

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

Volume 185, December 2013 Issue

<http://www.arij.org>

Bethlehem

- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired teargas grenades at Palestinian houses and a mosque in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades. (Al-Quds 1 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of Palestinians and the injured of other. (Quds Net 5 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired live bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of a 19 years old Palestinian. (Paltoday 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. (Maannews 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured Wadah Nimir Kawazbih (25 years) from Tequ village, east of Bethlehem city, while he was in Wadi Fukin village, west of Bethlehem city (RB2000 8 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) uprooted 40 olive trees and razed land to open a road which will link between the Israeli bypass road No.60 and Cremisan Monastery in Beit Jala town, west of Bethlehem city. The

targeted land and trees are owned by Hisham Abu Ali. (RB2000 & Wafa 9 December 2013)

- An Israeli Occupation jeep ran over Imad Mohammad Shakirnah (17 years) in Nahhalin village, west of Bethlehem city. Mr. Shakirnah was seriously injured. (RB2000 & ARN 10 December 2013)
- An Israeli settler hit by his vehicle two Palestinian children while they were walking in the main road in Al-Walajah village, northwest of Bethlehem city. (Maannews 10 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) razed 100 dunums of Palestinian land in Arab Ar Rashayida village, southeast of Bethlehem city. (Paltoday 11 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented the workers in Jerusalem District Electricity Company from working in the southern villages of Bethlehem city. (Al-Quds 16 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a military base on 100 dunums of Palestinian land in Al-Matirdah area in Arab Ar-Rashayida village, south of Bethlehem city. The targeted land located 6 kilometers away from Palestinian houses. The IOA ordered more than 50 Palestinians to evacuate their houses in area located near the new military base. (Al-Quds 16 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) surrounded Ar-Rashayida village, southeast of Bethlehem city, and closed all the entrances. During the operation, the IOA started military training in the area. (RB2000 17 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinians houses in Jabal Al-Furidies area, east of Bethlehem city. (Quds Net 17 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinian bulldozers from reopening a road link to Khirbet Beit Sakariya, south of Bethlehem city, after the snowstorm closed the entire roads in the area. (Wafa 17 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. (RB2000 20 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Za'al As-Sahouri in Za'tara village, east of Bethlehem city. (Wafa 21 December 2013)
- Israel refused entry five Arab tourism ministers who planned to visit Palestine in Christmas time. Israel refused to issue entry permits to five ministers who were expected to attend Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem city, and to attend the Christmas Eve midnight mass at Nativity church. (Maannews 22 December 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched Ayda refugee camp and the area around Rachael tomb, north of Bethlehem city. (Al-Ayyam 22 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Khader village, west of Bethlehem city, and stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (RB2000 23 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) confiscated a Palestinian bulldozer while it was working in Khallit An-Nahla area in Artas village, south of Bethlehem city. The targeted bulldozer is owned by the Palestinian Ministry of agriculture. The IOA also, handed out military order to confiscate the land where the bulldozer was worked. (RB2000 24 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. (RB2000 27 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al-Ubidiyah town, east of Bethlehem city. (RB2000 28 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (PNN 29 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian and international activists while they were touring in land in Khallit Salem and Khallit Amirah areas, east of Bethlehem city. (Safa 29 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired live and rubber bullets, and teargas grenades. (ARN 31 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured two Palestinian workers were identified as: Yasir Mohammad Az-Zair (30 years) from Za'tara village, east of Bethlehem city, and Yasir Ahmed Safi (30 years) from Al-Ubidiyah town, east of Bethlehem city. (Wattan 31 December 2013)

Jenin

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house in Jenin refugee camp in Jenin city, and questioned the residents. The targeted house is owned by Mohammad Ali Burkan (31 years). (Al-Quds 3 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Sanur and Meithalun villages, south of Jenin city. (RB2000 4 December 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a sudden checkpoint at the entrance of Al-Jarba village, south of Jenin city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. During the operation, the IOA stormed several commercial structures in the village. (RB2000 4 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Meithalun, Sanur, Misliya, Mirka and Az-Zababida villages in Jenin governorate. (RB2000 5 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Anin village, west of Jenin city and fired stun grenades at Palestinian houses. (RB2000 5 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched five Palestinian houses in 'Aja village, southwest of Jenin city. The targeted houses are owned by: Zahran, Badran, Jawad Shahada, Mahir and Osama Qassem. (Maannews 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched several areas in Arraba village, south of Jenin city. (Maannews 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) searched land planted with olive trees at the northern part of Yabad town, west of Jenin city. (Maannews 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Rummana village, northwest of Jenin city. (Paltoday 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Silat Al-Harithiya village, northwest of Jenin city, and fired stun grenades at houses. (Paltoday 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched several Palestinian houses in Kufeirit village, west of Jenin city, detained and questioned a number of Palestinians. (Wafa 8 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured Wael Ahmed Hassan (21 years) from Qabatya village, south of Jenin city, after stopping him at Mevo Dotan checkpoint, west of Jenin city. (Al-Quds 10 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Yousif Abd Al-Hamid Arshide (42 years) in Sir village, south of Jenin city, and questioned the residents. (Wafa 12 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and toured in Sanur, Az-Zababida, and Meithalun villages in Jenin governorate. (Wafa 12 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Rummana village, northwest of Jenin city. (Safa 16 December 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several neighborhoods in Al-Yamun village, west Jenin city. (RB2000 17 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to demolish 10 Palestinian houses in Barta'a Ash-Sharqiya village, west of Jenin city, under the claim that the houses build without licenses. The targeted houses are owned by: Mohammad Saleh Qabha, Imad Yousif Qabha, Azam Jaber Qabha, Samir Mwafiq Qabha, Atef Amarnih, Ma'mun Faleh Qabha, Abd Al-Rahem Abdalla Mas'oud, Mohammad Rif'at Qabha, Ameer Fesal Khalouf and Mansour Abdalla Mas'oud. (Wafa 17 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched two Palestinian houses and questioned the residents in Qabatyia village, south of Jenin city. The targeted houses are owned by: Mohammad Abd Al-Fatah Saba'nih and Ali Hussen Abu Ja'ab. (Wafa 18 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation army (IOA) killed Nafi' Jamel As-Sa'di (22 years) and injured seven others after storming Jenin refugee camp in Jenin city. The IOA fired live bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. The IOA also, detained Ali As-Sa'di, after he was injured. (Wafa 19 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the southern entrance of Jenin city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wattan 20 December 2013)
- Undercover Israeli Army invaded and toured in several areas in Al-Araqa village, west of Jenin city. (Safa 22 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a military checkpoint at the northern entrance of Jenin city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Al-Quds 22 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up three military tents at the main Street of Yabad town, west of Jenin city. (Maannews 24 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Hussen Yahya Ni'erat in Meithalun village, south of Jenin city. (Wafa 24 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed all the entrance of Yabad town, west of Jenin city, and declared the town as 'close military area'. The IOA erected several checkpoints around Yabad town, detained dozens of Palestinian vehicles and assaulted a Palestinian from Al-Araqa village, west of Jenin. (ARN 24 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house in Arabbuna village, northeast of Jenin city and questioned the

- residents. The targeted house is owned by Othman Abdalla Mahmoud Bani Hassan. (Wafa 26 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Salamah Khamisah in Qabatiya village, south of Jenin city, and questioned the owner. During the operation, the IOA summoned Jihad Nazzal (25 years) to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police in Salem military base, after storming his house in Qabatiya village. (Wafa 26 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in several areas in Jenin city. (Wafa 26 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoint near Mevo Dotan settlement and at the entrance of Kufeirit village in Jenin governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 26 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) occupied two Palestinian houses in Yabad town, west of Jenin city, and transformed them to military base. The targeted houses are owned by: Sobhe Ali Abu Bakir and Tawfiq Abu Shamlah. During the operation, the IOA closed the main entrance of the town, and prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the town. (NBPRS & Wafa 27 December 2013)
 - A Palestinian man has died at a military checkpoint erected by Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Yabad town, west of Jenin city. Adel Muhammad Amarnah (65 years) was being rushed to a Jenin hospital when his car was stopped by the IOA at a checkpoint near of Yabad town. An Israeli soldier apparently told the driver of the car to "go back where he came from". After being held up for an extended period of time, the driver finally convinced the soldier to let him pass through the checkpoint. Amarnah died before he could reach the public hospital in Jenin, where the doctors confirmed his death. (IMEMC 29 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed all the entrances of Yabad town, west of Jenin city. The IOA prevented Palestinians from entering and leaving the town. During the operation, the IOA declared the area as "close military zone". And for the third days in a row, the IOA occupied a Palestinian house owned by Sobhe Abu Bakir and transformed it to a military base. (Wattan 29 December 2013)
 - Israeli settlers living in Merav settlement pumped wastewater at Palestinian land and streets and at a cow farm in Jalbun village, east of Jenin city. (Sama News 30 December 2013)
 - From the seven days in a row, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed all the entrances of Yabad town, west of Jenin city. The IOA

- prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the town, and declared the area as closed military zone. (Wafa 30 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation bulldozers along with the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) razed agricultural land near Arraba village, southwest of Jenin city, and held military training. (Wafa & Maannews 31 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a military checkpoint at the entrance of Arraba village, southwest of Jenin city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (RB2000 5 December 2013)

Jerusalem

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Paltoday 1 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest against Prayer Ball near Bab As-Sahira in Jerusalem city. The IOA assaulted participants and arrested Muaz Musleh. (SilwanIC 1 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted Yousef Adel Abu Zined (17 years) and Ramzi Abu Rumoz (17 years) while they were in an Israeli court in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 1 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque from Bab Al-Magharba in Jerusalem city, and performed Talmudic rituals to celebrate “Hanukkah” holiday. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers. During the clashes, the IOA arrested 8 Palestinians; one of them was identified as: Jadalla Al-Goul. (SilwanIC 1 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city and stationed at the entrances of Al-Quds University clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases, and the injury of two people by live bullets, and three others by rubber bullet. The IOA attacked Palestinian houses and vehicles. During the clashes, the IOA arrested 10 Palestinians. (Safa & Quds Net 2 December 2013)
- An Israeli Jewish organization “Temple Academy” called to light the Menorah inside Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city on the 3rd and 4th of December 2013, to celebrate Hanukkah holiday. (Wattan 2 December 2013)

- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city, and toured in its courtyard. During the operation, the IOA prevented Palestinians from entering the mosque, and detained a number of them at the entrance of the mosque. (Safa 2 December 2013)
- An Israeli court decided to freeze the demolition orders of 10 Palestinian buildings in Ras Khames neighborhood near Shufat refugee camp in Jerusalem city. A month ago, the Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to demolish these buildings. (Paltoday 3 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city. During the operation, the IOA prevented Palestinians from entering Al-Aqsa mosque and arrested one of them (Safa 3 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers demonstrated in the old city of Jerusalem to celebrate Hanukkah holiday. The demonstration started from Al-Buraq wall to the entrances of Al-Aqsa Mosque, during the demonstration, the Israeli settlers sung, danced and chanted anti-Palestinian slogans such as “Death to Arab”. The IOA closed several areas in the old city of Jerusalem and prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the areas where the demonstration took place. (Maannews 3 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints in several streets in Jerusalem city, and in Wadi Ar-Rababa, Ash-Sheikh Jarrah neighborhoods, and Shufat and Beit Hanina towns. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (SilwanIC 3 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its courtyard. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli settlers. Note that the Israeli settlers called for a demonstration in the old city of Jerusalem to celebrate Hanukkah holiday by lighting the menorah inside Al-Aqsa mosque. (Paltoday 4 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Housh Al-Jaliya Al-Afriqiya neighborhood in the old city of Jerusalem, after the IOA stormed the neighborhood and assaulted the residents. During the clashes, the IOA fired rubber bullets and stun grenades, as a result, four Palestinian were injured. (SilwanIC 5 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque from Bab Al-Maghariba in Jerusalem city and toured

- in its courtyard. During the operation, the IOA surrounded a group of Palestinians and detained their ID cards. (Rb2000 5 December 2013)
- Seven Palestinians were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ar-Ram town, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Safa 6 December 2013)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the courtyard of Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city, after the IOA stormed the courtyard. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinian, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of more than 40 people. During the clashes, the IOA closed all the entrance of the mosque and arrested three Palestinians. (SilwanIC 6 December 2013)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Hush Al-Jaliya Al-Afriqiya and Al-Wad Street in the old city of Jerusalem. The IOA fired stun grenades at Palestinians and houses. During the operation, the IOA arrested Adi An-Natsha (10 years). (SilwanIC 6 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Mohammad Sider in Bab Hutta neighborhood in Jerusalem city. The IOA destroyed the furniture. (SilwanIC 6 December 2013)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Maannews 6 December 2013)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Eaziriya town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of others. (Maannews 6 December 2013)
 - Israeli settlers assaulted and injured Loay Abu As-Sa'id from Shufat refugee camp in Jerusalem city. (Paltoday 8 December 2013)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Issawiya town in Jerusalem city, after storming and searching two Palestinian houses. The targeted houses are owned by Ribhi Khadir Abu Humos and Samir Al-Isawi. During the operation, the IOA arrested a Palestinian child and summoned Ra'fat and Firas Al-Issawi to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police. (SilwanIC 10 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up three cameras at the court yard of Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city. (Maannews 10 December 2013)

- Israeli settlers and Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque from Al-Magharbih gate in Jerusalem city and toured in its courtyard. During the operation, the IOA prevented a number of Palestinians from entering the mosque. (RB2000 10 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers attacked and stabbed Mohammad Marwan Awees (20 years) while he was in his way home in Ras Al-Amoud neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 11 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Bir Ayoub and Ein Al-Louz neighborhoods in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing the damaged in several Palestinian houses. During the clashes, the IOA assaulted a number of Palestinians. (SilwanIC 17 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to evacuate 30 Palestinian families from Arab Al-Jahaleen Bedouin committee in Al-Eaziriya town, east of Jerusalem city, under the claim of the construction Israeli Segregation wall in the aforementioned area. (RB2000 17 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its court yard. (Raya 19 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Eaziriya town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOAn fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases, and the injury of four people. During the clashes, the IOA arrested a Palestinian and stormed several houses, a mosque and a church. (RB2000 & Maannews 20 December 2013)
- Israeli sources revealed that the Israeli public relations office "Imrkom" recently started marketing settlement projects in the occupied city of Jerusalem in the Ras al-Amud near the new settlement and the other on Mount Scopus. And confirmed in that Office so far has been "buying 30 housing units in two projects out of a total of 41 units offered for sale. The weekly Hebrew newspaper "cool haier" revealed that the projects presented to the public religious-nationalist Jewish housing in historic surroundings, with luxury and high standard of living. The building is in the middle of East Jerusalem not far from which Israel name the city of David (Silwan) and near the new Jewish settlement of Ma'aleh Zitim. There is talk of two historic site an important residential, and prepared projects for young Jewish families or large families looking for luxury housing is held the first project called Maalot David in the central of Ras Al-Amoud neighborhood includes 17 modern units of 3-4 rooms with an area of between 110-120 square meters, and will be

held under the project two apartments offer excellent consists of 230 square meters, each residential unit included storage and parking spaces. In addition to this, a kinder Park is will build near the project, and so far 10 residential units in the project out of a total 17 units for sale. The "Irnrkom" project managers preparing for phase b, which will be in addition about 20 other housing units in two old buildings in five-dunum area of land. (Al-Quds 21 December 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Baten Al-Hawa neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city, and fired rubber bullet at the leg of Yahya As-Silwadi (31 years) while he was in front of his house. (SilwanIC 22 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Quds University in Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city, and fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinian students, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Maannews 22 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its court yard. During the operation, the IOA detained a number of Palestinian ID cards at the entrance of the mosque. (Wafa 22 December 2013)
- An Israel settler hit by his vehicle and killed a 14 years old Palestinian; Ameen Musa Al-Faqir from Al-Jahaleen committee in Anata town, while he was at the entrance of Al-Issawiya town in Jerusalem city. (NBPRS & SilwanIC 22 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities raided the house of Samer Issawi, a Palestinian prisoner who engaged in one of the longest hunger strikes in history. The IOA are expected to release Samer Issawi from Israeli prison on the 23rd of December 2013. The IOA handed out the residents an order prevented them from celebration his release. (Maannews 23 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured Murad Hamad while he was near Bab Al-Qataneen in the old city of Jerusalem. (Paltoday 23 December 2013)
- Al-Aqsa Foundation for Al-Wqaf and Heritage warned that a number of Israeli organizations raised the Israeli flags on the southern wall of the old city of Jerusalem during Jewish festival. (Al-Ayyam 23 December 2013)
- Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem issued order to demolish two Palestinian building in Ein Al-Louz neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. The first building is owned by Hamouda Siyam, consists of four apartments (total area 540 square meters) and inhabited by 12 Palestinians. The second building is owned by Mahran

Siyam, consists of one apartment (135 square meters) and inhabited by 7 Palestinians. (SilwanIC 24 December 2013)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Issawiya town in Jerusalem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA arrested Mahdi Meswadah (14 years). (RB2000 25 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city from Al-Magharbih gate and toured in its court yard, and performed Talmudic rituals. (Wafa 25 December 2013)
- An Israeli military base pumped wastewater at Palestinian land in Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city. (NBPRS 26 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired rubber bullets and stun grenades at a Palestinian vehicles owned by a Palestinian hospital, while it was at the entrance of Al-Eaziriya town, east of Jerusalem city. (Al-Quds 26 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) confiscated a Palestinian stall and the goods at Bab Al-Asbat in Jerusalem city. (Safa 27 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at Qabsa area, between Al-Eaziriya and Abu Dis towns, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 27 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the northern entrance of Anata village, northeast of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 27 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ar-Ram town, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. Wafa 27 December 2013)
- Secret Israeli report on Temple Mount, buried by government, published in U.S.. Report on Israeli authorities' negligence regarding Muslim digs at Temple Mount has been buried by the Israeli government. The American news website The Jewish Voice has published an Israeli State Comptroller's report on Israeli authorities' conduct regarding digs at Jerusalem's Temple Mount in 2007. In Israel, a gag order was placed on the report due to fears it would harm Israel's foreign relations and spark violent confrontations at the Temple Mount. News of the Jewish Voice report was first published in the Israeli weekend newspaper Sof Hashavua. The State Comptroller

composed the report in 2008, after it was ordered by the State Control Committee in the Knesset. The committee sought to examine the conduct of government authorities following the construction work carried out by the Waqf on the Temple Mount. The Waqf, the Muslim trust that is custodian of the Temple Mount, carried out the construction in order to repair a power line, which included the digging of a 1.5-meter-deep trench at the heart of the site. The maintenance work was carried out despite the damage that was done to Temple Mount antiquities in 1999 when the Waqf did construction work to allow for a new opening for the mosque in Solomon's Stables. Various bodies, including the Public Committee Against the Destruction of Antiquities on the Temple Mount, claimed that the authorities were negligent when it came to preserving the antiquities and overseeing the construction carried out by the Waqf. The report includes damning conclusions regarding government authorities such as the Jerusalem Municipality, Israel Police, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and the government's legal adviser. The government requested that the report will not be published, which brought about claims from the political right that the government is using excuses such as security in order to avoid embarrassment. Last year, the sub-committee of the Knesset's State Control Committee held several discussions regarding the publication of the report. According to sources that were present in the discussions, the Shin Bet did not oppose the publication and rather the main opposition came from the Foreign Ministry, which feared damaging relations with Jordan, and from the Public Security Ministry, which feared the outbreak of violent confrontations on the Temple Mount. At the end of the discussions, it was decided to keep the report classified. Shmuel Berkovitch, an expert on Jerusalem's holy places, was one of the people who contributed to the report. Berkovitch reported to the State Comptroller on a long line of failures of supervision and the enforcement of Israeli sovereignty over the Temple Mount. Among the failures that were pointed out was that the special ministerial committee that needs to approve any construction work on the Temple Mount never met. Another failure was that the government's legal adviser never ordered to prosecute any of the Waqf officials or any other bodies responsible for construction violations and harming antiquities. "As far as I know, all the failures that I have mentioned, without exception, were confirmed by the State Comptroller," Berkovitch said. "It can be understood why the authorities did not want this report published." Official sources said that even though the report was never published, conclusions

were drawn and Israel increased the supervision over all work being done at the Temple Mount. ([Haaretz](#) 27 December 2013)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at Al-Wad Street in the old city of Jerusalem. The IOA fired stun grenades at Palestinians, and forced a number of Palestinians to close their shops. During the clashes, the IOA arrested Musa Gharouf Farhoud after storming his house. (SilwanIC 29 December 2013)
- An Israeli settler stormed a Palestinian house in Bab As-Slalsla near Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Wattan 29 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its courtyard. During the operation, the IOA detained dozens of Palestinian ID cards at the entrance of the mosque. (Wattan 29 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers hurled stones and assaulted a Palestinian taxi driver identified as: Ayman Isma'il Al-Abassi (29 years) in Jerusalem city. (NBPRS 29 December 2013)
- Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out military orders to demolish Al-Qa'qa' mosque (140 square meters), a 120 square meters house (inhabited by 10 Palestinians), an under construction house and three car parking (each one 25 square meters) in Ein Al-Louz neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 29 December 2013)
- Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) issued order to demolish a 200 square meters house inhabited by 9 family members in Bir Ayoub neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. The Israeli Authorities stalled the residents 30 days to evacuate the house. (SilwanIC 29 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city from Al-Magharbih gate, and toured in its courtyard. (Wafa 30 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its courtyard. (RB2000 31 December 2013)

