invested in preparing detailed plans for it. The extension would run from the existing train station at the entrance to Jerusalem through two other stops in the city – one downtown and one near the Khan Theatre, which is southwest of the Old City. From there, it would run underground for several hundred meters, culminating in an underground station to be built near the Old City's Dung Gate... The entire extension was originally proposed by former Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz; in his plan, the final stop was supposed to be inside the Old City. But the Antiquities Authority objected, so the station is now slated to be outside the Old City walls, between the Dung Gate and the City of David. ([Haaretz](#) 18 February 2020)
 - The Palestinian Authority's Energy Authority has condemned an Israeli master plan for the development of an electricity grid in the West Bank, saying that it is designed "to establish Israeli sovereignty in the West Bank and to support the brutal presence of the settlements on our land." The plan, which was not coordinated with the PA and is in the process of being approved by Israel's National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Ministry, seeks for the first time to provide a blueprint for the electricity market in the West Bank through 2040 and to develop infrastructure for Israeli settlements as well as for the Palestinians residing there. The Israeli portion of the plan, which is devoted to the settlements, is to be funded, planned and executed by Israel. However, it calls for the Palestinian Authority to carry out the Palestinian portion of the plan. Therefore, if the PA refuses to agree to it, that portion won't be implemented. The IEC supplies 99 percent of the electricity market in the West Bank, according to a 2017 World Bank report. The IEC's own financial report for 2018 states that during that year, the consumption of electricity from the Palestinian Authority constituted 7 percent of the Israeli power utility's customers. According to the new plan, the existence of which was first reported last week by the Israel Hayom daily, the IEC will build a network of high-tension transmission lines, which is the most expensive component of the plan and will serve both the

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

settlements and the Palestinians in the West Bank. However, the Palestinian substations, where the high-tension electricity supplied is lowered to middle-level voltage and distributed to individual households, is to be planned and built by the PA. The substations for the settlements will be built by Israel. ([Haaretz](#) 20 February 2020))

- The Israeli authorities proceeded with a process to build a new road to be used only by Jewish settlers in the north of the occupied West Bank. The planned road will start from the village of Zaatara, south of Nablus, and will pass through land owned by the towns of Huwwara, Beita and Odala. The Israeli government issued a decision to open this 7-kilometer-long road in April 2019, whose establishment will lead to the seizure of about 406 dunums of land from seven villages to the south of Nablus. Opening this road will cause losses in agricultural lands and will contribute to Israel's apartheid system of separate roads to settlers and the original Palestinian inhabitants of the area. To be noted, Israel last week started the construction of an 8-kilometer-long road that would connect the colonial settlements of Eli and Shilo in Nablus district with other colonial settlements in the Jordan Valley. (Wafa 20 February 2020)
- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had hoped that the unveiling of the US's Middle East [peace plan](#) would be his Trump card ahead of the March 2 election, energizing his base and presenting the electorate with an unprecedented diplomatic coup. Immediately after the White House ceremony at on January 28, where he stood side by side with US President Donald Trump as he revealed details of the far-reaching plan to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, [Netanyahu](#) promised that the following week he would bring to the cabinet a proposal to annex the Jordan Valley and extend Israeli sovereignty to West Bank settlements. Such a move would have been a major milestone, marking the first time since the 1967 Six Day War that Israel had formally annexed areas of the West Bank beyond east Jerusalem. ([JPOST](#) 21 February 2020)
- Defense Minister Naftali Bennett has told the ministry's legal adviser he opposes Palestinian construction underway in West Bank land south of Nablus, located in Area B, citing potential security threats to nearby Jewish settlements. The case of Palestinian construction in the area of the settlement Shiloh, south of Nablus, is currently being reviewed by the High Court of Justice. According to the Oslo Accords, Area B is defined as West Bank territory under Palestinian civil jurisdiction and Israeli security jurisdiction. Israeli interference in Area B construction is seen as highly unusual. According to the Ynet new site, preliminary Palestinian

construction work in the area began in mid 2019, but local settlers became concerned over the work, as the land in question is on the border of Area C – under full Israeli control – and very near several Jewish communities. In a letter to the ministry’s legal adviser in light of high court petitions on the matter, Bennett’s adviser on settlements, Avi Roeh, said “there is no real justification for the construction in its current location of all places, and it seems its main purpose is to challenge Israeli security forces.” ([TOI](#) 21 February 2020)

