

## Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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### Report on the Israeli Colonization Activities in the West Bank & the Gaza Strip

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#### Bethlehem

- An Israeli settler destroyed at least 10 dunums of Palestinian land and damaged at least 140 more when he drove a bulldozer over agricultural land near the town of Al-Khader. The settler, who appeared to be acting alone, left the illegal West Bank settlement of Efrata with a bulldozer in the early hours and dug a road down the center of a large swath of a land growing almond trees and grapevines, crushing hundreds of plants under the wheels of the vehicle. The land, in the Abu Bkir area just outside the center of town, is privately owned by several Al-Khader families. Maannews (May 2, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces staged into Beit Sahour City, stormed the house of Nasri Bannoura and arrested his son Nidal after carrying out a thorough house inspection and messed up with its contents. Wafa (May 3, 2009).
- Three Palestinians were taken from their Bethlehem-area homes by invading Israeli troops. The Palestinians were arrested under the claim of being “wanted” by Israeli intelligence and noted they were taken to investigation centers for questioning. Maannews (May 8, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces surrounded the schools of Al Khader Secondary School for females and Al Khader Boys School and hinder the

entry and exit of students and teacher under the pretext of searching for wanted people. The IOF also threatened to keep surrounding the schools for 30 days if students are not thoroughly inspected. Wafa (May 18, 2009).

- The Israeli Occupation Forces set up a number of military checkpoints at Za'atara village entrances southeast of Bethlehem city. The IOF also set up another military checkpoint at Qaber Hilwah Area (The tomb of Hilwah) which links Al Ubaidiyah village with Beit Sahour city. Wafa (May 19, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces staged into Ad Duheisha refugee camp and set up a number of checkpoints and stormed a number of Palestinian houses. Al Quds (May 21, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces set up a checkpoint at Beit Jala's city western entrance, locally known DCO checkpoint. IOF stopped and inspected vehicles and forced passengers to get off their cars and confiscated their ID cards. Wafa (May 26, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation troops staged into Al Walajeh village northwest of Bethlehem city and stormed a number of Palestinian houses and messed up with contents. Among stormed houses, the following were known: 'Adnan and 'Adel Al Atrash. Wafa (May 27, 2009).
- Many housing units are being added to the settlement of Har Homa north of Bethlehem city despite international objections. The Israeli Occupation Authorities published tenders for apartments that are for sale in the settlement. Wafa (May 31, 2009).

## Jerusalem

- Head of the Israeli archeology department Shai Friedman refused to return an Umayyad-era artifact “stolen from the Umayyad Palaces in the southern part of the Al-Aqsa compound a month ago,”. The ancient stone was transferred to the courtyard of the Israeli Knesset on Friday, and Israeli officials have stonewalled requests to have the stone returned to the Al-Aqsa compound. Maannews (May 2, 2009).
- Israeli Interior Minister Eli Yishai has decided to approve recommendations by a special committee within the Israeli Interior Ministry to expand the illegal West Bank settlement of Ma'ale Adumim by

12,000 dunums (12 million square meters). Expansion will include 6,000 housing units to be built between the Ma'ale Adumim and Qedar settlements. The expansion of Ma'ale Adumim will further separate the northern West Bank from the south, and isolate Jerusalem from the West Bank as a whole. The special Israeli committee had originally approved the plan in late April, despite objections from the United States. The plan would link Ma'ale Adumim, the largest settlement in the West Bank, with the nearby settlement of Kedar, seizing the land in between. This expansion, in addition to another planned expansion to the north of the settlement, will further isolate the north of the occupied West Bank from the south. The proposed expansion would include 6,000 new housing units in between Ma'ale Adumim and Kedar, which is now home to 800 settlers. Some 30,000 people live in Ma'ale Adumim, according to the Israeli government. [Maannews \(May 3, 2009\)](#).

- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem issued an order to demolish an addition to the house of Nabeel Isaac Ad Disi in Omar Ben Al Khattab street in the old city of Jerusalem. The addition includes a bathroom and a balcony. Al Quds (May 3, 2009).
- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem issued a number of new house demolition orders in Wadi Al Jouz and Ras Al 'Amoud neighborhoods and Jerusalem old city under the pretext of lacking valid building permits. Wafa (May 4, 2009).
- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem issued a number of new house demolition orders in Al Ashqariya neighborhood in Beit Hanina, Ash Sheikh Jarrah and Shu'fat. Among threatened structures, a building composed of six floors under the pretext of lacking valid building permits. Wafa (May 4, 2009).
- Interior Minister Eli Yishai said that he was developing a plan to settle Jews in the City of David in Jerusalem. "The City of David and everywhere in Jerusalem that was the origin of our growth is our sovereign right," he said. Yishai spoke ahead of a Jerusalem Municipality meeting set to determine construction plans for the City of David. He promised to create a Jewish settlement alongside the Palestinian ones in the area. The plan is a step away from former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's policy, which tended towards the relinquishing of certain areas of Jerusalem. INN & Ynetnews (May 5, 2009).

- The Israeli Reconciliation Court postponed considering the case of Maher Hanoun and Abdel Fattah Al Ghawi until the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, 2009. Al Quds (May 5, 2009).
- Restraining Orders were issued to stop the demolition of 30 Palestinian houses in Al Ashqariya neighborhood in Beit Hanina, Ash Sheikh Jarrah, Shu'fat and Jerusalem Old city. Another restraining order was also issued to stop the demolition of a school in Jabal Al Mukkabir southeast of Jerusalem city. Wafa (May 5, 2009).
- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem Court gave Citizen Faraj Hussein 'Ali 'Illian from Ath Thuri neighborhood south of Jerusalem city a period of 60 days to evacuate his house and demolish it with his own hands. The Municipality has already imposed on Mr. 'Illian 3 penalties to pay (about 30 thousand USD) for lacking valid building permit for his house. The house is inhabited by 10 people and occupies a total land area of 140 meters square. Wafa (May 5, 2009).
- Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat presented a city master plan for the next two decades that envisions the capital becoming the greenest city in Israel, and includes affordable housing for young residents, thousands of new apartments for Arab residents of the eastern neighborhoods, and the expansion of tourism and employment. The final draft, nearly a decade in the making, is the first municipal plan for the city in half a century. It was presented to an Interior Ministry planning committee for review and for discussion of any objections that may be submitted. JPost (May 5, 2009).
- Citizen Abdel Naser 'Adel Hamdallah from Al Sal'a neighborhood is forced to demolish his own house under the pretext of lacking valid building permits. The house occupies a total land area of 65 square meters. Al Quds (May 6, 2009).
- The Israeli Ministry of Interior affairs office has asked a citizen from Jerusalem city to present the license of the house he lives in as a condition to issue an ID card for his son who just turned sixteen. Al Quds (May 8, 2009).
- The guardian of Absentee Properties in Jerusalem city claimed ownership of 70 Palestinian houses in Silwan city south of Jerusalem city. Al Quds (May 8, 2009).