Hebron

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Dura town, west of Hebron city. (Safa 1 December 2013)

- The Israeli Left and the Myth of 'Palestinian' Susiya. The Israeli left joins the PA in propagating the myth of a decades-old Palestinian town, Jewish activists say. A legal battle over a historic site in the Hevron Hills continues, with Israeli far-left groups joining the Palestinian Authority in accusing Israel of "forced displacement" of Arab villagers in Susiya. They have won support from several international left-wing groups and media outlets as well. The problem: the "Palestinian village" that Israel is supposedly uprooting never existed. Tzviki Bar-Hai, the head of the Har Hevron regional council, explained the issue in an interview with *Arutz Sheva*. Bar-Hai has seen the development of the archaeological site at Susiya – which is home to the remains of an ancient Jewish village - from day one. Not only did "Palestinian Susiya" not exist in the 1800s, as has been claimed by the far-left group B'Tselem, but it did not even exist in the 1980s, he reported. "I was there in 1976, and aside from the synagogue that was built here in 1969, there wasn't a living soul," he recalled. "We were able to restart the archaeological digs in 1983, and then, too, there were no Palestinians around." In 1986, Arab farmers began to visit the area, he said, but they came only at certain times of year, and never stayed for longer than one or two nights. Those who now claim to be residents of Susiya are actually from the nearby Arab town of Yatta, he said. "In recent years a few Arab families from Yatta are trying to settle near ancient Susiya and to argue that they were expelled from the village of Susiya – which never existed," he said. "They are all from Yatta. They are supported by leftist activists, who come on weekends to help create the narrative of expulsion," he continued. There are modern-day Arab towns in the area built over ancient Jewish towns, he noted. One example is Samoa, which was built on the ruins of ancient Eshtamoa. "But here in Susiya, in both ancient and modern times there was not a single Palestinian. The claims to the contrary are simply lies," he concluded. Bar-Hai expressed hope that the Supreme Court will rule to expel those squatting at the historic site. Bar-Hai's report is supported by testimony from other activists, who note that aerial photographs of Susiya show that the land was previously unsettled. Israelis living in the Hevron region have accused leftist visitors to Susiya of **deliberately sabotaging Jewish settlement** in the area. ([Israel National News](#) 1 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers living in Karmel settlement demolished bread tabon in Um Al-Khair village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted tabon is owned by Al-Hathaleen family. (Wafa 2 December 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched three Palestinian houses in Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. The targeted houses are owned by: Muhannad Abu Khiran, Hussam Mahmoud Hassnah and Mohammad Mahmoud Hassnah. (PNN 3 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian houses in Khirbet Um al-Khair, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (Safa 3 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers living in Otnial settlement stormed Imerish and Rabud villages in Hebron governorate. (Safa 3 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers stormed Waqf Al-Bidiree near the Ibrahimi mosque in the old city of Hebron and put furniture inside it, in a step to change to Synagogue (Wafa 3 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at the entrance of Al-Fawar refugee camp and Halhul and Idhna towns in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wattan & PNN 3 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several neighborhoods in Surif, Kharas, Beit Ula, and Ad-Dhahiriya towns in Hebron governorate. (Wattan 4 December 2013)
- An Israeli settler hit by his vehicle Mohammad Hassan Abu Aiyash (10 years) while he was at the entrance of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. (Al-Quds 4 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at the entrance of Yatta, Sair, and Halhul towns and Al-Fawar refugee camp in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wattan 4 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in the Ibrahimi mosque in the old city of Hebron. (Sama News 5 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Hebron city. The IOA fired live bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of Sohaib Sultan (19 years). (Safa 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Bani Na'im town, east of Hebron city. (Safa 8 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at a Palestinian vehicle at the entrance of Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. (Safa 8 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Jihad An-Nawa'jah from entering his land in Susiya village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city, and detained him for few hours. (Wafa 8 December 2013)

- A 16-years-old Palestinian; Maher Adil Najajra, was seriously injured after an unidentified device left by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) was exploded, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (Maannews 8 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Al-Karmil village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The IOA erected a military checkpoint in the village, stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 8 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers living Beit Hadasa settlement attacked and injured Yazan Zeidan Ash-Shirbati (13 years) while he was in a Palestinian shop in the old city of Hebron. (Wattan 8 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to stop the construction in a Palestinian house and to stop working in an agricultural land in Ad-Deirat village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted house and land are owned by: Mahmoud Al-Adrah and Issa Mohammad Atiyah. (Wafa & Maannews 8 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) isolated about 12 Palestinians areas and villages, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city, after closing the main road, which links the aforementioned areas with Yatta town, under the claim that the IOA declared the areas as "close military zone". The IOA detained Palestinian vehicles. (Wafa 9 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Ishaqiya area in the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron city. (Wattan 9 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several neighborhoods in Hebron city. (Safa 11 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and toured in Bani Na'im village, east of Hebron city. (Safa 11 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Munir Al-Hroub in Dura town, west of Hebron city, questioned the residents and summoned the wife of Munir Al-Hroub to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police in Gush Etzion settlement bloc. (Wattan 12 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and the Israeli Civil Administration stormed Khirbet Um Al-Khair, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city, and threatened the residents to evacuate their houses and the area. (Sama News 15 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured Iyad Mohammad Hassniya from Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city, after stopping him at the entrance of the camp. (Sama News 16 December 2013)

- An Israeli Occupation jeep ran over Ma'nān Hassan Abaiyat (25 years) at the entrance of Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. (Sama News 16 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation jeeps and bulldozers invaded and toured in several areas and neighborhoods in Hebron city. (Paltoday 17 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Nadmi Jaradat in Sa'ir town, north of Hebron city. (Wafa 18 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired teargas grenade inside a Palestinian house in Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city, causing the injury of a 13 years old Palestinian; Omar Abu Ayash. The IOA also, stormed a Palestinian house and arrested Ashraf Al-Alami (22 years). During the operation, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas grenades at Palestinian, causing dozens of suffocation cases. The IOA closed the main entrance of the town. (Wafa 19 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Mahmoud Jbra'il Shahadiah in Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (PNN 20 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Taha Mohammad Ahmed Abu Mariya in Khalit Al-Ein area in Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. During the operation, the IOA detained Nasem Abu Mariya (16 years). (PNN 20 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several Palestinian houses in Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (Safa 22 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses and neighborhoods in Hebron city. (Safa 22 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at the entrance of Idhna town and Al-Fawar refugee camp in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 22 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out threatening fliers for a 9 Palestinians in Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. The targeted Palestinians: Amjad Musa Younis, Ahmed Mohammad Hassan, Khalid Salamah Mohammad, Zahdi Abd Al-Rahaman Abd Al-Aziz, Khalid Abd Al-Fatah Abd Al-Aziz, Mohammad Musalm Mohammad, Zain Ad0Diyn Attalla Hamad, Tasir Abd Al-Rahman Mohammad and Abd Al-Rahman Hassan Ibrahim. (Wafa 23 December 2013)

- High Court asks Palestinians to drop land case against settlers. Request comes despite state's admission that Palestinian petitioners proved tie to land. A High Court of Justice panel has asked farmers from the West Bank village of Yatta to withdraw a petition against settlers who allegedly seized their lands – despite the state's admission that the Palestinians proved their legal attachment to the land. The State Prosecutor's Office said the Palestinians should pursue the matter by civil legal action, and the High Court panel's request that they withdraw the petition indicates that it agrees. This could signal a change in the High Court and State Prosecutor's Office position of recent years, and it comes amid repeated, increasing incidents of settlers seizing control of Palestinian land. Last Wednesday, Justices Miriam Naor, Uzi Vogelman and Zvi Zylbertal considered the petition of the Hushiya family of Yatta, represented by attorneys Avital Sharon and Quamar Mishirqi-Asad of Rabbis for Human Rights. The petition concerns 300 dunams between the settlement of Susya and the unauthorized outpost of Mitzpe Yair, and another 900 dunams of pasture. The petition argues that the settlers launched violent attacks on family members, preventing them from getting to their agricultural land and using the pasture for their herds. The petitioners demanded that the authorities guarantee their freedom of movement and evacuate the settlers. Attorney Amir Fisher, who represented the Susya settlement, the South Hebron regional council and three settlers, argued on their behalf that the lot was purchased in 1991 by Yair Har Sinai, who was murdered in 2001, but the attorney did not present any documents to back this claim. Sharon and Mishirqi-Asad relied on a 2011 state decision which determined that in view of the situation in the West Bank, and in light of how IDF forces often deny Palestinians access to their lands, Israelis using disputed land must prove that they took it over legally and present purchase deeds; it would not suffice for them to prove they were using the land (which would protect them, according to Ottoman law that is still valid in the West Bank). The 2011 ruling explicitly stated that the Ottoman law "damaged public order since it encouraged trespassers to take control of lands under cover of the security situation." While admitting that the Palestinian petitioners had proved "substantial administrative" attachment to the lands, the state argued that the use of the land by the settlers hasn't changed since the 1990s, and therefore decrees allowing army commanders to evacuate trespassers within five years of their takeover of the land should not be issued. The petitioners presented evidence that the land seizure did not occur as early as the 1990s, but Naor said she would not hear evidence regarding ownership, but only examine whether the IDF