- A winery in the Israeli settlement of [Psagot](#) has introduced a special label named for U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. In a statement earlier this week, the West Bank winery thanked Pompeo for repudiating a State Department finding that Israeli settlements were illegal. The [Psagot](#) winery has been active in efforts to resist international efforts to prevent goods produced in Israeli settlements from being labeled “Made in Israel.” In November, in a ruling in a case brought by the winery, the European Court of Justice decided that products made in Israeli settlements must be labeled as such when they are marketed in the European Union. The Pompeo bottle is not a new flavor but a special label printed that will be used on several varieties of Psagot wines. ([IPOST](#) 22 February 2020)
- Israeli Defence Minister Naftali Bennett has announced that the Israeli government will never give up one inch of land to Arabs, Al Watan Voice reported on Friday. “In order to achieve this goal, we must continue the settlement enterprise,” Al Watan Voice reported Bennet informing Israel Hayom. He added: Settlement is one of the poles of Zionism so we must expand and continue going ahead with it. Meanwhile, Israel Hayom have revealed that the Israeli Planning and Construction Committee is slated to approve 1,900 new settlement units in West Bank settlements. “This is the decision of the Defence Minister Naftali Bennett,” the newspaper confirmed. “Based on his orders, the committee will convene on Wednesday in order to approve the plans before the elections,” it added. ([Middle East Monitor](#) 22 February 2020)
- The US members of a committee that will map out areas of the West Bank that Israel may annex as part of US President Donald Trump’s peace plan have set out for Israel, Channel 12 news reported Sunday. The American members of the joint committee are US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, his adviser Aryeh Lightstone, and C. Scott Leith, senior adviser for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict of the National Security Council. In Israel, they will join Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer, acting director of the Prime Minister’s Office Ronen Peretz, and Likud Minister Yariv Levin.

Washington has said that Israel must hold off on annexing areas of the West Bank until the committee concludes its work, which could take weeks or months. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel will extend sovereignty to the Jordan Valley and areas of the West Bank only with the agreement of Washington. Any settler leaders, along with Defense Minister Naftali Bennett, have been urging Netanyahu to immediately begin the process of extending sovereignty — tantamount to annexation — ever since Trump allowed for it in his peace plan, unveiled last month. But Washington has since made it clear it wants Jerusalem to wait and Netanyahu has backed off of promises to speedily take the step. ([TOI](#) 23 February 2020)

- Israeli Settlers invaded Palestinian grazing lands in the West Bank's Northern plains, before installing fences around them. The settlers invaded the grazing lands, east of Khirbat Makhoul village, and north of Khirbat Samra and installed fences around large areas of grazing lands in the two areas, to completely prevent the Palestinian shepherds from entering them. The areas where the attacks took place are near a small outpost that was installed by a settlers, who brought his herd with the help of other colonists and remained there due to the complacency of Israeli army. (IMEMC 23 February 2020)
- “Council Members reiterated their support for a negotiated two-state solution... where two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders.” The UN Security Council unanimously decided on Monday to maintain their stance of support for a potential two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict along with the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel through direct negotiations between both parties. Belgium, which holds the rotating presidency, released a statement saying that “Council Members reiterated their support for a negotiated two-state solution... where two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders.” The decision was supported by all 15 members of the Security Council, including the United States. “All parties should refrain from undermining the viability of the two-state solution in order to maintain the prospects for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace,” the statement added, referring to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s recently announced [intention](#) to build thousands more homes in East Jerusalem, in an area with an overwhelmingly Palestinian majority. There was no reference to US President Donald Trump's proposed [peace plan](#) in the decision. (J POST 25 February 2020)