- The Israeli Central Court rejected a petition filed by Citizen Muhammad Abu Sarhan against the construction of a new colonial project on his land in Jabal Al Mukkabir area east of Jerusalem city. The project includes the construction of 4 buildings (63 housing units each composed of 4 to 5 rooms). Al Quds (May 9, 2009).
- The Israeli government and Israeli settler organizations are working on a \$100 million, multiyear development plan to surround the Old City of Jerusalem with nine national parks, pathways and sites, drastically altering the status quo in the city. The secret plan was assigned to the Jerusalem Development Authority (JDA). The JDA described the purpose of the project as "to create a sequence of parks surrounding the Old City," all in the aspiration "to strengthen Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel." The program, sponsored by the Prime Minister's Office and the mayor of Jerusalem, is secret and did not engage in any form of public discussion. It integrates with statutory program 11555, approved by the Jerusalem municipality in November 2007, designed to accelerate development [to six housing units per dunam, or some 24 units per acre] in one of the most important archaeological sites in Israel. The array of escalators, cable cars and tunnels included in the plan portend blatant signs of a biblical playground populated by settler organizations," which the organization says will be carried out by ousting Palestinian residents. Haaretz (May 10, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities closed the Iron Gate leading to Al 'Isawiya town lands east of Jerusalem city and adjacent to the camp of the Israeli Police guards and hindered Palestinians from accessing thousands of dunums of their lands. Wafa (May 10, 2009).
- Israeli police and intelligence forces raided the Ambassador Hotel in Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem, shutting down in advance a Palestinian Media Center planned in advance of the pope's visit to Jerusalem. The auditorium was closed due to an order signed by Internal Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonovitch, following intelligence information received by the police. The officers confiscated documents signed by the PA, and the police activity ended without any unusual incidents. Ynetnews & Maannews (May 11, 2009).
- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem handed over house demolition orders to nine Palestinian houses in Hosh Mash'al neighborhood in Ath Thuri neighborhood in Jerusalem owned by Ziad, Al Bardaweel and 'Asela under the pretext of lacking valid building permits. In addition, the

Municipality handed over another military order to Citizen Hamada Mahfouz to demolish his building composed of 32 apartments in Beit Hanina town north of Jerusalem city. Not forgetting to mention that the building was built in 1999 and is a home to more than 250 people. Al Quds (May 13, 2009).

- Jerusalemites must not resort to Israeli courts on cases of real estate related to absentee properties. The warning was extended to Jerusalemites who live abroad, especially in Jordan, and anyone who gives proxy to attorneys in Jerusalem to file cases in front of the Israeli courts to evacuate tenants from their properties. [Maannews \(May 14, 2009\)](#).
- Pinchas Buchris, Director of the Israeli Ministry of Defense, has ordered work halted on the wall in areas of eastern Jerusalem. The construction will not be renewed before a court rules on a motion filed against the construction. This decision was based on a petition filed by Jerusalem land activist Aryeh King, Chairman of the National Lands Fund and the representative of the Jewish owners of lands in the Shaar HaMizrach neighborhood in east Jerusalem in the year 2007 under the pretext that the planned route of the wall will leave Jewish property outside the fence despite the fact that it is within municipal boundaries and that the territorial contiguity between Jerusalem and Ma'aleh Adumim will be cut off.. [INN \(May 14, 2009\)](#).
- The Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan in East Jerusalem is slated for destruction to make way for residential units in a new illegal Israeli settlement. A plan by the Israeli-run municipal council of Jerusalem and an Israeli settlers' association called Ateret Cohanim is set to build residential units on the area of Batn Al-Hawa in Silwan, south of the Old City of Jerusalem. The 5,800 square meters Batn Al-Hawa neighborhood is home to 60 Palestinian residential buildings built on the area before 1948. [Maannews \(May 16, 2009\)](#).
- Israeli Constructions taking place at Bypass Road 20 in Beit Hanina city which the Municipality is constructing had caused severe damages to the Catholic Church located nearby. Al Quds (May 16, 2009).
- Citizen Abdel Naser 'Adel Hamdallah was forced to demolish his own 65 meters square house in Al Sal'a neighborhood in Jabal Al Mukkabir under the pretext of lacking valid building permits. Al Quds (May 17, 2009).

- The Israeli Occupation Bulldozers are carrying out excavation works in the vicinity of the Container checkpoint on the expanse of lands of As Sawahra, Abu Dis and Al 'Izariya southeast of Jerusalem city. The Israeli activities in the area aim at expanding the checkpoint to become a crossing border. More than 30 dunums of lands were already razed. Wafa (May 18, 2009).
- The Israeli Reconciliation Court has ordered the evacuation of Two Palestinian families in Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, Abed Al-Fatah Al-Ghawi and Maher Hanun by the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, 2009. This order will make room for an Israeli colonial plan to be implemented in the area which will include the leveling of 27 Palestinian houses in the area for the construction of 250 new Israeli housing units. The court has also fined each family 50,000 US dollars, with a further fine of 50,000 shekels (12,500 US dollars) if they do not evacuate by 19 July, the date of a court hearing. Maannews (May 18, 2009). **See more links (1)**
- The Israeli Court has ordered citizen 'Adel Hasan Al Tamimi to demolish his own 100 square meters under the pretext of lacking valid housing building permits or else he will have to pay 12000 NIS as a penalty. The house is inhabited by six family members. Al Quds (May 21, 2009).
- In a report published by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics showed that by the end of Year 2008, the number of Israeli population in Jerusalem city reached to 492400 people, around 65% of the total population in Jerusalem city; while the number of Palestinian population reached to 268400 citizens, a percent of 35% of the total population in the city. Al Quds (May 21, 2009).
- According to Peace Now movement calculations, almost 2000 Israeli settlers live in outposts in East Jerusalem. Israel funds security for the settlers of East Jerusalem which include permanent guards to every house, tight escort and in some places also transportation. These security measures are implemented by 350 private company guards (one guard for every five settlers), and is funded by the Ministry of construction and housing. In 2008, the cost of securing the settlers of East Jerusalem was 47,876 million NIS. **The Settlements of East Jerusalem are:**

Settlement Name	Neighborhood	No. of settlers (estimated)	Comments
About 70 families	350	Wadi Hilwa Silwan	Ir David (City of David)

About 80 families and 500 Yeshiva students	900	Muslim and Christian quarters	The Old City
About 50 families	250	Ras El Amud	Ma'aleh Zeitim
Two houses in the cemetery	15	Mount of Olives	The Mount of Olives Cemetery
Two houses	15	Abu Dis	Kidmat Tzion
In the Yemenite neighborhood	30	Silwan	"The Jonathan House" and "The Dvash House"
About 7 families	35	Sheikh Jarrah	Shimon Hatzadik
15 Hamefaked St.	20	Abu Tur	Abu Tur East
Two large structures	30	A tur	"The Hoshen House"
Yeshiva	125	A tur	Beit Orot
About 15 families in a luxurious compound	50	Jabel Mukaber	Nof Tzion
Total	1820		
PEACENOW (May 21, 2009).			

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities are making plans of NIS 150 Million to encourage tourism in the Old city of Jerusalem city. Al Quds (May 21, 2009).
- The Israeli Ministry of Interior announced that it has completed preparations of the new 2020 Plan for Jerusalem city, including East Jerusalem. Al Quds (May 22, 2009).
- Israeli extremists smashed dozens of storefront windows and lights on several streets in East Jerusalem. Damages were reported on Al-Wad Street, As-Selsela, Khan Az-Ziet, Al-Haser and Jaffa Gate during rallies that were organized under the protection of police on the anniversary of Israel's "Jerusalem Day," a holiday that marks the conquest of the eastern half of the Palestinian capital in 1967. On Jaffa Street in West Jerusalem, a group of extremists attacked a Palestinian vehicle, destroying it, before its owner managed to flee the scene. Another two cars, including a taxi, were damaged by stones thrown by mobs. Maannews (May 22, 2009).
- A number of Israeli extremists stormed Bab Al Rahma Cemetery and destroyed a number of graves. Al Quds (May 23, 2009).



