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

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Bethlehem

- Israeli armed forces closed the Bethlehem-area container road checkpoint for the second time in 24 hours. Hundreds of cars were stuck at the checkpoint. Maannews (February 1, 2010).
- Israeli settlers from El David settlement accompanied by the Israeli Occupation forces attacked Palestinian residents of Jub Altheib village and other international activities while they were planting olive trees on their lands that are threatened of confiscation. These settler attacks came as an attempt to take over about 70 dunums of land owned by Ahmad Zawahra, which is located very close to the settlement. Wafa & Al Quds (February 2, 2010).
- The Israeli occupation forces hindered residents of Nahhalin village west of Bethlehem city from constructing a 2 kilometers agricultural road in Banyas area under the pretext that the land falls under the Israeli control. The road was designated for access to agricultural fields in the village. Wafa (February 8, 2010).
- Several Israeli army vehicles closed off entrances to Beit Fajjar, shutting down roads to the area from Bethlehem and Hebron. The army vehicles and soldiers closed the Beit Fajjar junction near the Gush Etzion settlement, as well as roads leading to the Hebron-area Al-Aroub refugee camp and the nearby Beit Ummer village. Travelers reported heavy traffic,

and some city-to-city buses were altering their routes. Maannews (February 8, 2010).

- IOF moved into 'Ush al-Ghurab area southeast of Beit Sahour city, east of Bethlehem. They leveled areas of land which served as an Israeli military base 5 years ago. The IOF plan to construct an observation tower in the area. Residents and journalists were all told they could not approach the land, as it was a closed military zone. Maannews & PCHRGAZA (February 10, 2010).
- The Israeli Defense establishment has announced plans to resume construction of Israel's separation wall south of Jerusalem. The plan to build the barrier in the area between Har Gilo and the Palestinian village of al-Walajah is also likely to be another point of tension over Jerusalem with the Palestinians. The planned portion of the wall will extend over four kilometers, and will bring Har Gilo and the Cremisan monastery into Israel, but leave al-Walajah outside of the wall. [Haaretz \(February 14, 2010\)](#).
- In Bethlehem, hundreds of Palestinian vehicles were unable to transit in both directions on the container checkpoint, with heightened searches on cars and ID cars being enforced by Israeli soldiers manning the checkpoint. The checkpoint is erected on the only route through which Palestinians can move from the southern West Bank to the north and center, as holders of Palestinian ID cards have been banned by Israeli authorities from entering Jerusalem. Maannews (February 15, 2010).
- Israeli Occupation soldiers seized construction materials in Al-Khader village west of Bethlehem city after delivering stop work orders for two unfinished houses. One of the houses belongs to Ali Salim Mousa, the other belongs to the village's mayor, Ramzi Salah. According to the stop-work orders, the two houses were delivered with military orders for being built without licenses as claimed by the Israeli due to their location in Area C. Mousa's house has been demolished in the past by the Israeli military. Maannews (February 19, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers razed 20 dunums of lands next to Eli'zer settlement southwest of Bethlehem city in KHALLET AL FAHEM area owned by Baseel Al Hadweh. Al Quds (February 23, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities hindered resident Khaled Masha'la from Al Jab'a village southwest of Bethlehem city from accessing his land

under the pretext that it lies within an area classified by the Israelis as Closed Military Area. Al Quds (February 23, 2010).

- Israeli settlers of Betar Illit settlement pumped waster water into the lands of Husan and Nahhalin villages west of Bethlehem city, in Al Kabbarat and Ein Fariss areas which are planted with Olive, Grapes and Almonds trees. Wafa (February 26, 2010).

Jenin

- Israeli settlers of Homesh settlements took over the house of Hani Naji Abu 'Arsan in Silat Al Dahr village south of Jenin city. Wafa (February 3, 2010).
- The Israeli settlers of Homesh took over a Palestinian house in Silat Al Dhaher village south of Jenin city owned by Hani Naji Abu 'Arsan. Al Quds (February 4, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation forces set up two new flying checkpoints at Jenin western entrance, Jenin Haifa roadway and in Rummana village. The IO forces delayed vehicular movement. Wafa (February 8, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation forces delivered three families in Barta'a village south of Jenin city orders to demolish their houses under the pretext that their houses were built without proper building authorization. Owners of the houses are Jum'a Mahmoud, Jihad Ibrahim Qabha and Abdel 'Aziz Abu Salah. Wafa (February 10, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation staged into Al Khaljan village north of Ya'bad village and stormed a number of Palestinian houses. Among owners the following was known: Mahmoud Yousif Nemer Khateeb. Israeli soldiers also erected two other checkpoints at Village's entrance and obstructed Palestinian movement. Wafa (February 10, 2010).
- About eight of the 40 families from Dhaher al-Maleh west of Jenin city have left their tiny village and have gone to live on the eastern side of the Segregation Wall. They could no longer bear the Israeli ban on building houses. Neither could they bear the other restrictions and prohibitions that the fence and its planners have imposed on them: They were forbidden to have relatives and friends visit; forbidden to get ill or have babies at night, when the gate is closed; forbidden to bring large quantities of food home,

as big families require; forbidden to link their homes up with the electricity grid; and they were forbidden to build a clinic - restrictions and prohibitions to the point of suffocation. Haaretz (February 11, 2010).