- The Israeli defense establishment has created a new body aimed at coordinating efforts among different elements of the security sector in the event that settlements in the [West Bank](#) are annexed by the Israeli government. Some of the scenarios that would trigger the use of this new framework would be major terrorist attacks against Israelis, mass entry of Palestinians into Israeli settlements or Gazan residents into Israel, rocket launches from Syria and Lebanon, and widespread demonstrations. Similarly, additional concerns are being presented over mass demonstrations by Israeli Arabs, in protest of the decision to annex West Bank settlements. Jerusalem may also become a major area of escalation, and Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem may commit attacks and barricade access to the Temple Mount. The possibility of a third intifada remains low, however, according to the report. The report also detailed that preparations for serious escalations have already begun, under the assumption that after the elections, the government will make the decision to extend Israeli sovereignty to West Bank settlements. The new body will be referred to as the Cooperation Administration, which combines the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Israel Police and Shin Bet (Israel's internal security service). The combined system will be divided into separate sections that focus on security, intelligence and legal issues, with separate responsibilities and powers. Israel Police are likely to be responsible for incidents within Israel proper and the West Bank settlements, while the IDF will prevent terrorist attacks and defend Israel's borders. The Shin Bet will be solely responsible for intelligence, as is typically the case for the organization. The Foreign Ministry is also involved in the process, as [Israel](#) is expecting condemnation from states in the Arab world and European countries, where demonstrations are expected. It is estimated that the budget will be in the hundreds of millions of shekels. As part of the preparation process, joint exercises are expected to take place that will include representatives from all participating organizations.(JPOST 29 February 2020)

Related News during the month of March 2020

- Vote count shows settlers came out in droves for Netanyahu; Yamina, Otzma fell: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spent a great deal of time beyond the Green Line campaigning ahead of Monday's election, seeking to remind locals of all he has done and will continue to do to further expand and entrench their presence there. On Monday, settlers returned the favor, giving the premier's Likud party more support than any other faction

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

among Israelis in the West Bank. Of the roughly 460,000 settlers, 29.7 percent of voters cast their ballots for Likud — a jump of 7.3 percentage points over the September election. Likud has been the most popular party beyond the Green Line in the past, but that has generally been the case when the national religious parties were split. Moreover, the 6.9 point gap in support between Netanyahu's party and the second most popular one, Yamina, is the largest it's been in decades. The increase in support was most evident in city-settlements that were already Likud strongholds, such as Ma'ale Adumim and Ariel, the 3rd- and 4th-largest settlements, with some 40,000 and 20,000 residents, respectively. In Ma'ale Adumim, Likud climbed from 49% of the vote in September to 59% of the vote in April, and in Ariel, it jumped from 44% to 52% of the vote. ([TOI](#) 5 March 2020)

- Israeli authorities, in February, arrested a total of 41 Palestinian children, imprisoning 20 of them in Ofer prison, according to the Committee of Prisoners and Former Prisoners. The Committee explained that, of the children arrested last month; 20 were kidnapped from their homes, 6 from the streets, 1 for not having permission, 6 were summoned for interrogation and then arrested, and 8 were arrested at military checkpoints. The committee said that two of the children arrested in February were brutally beaten during their arrests and interrogations, while many others were forced to pay heavy fines, estimated at 41,000 Shekels (over \$11,000). (IMEMC 10 March 2020)
- With annexation of all West Bank settlements hanging in the balance, the 245,072 eligible settler voters had more at stake than most of their counterparts in the March 2 election. Residents of Judea and Samaria, which make up some six or seven mandates, are considered to be the bedrock of the Likud and Yamina parties, and as such were heavily courted by politicians in the last election. ([IPOST](#) 10 March 2020)
- Despite a refusal by the Palestinians to be involved in any negotiations and a lack of government in Israel, US President Donald Trump's administration will push forward with the "[Deal of the Century](#)" peace plan, including giving White House approval to Israeli annexation, senior presidential adviser Jared Kushner told US senators in a closed-room meeting last Wednesday, Channel 13's diplomatic correspondent reported through Axios. The news comes just following Israel's third election within a year, which has seen the country still divided as no clear winner has emerged from the political deadlock. Despite this, it seems the Trump administration feels both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his chief political rival, Blue and White leader Benny Gantz, will both support the

annexation. Though US and Israeli officials [met in Jerusalem two weeks](#) ago to discuss which areas of the West Bank over which the Trump administration is ready to recognize the application of Israeli sovereignty, Kushner has stated that the overall demarcation process will take months. In the meantime, he urged the Palestinians to start negotiating, saying that they could improve their position through negotiations, but they only have themselves to blame if it goes ahead without their approval, the Axios report stated. The Palestinians have stated their refusal to accept the Trump administration's peace plan well before the plan was even unveiled, and since then have refused to budge on the issue. In addition, the Palestinian Authority has been cracking down on any perceived efforts of "normalization" of ties with Israel in the months since the plan was unveiled. According to Kushner, who presented the senators with the same presentation used at a UN Security Council meeting in February, the situation has become increasingly worsened due to two specific factors: Increasing expansion efforts by Israel in the West Bank, and the increasing dependence of Palestinian leaders on foreign aid. According to a senior White House official, "Kushner's message was that every time negotiations failed, the Palestinians got more money and Israel was able to keep expanding the settlements, but the peace process became a false notion and didn't solve anything. Both parties' leaderships just kept getting what they want without improving the lives of the people." Kushner cited the support of many Arab states, as well as the EU's lack of opposition to the plan, as reasons why it could still go forward. "Nobody can say we didn't give the Palestinians a chance to go back to the table," a White House official told Channel 13. "If they want to talk we are ready. We think we can make it better for them, but if not the world is going to move on without them. We are not going to do things in the same stupid manner it was done before. We are going to keep moving forward." The Trump peace plan, entitled "Road to Prosperity," was first unveiled by Trump and Netanyahu in January 2020. Under the deal, the Trump administration will recognize the annexation of and application of Israeli sovereignty over 30% of the West Bank. ([jpost](#) 8 March 2020)