- Members of Hakeren Ladmoot Yesrael movement and Land Israel Faithful organization stormed a house in Ash Sheikh Jarrah in Jerusalem city and changed door locks as to prevent its owners from entering to it; meanwhile, settlers were preparing to storm 20 dunums of lands north of Jerusalem city, in Samir Amis neighborhood on which 6 buildings are being built. Al Quds (May 23, 3009).
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities decided to consider the area parallel to Bypass Road number 443 and the area that is also parallel to the segregation wall path that separates Beir Nabala and Beit Hanina a closed military area where no Palestinian access is allowed. Palestinians would have to get permits in order to be able to access the areas. Al Quds (May 23, 2009).
- Israeli Occupation bulldozers destroyed a livestock barn owned Amjad Ahmad 'Ubeid in Al Isawiya town east of Jerusalem city. The bulldozers also demolished the walls of a number of compounds in Issawiya town; the first is owned by Citizen Nase Muhammad Naser and is 75 meters square area. The second wall surrounds the land of 'Omar Muhammad Dari and is 60 square meters area; while the third wall is owned by Khaled Muhammad Mustafa and is 80 square meters area on the grounds that they were built without a permit. Maannews (May 24, 2009).
- More than 30 Israeli extremists gathered at An Nather door of Al Aqsa Mosque and tried to storm the Mosque at Noon time. Al Quds (May 24, 2009).
- A local Israeli court has ordered a Palestinian resident of Jerusalem's Old City to demolish a room of his house and pay a 6000 shekel (1500 US dollar) fine for building without a permit. Riyadh Agha said he was given 45 days to complete the demolition. He is facing a three month jail term if he does not comply with the decision. It is worth mentioning that Mr. Agha also paid an 8000 shekel (2000 dollar) fine in 2004 for installing the one-room addition to his house without a permit from the Israeli-controlled Jerusalem Municipality, which notoriously refuses Palestinians permits. Maannews (May 24, 2009).
- The Israeli Police and Intelligence handed over Yabus Artistic Production Company a military order which prohibits them from holding the "Palestine Festival of Literature" at the National Theater (Al Hakawati) in Jerusalem city with participation of 27 Artistis from all over the world. Al Quds (May 24, 2009).

- The Legal service at the Jerusalem Center for Social and Economic Rights managed to get a restraining order to postpone the demolition of five Palestinian houses in Silwan and Jabal Al Mukkabir towns in Jerusalem city; house owners are: 'Inad 'Ibeidat, Yousif Al 'Abasi from Silwan, 'Aysha Shqeir from Jabal Al Mukkabir, Hind Al Sheiki, and Raed Qara'in. Jerusalem (May 27, 2009).
- Israeli Occupation authorities attempted to shut down the final night of the Palestine Festival of Literature at the Palestinian National Theater in East Jerusalem. The festival organizers were forced to move the event to the British Council when the Israeli Interior Ministry ordered the theater closed. Israel alleges that the festival was sponsored in part by the Palestinian Authority, which is banned from operating in Jerusalem, a charge the festival's organizers deny. Maannews (May 28, 2009).
- The Israeli local committee for planning and construction at the Jerusalem Municipality ratified this week the last section of the Ring Road project and is awaiting final approval as there are 138 objections that were filed against the project. The Eastern Ring Road is the only unfinished section of a broad road network that will extend around the city of Jerusalem (West and East) and through its suburbs. The Eastern Section of the Ring Road is intended to link the Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem to each other and to West Jerusalem. The Road (Route No. 4585) will extend 11.5 kilometers through Sur Baher, Umm Lissan, Haj al-Madaris, al-Qunbar, Jabal al-Mukabbir (to the West of the Road) and Abu Dis, Surhai, Sawahra Sharqiya, Sheikh Sa'ad (to the East of the Road). The plan will also require construction of three bridges and five tunnels along the route. [Al Quds \(May 28, 2009\)](#).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces demolished the 30 square meters garage of citizen Ameer 'Adel Ubeid and confiscated a car and some tools from him. In addition, the IOF also confiscated a car for selling juice car owned by Citizen Mahmoud Barakat northwest of Jerusalem city. [Al Quds \(May 28, 2009\)](#).
- The Housing Projects Administration affiliated to the Israeli Forces asked the Jerusalem Municipality to propose an area to build hundreds of housing units and neighborhoods to Israeli soldiers. The suggested areas for the projects were the French hill, Ramat Rahel Kibbutz and Giv'at Meshwa in Giv'at Shaoul Area. [Al Quds \(May 29, 2009\)](#).
- The Israeli Municipality approved the eviction of hundreds of Palestinians from King's Valley, on the outskirts of Silwan, despite the opposition of the city's legal advisor, Yossi Havalio. [Haaretz \(Haaretz \(May 31, 2009\)\)](#).

## **Ramallah**

- Israeli Occupation soldiers invaded the West Bank village of Ni'lin attempting to occupy the rooftops of two homes near the wall and where residents typically perform weekly prayers. The two homes broken into belong to Mustafa Shem'on A'meerah and A'zmi Al-Khawaja, both residents of the Ramallah-area village. Maannews (May 2, 2009).
- Israeli Settlers from the Givat Haroeh outpost have cut 45 olive trees belonging to the Palestinians of Sinjil village, near Ramallah. Ynetnews (May 7, 2009).
- Two Palestinian farmers from the villages of Ras Karkar and Al-Janiya have been told by the Israeli military Coordination office that they are not allowed to work in their land for security claims. Mr. Hani Mathloom from Al Janiya village was denied access to his 50 dunums land which lies between the settlement outpost of Zen Ra'nan and the settlement of Niria. Citizen Dergham Nofel from Ras Karkar village was also denied access to his 50 dunums of land under the same Israeli security claims. Accordingly, the lands are now under threat of being seized to make way for settlements expansion. Maannews (May 8, 2009).
- Two Israeli road blocks in the Ramallah area were removed, one located near the village of Ras Karkar and the other near the village of Ein Yabrud. The removal of the Ras Karkar road block allows free movement of vehicles between the city of Ramallah and the villages to its west, while the removal of the Ein Yabrud road block allows for traffic between Ramallah and villages to its east. IDF (May 10, 2009).
- The Israeli Civil Administration's planning bureau will hold a hearing on a Peace Now demand that the planned route of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv train be altered so as not to cut into privately owned Palestinian land in five Villages in Nablus Governorate north of the West Bank. At present, the plan involves turning Palestinian farmland into access roads for a tunnel and bridge near Mevasseret Zion, outside Jerusalem. Indeed, most of the rail line lies outside the jurisdiction of Israeli regional or local councils. The planned route passes through 50 dunums (about 12 acres) of land belonging to several Palestinian villages ((Louza site, As Sadr, Al Jbajeib, Aqbat beit kalmia and Beit Iksa). Haaretz (May 11, 2009).
- Israeli occupation forces evacuated a seven-hut settlement northeast of Ramallah. The tiny outpost was established in 2005 by residents of the nearby Kokhav HaShahar, and lately inhabited by youth from the settlement. Maannews (May 21, 2009).