and Civil Administration should take administrative steps to evacuate the settlers. The Palestinian petitioners' attorneys said they would oppose the High Court panel's request that the petition be withdrawn. ([Haaretz](#) 23 December 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Al-Sharafah neighborhood in Dura town, west of Hebron city. (Raya 24 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out flyers threatened Palestinian residents in Beit 'Awa village, west of Hebron city, and warned them not to attack the IOA. (Raya 24 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) held military training at the southern entrance of Hebron city, near Beit Haja settlement. The IOA used live and rubber bullets. (Wattan 25 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to stop the construction in seven Palestinian houses and a barracks in Al-Qaren area, south of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. the targeted houses are owned by: Ghazi, Hatim and Faiz Abu Aiash. (RB2000 25 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at the entrance of Halhul, Sair and Beit Ummer town, an Al-Fawar refugee camp and the northern entrance of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wattan 25 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Beit 'Awa village, west of Hebron city, and fired teargas and stun grenades at houses. (PNN 26 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired stun grenades at a Palestinian house in Hebron city, and torched it. The targeted house is owned by Mohammad Jaber Al-Karaki. (Wafa 26 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out military orders to demolish four water wells in Khirbet Al-Fakhit, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted wells are owned by: Mohammad Ayoub Abu Sobha, Akram Abu Sobha, Yasir Abu Sobha and Mohammad Al-Makhamrih. (NBPRS 26 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted a number of Palestinian farmers and shepherds in Um Al-Khair village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city, and prevented them from reaching their land near Karmal settlement. (Wafa 27 December 2013)
- Three Palestinian workers from Beit Ula town, northwest of Hebron city, were injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked them while they were in Ar-Ramadein village south of Hebron city. The Palestinian workers were identified as: Ahmed Al-Ajramih (21

- years), Idris Yousef Al-Turshan (22 years) and Mohammad Ishaq Khries (22 years). (Wafa 27 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers living in Havat Gal outpost stormed 3 dunums of Palestinian land and uprooted 117 olive trees in Jabal Jales area in Hebron city. (Al-Quds & Safa 27 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed several areas in Hebron city and Bani Na'im town in Hebron governorate. (Wafa 28 December 2013)
 - Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Haksa area in Halhul town, north of Hebron city and performed Talmudic rituals near water springs. (Wafa 28 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at the entrances of Halhul and Sair towns and Al-Fawar refugee camp in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 28 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured Mahmoud Abd Al-Hamid Mahmoud Al-Alami (22 years) from Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city, while he was working in Wadi Fukin village, west of Bethlehem city. (Maannews 29 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by a former prisoner Ayman Ash-Sharawnih in Deir Samit village, west of Hebron city. (RB2000 29 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and toured in several areas in Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (Safa 29 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed Halhul Bridge in Halhul town, north of Hebron city. The IOA prevented Palestinians from entering and leaving the town. (Wattan 29 December 2013)

Qalqilyah

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injured of Ahmed Ishtaya (22 years). During the clashes, the IOA arrested Ghalib Hilmi Ishtaya (21 years). (Maannews 4 December 2013)
- Two Palestinians were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades. During the operation, the IOA closed the main entrance

- of the village and declared it as “close military zone”. (PNN 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city and fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinian houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 8 December 2013)
 - An Israeli army officer stabbed a young Palestinian "18" years, while he was restricted, after being arrested from his house in Izbit At-Tabib village, east of Qalqilyah city. The Israeli website news “Wallah” questioned the targeted Palestinian, "Zaher At-Tabib" who said that: "the Israeli army arrested me from my home in the early morning, after they broke into several houses in the village, and then transferred me to a detention centre ". He said: " Two Israeli soldiers armed with a knife, began beat me, charges and insults". He said: "the Israeli soldier who carries a knife put my face to the wall and then had several death threats on my back while I'm restricted. (Sama News 11 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 13 December 2013)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired live bullets at Saleh Yasen (29 years) and killed him. (NBPRS 19 December 2013).
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and Settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stub grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of three people. (Safa 20 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stationed at the Iron Gate at the entrance of Azzun Al-Atma village, south Qalqilyah city, prevented Palestinian students from Beit Amin village from crossing the gate to reach their school in Azzun Al-Atma village. (NBPRS 22 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed the northern and western entrances of Azzun village, east of Qalqilyah city with Cement blocks. (Al-Ayyam 25 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) razed 15 dunums of agricultural land planted with almond and olive trees in Ras Atiyah area, south of Qalqilyah city, near the Israeli segregation wall. During the operation, the IOA prevented the land owners from reaching the area. (Wafa & Wattan 26 December 2013)

- Three Palestinians were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades. (Al-Quds 27 December 2013)

Tubas

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers demolished two water wells in Yarza area and a number of tents in Al-Buqi'a and Al-Adasa areas in the northern of Jordan valley. During the operation, the IOA declared the aforementioned areas as “close military zone” and prevented journalists from entering the areas. (Maannews 3 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished two Palestinian houses in Tammun village, southeast of Tubas city. (Wafa 3 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished two residential tents in Yarza village, east of Tubas city. (Maannews & DWG 10 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished several structures in Ein El-Helweh area in the northern of Jordan Valley. (DWG 10 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities demolished structures in Al-Farisiya area in the northern of Jordan Valley. (DWG 10 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out military orders to demolish about 25 Palestinian structures owned by 8 families in Khirbet Al-Farisiya in the northern of Jordan Valley. The IOA ordered the Palestinian families to evacuate their houses and the area within a week. (NBPRS & Paltoday 22 December 2013)

Ramallah

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the entrance of Beit El settlement, after the IOA attacked a non-violent protest against Prayer Ball. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA arrested three Palestinians; two of them were identified as: Ahmed Ziyada and Zaid Ash-Sha'be. The IOA closed Ramallah- Al-Jalazoun road. (Wattan 1 December 2013)

- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Al-Mughayyir village, northeast of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Al-Ayyam 1 December 2013)
- Palestinian residents in Al-Mazra'a Al-Qabliya village, north of Ramallah city living in fear of losing their land forever as Israeli bulldozers working on a resolution to establish a new settlement. The Mayor of the village declared that "in 2007, Israel has confiscated hundreds of dunums of land, arguing that the land is unused and is cultivated by settlers who planted grapes." He said from his house to the land that has been developing a number of houses to be the basic of a new settlement "last month issued a decision to turn this agricultural land to residential land to settlers and gave people 60 days notice to object." "The formal and worthless with the continuation of the work of the bulldozers on land settlement and development of mobile homes as a prelude to building a House." Israel said by placing mobile homes to the outpost "Nahal Tall". The land confiscated due to 30 families from Al-Mazra'a Al-Qabliya village who feel that with the construction of the settlement may lose their land forever. (Reuters 3 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) seized a Palestinian bulldozer while it was working in land near the Israeli segregation wall in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. (RB2000 4 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles traveling at the main road of Sinjil village, north of Ramallah city. (RB2000 4 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several Palestinian houses in Abud village, northwest of Ramallah city. (Wattan 5 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers attacked Sai' area, east of Khirbet Abu Falah, northeast of Ramallah city, uprooted and destroyed tens of olive trees. The targeted trees are owned by Nasir Mubarak, Atiyah Az-Zubidi, Lutfi Az-Zubidi and Zeiad Al-A'raj. (NBPRS 5 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at participants, causing dozens of suffocation cases, included a number of journalists. During the operation, the IOA arrested Abd Al-Qadir Mohammad Abu Rahma (20 years). (PNN 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in An-Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun

- grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds 6 December 2013)
- A 15 years old Palestinian; Wajdi Wajeh Al-Ramahi, was killed after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired live bullets at him during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the IOA in Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah city. During the funeral, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (Wattan & ARN 8 December 2013)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in An-Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of other. During the clashes, the IOA assaulted and arrested a Palestinian journalist; Bilal At-Tamimi. (Wattan 8 December 2013)
 - IDF seized West Bank house despite court ruling for Palestinian owners. The house, which was separated from its village by a bypass road built near the settlement of Ofra, is currently used as a yeshiva by settlers. It has emerged that the officer commanding Central Command in the Israel Defense Forces, Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon, signed an order appropriating a West Bank house just 10 days after a court ruled that it belonged to Palestinians. The house, which is near the settlement of Ofra and is currently being used as a yeshiva for married men, was appropriated for "security purposes." The house is on Road 60, the main north-south road in the West Bank. It was separated from the rest of the houses of the village of Yabroud in the 1990s, when a section of the road was paved to bypass the city of Ramallah. The bypass left the house on the east side of the road, near to the houses of Ofra. The Shehadeh family continued living in the house, until settlers changed the locks in 2003, claiming that it had been purchased from its Palestinian owners by Al-Watan, a company controlled by the Amana settlement agency. A yeshiva (kolel) for married men was opened in the house and the Machon Mishpatei Aretz, a Torah institute specializing in religion and economic issues, moved in. Al-Watan filed a request to register the house in its name, but the IDF's Civil Administration rejected the request due to problems with the documentation. In 2008, Al-Watan petitioned the Jerusalem District Court to register it as the owner of the land, claiming that five family members had presented a will to a notary and sold the land. The petition was rejected in July this year, after it emerged that Yitzhak Solomon, the notary, had been convicted in criminal court of stealing from his clients and his license had been revoked. Al-Watan decided

not to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, but it did not evacuate the house. Instead, their salvation came from a different direction. On July 14, ten days after the District Court handed down its ruling, Alon signed his order seizing the land on which the house stands. A fence around the house that was erected by Ofra was destroyed on the orders of the High Court of Justice after a petition by the Yesh Din organization. The IDF then erected its own fence, including spotlights. The practice of seizing land in the territories for military purposes was common until 1979, with a number of settlements established on such land. But the practice was stopped in the wake of a High Court of Justice decision concerning Elon Moreh. In the Ofra case, Alon's order allows the yeshiva to remain in place, despite the court's ruling. The Shehadeh family has asked the IDF to cancel the order, but has yet to receive a response. "The Shehadeh family won after 10 years of legal battles, but it is still unable to reach the 'promised land,'" said attorney Muhammad Dahleh, who represents the family. "It is extremely hard to understand how the Shehadeh family home was not essential for security purposes between the years 2003 and 2013 (including at the peak of the Second Intifada,) during which the house was controlled by the settlers. The security requirement raised its head immediately after the court determined the settlers' documents, through which they controlled the house, were forged and they had to leave," he added. Al-Watan is registered in the West Bank since, under Jordanian law, only a local company can buy land in the territory; Jordan ruled the West Bank from 1948 to 1967. Al-Watan was previously involved in another forged deal to buy land in the Migron settlement, but the case was closed because the police could not prove who forged what. A company named Binyanei Bar Amana controls 80 percent of Al-Watan. Binyanei Bar Amana is a subsidiary of the Amana cooperative society, a settlement agency in the West Bank. The Mateh Binyamin Development Company, a subsidiary of the regional council, and a privately owned firm own the remaining 20 percent in Al-Watan. ([Haaretz](#) 9 December 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched several neighborhoods and shops in Beitin village, north of Ramallah city, and fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinian houses. (Maannews 10 December 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Beit 'Ur Al Fauqa village, west of Ramallah city, after the IOA closed the main road, which link more than 13 Palestinian villages with Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at