- The Trump administration will no longer refer to Arab residents of Jerusalem as Palestinians. In a new human rights report released on Wednesday, the US for the first time calls the Arab residents of the capital "non-Israeli residents who live in Jerusalem." The annual State Department report evaluates the state of human rights across the world. It has a chapter dealing with the situation in Judea and Samaria and Jerusalem. In recent

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

years its terminology has changed regarding those areas. Two years ago, the report decided to omit the term "occupied" in reference to Judea and Samaria, and last year the report included strong rebukes of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas over their violation of human rights rather than just over Israel's record. The administration's latest decision is in keeping with its principled stance of sticking to the truth and facts on the ground. The administration told Israel Hayom that the new definition of Arab residents in east Jerusalem reflects the reality in the capital; On the one hand the Arab residents are not Israeli citizens but on the other hand, there is no Palestinian state either, and hence they cannot be considered Palestinian citizens. In one paragraph dealing with the shortage of classrooms in the city, the report refers to Arab citizens in east Jerusalem without using the word "Palestinian" to describe their lack of Israeli citizenship: "Based on population data from the Central Bureau of Statistics, the NGO Ir Amim estimated in previous years a shortage of 2,500 classrooms for non-Israeli children resident in East Jerusalem and 18,600 non-Israeli children in Jerusalem were not enrolled in any school." A senior administration official told Israel Hayom that "the goal of this report is to maximize accuracy. Being accurate and factual has been the hallmark of this administration's foreign policy." The official added: "This report brings the region closer to peace because as it has been said repeatedly, peace can only be built on a foundation of truth, anything else will crumble and fail." The administration further said that it was surprised by the strong disavowal by Israeli Arabs in northern Israel of the president's peace plan and its call for land swaps that would have some Israeli Arabs live in a new Palestinian state. One administration official said that for dozens of years, Arabs in Israel have called themselves Palestinians and therefore the US can't understand why they are so vehemently against becoming citizens of the Palestinian state. "This is a mystery," an official said. ([Israel Hayom](#), [Reuters](#) 9 March 2020)

- The Israeli Army's Plunder in the Service of the Occupation: Soldiers seized tens of thousands of shekels in a West Bank village last week. One man had to cancel his wedding and another lost the payment for a machine he'd sold. Little matter that they had proper documentation. ([Haaretz](#) 12 March 2020)
- U.S. State Department Now Calling East Jerusalem Palestinians 'Arab Residents': The change in terminology comes amid increased disputes following the release of the Trump Mideast plan. The U.S. State Department changed its standard description of East Jerusalem Palestinians from

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

“Palestinian residents” of the city to “Arab residents” or “non-Israeli citizens” in an annual global human rights report released on Wednesday. The overwhelming majority of [East Jerusalem’s](#) more than 340,000 [Palestinians](#) identify as such. The Palestinians have long sought the city’s east, which Israel captured in a 1967 war and later annexed in a move not recognized internationally, as capital of a future state. Palestinians in Jerusalem hold Israeli residency permits but few have citizenship in Israel, which considers the entire holy city as its eternal, undivided capital. Jerusalem is also home to more than 500,000 Israelis. The change in U.S. terminology comes amid increased wrangling over the contested city following the release of President Donald Trump’s [Middle East plan](#), which says Jerusalem should “remain the sovereign capital of the State of Israel” under any Israeli-Palestinian peace accord. State Department reports on human rights practices from 2018 and 2019 referred to East Jerusalem Palestinians as “Palestinian residents of Jerusalem” in sections on civil judicial procedures, discrimination and freedom of movement. Those same sections in the 2020 report referred to Palestinians as “Arab residents” or “non-Israeli citizens”. Israel embraced Trump’s Middle East plan, released in January, while Palestinians rejected it out of hand, in part because it designated the urban sprawl to the north and east of Jerusalem but cut off from it by an Israeli military barrier as a future Palestinian capital. The Palestinians have boycotted Trump’s peace efforts since he recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital in 2017 and later moved the U.S. Embassy there, accusing Washington of pro-Israel bias. ([Haaretz](#), Reuters 12 March 2020)