- The Israeli Police and Civil Administration forces evacuated the tiny outpost Ma'oz Ester in a move which has not been seen for some time. Seven tin huts and several youths residing in the area were removed from the Maoz Ester outpost. Ynetnews (May 21, 2009).
- Just six hours after it was [evacuated](#) by security forces, the West Bank outpost of Ma'oz Ester was being rebuilt by dozens of settlers who returned to the site of their deconstructed homes. Dozens of youths working to rebuild the outpost said they would make sure Ma'oz Ester was expanded even further than it had been originally. Ynetnews (May 21, 2009).
- More than 50 Israeli settlers from Yezhar settlement aggressed on Palestinian cars driving on Nablus – Ramallah road and caused damages to cars. This act of sabotage came as a response to the Israeli Government's decision to evacuate Ramat Gil'ad outpost located close to the settlement. Wafa (May 25, 2009).
- Palestinians from the West Bank village of Ein Yabrud filed a petition to the High Court of Justice that construction works on a purification plant located on their land be halted. The petitioners also requested funding for the construction be frozen and that previous demolition orders issued against the site, that is located southeast of the 'Ofra settlement, be upheld. Ynetnews (May 25, 2009).
- The Israeli High Court of Justice issued an interim order to stop construction efforts in the settlement of Halamish-Neve Tzuf. The judges' decision follows a petition filed in early May by 'Peace Now' movement. The order specifies that all work must cease on the structures discussed in the case. The order further states that the buildings could not be sold or populated. Haaretz (May 31, 2009).
- The Israeli state made clear to the [Israeli High Court](#) of Justice that it has accepted the illegal construction of nine [new houses](#) in Ofra, in response to a petition filed in June 2008 by two human rights groups and five Palestinians who claim to own the land upon which the houses were built. The state representative said that enforcing building regulations in Ofra was low on the list of priorities for dealing with illegal construction in the West Bank. The High Court, however, issued a unilateral interim injunction ordering an immediate halt to the construction of a permanent structure in the illegal outpost of El-Matan. Jpost (May 31, 2009).

## Jenin

- The Israeli Occupation Forces surrounded the house of Hamad Hussein in Deir Abu Da'if village east of Jenin city in an attempt to attempt the owner of the house. Wafa (May 5, 2009).
- Some 1,500 Israeli settlers returned to the West Bank settlement of Homesh Four years after the Israeli Occupation Army unilateral disengagement from Gaza. The Israeli Occupation forces also set up a military checkpoint on the main road which links Nablus and Jenin Governorate and banned Palestinian cars from access. Maannews (May 12, 2009).
- Israeli troops raided the West Bank city of Jenin and several nearby (At-Tayba and Al-Araqa, west of Jenin), and searched the area amid gunfire. The IOF also raided the towns of Al-Harthiyah, Rummana, and Zabuba. Maannews (May 14, 2009).
- The Israeli Land Administration handed over citizens of Ya'bud village a new military order to confiscate about 300 dunums of lands planted with Olive Trees. The lands are owned by Muhammad 'Abed Qabha, Anis Hasan Qabha, Muhammad Sharif Zeid, 'Adnan Isma'il Zaid, Husni Zaid, Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ubadi, Saleh 'Aziz Zaid, Muhammad Isma'il Qabha, and 'Awwad Rafiq Theib. Wafa (May 22, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation forces set up a military tent on lands of Jalboun east of Jenin city next to the Israeli Segregation Wall path. Wafa (May 24, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces set up a number of checkpoints in Jenin Governorate. The first checkpoint was erected on Jein-Nablus roadway, at Sanur village entrance. A second checkpoint was also erected between Al Zababda and Qabatyia villages; a third checkpoint at Meslya village junction and a fourth checkpoint between Al Mutallah and Al Mughayer east of Jenin city. Wafa (May 25, 2009).
- Israeli military force invaded Jenin from the West and conducted patrols in the streets of the city and in Jenin Refugee Camp. In Qabatyia city, Israeli occupation soldiers stopped pedestrians in the streets and later withdrew. May 28, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation forces set up a flying checkpoint between Barqin and Muthallath Al Shuhada south of Jenin city and carried out a thorough house to house search. Wafa (May 31, 2009).

## Hebron

- A troop of Israeli soldiers and police dogs broke into several Yatta-area homes and stole cash and jewelry after ransacking the family residences. Among the homes targeted was that of Iyad Abu Qabeita, head of the Yatta Youth Club. The soldiers forced his wife and children out of the home and knocked in the doors of each room, tearing out cement from the walls as they barged through. Mrs Abu Qabetia's jewelry box was missing along with about 8,000 shekels (aprox. 2,000 USD) in cash. Maannews (May 1, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces hinders Palestinian farmers south of Hebron city from accessing more than 4000 dunums of lands along side the 1967 borders by declaring them closed Military Zones. Al Quds (May 2, 2009).
- Israeli Occupation forces stormed the home of 50-year-old Muhammad Imtour from the southern West Bank town of Sa'ir north of Hebron and detained him along with his 28-year-old son Imad. Maannews (May 3, 2009).
- More than 20 Israeli Settlers of Bayt 'Ayn fired at Palestinian Houses in Safa village in Beit Ummer village north of Hebron city. Settlers also set fire into the fields of Citizen Hussein Musleh'Adi. Wafa (May 4, 2009).
- A number of settlers from the illegal Israeli settlement of Bet Ayn attacked residents of Kharbat Safa village near the West Bank city of Hebron. Maannews (May 3, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces banned Palestinian farmers and International peace activists from Safa Village in Beit Ummer north of Hebron city from accessing their lands ('Ein Al Bayda and Wadi Ar Reesh areas) located close to Bayt 'Ayn settlement. Lands are owned by Ibrahim Thalji 'Adi, Muhammad Abed Jaber Sleibi and Hammad Abdel Hamid Sleibi. Wafa (May 3, 2009).
- Israeli Settlers of Bayt 'Ayn settlement adopted a new tradition. They climb to the hilltop known as "Mukhtar Hill," an observation point several hundred meters southeast of the settlement, where under the shade of thick trees, they hold Torah sessions, lectures and meetings with the express intention of turning the location into an outpost. Haaretz (May 5, 2009).

- Around a dozen Palestinian farmers from the village of Beit Ummar with lands in Safa close to the illegal Israeli settlement of Bet Ayin were denied access to their fields after Israeli Occupation forces declared the area a closed military zone. The farmers were accompanied by eight international solidarity activists and five Israeli human rights activists. After less than ten minutes of being in the fields, farmers were ordered off their lands by Israeli soldiers and border police in four jeeps. Israeli forces showed the villagers a closed military zone order and demanded they leave the area. Maannews (May 10, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation forces extended the closure of the road linking the Ibrahimi Mosque in the Old City of Hebron with Kiryat Arba' settlement east of Hebron city (the prayer road) for a period of six months, until November 2009. Wafa (May 10, 2009).
- The Israeli settlers closed Bir Sheva' road in Hebron city and prevented Palestinians from reaching the place, under the pretext of visiting the so-called 'Hebron's Tomb' to hold prayers there. Wafa (May 13, 2009).
- 15 Israeli settlers of Karmie'l aggressed on 3 Palestinian homes in Um Al Khair hamlet in Yatta south of Hebron city. The aggression was against the homes of Salem, Bilal and Abdullah Al Hathalin which live in close parameters of the Segregation Wall. Wafa (May 14, 2009).
- A mob of Israeli settlers from the illegal settlement of Karme'l attacked houses in Um Al-Kheir village, south of the West Bank city of Hebron and stole two guard dogs after anesthetizing them. The settlers' attacks coincided with the construction of a three-kilometer new settler road south and southwest of the settlement, along with repeated Israeli attempts to force 170 members of the Al-Hathalin family out of their homes to be confiscated for the settlement." Maannews (May 14, 2009)
- Israeli Occupation authorities prevented a number of International peace activists and Palestinians from reaching lands in front of the illegal settlement of Kiyat Arba east Hebron. The group headed to the area to clean the long-inaccessible agricultural lands, which were declared a closed military zone and physically barred citizens and internationals from accessing the area. Maannews (May 15, 2009).
- The Israeli occupation forces again closed the main entrance of Bani Na'im village in wadi Al Jouz area west of Hebron city with earth-mounds and

road blocks and hindered Palestinian access. It is worth mentioning that the entrance was opened two months ago after a three years closure. Wafa (May 16, 2009)

- Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak approved an application by the right-wing National Union party to organize a tour inside occupied Hebron. During the visit which is scheduled for Monday, delegates also plan to visit areas designated as H1, which are supposedly controlled by the Palestinian National Authority. Maannews (May 17, 2009).
- Claiming security, the Israeli Occupation Forces started constructing an iron wall at the entrance of Beit Ummer town in Hebron Governorate. According to the plan, the wall will extend a length of 295 meters. The wall will block the town's access to the main road and will hinder Palestinian access into and out of the town. Paltimes (May 18, 2009).
- Israeli settlers of Beit 'Ayn settlement which is established on lands of Beit Ummer hindered Palestinian citizens from reaching their lands located close to the settlement. Wafa (May 18, 2009).
- Israel intends to construct a new bypass road on lands of the Palestinian Hamlet, Beit 'Anoun, in an attempt to shorten the path Israeli settlers take in northern Hebron. Al Quds (May 20, 2009).
- Israeli Occupation forces invaded the Mutahseb family home near the Mosque in Hebron's Israeli controlled zone and expelled international activists from the scene. Maannews (May 20, 2009).
- A car driven by an Israeli settler hit a three-year old girl as she crossed Ar-Ras street in Hebron near the illegal Kiryat Arba settlement. Maannews (May 21, 2009).
- A Palestinian and an Israeli soldier were injured after a group of Israeli settlers' assaulted Palestinian youths in the southern West Bank. The Palestinians had tried to remove a tent that was set up in the area of Al-Buweirah, east of the West Bank city of Hebron. Maannews (May 22, 2009).
- Israeli settlers attacked four Palestinian shepherds who were herding sheep on their land near Israeli settlements of Ma'on and Beit Yatir, east of Yatta in the southern West Bank. The shepherds who were assaulted are Isma'il Abu Qbeita, Issa Makhamra, Ibrahim Zein, and Ali Makhamra. All



four shepherds sustained bruises after more than 20 Israeli settlers attacked them with clubs. Maannews (May 26, 2009).

- The Israeli Occupation Forces started constructing a 2 km long bypass road on the expanse of the southern side of Um Al Khair Hamlet east of Yatta town. The lands are owned by Al Hathalin, Issa and Abu Hmeid families. The IOF plan to connect this road with Karm'iel settlement through the road that has been constructed on the eastern side of the hamlet a month ago. Wafa (May 26, 2009).
- Israeli Police and Civil Administration forces destroyed two huts on Hill 18 (Mitzpe Avihai), near the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba. Six teenagers were present at the place at the time of the operation. In addition, a tent was removed from the Federman Farm in the city of Hebron that was established on the lands of Issa Jaber in Al Buwera area. Ynetnews (May 27, 2009).
- The Israeli occupation forces staged into Tarqumiya town west of Hebron city and stormed a number of Palestinian houses, among which, the following were known: Muhammad Rashid Al Froukh, Musa Abdel Fattah Al Froukh and his son Yaser and Waleed Hamdan Al Froukh. Wafa (May 27, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces closed the main gate and entrances leading to Beit Ummer north of Hebron city. The IOF also took over the house of Mahmoud Musaif and transferred it into a military post. Wafa (May 28, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces took over the 4-storey house of Muhammad Mustapha Abu 'Aqeil from As Samou' village near Hebron city and transferred it into a military post. The house is inhabited by 30 family members. Wafa (May 28, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Bulldozers razed lands in Deir Al 'Asal Al Fouqa and Deir Al 'Asal Al Tahta west of Dura town in Hebron and caused damages to properties. Wafa (May 29, 2009).
- Clashes erupted between settlers and left-wing activists who were trying to help Palestinians with agricultural work near the village of Safa in the West Bank. Activists from the Jewish-Arab rights group Ta'ayush arrived at the village, which is located near the settlement of Bat Ayin, and were

attacked by 15 to 20 masked settlers. The settlers assaulted the activists and pelted them with stones, breaking one of their cameras, and flipping over one of their cars, breaking the windshield. Haaretz (May 31, 2009).

## **Salfit**

- The Wadi Qana area of Dir Istiya, north of Salfit (a Palestinian agricultural area) was declared a closed military zone as settlers infiltrated the area and uprooted olive trees as Israeli soldiers guarded the area. The Seventy-five-year-old farmer Mohammad Shheda owns the land in which the Olive trees are planted. Maannews (May 21, 2009).
- A group of Israeli settlers aggressed on Hani Omar family in Mas-ha village west of Salfit City. The settlers threw stones at his house and said racist slogans against him and his family members. Not forgetting to mention that Citizen Hani 'Amer lives in a house which is adjacent to the settlement of Elkana and for many times the IOF tried to hedge his house with barbed wires trying to put pressure on him and drive him out of his house. Wafa (May 24, 2009).
- A herd of settler-owned wild boars were released onto Palestinian farmlands in western Salfit damaging crops there. The boars broke into the fields at the Al-Najara and Al-Jaheer areas of western Salfit. They caused the destruction of wheat and barley fields and damaged fruit trees. One of the attacked fields was planted with peach trees. All were broken and caused a big loss for the field's owner. Maannews (May 25, 2009).

## **Nablus**

- Boars set free by Israeli settlers damaged sheep barns and beehives in the northern West Bank village of Salem, east of Nablus. Boars attacked three homes and sheep barns, owned by Theib and Ziad Hasan, as well as 32 beehives owned by Taha Hamdan. The boars also attacked a car owned by Baha' Hussein on his way out of the village. Maannews (May 3, 2009).
- Palestinian Lawyers taking up the case of Burin village have succeeded to prevent the Israeli decision to confiscate and annex 1200 dunums of lands of Burin village south of Nablus city for the expansion of 'Bracha' settlement located nearby. Despite the success, the Israeli bulldozers are still working in razing the land near the village. May 5, 2009).

- More than fifty armed Israeli settlers from Yetzhar settlement invaded the village of A'sira Al-Qibliyah in Nablus Governorate from its southern entrance and stormed the house of citizen Jamal Yousif. Maannews (May 9, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces set up two flying checkpoints, the first was at Yetzhar junction south of Nablus City, which is 300 meters away from Huwwara checkpoint and carried out intensive search to Vehicles and people; while the second checkpoint was set up 200 meters before Za'tara checkpoint in Salfit Governorate and obstructed vehicular and pedestrian movement. Wafa (May 12, 2009).
- Israeli Occupation forces closed the main road leading into Nablus at the Yitzhar checkpoint alleging that they found gas pipes with electrical wires near the Madama School. Maannews (May 14, 2009).
- Israeli Settlers of El Matan outpost near Nablus started building a new synongue and some housing units replacing the caravans in the outpost. Al Quds (May 18, 2009).
- Tens of Israeli settlers from Gifrat Gil'ad outpost and Kedumim settlement aggressed on Palestinian Farmers in three Palestinian villages in Nablus Governorates, they are: Tal, Surra and Jit. Maannews (May 19, 2009).
- Israeli settlers from the illegal Yitzhar settlement south of Nablus set fire to bales of harvested barley in 20 dunums land owned by farmer Muhammad Raja from Burin village, who had harvested half the crop on and stacked the grains to dry in the field near Khallat Aswar south of Nablus. Maannews (May 21, 2009).
- An Israeli settler assaulted a Palestinian woman near the Tappuh (Za'atara) checkpoint south of the West Bank city of Nablus. The settler stopped his car near the checkpoint, got out and beat Thamina Khalil Abed Al-Hak, 21, from the village of Qusra, south of Nablus. Maannews (May 26, 2009).
- The Israeli occupation forces set up a flying checkpoint at the main roadway that connects Ramallah city with Nablus. The IOF forced citizen to get off cars and carried out thorough inspection. Wafa (May 31, 2009).