- Palestinians. During the operation, the IOA detained dozens of Palestinian vehicles. (Wattan 11 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at participants. (Wafa 13 December 2013)
 - The Israeli Civil Administration submitted a building scheme in Al Quds Daily Newspaper for Public Review¹. The Regional Plan No. (1/6/221), Mandate scheme, RJ/5², basin number 2 (parcels: 96,119,120, 95) and basin numbers 6 (123, 121, 105-103, 122, 163, 162, 106) of Ein Yabrud village in Ramallah governorate, and basin number 17 (parcels: 144, 136, 137, 143-141, 140) and Basin number 20 (parcel number 33, 32) of Silwad Village lands. The plan determine the use of the land to construct Buildings, Public Organizations, Industrial area, a cemetery, an area for future development, open spaces, roads and public parks. (Al-Quds 13 December 2013)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Budrus village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses. (Safa 20 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in An-Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the operation, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (Wattan & Maannews 20 December 2013)
 - Eight Palestinians were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at participants. (Paltoday 20 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Authorities set up a number of mobile houses in Al-Mazra'a Al-Qibliya village, north of Ramallah city, in a step to construct hundreds of housing units on Palestinian land. And according to human rights groups, the Israeli Government is planning to build a new settlement in two phases, with the first step to build 255 housing units, and second step; to construct 155 housing units. The new settlement units will be built on land of about 400 dunums, which

¹ It is the last step before approving the building scheme, after which, building permits and tenders may be issued

² The regional plan for Jerusalem and the south of the West Bank

- was confiscated from 30 Palestinian families from Al-Mazra'a Al-Qibliya village. (Paltoday 20 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished 14 tents and structures in Al-Amariya area, west of Deir Ammar village, northwest of Ramallah city. During the operation, the IOA threatened more than 30 families to demolish their houses. (ARN 24 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, Kafr Malek and Khirbet Abu Falah villages in Ramallah governorate. (Wafa 26 December 2013)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Silwad village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired live bullets at Palestinian, causing the injury of three people. (Wafa 27 December 2013)
 - Five Palestinians, included two journalists, were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in An-Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA attacked the participants and Palestinian houses, fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades. (Al-Quds 27 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of a Palestinian journalist; Mohammad Yasen (20 years). (RB2000 27 December 2013)
 - Israeli settlers living in Beit El settlement torched three Palestinian vehicles near Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah city, and wrote anti- Palestinian slogans on a number of Palestinian houses' wall. (Maannnews 31 December 2013)

Jericho

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished four Palestinian houses and eight agricultural barracks in Al-'Auja village, north of Jericho city. The targeted houses and barracks are owned by: Musalam Ka'abnih, Raf' Salamah Al-Jahaleen, Ahmed Salamah Al-Jahaleen, Yousif Musalam Ka'abnih, Ali Musalam Ka'abnih, Yousif Jalahleen, Ahmed Mohammad Najadiah, Odeh Mohammad Najadiah, Musa Najadiah, Amran Musa Najadiah, Omar Musa Najadiah. (Maannnews 2 December 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed all the entrances of Az-Zubeidat village, north of Jericho city, after the IOA stormed and searched the village. (RB2000 9 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities demolished a Palestinian house and a number of structures in Abu 'Ajaj area in Jiftlik village, north of Jericho city. (DWG & Maannews 10 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished two agricultural structures in Fasayil Al-Fauqa village, north of Jericho city. (DWG 10 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities demolished an uninhabited Palestinian house in Steih area in Ein Ad Duyuk At-Tihta village, north of Jericho city. (DWG 11 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a Palestinian house and four barracks in Fasayil village, north of Jericho city. The targeted house and barracks are owned by: Mahmoud Ibrahim Abu Kharbeesh and Hussen Mohammad Zaied. (Maannews 24 December 2013)

Salfit

- Israeli settlers living in Revave settlement pumped wastewater at Palestinian land, west of Deir Istiya village, north of Salfit city. Note that the Israeli settlers still razing Palestinian land, east of Revave settlement. (PNN 3 December 2013)
- An Israeli settler hit by his vehicle Ibrahim Yasir Abu Zeid (11 years) from Deir Istiya village, north of Salfit city. (RB2000 26 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers living in Leshem settlement continued razing Palestinian land in Khirbet Deir Sam'an and Kafr Ad-Dik village, west Salfit city. (NBPRS 29 December 2013)

Tulkarem

- Israeli settlers wrote Talmudic and anti-Palestinian slogans on a Palestinian Chapel in Tulkarm city. (Maannews 9 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Shweika village, north of Tulkarm city, broke into a home and violently searched it. The targeted house is owned by Yahia Mahdawy. The IOA conducted violent searches in the house, causing anxiety attacks amongst family members, especially the children, as the IOA were shouting and pointing their guns at them before forcing them into a room, as they

searched the rest of the property for several hours. (IMEMC 13 December 2013)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Tulkarm city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of a Palestinian journalist identified as: Ahmed Mahmoud Mohammad Qadoura (22 years). (Wattan 18 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed the western neighborhood in Tulkarm city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of Mohammad Ali Hassan Hadad (13 years) and Samer Riad Tamim Mus'abi. (Wafa 25 December 2013)

Nablus

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Sarra village, west of Nablus city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (Wattan 2 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Joseph tomb in Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus city, and performed Talmudic rituals. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds 3 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Qaryut village, south of Nablus city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas and stub grenades. (RB2000 4 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) gathered near Za'tara checkpoint, south of Nablus city and hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles. (RB2000 4 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers attacked Khirbet At-Tawel and Al-Krum area in Aqraba town, southeast of Nablus city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli settlers, where the latter opened fire at Palestinians. (NBPRS 4 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers living in Eiha outpost torched a Palestinian vehicle and wrote anti- Palestinian slogans on the wall of a house in Jalud village, south of Nablus city. The targeted vehicle and house are owned by: Fathi Yousif Mohammad (Maannews 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a military checkpoint at the entrance of Beit Iba village, west of Nablus city. The IOA stopped and

- searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Paltoday 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several areas in Beita village, south of Nablus city, and forced Palestinian to close their shops. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades. During the operation, the IOA erected a military checkpoint at the entrance of the village, stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 10 December 2013)
 - Israeli settlers hurled stones and empty bottles at Palestinian vehicles driving near Yetzhar settlement, and at the entrance of Sarra village, west of Nablus city. Dozens of vehicles were damaged. (Wattan 10 December 2013)
 - Israeli settlers stormed Al-Mas'odiya Park in Burqa village, northwest of Nablus city, and destroyed the wall of a bathroom. (RB2000 10 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed Za'tara and Huwara checkpoints, south of Nablus city. The IOA prevented Palestinian vehicles from crossing the checkpoints. (Maannews 10 December 2013)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Tall village, west of Nablus city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades. (Wattan 12 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Authorities issued military order to confiscate 10 dunums of agricultural land in Qusra village, south of Nablus city. The targeted land located near an Israeli illegal outpost "Ya'sh Kudish". The IOA informed the residents of Qusra not to enter or reach the aforementioned area and the surrounded land which it more than 500 dunums of agricultural land. (Maannews 17 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a sudden checkpoint at the entrance of Beit Furik and Beit Iba villages in Nablus governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 18 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Authorities razed land around Za'tara checkpoint, south of Nablus city, to construct a security fence on an Israeli bypass road led to Qabalan and Aqraba villages, south of Nablus city. (Wattan 21 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) threatened a Palestinian journalist to killed or deported him after stopping him at Za'tara checkpoint, south of Nablus city. (Safa 22 December 2013)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a military checkpoint near Beita village, south of Nablus city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians ad vehicles. (ARN 22 December 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a military checkpoint at the entrance of Asira Al-Qibliya village, south of Nablus city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 23 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) started military training around Awarta village, south of Nablus city, where the IOA used live bullets. (Safa 25 December 2013)
- Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles while they were traveling near the settlement. (NBPRS 29 December 2013)

Gaza

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian houses and land at the eastern part of Al-Fakhari neighborhood in Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. (Al-Quds 2 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at a group of Palestinians, while they were near the border fence, east of Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. (Safa 3 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing at Rafah shore, south of Gaza strip. (Al-Quds 3 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian houses and land in Al-Fukhari area, east of Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. (Al-Quds 4 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian farmers, while they were working in their land, east of Abssan town, east of Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. (Wattan 6 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) launched several missiles at Palestinian farmers while they were working in their land, east of Beit Hanoun town, north of Gaza strip. (Wattan 7 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian farmers while they were working in their land, east of Al-Khaza'a town, east of Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. (Wafa 8 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian farmers while they were working at agricultural land, east of Al-Qararah town, northeast of Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. (ARN 10 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at a 22 years old Palestinian in Al-Khaza'a village, east of Khan Younis city in Gaza strip. (Wattan 14 December 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at a 16 years old Palestinian in Beit Lahiya town, north of the Gaza strip. (Maannews 15 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire and injured a 19 years old Palestinian at the eastern part of Jabaliya town, north of Gaza strip. (Sama News 17 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing at Gaza city shore. (Sama News 17 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian farmers while they were working in their agricultural land, east of Beit Hanun town, north of Gaza strip. (Safa 18 December 2013)
- A 24 years old Palestinian; Jihad Hamad, was killed and five people were injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at a group of Palestinians, while they were near Beit Hanun terminal, north of Gaza strip. (Maannews 20 December 2013)
- Two Palestinians were injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at them while they were at the eastern part of Jabaliya town, north of Gaza strip. (Safa 20 December 2013)
- Two Palestinians were injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinians near the border fence, east of Al-Khaza'a town, east of Khan Younis city. (Safa 20 December 2013)
- Israel Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire and injured a Palestinian while he was near the border fence at the eastern part of Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. (Wafa 21 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian farmers while they working in land, east of Beit Lahya town, north of Gaza strip. (Safa 21 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire and injured Mazen Muamar (13 years) while he was playing around his house in Karm Abu Mu'amar area, east of Rafah city, south of Gaza strip. (Wattan 22 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a number of Palestinian fishermen while they were sailing at As-Sudaniya shore, north of Gaza strip. (PNN 22 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing at Khan-Younis shore, south of Gaza strip. (Al-Quds 22 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation gunboats launched three missiles at As-Sudaniya shore, west of Beit Lahiya town in Gaza strip. (Wafa 24 December 2013)