- The Israeli Occupation forces delivered resident Mahmoud Yousif Nemer Al Khateeb in Al Khaljan area north of Ya'bad village a military order to demolish his house. Al Quds (February 11, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation forces delivered 5 families in Barta'a village west of Jenin city which is segregated west of the wall military orders to demolish their homes and animal pens under the pretext that the structures were built without building licenses. The structures are owned by Mustafa Omar Qabha, Omar Muhammad Ash Shiekh 'Ali, Jihad Ibrahim Qabha, Jum'a Mahmoud Qabha, and Abdel 'Aziz Abu Saleh. Al Ayyam (February 12, 2010).
- Israeli Occupation forces invaded the village of Barta'a Ash-Sharqiya and delivered eight orders for home destructions and one for a chicken coup. Families affected by the orders are: Rami Saleh Qabaha, Nael Ibrahim Yousef Qabaha, Mohammad Taysir Ash- Sheikh Ali, Muhanad Yousef Qabaha, A'yesh Mustafa Qabaha, Mohammad Hatem Ahmad Qabaha, Ala Hatem Ahmad Qabaha, Yahya Yousef Qabaha, Ahmad Saleh Qabaha. The orders follow one week after a pre-dawn raid saw Israeli soldiers hand five families demolition orders. Maannews (February 19, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers demolished five artesian wells in Kafr Dan west of Jenin city under the pretext of being built without licences. Owners of the demolished wells are: Subhi Nemer Younis Mer'I, Muhammad Fahmi Mer'I, Muhammad Sa'id Al Sa'di, Baha Muhammad Mar'I and Mustafa 'Ashour 'Abed. Kafr Dan citizens were informed that 20 other water wells will be demolished in the village under the same pretext. Wafa (February 24, 2010).

Jerusalem

- The Israeli settlers attacked the house of 'Azzam Abu Sou'od with stones in Ras Al 'Amoud neighbourhood which caused a state of fear amongst family members. Al Quds (February 2, 2010).
- The Israeli Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat announced that he would carry out court instructions to seal [Beit Yehonatan](#) – a Jewish populated building in Silwan city in Jerusalem. However, he said he would do so under

protest, and would make sure to also tear down about 200 Palestinian houses in the Silwan city. The statements are included in a letter from Barkat to State Prosecutor Moshe Lador. Eight families live there, and another one in nearby Beit Dvash, and 15 students study in a kollel in [Beit Yehonatan](#). INN (February 4, 2010).

- For the first time, a plan has been proposed to create a fully integrated Jewish-Arab neighborhood in the city. The residential area is planned at Tantar, between Bethlehem and the south Jerusalem settlement of Gilo. It would feature 800 housing units and a hotel district. The project is being promoted by a group of Palestinian and Israeli public figures who hired architect Eli Rechtes to plan the neighborhood. [Haaretz \(February 5, 2010\)](#).
- The Israeli Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat rejected the plan that has been presented to create a fully integrated Jewish-Arab neighborhood in the Tantar area, between Bethlehem and south of Gilo settlement. Al Quds (February 6, 2010).
- The Israeli Ministerial Committee on Legislation discussed a proposed bill that would see bypass road # 443 annexed by Israel, thereby automatically allowing only Israelis to use it. The bill was proposed by the Israeli MK Moshe Matalon ([Yisrael Beitenu](#)) and supported by 17 additional Israeli lawmakers. According to a recent High Court [ruling](#), Route 443 was due to be opened to Palestinians within about three months. Since then, various Israeli political figures have called for a law that would get around the court's decision. [Ynetnews \(February 6, 2010\)](#).
- The Israeli Occupation authorities forced resident Farouq Al Mamlook to demolish a room of his house in Aqbet Riman in Al Sa'diya neighborhood in the old city of Jerusalem under the pretext of being built without a license. Al Quds (February 7, 2010).
- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem delivered an order to resident Abdel Rahman Abu Farha to demolish his house in Al Sa'diya neighborhood in the old city of Jerusalem under the pretext of being built without a license. The house is 45 square meters area and is inhabited by 7 people. Al Quds (February 7, 2010).
- Israeli Interior Minister Eli Yishai confirmed that an agreement has been reached that may prevent the expulsion of Jews from Beit Yehonatan building in Silwan city eastern Jerusalem. Yishai, who also is chairman of the Shas party, said that residents of the building agreed to take down the top two floors. Yishai's announcement came several hours after the Israeli

police agreed to a municipality decision to postpone plans to serve eviction notices to residents of Beit Yehonatan. INN (February 8, 2010).