## **Tubas**

- Israeli Occupation forces raided houses in the village of Al-Aqaba, east of the northern town of Tubas. Soldiers destroyed furniture and other property and interrogated residents. Maannews (May 10, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Forces set up a number of military checkpoints on the outskirts of Tubas city. The first checkpoint was set up at Tammun village junction and another checkpoint was set up on the northern entrance of Tubas city. The IOF obstructed vehicular movement and checked citizens IDs. Wafa (May 25, 2009).
- Israeli Occupation Forces handed out citizens of Al Buqai'a valley in the Jordan Valley 6 evacuation orders and 22 halt of construction orders under the pretext of lacking valid building permits. The six families have been given 48 hours to evacuate. Wafa (May 31, 2009).

## Qalqilyah

- Israeli settlers from the illegal settlement of Gilad, east of the West Bank city of Qalqilyah, attacked 20-year-old Mohammad Ahmad Abu Baker. Ahmad was working on his land in the village of Jet, east of Qalqiliya, when he sustained bruises and burns in the face after being sprayed by an unknown gas substance. Maannews (May 1, 2009).
- Forty-year-old Palestinian Sundus Mahmoud Ahamd sustained moderate injuries after being hit with the rifle butt of a female Israeli soldier as she tried to reach her home on the far side of the separation wall from Qalqilyah to the village of Azzun Atama. Soldiers shut down the village shortly after the incident and barred media from crossing the military checkpoint erected on the main road. Maannews (May 2, 2009).
- A group of Israeli settlers called "Hill Youth" dug a cave on a hill located close to Kedumim settlement in Qalqilyah Governorate. Al Quds (May 12, 2009).
- Israeli settlers of Gilad outpost set fire to a six dunums farmland and assaulted Palestinian farmers and an Israeli activist in two villages east of the West Bank city of Qalqilyah. Large areas of wheat fields and olive groves went up in flames in the villages of Jit and Far'ata before firefighters arrived and extinguished the blaze. Soldiers also attacked farmers, leaving many of them bruised among them Hani Arman, Othman

As-Sadda, Ahmad Arman, Zakariyya As-Sadda, and an Israeli activist with the organization Rabbis for Human rights. Maannews (May 19, 2009).

- Residents of the Shevut Ami outpost next to Kedumim put up a new wooden structure. The building was erected after Israeli forces came to the outpost and confiscated the equipment of one of the residents. INN (May 26, 2009).
- Israeli forces once again evacuated the illegal West Bank outpost of Shvut Ami overnight. The forces demolished two wooden structures and evacuated 11 teens from the outpost by declaring the area a closed military zone. The evacuation of the outpost, which is located near the Kedumim settlement, was carried out without incident, but settlers said they plan to rebuild it. Ynetnews (May 31, 2009).

## **Tulkarem**

- The Israeli Occupation Forces set up a checkpoint at the southern entrance of Tulkarem city and obstructed Palestinian movement. Wafa (May 15, 2009).
- Israeli Occupation forces stormed the northern West Bank town of Anabta, east of Tulkarem, firing stun grenades and bullets into the air. IOF handed out 20 warrants to local residents, informing them they must appear for questioning by Israeli intelligence. Meanwhile, Israeli troops stormed the Tulkarem Refugee Camp and handed out five similar notices. Maannews (May 17, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities announced about renewing a military order which prohibits any Palestinian construction in areas near the Israeli Segregation Wall in Qaffin village north of Tulkarem city. Al Quds (May 22, 2009).

## **Jericho**

- Three Palestinian families in Al Jiftlik area were given house eviction orders and were given 3 days to leave. DWG (May 26, 2009).

## Gaza

- Israeli warplanes raided tunnels in the Yebna area at the border in the southern Gaza Strip. Maannews (May 1, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Bulldozers staged into the east of Beit Lahya town and fired at Palestinian houses. The bulldozers also razed vast areas of agricultural lands in the town. Maannews (May 2, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Army set fire into barely and Wheat fields in Johor Ad Deik fields southeast of Gaza city and caused losses to the Palestinian farmers. Al Quds (May 5, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Tanks fired against Palestinian houses in Al Farahin Area east of Khan Younis south of the Gaza Strip. The shooting caused a state of fear and anger among citizens. Not forgetting to mention that the area receives intensive shelling almost everyday. Wafa (May 6, 2009).
- Several Israeli warships surrounded and seized a fishing boat and four fishermen on the coast near Gaza City. The Israelis obstructed the path of the shipping vessel, which was on its way out to sea when the naval ships opened fire on the boat. The boat belongs Abd Al-Mu'ti Al-Hbeil, who is believed to be one of those detained. The three others have not been identified. Maannews (May 7, 2009).
- Israel's military forces stationed near [the] Nahal Oz [crossing] fired a number of artillery shells toward the eastern border with Gaza which caused damages and losses to Palestinian farmers who were working in the land. Maannews (May 8, 2009).
- The Israeli Occupation Tanks fired against Palestinian houses in Beit Hanoun town north of the Gaza Strip and caused damages and losses to the properties. Al Quds (May 11, 2009).
- The Occupation Army [Southern Command](#) recently began constructing a barrier along part of the border near the Gaza Strip. The barrier, which includes a fence and barbed wire, is being constructed along a 40-km. stretch between the Kerem Shalom Crossing, at the southwest corner of

the Gaza Strip, and the Israeli border town of Nitzana to the south. JPost (May 13, 2009).

- Israeli forces unleashed heavy machine gun fire in the town of Beit Hanoun, in the northern Gaza Strip. The Israeli fire was concentrated on a local agricultural school and the Al-Amal neighborhood, in the east of Beit Hanoun. Artillery shells were also seen exploding south and east of the Erez border crossing. Maannews (May 17, 2009).
- The Nahal Oz fuel transfer crossing point in the northern Gaza Strip will be closed and replaced with a new terminal thirty kilometers south, near the Kerem Shalom crossing, within a month. The decision was announced Friday to Gaza fuel companies via Israel's liaison office. Moving the transfer point south will add travel costs to trucks shipping to the Strip, which come from the West Bank or central Israel; the cost will double as fuel travels from the southern Strip where the new transfer point is planned, to northern populations. Maannews (May 21, 2009).
- Israel's air force used helicopters to drop fliers warning Palestinians to stay away a 300 meter distance from the Gaza border wall. The fliers were dropped over the homes of residents in Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza as well near communities in the south and central regions near Khan Younis, Kerem Shalom and Rafah. In a statement, the Israeli military confirmed that it dropped the leaflets, warning that it "will operate against all those who approach the fence, due to the threat that they pose to the civilians of the State of Israel." Maannews (May 25, 2009).
- Israel closed all of its commercial crossings into the Gaza Strip due to the Jewish holiday of Shavout. Maannews (May 29, 2009).