- 'Deal or No Deal': Declassified Oslo Accords Documents Show Uncertainty from All Sides: Expelling settlers from Hebron, an undivided Jerusalem and a Palestinian state – When Rabin complained to Arafat and Peres admitted a historic mistake. ([Haaretz](#) 13 March 2020)
- The Palestinians on Monday submitted their observations to the [International Criminal Court](#) regarding the ICC prosecutor’s request for a determination on the scope of its jurisdiction in the “State of Palestine.” On January 28, the ICC Pretrial Chamber ordered setting the procedure and schedule for submission of observations on the prosecutor’s request, resubmitted on January 22, under article 19(3) of the Rome Statute related to the scope of the court’s territorial jurisdiction in the “Situation in the State of Palestine.” The Pretrial Chamber invited Israel and the Palestinians to submit written observations on the ICC prosecutor’s request no later than March 16. In their observations, the [Palestinians](#) said: “The State of Palestine

affirms that it has sole sovereignty over the territory of the State of Palestine, occupied in 1967, which comprises the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, and which is also recognized by the international community.” They said the “State of Palestine recognizes that the court plays an important role in bringing justice to the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.” The Palestinians welcomed the submission of several lawyers, professors and human-rights defenders, “reaffirming that the Court has a jurisdiction over the territory of the State of Palestine, thus leaving no doubt over who is entitled to the territory, including in particular the submissions of the League of Arab States and the Organization Cooperation.” The Pretrial Chamber had ruled that other states, organizations and/or persons may submit written observations by the March 16 deadline. It said any observations should be limited to the question of jurisdiction set forth in the prosecutor’s request. The Palestinians wrote: “Other submissions on behalf of Palestinian victims demonstrate how a decision denying the territorial scope over the entirety of the territory of Palestine would contradict the object and purpose of the court, of ending impunity and holding perpetrators accountable for their crimes. “The State of Palestine looks forward to an expeditious ruling from the Pretrial Chamber I, in accordance with the Chambers Practice Manual, which sets a timeframe of 120 days, preventing any further delay in the prosecutor’s opening of an investigation into the situation in the State of Palestine.” The Palestinians said they “stand by the independent nature of the court, a pillar of the rule of law,” adding that it was the responsibility of all states to protect its independence. “The situation in the State of Palestine remains the ultimate test of the court’s impartiality as well as the state parties’ universality of international justice. “The State of Palestine reaffirms its solid commitment to upholding its legal obligations as a state party to the Rome Statute and will continue to fully cooperate with the court,” the Palestinians wrote. ([IPOST](#) 17 March 2019)

- In the midst of global preoccupation with combating the outbreak of the Coronavirus COVID19, the Israeli forces continue to storm Palestinian cities, assaulting the civilian population, without taking any preventive measures, and completely ignoring the dangers this behavior might cause in light of the spread of the infection in Israel, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor (Euro-Med) said in a press statement. It said it followed with a great concern reports of suspicious behaviors of Israeli soldiers and settlers, during the storming of Palestinian houses, as some of them spat at parked cars, ATMs and shop locks, which raises fears of

Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)

P.O Box 860, Caritas Street – Bethlehem, Phone: (+972) 2 2741889, Fax: (+972) 2 2776966.

pmaster@arij.org | <http://www.arij.org>

deliberate attempts to spread the virus and cause panic in the Palestinian society. Since the Palestinian government has declared a state of emergency in the Palestinian Territories on March 6, as a preventive measure to control the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus, Euro-Med has documented 207 Israeli incursions into Palestinian cities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. These incursions included the arrest of 191 Palestinians, attacks on dozens of others, and demolishing Palestinian houses. The majority of these operations took place without any preventive measures and without soldiers wearing appropriate masks to prevent the spread of the virus. ([Wafa](#), EUROMED 31 March 2020)

ARIJ