- Israel's Jerusalem Municipality cancelled the distribution of eviction orders for Beit Yonathan residential building which was erected by settlers in Silwan area in Jerusalem city. The building was set to be sealed off after officials persuaded Israel's Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barakat to implement the order. According to protocol, the distribution of eviction notices must be carried out in coordination with the Israeli police. However, police said they were unaware of any such plans. Maannews (February 8, 2010).
- Israeli interior minister Eli Yishai instructs filing of construction plan with Jerusalem district directorate committee in effort to legalize Beit Yonatan site east of Jerusalem with the district construction and planning committee. The planning committee is slated to convene next week in order to set a prerequisite condition for the building's approval and hold a vote on the matter. [Ynetnews \(February 8, 2010\)](#)
- A delegation of members of the Israeli Knesset's Internal Committee, along with pro-settler campaigners, visited Al Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in occupied East Jerusalem, and Palestinian homes taken over by Israeli settlers last summer. The delegation was accompanied by Israeli police. Maannews (February 09, 2010).
- The Israeli police department ordered the closure of the Sur Baher Cultural Forum and a kindergarten housed in the former Dar Al-Hadith Society building, saying they were affiliated with Hamas. The orders, issued in the name of Israeli police Chief Dudi Cohen, require the community institutions to shut down on 28 February for a period of one year. Head of the Sur Baher Cultural Forum Sufyan Jadallah said police broke into his home and forced him to travel with them to the center and open its main gate. Police then conducted a search of the building, ransacked its contents, confiscated a laptop and delivered the closure order. Maannews (February 10, 2010).
- Palestinians living in Mount of Olives Area (Har Hazeitim) foiled extremist Jewish groups' attempts from taking over the land next to Beit Orot outpost in the area. The Lands are owned by Al Qadmani family. Wafa (February 10, 2010).
- The Israeli regional committee for building and planning at the Municipality of Jerusalem rejected three master plans for three residential

buildings of 30 apartments owned by 'Issam 'Abdeen, Fakhri Al Shweiki and Muhammad Al Qaq in Beit Hanina, Silwan and Ras Al 'Amoud. Wafa (February 10, 2010).

- Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, who has made the evacuation of Beit Yonatan dependent on the demolition of Palestinian buildings in east Jerusalem, is forging ahead with his plan. Sources in Jerusalem City Council said that Barkat is attempting to apply pressure on everyone involved in the affair, in order to gain support for his plan raze Palestinian houses in Silwan, east Jerusalem. They added that city officials will start distributing demolition orders to Palestinian homes in the coming days, at the same time as posting the evacuation order on the walls of Beit Yonatan. [Ynetnews \(February 10, 2010\)](#).
- Approximately 60 Palestinians have signed a petition given to the UN High Commission on Human Rights, among other UN bodies to demand that the United Nations halt the building of a Jewish "Museum of Tolerance" on Ma'aman Allah anvient cemetery in Jerusalem city. [INN \(February 10, 2010\)](#).
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities closes The Cultural Forum of Sur Baher city and A Hadeeth house east of Jerusalem under the pretext that the two societies are affiliated to Hamas. Al Quds (February 11, 2010).
- The Israeli settlers living in the French Hill settlement east of Jerusalem city are demanding the Jerusalem Municipality to build a wall between them and Al 'Isawiya town east of Jerusalem. Al Quds (February 13, 2010).
- Staff of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem gave residents of Al Lu'lu'a building in Beit Hanina which is composed of 8 apartments a period of two weeks to evacuate the building preparing to demolish it after the Israeli Central court ordered its demolition. Al Quds (February 14, 2010).
- Five Palestinian shops inside Jerusalem's Old City in Damascus Gate face the threat of demolition after the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality inspectors handed down notices to owners and tenants. The notices were given to Muhammad Abu Ad-Dab'at, owner of several shopees, and to tenants Mu'tasim Abu Rmeila, Samir Salayma, and Najati Ja'bari. All were given three days to evacuate the shops. Maannews (February 15, 2010).
- A group of 39 Israeli lawmakers, comprising almost one-third of the Members of Knesset, has co-sponsored a law designed to solve the Israeli

High Court's decision allowing Palestinian cars to enter Route 443. The bill, which was initiated by MK Yariv Levin (Likud), stipulates that IDF orders regulating road traffic would be placed under the supervision of the Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee. A subcommittee of the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee would monitor and approve orders regarding road traffic issued by the IDF commanders in Judea and Samaria. By placing the matter under parliamentary supervision, the law would effectively take it out of the hands of the High Court. The bill was signed by all of the Knesset Members of the Likud, Yisrael Beiteinu, Shas, United Torah Judaism and the Jewish Home who are not ministers or assistant ministers, and also by some MKs from opposition factions Kadima and National Union. It was prepared in coordination with the heads of local authorities that adjoin Route 443, and received their support. INN (February 16, 2010).

- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem delivered a restraining order to demolish a building in Beit Hanina city for being built without proper licensing documents. The Building is composed of 5 floors (7 apartments). Al Ayyam (February 17, 2010).
- The Jerusalem municipality will appropriate a plot of land in East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood to build a public parking lot near the tomb of a Second Temple-era high priest, despite arguments that the move is intended to benefit Jewish pilgrims and expand the Jewish presence in East Jerusalem. The plan is the brainchild of city council member Yair Gabbay, who said a parking lot is required for visitors to the tomb of Simon the Just, or Shimon Hatzadik. [Haaretz \(February 18, 2010\)](#).
- The Israeli municipality of Jerusalem declared its intension to confiscate the land owned by Kamal Ebedat in Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood I Jerusalem city to build a car park for settlers. Al Quds (February 18, 2010).
- A new Israeli neighborhood in Al Ashqariyeh neighborhood in Beit Hanina city north of Jerusalem which will include 60 housing units. The plan of the new neighborhood comes according to the Israeli Town Planning Scheme number 6160 a & b, Block # [30615](#). Al Quds (February 19, 2010).
- Some 100 Israeli and Palestinian protesters amassed in the Palestinian neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah in Jerusalem on Friday, calling for an end to settlement activity and forced eviction of Palestinians from their homes. Amidst a heavy Israeli police and border guard presence, protesters and

evicted families gathered to denounce both Israeli policies in Sheikh Jarrah. Maannews (February 20, 2010).