## **Others**

- Israeli Occupation authorities announced tighter restrictions for Palestinians working in Israel on Labor Day, including the possible revocation of permits if the holder returns to the West Bank after curfew. The restrictions come as Israel installs new computer systems at 13 military checkpoints between the West Bank, Israel and Jerusalem. Palestinians will no longer be able to enter Israeli controlled areas by points other than those outfitted with computers. Under the new system limits and parameters of permits for many Palestinians will change, and for some who arrive at the checkpoints later than the time stamped on their permits, papers may be revoked for a week or even permanently. Many

permit holders expect the new system will limit further Palestinian access to the western side of the separation wall. Israeli authorities have been vague on details of the new systems, but have instructed all Palestinians with permits to enter Israeli-controlled areas to register in the new system. The controls are being overseen by Israeli General of the Central Command Ghadi Chamani and the head of the Civil Administration in the West Bank, Yoav Mordechai. Maannews (May 1, 2009).

- Israel's cabinet approved the creation of three new government ministries which will deal with strategy, intelligence and information, and will be led by Moshe Yaalon, Dan Meridor and Yull Edelstein, respectively. Maannews (May 4, 2009).
- Israeli President Shimon Peres is willing to hand over Israeli sovereignty of six key Christian holy sites to the Vatican, a proposition that is reportedly opposed by Interior Minister Eli Yishai and that has ruffled feathers among other senior government officials. The sites are: the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth, the Coenaculum on Mount Zion, Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, and the Church of the Multiplication on the Kinneret, Mount Tabor; and the Church of the Multiplication, which hugs the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee. Haaretz (May 4, 2009).
- Israeli Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat outlined a plan to give building permits to 13,550 housing units in eastern Jerusalem, a part of the city where mostly Arabs live, by 2030. An additional 13,550 housing units will be made available for construction for the residents of eastern Jerusalem, with the goal of 10,000 additional housing units to be available for construction by 2030 (70% of the total). The major additions will be in the A-Tur neighborhood (1,500 units), Beit Hanina- Shuafat (2,500 units), Tel Adesa (2,000 units), Jabel Mukabar (2,500 units), and the eastern Jerusalem city center (750 units). Apart from housing, there will be a regularization of infrastructure. Haaretz & [Jerusalem Municipality](#) (May 5, 2009).
- Jerusalem District Planning and Construction Committee hearing sparks argument over ownership of lands in east Jerusalem neighborhood causes concern in Palestinian Authority that over 1,000 people could be left homeless. The issue was raised about two weeks ago, during a Jerusalem District Planning and Construction Committee hearing aimed at settling a dispute over a Silwan resident's building permits. The plot of land in question has an area of dozens of acres on which over 1,000 people live in about 70 buildings. Ynetnews (May 6, 2009).



- West Bank settlement construction has been accelerating for several months according to a report issued by Dror Etkes of the Israeli advocacy group Yesh Din. The report showed that new outpost, new roads, and other building projects have raced ahead in and around the settlements, often without legal permits, producing the biggest construction drive since 2003. Examples include the following: (1) Construction in outposts: Between Talmon and Nahliel, west of Ramallah, a stone house and another structure have been built without a permit, next to a vineyard set up by settlers a year and a half ago. The Israel Defense Forces' civil administration has recently issued an order to stop the project. (2) Illegal construction has been carried out on Palestinian land at the outposts Mitzpeh Ahiya and Adei-Ad, north of Ramallah. A mobile home has been set in an outpost near Susia south of Hebron. An outpost that was vacated near Hebron has been reinstated. (3) Construction east of the separation fence: New houses have been built in the Eli settlement, Rechelim, Ma'aleh Michmash and Kochav Hashahar (north and east of Ramallah). In addition, a neighborhood has been built in Na'ale, and there are at least 10 houses in Halamish and new houses in Talmon (all west of Ramallah). (4) Construction west of the planned fence route: Land has been prepared for building in the Kedar settlement, and 30 houses have been built in Ma'aleh Shomron. There is also a new neighborhood in both the Elkana and Zofim settlements. (5) Road construction and farmland: This has gone on near the Bracha settlement south of Nablus, near Tapuach, in the Eli and Shiloh area and in the Amona and Elazar settlements. Haaretz (May 7, 2009).
- Israeli Interior Minister Eli Yishai decided to begin revoking the citizenship of four Israelis involved in activities prejudicial to the State's security as he claims. The four are Arabs from northern Israel, who left the country in the 1970s. Ynetnews (May 7, 2009).
- Israeli Peace Now movement submitted a petition to the Israeli courts requesting them that they enforce the law and order an immediate halt to the construction of a new and illegal neighborhood in Halmish settlement. Accordingly to information discovered by Peace Now, the AMANA movement (a branch of the Gush Emunim movement) began to construct in this area without ever receiving official authorization or permission over construction plans. This illegal move is supposed to house 25 new families in this settlement. The construction in this neighborhood began approx 4 months ago; to date 10 permanent structures have been

completed on site and are ready to be populated. PEACENOW (May 8, 2009).

- The Bemuna ("in faith") Company, owned by settlers, has recently won an Israel Land Administration (ILA) bid for a construction project in Jaffa. The land in question is adjacent to the Ajami neighborhood – one of the oldest Arab neighborhoods in the mixed city, which stretches south of Old Jaffa. The company won an ILA bid for the construction of 20 housing units, but it may eventually build up to 200 units. The project, said to be on its way in a matter of months, will be marketed exclusively to young religious couples, at a price 10% lower than the current property value in the area. The project will also include a synagogue, a yeshiva and mikveh – a traditional bath facility used to achieve ritual purity in the Jewish faith. Ynetnews (May 10, 2009).
- Israeli extremists attacked Al Manshiya Mosque in 'Akko village and wrote racist slogans at the dome of the Mosque calling for "death to the arabs". The extremists also attacked a number of Arab Palestinian houses and properties in the nearby neighborhood. Al Quds (May 10, 2009).
- The Tel Aviv District Committee for Planning and Building has approved the construction of two residential buildings in southern Tel Aviv. The plan was initiated by the Ashdar Company, and is slated to be built on the Tova Sanhadray, Isser Yehuda Unterman and Yakkov Shevi Maor streets. The project spreads across a territory of some 5.6 dunams (1.4 acres), allowing the construction of a six-floor building over a ground floor and a mini-penthouse, as well as another 12-story building. The building rights will stand at 9,850 square meters (106,024.518 square feet) for housing, which equal 92 housing units. Ynetnews (May 10, 2009).
- The High Court of Justice issued an order demanding that the state explain within 90 days why a number of illegal outposts have not yet been evacuated, despite a standing order issued in 2004. The outposts in question are Givat Asaf, Ma'ale Rehav'am, Ramat Gil'ad, Giv'at Haroe, Mitzpe Yitzhar, and Mitzpe Lachish, all of which are located in the West Bank. Ynetnews (May 13, 2009).
- An Israeli security blockade will see West Bank traffic halt as Palestinians commemorate the 1948 Nakba (catastrophe) when hundreds of thousands were expelled from their homes. The blockade was announced on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May by the Israeli Minister Ehud Barak and took effect early of May 15, 2009; it will continue until May 15, 2009 night. Maannews (May 15, 2009).