- A 25 years old Palestinian was seriously injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at him, northwest of Beit Lahiya town, north of Gaza strip. (Sama News 24 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian houses, east of Ash-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza city. (Wafa 24 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian houses and land at Ash-Shokah neighborhood, east of Rafah city and at the eastern part of Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. (Wattan 25 December 2013)
- A 4 years old Palestinian child, Hala Ahmed Abu Sabikha, was killed and her mother and brother were injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) launched a missile at their house in Al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central of Gaza strip. (ARN 25 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) launched three missiles at land and houses in Ash-Shaja'iyah neighborhood, east of Gaza city, causing the injury of three people. (ARN 25 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at agricultural lands, east of Beit Hanun town, north of Gaza strip. (RB2000 25 December 2013)
- A 18 years old Palestinian was injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at the eastern part of Beit Lahiya town, north of Gaza strip. (Al-Ayyam 25 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation warplanes launched a missile at land in An-Nafaq Street in Gaza city causing the injury of a Palestinian. (RB2000 26 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian houses and land, east of Johur Ad-Dik village, south of Gaza city. (Quds Net 27 December 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired teargas grenades at Palestinian houses in Izbit Abd Rabah, east of Jabaliya town, north of Gaza strip, causing seven suffocation cases. (Al-Quds 27 December 2013)
- Two Palestinians were injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) launched a missile at a group of Palestinians in Al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central of Gaza strip. (Wattan 29 December 2013)

Others

- For second time in two weeks || Israel reassures U.S., Palestinians it has frozen new tenders for West Bank housing. Yedioth Ahronoth reported over the weekend that the tenders for 24,000 housing units in the West Bank were still going ahead, prompting the U.S. Embassy to ask for explanations. Israel reassured the Obama administration and

the Palestinian Authority over the weekend that the planning process for 24,000 new housing units in West Bank settlements was frozen two week ago. The Prime Minister's Office sent the message to the United States and to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' office after Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper reported Friday that despite Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's orders to Housing Minister Uri Ariel, and despite guarantees given to the Americans, the Housing Ministry neglected to publish updated tenders without the plans for new settlement construction. The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv was furious at the report, as was Mahmoud Abbas' office, and both demanded explanations. "The Americans and the Palestinians were notified that the report over the weekend was incorrect," a senior Israeli official at the Prime Minister's Office said. "We emphasized to them that the prime minister's instruction not to advance preliminary procedures for planning as published on November 12 in Judea, Samaria and E1 is being fulfilled." The official added that over the weekend, an additional inquiry was carried out, reaffirming that none of the procedures that the housing minister initiated were being advanced. Another official said that following the message relayed to the United States, the forms for these specific tenders have been removed from the Housing Ministry's website. On November 12, Haaretz reported the Housing Ministry had issued a tender to plan the construction of some 24,000 housing units in the West Bank, including 1,200 housing units in the E1 area, which links Jerusalem and Ma'aleh Adumim, a stretch of land Israel promised the United States it would not develop. When the news of the tenders broke, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas threatened to call off peace talks and demanded Israel go back on its new settlement plans. The U.S. State Department said it is "deeply concerned" by Israel's announcement over the tenders and demanded an explanation from Israel. Netanyahu reprimanded Ariel saying that his ministry's move to issue tenders for potential construction does not contribute to the settlement movement, but actually damages it. Netanyahu also told the housing minister that he expects him to coordinate with him on such moves before going ahead. ([Haaretz](#) 1 December 2013)

- Feiglin: Weakness in Negev Starts on Temple Mount. Likud MK says Israel is exhibiting 'utter weakness and flaccidity' vis-a-vis the Bedouin regarding land issues. MK Moshe Feiglin (Likud Beytenu) linked Sunday between **violent Bedouin Arab protests** Saturday regarding the **Praver Plan** for legalizing Bedouin settlements. "I have been following the Praver Bill as a member of the Committee of Interior, since I entered the Knesset," said Feiglin. "The state of Israel's

weakness and flaccidity vis-a-vis the Bedouin – who have not proven ownership of even a single centimeter of and in 40 years – is a story that will take me too long to detail. "The state is offering them 250,000 dunams (over 60,000 acres) and it is not enough. Just for the sake of proportion: since the state was founded, it has developed less than a million dunams for residence. The Bedouin are being offered a quarter of that at a single go, on top of generous monetary compensation, for what they actually stole." Feiglin added: "Instead of declaring that there are no more claims of ownership, giving the state full rights over its land again, and selling the land – for the sake of the Bedouins themselves, the ones who did not steal – the state adopts the pose of the apologetic guest, and this is the result." MK Feiglin stated his oft-repeated conviction that the loss of Jewish sovereignty on the Temple Mount is the root problem. "Poet Uri Tzvi Greenberg said, 'He who controls the Mount, controls the land.' The weakness did not begin in the Negev. The source is the Temple Mount. The takeover of the Temple Mount by Muslim rioting groups is the root of this round of violence, which apparently is only starting. "If there is no Mount, there is no Home, he said [the Hebrew name for the Temple Mount is Har Habayit, which literally means 'the Mount of the House,' or Home – ed.] – not in the Negev, nor anywhere else in the Land of Israel. If we do not return full sovereignty to ourselves on the Mount, the Negev is just the beginning." ([Israel National News](#) 1 December 2013)

- Bennett: "No Palestinian State, No To Any Withdrawal". Israel's Economy Minister, Naftali Bennett, stated that Israel should never allow the establishment of a Palestinian State, and should never "give the Palestinians any piece of land". Bennett, who is also the head of the extremist Jewish Home Party, told the Israeli TV that "President Mahmoud Abbas does not want peace", and alleged that "the Palestinians always try to kill the Israelis". He claimed that "respects" peace agreements previously signed with the Palestinians, but will not support or accept future peace agreements. "Whenever we give the Palestinians any piece of land, they would want to kill more of us", he said, "You must understand that the solution is a complete separation, and dividing the West Bank into three areas". The extremist official further stated that he "will not allow the government to grant the Palestinians any land", and that "for the coming thirty years, Israel will only be facing Palestinian terrorism". The news anchor who was interviewing Bennett eventually argued with him for his extreme views, and told him that he should leave the government if he does not approve of its policies". She also told him that he appears to be in the government just to obstruct any possibility of peace with the

Palestinians. Israel's occupation of Palestine, and its settlements in the occupied territories, is illegal under International Law, while the army and extremist Israeli settlers continue their violations and assaults against the Palestinians, their land and holy sites. (IMEMC 2 December 2013)

- The Foreign Press Association on Sunday accused the Israeli army of "deliberately targeting" journalists after soldiers fired rubber bullets and threw stun grenades at photojournalists clearly identified as press. In a statement, the Tel Aviv-based group, which represents journalists of all foreign media, including AFP, said troops had directly targeted a group of photographers covering clashes at the Qalandia checkpoint between Jerusalem and Ramallah. "On Friday afternoon, Israeli forces threw stun grenades at FPA photojournalists as they were leaving Qalandia. The FPA members had put their hands in the air, indicating to the forces that they were leaving at which point the grenades were thrown from close quarters directly at their backs," it said. Earlier an Italian freelance photographer covering the same incident had almost been hit in the face by a rubber bullet, it said. "Fortunately the photographer was taking pictures at the time and the rubber bullet shattered the camera instead of his head. All the photographers in question wore clearly-marked jackets and helmets," the FPA said. "There is no question that the forces were directly targeting the journalists." The army said in a written reply to AFP questions that its soldiers had responded accordingly after protesters hurled fire bombs and rocks at them. "Throughout the provocation, photojournalists were sighted adjacent and in the midst of the rioters, putting themselves at risk," it said. The army's initial review of the incident involving the Italian freelancer had found that "the rubber bullet which hit the photojournalist's camera, who was in the vicinity of violent protesters, was not intentionally fired towards him, but part of the riot dispersal means which were aimed at disbanding the protest," it said. AFP's chief photographer Marco Longari said the photographers had been standing under a shelter about 20 meters from Palestinian youths throwing stones, and that the soldiers had suddenly begun firing rubber bullets without first using tear gas or giving any other warning. "Usually they shoot at the legs, but this was at eye level," said Longari, pointing out that the photographers had walked past in full view of the soldiers before taking up their position under the shelter. "The bullet hit the upper part of the camera casing -- if he hadn't been taking a picture, he would have been killed," he said of the Italian freelancer. "We showed the camera to the commander and he laughed and said it was a mistake, but you don't shoot by mistake at eye-level." The FPA

said it had complained about some 10 such incidents over the past two years, none of which had been properly investigated, adding that the army and the military police had a "dismal track record" for looking into such incidents. "As far as we know, just two investigations have been launched, with no results. The others have been ignored," it said. In February this year, a report by the Turkel Commission into investigations of violations of the laws of armed conflict concluded that there were "structural problems" in the military's investigative processes, the FPA noted. "A proper investigation into violence against the media and holding soldiers accountable for their actions would be a very practical first step towards rectifying these problems." (Maannews 2 December 2013)