- The Israeli committee for planning and construction at the Municipality of Jerusalem ratified the plan to build a new Israeli neighbourhood of 549 units in Beit Safafa city south of Jerusalem city. The planned expansion consists of five six-story buildings built on 153 dunums of land. The development is listed as Plan 5834B. Ir Amim (February 22, 2010).
- A street collapse near the entrance of the Bab Khan Az-Zeit market in the Old City of Jerusalem occurred as a result of Israeli excavations in the area. A two by one meter deep hole was left following the collapse. The latest collapse is reportedly related to ongoing Israeli archeological digs around the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, which have caused a series of cave-ins around the Old City and in East Jerusalem neighborhoods. Maannews (February 22, 2010).
- Eight Palestinian families in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan were handed orders announcing their homes were slated for demolition, as Israeli municipality workers entered the area accompanied by military guards. The families targeted were identified as those of Azmi Ghanem, Fakhri Ghanem, Mu'een Al-Qaq, Fahmi Meswada, Talib Meswada, Marwan Ash-Shuyoukhi, Mousa Al-Haeiyuni, Naser As-Salfiti and the At-Tawils. All of the homes are in the At-Tanak and Wadi Hilwa areas of the neighborhood. Maannews (February 24, 2010).
- Two Palestinian homes in the adjacent Neighborhood of Beit Hanina were slated for demolition. Maannews (February 25, 2010).
- Israel's district planning commission approved the construction of 600 new settlement units in occupied East Jerusalem. The homes are tipped for construction near the illegal Pisgat Ze'ev settlement and the Palestinian neighborhood of Shu'fat. The number was scaled back to 600 from the original 1,100 when it was revealed that much of the land was owned privately by Palestinians. Maannews (February 26, 2010).
- Staff of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem and the Israeli Tax Authority staged into Ras Khamis neighborhood northwest of Shu'fat Refugee camp and stormed the Ras Khamis development Committee headquarter and three other commercial stores owned by Ghayth family. Al Quds (February 26, 2010).

- The Israeli municipal officials in Jerusalem plan to affect a series of changes in the Old City streets and alleyways, from streetlights to gardens without first consulting a single Palestinian official or Jerusalem property owners. Renovations are planned on 361 lanes and alleys of the Old City, totaling some 10% of the entire area of the ancient quarters. Renovation projects targeting Damascus Gate, the central entrance to the Muslim Quarter of the Old City, could take as long as 24-36 months, closing the entrance to all pedestrian traffic. The Israeli project will include changes in major Christian and Muslim holy places in the old city. Specific projects at Damascus Gate, the Bab Khan Az-Zeit market, Al-Wadi alley, Al-Attarin (the spice dealers market), the Christian quarter's main souq, Saint Mitri road, Omar Ibn Al-Khattab square, Via Dolorosa (Way of Grief), Way of Prophets, Al-Ghawanma Gate, the Ethiopian Monastery street, and St Mark's Monastery street are to be implemented. Maannews (February 27, 2010).

Jericho

- The Israeli Occupation forces erected a new checkpoint at Az Zubeidat village only entrance north of Jericho city and hindered Palestinian movement (Vehicular and Pedestrian). Wafa (February 10, 2010).
- Members of the Jericho Core Group (An Israeli Group) demand a return to Jericho and a Jewish presence there. They demand a permanent return to Jericho, and especially to the Shalom al-Yisrael synagogue (Na'ran Synagogue) north of Jericho city, between Nuwe'ma camp and 'Ein Al Sultan. According to the Oslo Accords, Israel and the Palestinian Authority agreed to keep free access to the site and to defend it properly. INN (February 20, 2010).
- The Israeli settlers stormed Na'aran synagogue north of Jericho city and performed religious rituals there. Al Quds (February 22, 2010).

Salfit

- A number of Israeli settlers from "Ravava" settlement, northwest of Salfit, razed an area of Palestinian agricultural land, seized areas of land and placed mobile homes in Deir Istya and Hares villages. They razed at least 50 dunums of agricultural land planted with olives and fenced off a 24-

dunum area of land. The damages can be summed up in the following manner:

1. They razed a 25-dunum area of land belonging to Yousef Mahmoud Samhan;
 2. They closed the roads leading to a tract of land belonging to Nafez Ahmed 'Abdul Haq;
 3. They closed the roads leading to a tract of land belonging to 'Abdul Raheem Zaidan;
 4. They closed the roads leading to a tract of land belonging to 'Abdul Rahman Taha 'Aqel and occupied the land by setting up a tent and placed mobile homes;
 5. They confiscated a tract of land belonging to Mohammed 'Othman Abu Nasser;
 6. They leveled a tract of land belonging to the heirs of 'Abdul Karim Mahmoud Sahban; and
 7. They razed a tract of land belonging to Ameen 'Abdul Haleem Daoud. PCHRGZA (February 4, 2010).
- The Israeli Minister of Education Gideon Saar (Likud) toured the northern areas of the west Bank and laid the cornerstone for a kindergarten at Barkan settlement. INN (February 8, 2010).