- Israel has moved ahead with a plan to construct a new settlement in the northern West Bank. Tenders have been issued for 20 housing units in the new Maskiot settlement and contractors have arrived on site to begin foundational work. Haaretz (May 18, 2009).
- In a report issued by Peace Now stated that over the past few months West Bank settlers have "expanded two existing outposts, and that the government of Israel has done nothing to stop them. The group claims that one of the moves made was adding three caravans to the Nahlat Yosef outpost, located about 1.5 miles from the West Bank settlement of Elon Moreh, northeast of Nablus; and five caravans to Bnei Adam outpost in Benyamin. The structures are said to be empty. [Ynetnews \(May 19, 2009\)](#).
- Jewish cities in Judea and Samaria are no obstacle to peace, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said in a meeting with industrialists. Despite widespread misconceptions, Israel's conflict with the Arab world began before Israel gained control over Judea and Samaria during the Six Day War, he said. [INN \(May 21, 2009\)](#).
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak have agreed on a plan to evacuate illegal outposts in the West Bank, mainly those located on Palestinian land. Barak intends to dismantle a number of [outposts out of 26 illegal](#) ones. Haaretz (May 22, 2009).
- Israel plans to evacuate members of Tarabin tribe in Negev from homes to make way for New Omer neighborhood for IDF. [Ynetnews \(May 22, 2009\)](#).
- Since 1967, Jerusalem's population has grown almost three-fold to nearly 760,800, rendering it the largest city in Israel. The Jewish population, which comprises 64% of the citizenry, has grown by 150%, but the strong Arab minority – 33% - has grown by 290%. The following are among the new neighborhoods built in east Jerusalem in 1967, and their populations: Gilo - 32,000, Har Homa – 8,500, Neve Yaakov – 22,000, Old City – 5,000, Pisgat Ze'ev – 41,000, Ramat (Reches) Shlomo – 17,000, Ramot (Alon) – 47,000, and Talpiot Mizrach – 15,000. [INN \(May 22, 2009\)](#).

- Huge rocks are excavated and taken to Israeli quarries. The stones are being taken from Palestinian land to expand settlements. In the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem a similar scenario is playing out during home demolitions. Israelis are buying the stones after the army destroys a Palestinian home. The stones are old, classic, and attractive. Inside the Palestinian West Bank are some 10 quarries owned by Israelis, particularly in the central and southern governorates but on land deemed “C” under the Oslo Accords. One quarry produces approximately 10 million out of 44 million tons of stones consumed by Israel, all come from the West Bank. [PNN \(May 23, 2009\)](#). (1)
- The Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak declared that 22 illegal outposts in the West Bank would be torn down, and warned that settlers would be evicted forcefully if they resisted. [Maannews \(May 24, 2009\)](#).
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the issue of illegal outposts in the West Bank and said that "while we will not authorize the construction of new settlements, it would be unfair not to accommodate natural (population) growth." [Ynetnews \(May 24, 2009\)](#). (1)
- Israeli Settlers leaders vowed to continue building new outposts in response to Defense Minister Ehud Barak's intention to go on with the evacuation of illegal outposts, either through dialogue or by force. [Ynetnews \(May 24, 2009\)](#).
- The Israeli Land Administration accompanied by Bulldozers uprooted 250 Olive trees and many Figs trees and Grapes in Shaqeib As Salam village. [PNN \(May 25, 2009\)](#).
- Israeli Settler leaders vowed to continue building new outposts in response to the Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak's intention to go on with the evacuation of illegal outposts, either through dialogue or by force. (May 25, 2009).
- The Israeli Civil Administration issued nine 'delimitation orders' to nine illegal West Bank outposts, warning its residents of a possible evacuation

within three days of the order. However, no timetable has been set for evacuation. The list of outposts includes Havat Shaked, Mitzpeh Yitzhar and Yitzhar South, all located south of Nablus, Ramat Gilad-Givat Dekel in the Kedumim area, Givat Haroeh and Ma'aleh Rehavam in the area of the settlements of Eli and Shiloh, Mitzpeh Assaf near Beit-El, and Havat Ma'on South in the southern Hebron hills. Ynetnews (May 25, 2009).

- Israeli extremists are trying to erect more colonial outposts in the West Bank. Their plan included (1) expanding outposts areas and resuming building; (2) the more outposts are demolished, the more outposts will be built; (3) holding a campaign against Netanyahu; (4) Excersing pressure on Leiberman and Shas party; and Judicial Conflict. Al Quds (May 26, 2009).
- The Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak ordered the evacuation of 22 Israeli settlement outposts in the West Bank. The outposts are: Giv'at Sal'im in Jenin and is inhabited by 4 families; Giv'at Gil'ad in Nablus and is inhabited by 20 families and 35 religious students; Ahozat Shalhevet in Nablus and is inhabited by family; Giv'at Shakid in Nablus and is inhabited by 10 settlers, Ofrah Mizrach in Ramallah and is inhabited by 12 families; Giv'at Yashuf Da'it in Ramallah and is inhabited 15 families; Bani Adam in Ramallah and is inhabited by 5 families and some single youth; Madreshet Nabe'e in Jerusalem and is inhabited by one woman and a number of single youths; Ma'ale Rahba'am in Bethlehem and is inhabited by 5 families and a number of single youths; Hezon David in Hebron and is empty from dwellers; Susiya Tzefon in Hebron and is inhabited by 4 families; Yetzhar Derom in Nablus and is inhabited by 5 families; Giv'at Hadigel in Qalqilyah and is inhabited by 15 families; Metzpe Yetzhar in Nablus and is inhabited by one family and a number of single youths; Nove Nahameh in Nablus and is inhabited by 11 families and a number of students; Giv'at Hara'a in Nablus and is inhabited by 17 families; 'Eyonont Keda in Ramallah and is inhabited by one family; Metzpe 'Asaf in Ramallah and is inhabited by 15 families; Neve Daniel Tzefon in Bethlehem and is inhabited by 3 families and a number of single youths; Metzpe Lachish in Hebron and is inhabited by four families; 'Ashaha'il in Hebron and is inhabited by 5 families and a number of single youths; Avi Gel in Hebron an is inhabited by 12 families and a number of single youth. Maannews (May 28, 2009).
- A UN Report states that there 643 Israeli checkpoints are obstructing the movement of Palestinians in the West Bank. Al Quds (May 29, 2009).

- Israeli settlers have begun to follow a new policy in defending their illegal outposts, seeking out caves to replace trailers which Prime Minister Netanyahu’s government said it would evacuate. After Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak ordered evacuating some ten outposts in the West Bank, settlers have begun searching for caves to live in. settlers working at night preparing caves near the Kedumim settlement because they believe Israeli law does not ban living in caves. Maannews (May 31, 2009).
- PEACENOW Israeli movement stated in its report that at least 44 percent of the land in the West Bank where the settlements outposts are built, belong to private Palestinian owners. Almost 80 of the more than 100 outposts in the territory are either partially or wholly built on private Palestinian land without any sort of agreement with the owners, Peace Now said. It added that the inhabitants of the outposts tend to be the most radical settlers, establishing their homes on any land they see fit. JPOST (May 31, 2009).

District	Land Confiscated (Dunums)	Land Threatened (Dunums)	Uprooted Trees	Houses Demolished	Houses threatened to be demolished
Bethlehem	0	150	0	0	0
Jerusalem	0	0	0	3	53
Jenin	300	0	0	0	0
Tulkarm	0	0	0	0	0
Ramallah	0	100	45	0	0
Nablus	0	0	0	0	0
Salfit	0	0	0	0	0
Jericho	0	0	0	0	3
Gaza	0	0	0	0	0
Qalqilyah	0	0	0	0	0
Hebron	0	4000	0	0	0
Tubas	0	0	0	0	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>4250</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>84</b>

*The Monthly overview report gives a list of the Israeli Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory which are based on reports provided by field workers and/or by one or more of the following news sources: Al-Ayyam daily newspaper, Al-Quds daily newspaper, Haaretz Daily Newspaper, Israel National News, The Jerusalem Post - English-language daily newspaper, Paltoday news-website, Palpress news website,*

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*Palestine News Agency-Wafa, Palestine News Network, Ma'an News Agency, Al Jazeera News Channel, and Yediot Achronon – English website.*

*The text is not quoted directly from the sources but is edited for size and clarity.  
The monthly report does not necessarily reflect ARIJ's opinion.*