- Defense Minister approved 3,000 new West Bank homes in first four months of term Despite Israel's declarations, construction was not limited only to settlement blocs; Barak approved 6,200 West Bank housing units during his last four months in office. Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon furthered the construction of 3,000 housing units in West Bank settlements during the first four months of his term, according to Defense Ministry figures. The figures, which were made available to Peace Now under the Freedom of Information Act, relate to the period of March to July of this year. During that period, Ya'alon approved the construction of 386 housing units in Beit El - in compensation for the state's demolition of houses in the Ulpana neighborhood - 277 units in Elei Zahav, 290 units in the Har Ephraim neighborhood of Kedumim, 550 units in Talmon, and a total of 984 units in two areas of Givat Ze'ev. The information follows an Haaretz report Monday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had reiterated to the United States that he did not intend to advance construction in the settlements. Ya'alon also approved expanding the municipal boundaries of the settlement of Shiloh, making further construction there possible, and a nature reserve was appended to the settlement of Negohot. The Civil Administration is now considering whether to change the definition of the area as a nature reserve, which would enable construction on the land. A look at the map reveals that, despite the state's declaration that construction would be restricted to settlement blocs, there are plans for all the settlements, including those along road 60 and those distant from the separation barrier. For example, Talmon, which is isolated, is one of the settlements where new housing has been approved. The defense minister did not approve housing plans in the controversial E1 area near Ma'aleh Adumim east of Jerusalem, where Housing and Construction Minister

Ariel Atias has been seeking approval for new construction. Ya'alon is a frequent and welcome visitor to West Bank settlements. Davidi Perl, chairman of the Gush Etzion Regional Council, has called him "a true friend of the settlements." By contrast, former defense minister Ehud Barak, who enabled twice as many housing units as Ya'alon, is considered an opponent of the settlements. The figures provided by the Defense Ministry also pertain to approvals given by Ehud Barak from November 2012 last year until his term ended in March 2013. Barak approved a total of 6,200 housing units in 15 different settlements. Among them were 550 units in Kfar Adumim, 40 units in the outpost of El Matan, 839 units in Ariel, 720 units in Alfei Menashe, 48 units in Kiryat Arba (to be built by Amana, the settlement movement of Gush Emunim,) 42 units in Almon, 150 units in Adam and 260 units in Tzofim. According to Lior Amihai, of Peace Now's settlement watchdog team, "the defense minister has become a rubber stamp of the Yesha Council of Settlements and the settlers. Despite attempts to conceal most of the information, we were able to uncover a wave of construction authorizations by means of the Freedom of Information Law, as well as plans for 9,000 housing units in nine months." Amihai added that while Justice Minister Tzipi Livni is promoting a peace plan, "behind the scenes, Ya'alon and Ariel and continuing to promote construction plans, which, if they are fully realized, will change the map of the West Bank significantly. The prime minister must instruct Ya'alon to stop advancing the plans." ([Haaretz](#) 3 December 2013)

- Ariel: We'll Keep Negotiating - and Building. Housing Minister calls Palestinian Authority threats to leave negotiations if more building in Judea, Samaria "nonsense." Housing Minister Uri Ariel (Jewish Home) revealed Tuesday in an interview with *Arutz Sheva Radio* that he will keep plans to **build** over 20,000 housing units in Judea and Samaria on the agenda, calling the Palestinian Authority's threats to **quit** negotiations "nonsense." "Whoever thinks we should engage in negotiations with them, can engage in negotiations with them," Ariel stated, "but we will continue to build in Jerusalem - and that's the way it has to be." MK Ariel participated Monday in a joint tour of the Neot Kedumim Nature Reserve with economics and real estate moguls, which included a night tour and lighting a hanukkah. "The holiday of Hanukkah for me is about the Maccabees liberating the entire Land of Israel, and especially the Temple Mount, and the need for the Jewish people to remember this stage in our history," he said. Ariel also referred to the **Prawer** program, which resettles Bedouin illegal settlers in the Negev to legal portions of land. The program has caused mass

protests and injuries after Saturday's "**day of rage**." "The Bedouin's arguments are wrong," Ariel declared. "After nearly a decade of dialogue, the time has come to give solutions to all the screaming and the incorrect claims against the state, and it is up to the Police forces to handle the unrest." He continued, "I turn to the Prime Minister to convene this episode by looking to the lessons of the past - not only regarding evacuation but regarding the resettling of [the Bedouin] in new communities." "The intervention of Arab Knesset members damages their own public," he continued, referring to the fact that Arab MKs **participated** in Saturday's violent protests. "I think it is time that the Arab and Bedouin public take its destiny in hand to find a just solution in cooperation with the state." Ariel added that the Housing Ministry is working constantly to lower the housing prices in Israel and in coming weeks will convene a special meeting with the Prime Minister to introduce a number of programs that will lead to lower housing prices in Israel. The Prime Minister's office, meanwhile, continued to tell *Arutz Sheva* that programs for more building in the region "have been frozen" for the time being. ([Israel National News](#) 3 December 2013)

- Direct aiming of tear gas canisters continues to put lives at risk, despite military's denials. Last Wednesday morning, November 27, 2013, Muhmmad 'Awad (Abu Ahmad), a B'Tselem volunteer videographer, and a resident of Beit Ummar, documented clashes between Palestinian youth and soldiers near the entrance to the town. The first video he shot depicts the soldiers standing by a jeep, and a stone landing near them. An officer is then seen firing several tear gas canisters from a "Ringo" type launcher, to the area of the stone throwers, in a position behind and to the right of the cameraman. The soldier then reloads the launcher and when another stone land near the jeep, fires another volley or canisters: The second clip depicts the same officer firing several canisters in an arch, to a point behind Abu Ahmad's position. Then, he is clearly seen pointing the launcher towards B'Tselem's volunteer, and fires a canister that hit him in the chest. Abu Ahmad was bruised in the chest and evacuated to a clinic in the town, and was later taken to 'Alia Hospital in Hebron, then released. This is not an isolated incident. The firing of tear gas canisters directly at individuals is a routine practice by soldiers and border police officers in the West Bank. It has already claimed the lives of two people and has injured dozens of others in recent years. The military, however, continues to deny such a practice exists and avoids addressing it systematically. B'Tselem will send the footage to the Military Advocate for Operational Matters along with a demand to

have the officer involved investigated by the Military Police Investigation Unit (MPIU) and held accountable. To B'Tselem's knowledge, no member of the security forces has yet been indicted for serious injuries caused by directly aiming tear gas canisters at individuals. The MPIU investigation into the death of Bassen Abu Rahmeh, who was killed in April 2009, was closed in September 2013 for lack of evidence. The MPIU investigation into the death of Mustafa Tamimi, in December 2011, almost two years ago, began almost immediately after the incident, but the Military Advocate has not made a decision on the case file as of yet. The military's lax approach to recurring violations of the law and of military open fire regulations allows the practice of firing tear gas canisters directly at individuals to continue, putting lives at risk. ([B'Tselem](#) 3 December 2013)

- IDF Bulldozes Land for 255 New Homes in Samaria. Land prepared for new units in Nahalei Tal northwest of Ramallah, part of plans for 800 new homes. A local Palestinian Authority (PA) official on Tuesday told *AFP* that Israel has bulldozed land slated for the construction of 255 new Jewish homes in Samaria northwest of Ramallah. The official, Abdallah Lawadeh, said the land had already been bulldozed and temporary houses have been set up for Israelis. The 255 homes to be built in the area are part of a planned 800 houses designated by Israel since October for construction in Judea and Samaria. According to the far-left Peace Now organization, on November 7 the army approved construction on the 255 units in Nahalei Tal, an outpost that was connected to the national infrastructure in 2005. The move comes ahead of US Secretary of State John Kerry's return to Israel this week to push peace talks between Israel and the PA. Those talks have largely been a failure. A senior Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) official recently admitted that the PA was only continuing the talks to free all 106 terrorist prisoners being offered for release as a "gesture." Furthermore Kerry's threats of a "third intifada" if talks fail was quickly followed by an upswing in terror attacks, and has proved to be a diplomatic disaster for US-Israel relations. Meanwhile PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas has threatened to "take action" through international bodies against Israel should the talks fail. Housing Minister Uri Ariel (Jewish Home) on Tuesday told *Arutz Sheva Radio* that he will keep plans to build over 20,000 housing units in Judea and Samaria on the agenda, criticizing the PA's threats to quit talks over Israeli construction in the region as "nonsense." ([Israel National News](#) 4 December 2013)
- Deri: Promote Building Throughout Land of Israel. Shas chairman visits Gush Etzion region, declares that it is important to build,

establish facts on the ground. Shas Chairman Aryeh Deri urged Israeli Jews to keep building across Judea and Samaria Wednesday, to establish facts on the ground until negotiations are settled with the Palestinian Authority. In a visit with Gush Etzion Regional Council Director Davidi Perl, Deri stressed the importance of the region's development. Perl presented plans to develop further hareidi villages in the area - specifically Maale Amos and Meitzad - and Deri asked about the yeshivas (Torah academies) in the region. Deri argued that as long as there is no concrete direction for negotiations with the Palestinians it is necessary to increase building in all the land of Israel and strengthen the grip of a clear objective facts on the ground. Deri also visited Ma'ale Amos, where he used to live and serve as a community board member. Deri met with Maale Amos's leaders and advised them on the community's construction and development, even promising to build a yeshiva or Kollel in the village to bring more hareidi families. As of now, the village has roughly 60 families; new expansion plans help to bring up the final number to 350. At the end of the visit, Perl declared that "The Gush Etzion Regional Council is proud of its unique combination that exists here; that we have representatives from every sector of Israel." He continued, "We are pleased that the hareidi population finds itself with us. We encourage and want to absorb, expand and strengthen the hareidi communities in Gush Etzion." Perl and the MK also agreed that the partnership between Shas and the Gush Etzion Regional Council, of which Deri was once a member should be strengthened. Deri's public support of the Judea and Samaria building comes just **days** after a phone call with Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, where the MK was invited to a meeting in Ramallah. Deri reportedly told Abbas that "Israel is a people who want peace, but the PA has an obligation to prove its seriousness for true peace," and the two agreed to keep in contact. The PA has called for Israel to withdraw from the region several times. Just this week, Abbas threatened to **leave** peace talks if more building tenders were issued for the region, after rumors swirled that **tenders** to build over 20,000 homes in Judea and Samaria were never actually cancelled. Deri's calls to establish a greater Jewish presence in the region not only contradict his call with Abbas, but also come on the heels of **remarks** by former Shin Bet head Yuval Diskin that the building rate is becoming too high to use eviction as leverage in negotiations. US Secretary of State John Kerry is due back in Israel in the upcoming days to facilitate more negotiations. ([Israel National News](#) 5 December 2013)