Hebron

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed over residents Isma'il Muhammad Issa Abu Hmeid and Muhammad Issa Muhammad Abu Hmeid from Yatta town east of Hebron city military orders to demolish their houses for being built without proper building authorization. Wafa (February 2, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation authorities handed out residents of Wadi Ar Reish area in Surif village north of Hebron city a military order asking them to evacuate 386 dunums of lands alleged for being declared by the Israeli authorities as "state lands". The lands are owned by Muhammad Ahmad Ibrahim 'Adi, Mahmoud Ahmad Ibrahim 'Adi, 'Ali Ahmad Ibrahim 'Adi, Ibrahim Ahmad Ibrahim 'Adi, and Isam Ahmad Abdel Hamid Al Sleibi. Beit Ummer Village Council (February 1, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed over 6 Palestinian families in Al Tuwani, Al Karmel and Al Baraka in Yatta town house demolition

orders alleging for being built without proper building authorization. The threatened families are Al Shamasti, Al Hureini and Hammad. Al Quds (Feb 3, 2010).

- The IOF moved into Idhna village, northwest of Hebron city, they raided and searched a house belonging to Ahmed Mousa Sawaifa, when members of the family were out. They damaged the house and its furniture. PCHRGZA (February 4, 2010).
- Israeli settlers from "Kiryat Arba" and "Kharsina" settlements attacked Palestinian civilians and property in al-Baq'a area in the southeast of Hebron. They uprooted at least 80 grape vines from a 4 dunums field belonging to the Jaber family to the east of bypass road #60. Wafa & PCHRGZA (February 7, 2010).
- International and Palestinian tree planters were dispersed with tear gas and sound bombs as they attempted to work 30 dunums land belonging to local Palestinian farmers. The volunteers, participating in the "voluntary day to protect lands under threat of confiscation" brought 500 olive tree seedlings to lands registered to Hasan Awad, Husam Ahmad Bahar and Ibrahim Abed Al-Hamid Abu Maria. Shortly after the group started planting, Israeli soldiers descended on the area from near the Karmi Zur settlement, attacked the group and fired teargas as well as sound bombs at them until they retreated from the area. Maannews (February 10, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation forces closed the entrance leading to Bab Al Khan market in the old city of Hebron with Iron boards which resulted in complete separation of Al Laban market, Al Qazzazin neighbourhood, Al Haram Al Ibrahimy Mosque area and Iskafya market from Bab Al Khan area. Al Quds (February 12, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers demolished six agricultural wells and four store rooms located next to the Israeli segregation wall in Al Bass Area in Idhna city west of Hebron city and confiscated Electric generators and water pumps and razed tens of dunums planted with field crops. The wells and the agricultural facilities are owned by Muhammad Abdel Mahdi Murshed Al Tumeizi, Thiab Hussein Al Jiyawi, Muhammad Issa Al Jiyawi, and Muhammad Mustafa Al Jiyawim, Muhammad Bader Al 'Osoud and Muhammad Fadel Al osoud. Al Quds (February 12, 2010).

- Israeli military bulldozers demolished a sheep barn in the town of Al-Buwiyra near Kiryat Arba' Settlement owned by Jamal Abu Iseifan. Israeli authorities had previously issued a demolition order on the building. Maannews (February 17, 2010).
- The Israeli occupation forces demolished a house and a room in Ad Deirat village located east of Yatta town under the pretext that the two structures were built without proper building licences. The house is owned by Mariam Muhammad Khalil Al 'Idra and is 50 square meters area; while the room is owned by Jibril Ismai'l Ibrahim Al 'Idra. Al Ayyam (February 18, 2010).
- Four Israeli bulldozers guarded by Israeli Occupation forces razed 700 dunums of agricultural lands in Janba area south of Yatta town owned by 33 Palestinian families. The lands were planted with wheat and Barley. Al Ayyam (February 20, 2010).
- The Israeli settlers of Ma'on settlement uprooted 80 Olive trees planted in lands owned by Musa Hasan Jabbarin in Ma'in village east of Yatta town along side bypass road number 137. Al Ayyam (February 20, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation forces evacuate Al Majnoneh military camp south of Hebron city. Al Quds (February 21, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation soldiers stormed the houses of 'Ali Ahmad 'Adi, Bassam Huseein Qasem 'Adi and Nawwaf Muhammad Hussein 'Adi in Safa village north of Beit Ummer town. Al Ayyam (February 21, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation forces raided The Toyur Al-Janneh (Birds of Heaven) kindergarten building in Beit Ummer in Hebron Governorate. Maannews (February 25, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation soldiers took over the home of Abed Al-A'thim An-Natshah in the Az-Zahed area in Hebron city, using it as a watch tower and confining the family in the home. Maannews (February 26, 2010).
- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out citizens of Beit Ummer north of Hebron city evacuation and demolition orders to four industrial and agricultural facilities in the city. The facilities are owned by Wajeeh Hameed Abdel Fattah Abu Maria, Zain Khader Abdel Muhsin Al 'Alami, Habis Shehdeh Abu Sarah Al 'Alami and Saber Zamel Ahmad Abu Maria. Wafa (February 26, 2010).

Nablus

- Israeli settlers illegally appropriated 500 dunums of land from Mount Hillah Al-Wusta, in the Palestinian village of Jalud, south of Nablus. The settlers took over the land and parked four caravans on the area. The area is located near the 'Adi Ad settlement outpost, established several years ago. Maannews & Al Ayyam (February 5, 2010).
- Around 20 Israeli settlers from Bracha settlement staged into Iraq Burin village south of Nablus city and attacked Palestinian houses. Wafa (February 6, 2010).
- More than 500 Israeli settlers protected by Israeli soldiers broke into Joseph tom in Balata Refugee Camp east of Nablus city to hold their prayers. Maannews (February 10, 2010).
- The Israeli settlers vandalized the Ma'zuz Al-Masri Girls School during a visit to a nearby religious site in Nablus. When teachers and students arrived at the school they found it had been broken into, with several windows smashed and garbage thrown in the school water reserves. This is not the first time the school has been vandalized by worshipping settlers. Maannews (February 13, 2010).
- Israeli Occupation forces imposed heightened security measures on the military checkpoints on the main road between Nablus and Ramallah in the West Bank while the container checkpoint in Bethlehem saw similar restrictions. Hundreds of Palestinian cars were held up at the Huwwara and Za'tara checkpoints south of Nablus as well as at the Atara checkpoint north of Ramallah. Maannews (February 15, 2010).
- Dozens of settlers hurled stones on the As-Seela road, near Homesh settlement, totally shattering the windshields of several Palestinian cars. The settlers also damaged the car of Mohammed Saleh Salem, a Palestinian doctor who was also injured during the episode. Maannews (February 22, 2010).
- Israeli Occupation forces stormed offices belonging to Fatah in the northern West Bank village of Beit Imrin, west of Nablus. Israeli soldiers attempted to break into the office by forcing down the main doors, and were unable to. Forces reportedly set light to a poster of the late President

Yasser Arafat which was hanging on the main doors. Maannews (February 23, 2010).

- Israeli settlers of the illegal Yitzhar settlement chopped down 45 olive trees on land belonging to Burin village, near Nablus. The trees were planted on property owned by cousins Suhail Najjar, Murad Ma'roof Najjar, and Issa Mahmoud Najjar. Maannews (February 24, 2010).
- More than 500 Israeli settlers stormed Joseph tomb in Nablus city and performed religious rituals in the place. Settlers also caused damages to school located next to the tomb. Al Quds (February 26, 2010).

Ramallah

- The Israeli settlers planted tens of dunums of open spaces of 'Abud village lands northwest of Ramallah city, between Ofarim and Beit Arye settlements with Forest trees in an attempt to prevent 'Abud village residents from accessing the lands and for the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall. February 3, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation authorities informed residents of Bil'in village of the new route of the segregation wall, adjusted according to a decision by the Israeli Supreme Court of Justice in 2007. Once the adjusted route is implemented, residents of Bil'in are expected to restore almost half of their 2,300 dunums confiscated during the construction of the wall's original route. However, as the portion of the wall already built will be removed, farmers will expect significant damage to their olive groves located in the area. [Haaretz](#) & Maannews (February 6, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation soldiers closed Halmish Checkpoint established on Lands of An Nabi Saleh Village entrance north of Ramallah city and hindered Palestinians from returning to their homes. Al Quds (February 14, 2010).
- Sewage from a treatment plant in the Israeli settlement of Sha'are Tiqwa has been flowing into a high school in the northern West Bank village of Azzun Atma. Some students simply stayed away from school because of the stench emanating from the wastewater that pooled in the schoolyard. Maannews (February 19, 2010).

- The Azzun 'Atma village council reported that Israeli Occupation forces postponed the opening hours for the northern Azzun 'Atma checkpoint they must pass through to access agricultural land and workplaces in Qalqilyah and surrounding villages. Instead of opening at 4:30am, the checkpoint now opens one hour later. Villagers say the delay means many cannot arrive to work or school on time. Residents traveling to nearby towns for groceries also reported being forced to leave purchased goods at the checkpoint, when guards said the quantities they were bringing into the village were above those necessary for personal use. They said residents needed commercial sales permits to bring in larger quantities. Maannews (February 20, 2010).
- Israeli settlers of Shilo settlement took over 10 dunums of lands of Sinjil village north of Ramallah city and fenced the land with barbed wires. The land is owned by resident Hussein Shabana. Wafa (February 20, 2010).
- Israeli Right-wing activists have begun organizing a campaign against the new Palestinian city of Rawabi, which recently began taking shape in the West Bank. The activists claim the new city will cause traffic jams, pollution, security issues and will only benefit Palestinian elites. Rawabi's construction began some two months ago north of Bir Zeit, about 10 kilometers from Ramallah. The new city is supposed to have 5,000 housing units for some 25,000 people. Most of the designated city falls in Area A, under civil and military Palestinian Authority control. The new apartments are expected to sell for between \$38,000 to \$75,000 per unit, and the city is also planned to have industrial and commercial zones, with municipal infrastructure using "green" technologies. [Haaretz \(February 24, 2010\)](#).

Tubas

- The Israeli Occupation forces demolished the headquarter of Al 'Aqaba village council east of Tubas city. Al Quds (February 10, 2010).

Tulkarem

- Israeli military personnel completed the installation of a partial checkpoint and search station for farmers in the Tulkarem area who pass through Gate 753 on their way to lands cut off by the segregation wall. Families with orchards or fields near Khirbet Jubara, south of Tulkarem, must have a pre-arranged permit to access their lands, west of Israel's segregation

wall. Farmers would travel to Gate 753, south of the Ephraim checkpoint, and wait for the scheduled openings of the gate in the wall, in order to access their lands. Residents of the village must also pass through the gate to access Tulkarem. As of February 3, 2010, Palestinian farmers with permits from the Israeli Civil Administration must also undergo physical searches. Farmers and all their equipment must be scanned and pass through metal detectors in the new room constructed at the gate. The same day the check-room was established, several flying checkpoints were reported in the area. Maannews (February 4, 2010).

- Some 100 Israeli settlers from the nearby Illegal Israeli settlement Dotan surrounded the village of Kherbet Al-Hammam, 5 kilometers east of An-Nazlah Ash-Sharqiyah, north of Tulkarem, and forced Resident Mohammad Al-Jaluli to destroy a sheep pen. Kherbet Al-Hamam is located between the illegal settlements of Dotan and Hermish. The village is inhabited by approximately 70 Palestinian residents, who are often prevented from leaving the village or accessing the well nearby by settlers. Maannews (February 6, 2010).
- Israeli settlers of Avnei Hefetz settlement took matters in their own hands when no permit was issued for a pre-school. They gathered for the laying of cement for the expansion of a local kindergarten and explained, "There is no time to wait". This action was taken to challenge the Israeli Governments decision to [freeze building in settlements](#) for 10 months. INN (February 7, 2010).
- Israeli Occupation forces entered the village of Bal'a, east of Tulkarem, and deployed its troops in residential neighborhoods. Soldiers conducted searched homes and stores in the neighborhood and checked locals' ID cards. Maannews (February 22, 2010).

Gaza

- Two Israeli gunboats opened fire at two Palestinian fishing boats sailing off the coast of al-Waha resort to the northwest of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip. Four Palestinian fishermen were on the boats. IOF arrested the fishermen and confiscated the two fishing boats. PCHRGZA (February 7, 2010).
- Israeli warplanes struck targets in the southern Gaza Strip causing damage to the already destroyed airport site in Khan Younis. The airstrikes

targeted the Yasser Arafat International Airport in Dahaniya, Five missiles struck the facility in total. Maannews (February 10, 2010).

- The Israeli government is expected to pass a proposal to build a border fence between Israel and Egypt, at a cost of 1.5 billion shekels (roughly \$400 million). The proposal was made by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, based partially on a plan formulated by the office of Public Security Minister Yitzchak Aharonovitch. The purpose is primarily to stop or impede the infiltration of illegal migrants into Israel from the Sinai. INN (February 14, 2010).
- The Israeli Military Bulldozers demolished three houses in Sharq Al Masdar area in the Gaza Strip area owned by Jaber Abu Shihada, Abdel Hai Sa'id and Muhammad Al Sa'ayda. The bulldozers also razed lands planted with Olive trees owned by Abu Shihada and Al Sa'ayda families. Al Quds (February 19, 2010).
- The Israeli Occupation Bulldozers razed agricultural lands planted with Olive, Citrus and Almond trees in Al Fukhari area southeast of Khan Younis city. Wafa (February 24, 2010).

Others

- The number of Jews in the West Bank has grown to 313,000 – double the growth rate of the rest of Israel – according to the latest Civil Administration report. The Civil Administration report, as quoted by Haaretz, shows that the population in the West Bank grew in the past half-year by 2.75%, and by 5.1% in the past year, and now stands at 312,940. A large part of the growth is due to the religious settlements of Betar Illit (6.3%) and Modi'in Illit (9.8%) - but even without those settlements, Yesha's growth rate of 3.8% more than doubles that of the rest of Israel, which stands at 1.7%. Two-thirds of the settlements in Yesha grew at a higher rate than the rest of Israel. Sample populations in Judea and Samaria and their growth rate over the past half-year:
 - Shomron Regional Council – 25,875, up 3.75%
 - Binyamin Regional Council (Israel's largest) – 47,636, up 2.5%
 - Mt. Hevron Regional Council – 5,909, up 3.8%
 - Gush Etzion Regional Council – 15,818, up 3.5%
 - Maaleh Adumim – 36,508, up 2.1%

- Alfei Menashe – 7,338, up 3.2%
 - Ariel – 18,264, up 1%
 - Efrat – 8,674, up 2.4%
 - Elkanah – 3,460, up 2.4%
 - Kedumim – 3,840, up 1%
 - Kiryat Arba – 6,774, up 1%. [INN \(February 2, 2010\)](#).
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- Twenty-nine West Bank Israeli settlements are in violation of the 10-month moratorium on new construction in the settlements, according to Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilna'i. JPOST (February 14, 2010).
 - PEACENOW movement has listed settlements that breached the settlement freeze order. Settlements that violated the freeze include: List of Settlements that have breached the Settlement Freeze are: Adam Geva (Binyamin), Oranit, Elon More, Alfei Menashe, Elkana, Beit Arie, Beitar Illit, Barkan, Givat Ze'ev (listed twice at the list), Har Gilo, Talmon, Yakir, Kfar Eldad (Nokdim), Kfar Etzion, Ma'ale Adumim, Ma'ale Shomron, Matityahu, Nokdim, Imanuel, Etz Efrayim, Psagot, Zufim, Kedumim, Rosh Zurim, Revava, Shadmot Mechola, Sha'arei Tikva, Tqo'a. Peace Now List of Additional Settlements Were Violations were recorded: Elazar, Kochav Hashahar, Nili, Kiryat Arba and Tapuach. [PEACENOW \(February 14, 2010\)](#).
 - The Israeli Court for Administrative Matters in Be'er Sheva has given a local government authority 12 months to raze 30 luxurious villas that were built by Bedouins without permits. The decision was handed down in a motion filed by Regavim, an NGO which specializes in fighting illegal Arab construction, against the Abu Basma Local Council. [INN \(February 15, 2010\)](#).
 - The Israeli High Court of Justice demanded that the Israeli government submit a detailed timetable for the razing of 16 homes built in the unauthorized West Bank outposts of Hayovel and Harsha. In 2005, Peace Now filed a petition against the construction of nine homes in Hayovel, which is on the outskirts of the settlement of Eli, and seven structures in Harsha, which is near the Talmon bloc. Haaretz (February 17, 2010).
 - While the Israeli government has frozen construction in settlements, it continues to nurture Israeli presence in the Palestinian territories. In its

weekly meeting, the Israeli cabinet approved a comprehensive plan to preserve heritage sites across the country. Following pressure from a number of ministers, [Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu](#) added two sites to the plan: Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem and the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. It is worth mentioning that the government approves NIS 400 million plan to preserve 150 heritage sites across Israel. [Ynetnews \(February 21, 2010\)](#).

- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority fined three Palestinian brothers in the West Bank because their cows trespassed "in an unmarked area." Late last year, three Palestinian brothers who own a small herd from which they earn a living received the fine from an inspector visiting the Jordan Valley. Each brother - from the Daraghma family - was required to pay NIS 660. The incident occurred in the Um Zuka nature preserve in the West Bank near Route 90 and the Jordan Valley settlement of Mehola. For years, Palestinian shepherds, including those from the Daraghma family, have marched their herds on their lands next to the road. Before the fining incident, no one had interrupted their routine. One early afternoon last November an inspector from the nature and parks authority passed by the family's herding area and served the notices. The Daraghmas plan to pay the fine - if they can come up with the money. So they turned to Dafna Banai, an activist at Machsom Watch who would often visit the area. Haaretz (February 22, 2010).
- A month after Israel rescinded a ban on foreign nationals using Bethlehem bus line Number 21; travelers say that Israeli authorities are again pulling internationals off buses en route to Jerusalem. In Mid-December, for reasons that remain unclear, tourists leaving the central West Bank city were banned from line 21, a route used predominantly by Palestinian holders of East Jerusalem residency cards. The ban was briefly lifted over the Christmas holiday, but foreign nationals assured that they are again being targeted and removed from the line, the only continuous transport between the two cities. Maannews (February 23, 2010).
- Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak ordered a total closure of the West Bank effective Thursday night and continuing through the Jewish holiday of Purim until Monday at sundown. Closures generally mean that Palestinian West Bank residents with permits will be banned from entering Israel or East Jerusalem. Foreign nationals are usually not affected. Maannews (February 25, 2010).

Monthly Violations Statistics – February 2010

Governorate	Land Confiscated (Dunums)	Lands Threatened of Confiscation (Dunums)	Uprooted Trees	Demolished Houses	Houses threatened of Demolition
Bethlehem	90	0	0	0	2
Jerusalem	0	0	0	1	31
Jenin	0	0	0	0	17
Tulkarm	0	0	0	0	0
Ramallah	10	0	0	0	0
Nablus	500	0	45	0	0
Salfit	74	0	1000	0	0
Jericho	0	0	0	0	0
Gaza	0	0	0	3	0
Qalqilyah	0	0	0	0	0
Hebron	1068	0	160	6	12
Tubas	0	0	0	1	0
Total					

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, Palestine News Agency-Wafa, Palestine News Network, Ma'an News Agency, Al Jazeera News Channel, Israel National News, and Yediot Achronot – 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.