- 36 human rights organization asked the Israeli government to put an end to the demolition of Palestinian houses in the areas under their control in the West Bank. The groups said in a joint statement: "since the resumption of the peace process in July 2013, Israel demolished 208 houses and buildings in the West Bank, displacing 113 Palestinians, more than half of them children." The statement noted that "such demolitions in areas under Israeli control (area c, which constitute 60% of the West Bank) led to the eviction of Palestinian families from their communities and Lands, increased poverty and the need for humanitarian assistance." And area C under full Israeli military control is granted building permits only a very restricted forcing the Palestinians to build without licenses, according to Palestinian human rights organizations. According to the statement, the demolitions "often facilitate the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements and 60% on the nearby Palestinian communities of settlements." Among the rights groups signed the statement, Amnesty International, human rights watch and other Christian organizations, and demanded "an immediate halt to demolitions. (NBPRS 6 December 2013)
- Poll: 87.5% of Israelis Don't Believe in Current Peace Talks. An overwhelming majority of Israeli Jews believe that the current negotiations with the PA will not lead to peace, finds Israel Hayom poll. An overwhelming majority of Israeli Jews believe that the current negotiations with the Palestinian Authority will not lead to a peace agreement, a new poll by the *Israel Hayom* daily newspaper has found. The poll, conducted by New Wave Research and released Friday, found that 87.5% of Israeli Jews do not believe that the talks will result in a peace agreement. 6% of Israeli Jews said they think the peace talks will lead to a deal, while 6.5% said they were not sure. The poll was released hours before U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, on his latest visit to the region to push for progress in the talks, **said the sides** were "closer than they have been in years" to a deal. Earlier on Friday, **Kerry met Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu** for the third time in 24 hours. The two met twice on Thursday for more than six hours of talks about potential security issues in any peace agreement. Kerry also held a three-hour meeting in Ramallah with Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, who **reportedly rejected** every offer set forth by the U.S. Chief negotiator Saeb Erakat told *AFP* the situation was "still very difficult and matters are complicated." A senior PA source was more direct, saying Kerry's security proposals "were very bad ideas which we cannot accept." In talks with Netanyahu on Thursday, Kerry and top security adviser General John Allen **outlined their view** of some of the security challenges likely to face Israel in the

context of a final peace agreement. One report in the *Maariv* daily newspaper on Friday suggested that the Americans had agreed with Israel regarding its demand for IDF presence in the Jordan Valley even after a permanent agreement. Netanyahu has said Israel would only accept the emergence of a Palestinian state if it was demilitarized, with Israeli troops deployed along the Jordan Valley which is strategically crucial for the protection of Israel's borders in the event of war. Speaking to reporters after one of his Thursday meetings with Netanyahu, **Kerry insisted** that Israel's security was a top priority, both in talks with Iran on its controversial nuclear program as well as in a peace arrangement with the PA. In late November, senior Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) official Nabil Shaath revealed that the PA is **only staying** in the peace talks to release all 104 terrorist prisoners promised as a "gesture." On Tuesday a senior EU official threatened the EU would **take action** against both Israel and the PA should talks fail. According to the official, the EU would cut its 300 million Euros (\$407.7 million) annual aid to the PA, and revive its plan to label Israeli products manufactured in Judea and Samaria. ([Israel National News](#) 6 December 2013)

- Israeli MAG Corps closes file in Mustafa Tamimi killing, stating the tear-gas canister that killed him was fired legally. The Military Advocate General's (MAG) Corps has just notified B'Tselem of its decision to close the investigation into the death of Mustafa Tamimi, who was killed by a tear-gas canister fired at him in December 2011. In his letter [2], Military Advocate for Operational Matters Lt. Col. Ronen Hirsch wrote that the canister that killed Tamimi was fired "according to the relevant rules and regulations and did not involve any illegality." The MAG Corps accepted the claim of the soldier who fired at Tamimi, that he did not see him while shooting the canister. The MAG Corps additionally relied on an expert opinion stating that the soldier could not see Tamimi while firing. However, the MAG Corps did not explain how the firing of a tear-gas canister from the back of a moving vehicle, towards the road, under conditions that made it impossible to ensure it would not hit a person, could be deemed legal. The decision not to file an indictment against the soldier who killed Mustafa Tamimi, nor against his commanders, conveys the indifference of the military law enforcement system to the lives of Palestinians in the West Bank, and specifically towards Tamimi's death. The decision to close this file joins the decision to close the file concerning Bassem Abu Rahmeh [3], who was also killed by a tear-gas canister, and whose story was later portrayed in the film "Five Broken Cameras". This decision sends Israeli soldiers and officers the

unequivocal message that, should they kill unarmed civilians, they will not be held accountable. Given this state of affairs, it is hardly surprising that soldiers and Border Police officers continue to shoot tear-gas canisters directly at Palestinians [3], endangering their lives. Under such circumstances, it is only a matter of time before yet another unarmed Palestinian civilian is killed in this way. For Palestinians in the West Bank, the decision is a clear message that they cannot expect justice from Israel's legal system. Formally, Israeli military orders forbid shooting tear-gas canisters directly at people. While military officials regularly cite this position in response to B'Tselem's queries, in practice such shooting continues unabated. To the best of B'Tselem's knowledge, none of the responsible parties – be it commanders in the field or the OC Central Commander – have taken action to stop this practice, nor do they even admit to the problem. The decision in the Tamimi case is a direct continuation of this policy. Another aspect of this policy is the military system's decision to deal with the Tamimi case solely on the criminal track. In addition to a criminal investigation the army could have taken disciplinary measures against the soldier and the commanders, clarified the rules of engagement and taken aggressive action to educate troops serving in the West Bank. None of this took place, and Israeli security forces continue to shoot teargas canisters directly at people. The fact that it took two years to reach a decision in the case clearly demonstrates the failures of the military investigation system. The MAG Corps explained to B'Tselem that the proceedings were protracted as "this is a complicated operational investigation that poses significant challenges and decisions made in it, which affect its future course, are made on matter-of-fact grounds solely concerned with the investigation needs and with discovery of the truth." B'Tselem rejects this explanation, which does not justify such a lengthy delay in reaching a decision. The incident in which Tamimi was killed was relatively simple, in comparison with other incidents dealt with by MPIU investigators, and was visually well-documented. The MPIU should have allotted the necessary resources to conduct a swift, professional investigation and enable a speedy decision in the case, instead of using the hackneyed excuse of a "complicated investigation" to act inefficiently and delay the decision unreasonably. The Turkel Commission report on Israel's Mechanism for Investigating Violations of International Humanitarian Law specifically addressed the lengthy delays in investigations and their resulting inefficiency. The Commission recommended that binding timetables be set for every stage of an investigation into suspected breaches of international humanitarian law. Although the report was

officially praised across the board, these recommendations have not been implemented. On Sunday, B'Tselem will demand to see all the investigation material in order to continue working to assure justice for the Tamimi family. ([B'Tselem](#) 6 December 2013)

- Lieberman: No chance for deal with Palestinians. Israeli foreign minister says Israel; Palestinians are at 'dead end'. Ahead of meeting with US secretary of state, Lieberman stresses Israel must not rely solely on US should diversify in foreign policy. WASHINGTON – Foreign Minister [Avigdor Lieberman](#) addressed US Secretary of State John [Kerry](#)'s optimism in regards to a political breakthrough with the Palestinians and said: "We are at a dead end". In an appearance Friday night at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy conference, the foreign minister said he "doesn't see a chance to achieve a comprehensive agreement." "There may have been something dramatic that I don't know about. My feeling is that there is great desire but I don't think it's possible. It is not easy to bridge the gaps. We are not even close to a deal, not even an interim one. That is my estimate," stressed the foreign minister, who is not directly involved in the negotiations. On Friday, moments before leaving [Israel](#), Kerry said: "I believe we are closer than we have been in years in bringing about the peace and prosperity and security that all the people in this region deserve and have been yearning for." Lieberman will meet with Kerry in Washington on Sunday. This meeting is particularly significant since the previous secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, refused to meet with Lieberman more than twice. Lieberman said that talks with the Palestinians should not have a starting point of discussing security and refugees, "but rather (start with) something simple like trust and reliability. The trust between the two sides is non-existent. It is hard to make peace when you don't believe the other side." "It is vital to continue the dialogue. Even if you don't solve the conflict you should have it. For that I thank Kerry, who keeps the process alive. We live in the same region and it is vital to maintain coexistence. We appreciate the efforts, but we mustn't create expectations. If you create expectations and don't succeed, you create frustration. It is a prolonged process, not a short one," said Lieberman. The foreign minister added: "I am not in favor of a (population) transfer. I am in favor of an exchange of territory. I accept the Bar Ilan speech. If I were sure that a comprehensive agreement and a stable peace could be achieved I would evacuate my settlement and my home. The problem is that I don't see a chance of achieving a comprehensive agreement." In regards to the relations with the US Lieberman said: "There is no

substitute for the US, but we need to guard ourselves and not rely on the US. You have enough of a headache without Israel. You have too many challenges. In addition to the US, and not in its place, we must diversify our policy, be creative." On the topic of the difference of opinion with the US regarding the [Iranian](#) issue, Lieberman believes that "the public differences between us must be cooled off." US President Barack Obama is expected to speak at the Saban Forum conference on Saturday. Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) will too speak at the convention on Sunday through a video telecast from Jerusalem. ([Ynetnews](#) 7 December 2013)

- Herzog: Divide Jerusalem and Make Land Swaps. New Labor head says Gush Etzion in Judea is one of his favorite places, nevertheless pushes concessions including on Israel's capital. MK Yitzchak Herzog, **newly elected** head of the Labor party and head of the Opposition, said that while Gush Etzion in Judea is one of his favorite places, he envisions land swaps and the division of Jerusalem with the Palestinian Authority (PA). Herzog noted his fondness for Kibbutz Masu'ot Yitzchak, located in Judea. He told *Yedioth Ahronoth* the kibbutz "was named after my grandfather (former Chief Rabbi Yitzchak Herzog) on his 70th birthday. He thought to retire and become a farmer there. There's a memorial to him there, and a cypress tree my father planted." However, the Labor leader claims a peace agreement with the PA must be reached to keep Gush Etzion part of Israel. He envisions land swaps leaving "settlement blocs" in Israel hands and giving the vast majority of Judea and Samaria, Israel's biblical heartland, to the PA. Justice Minister Tzipi Livni welcomed Herzog's recent election, calling for a "**new partnership**" that would push for Israeli concessions as part of an agreement with the PA. Jewish Home leader Naftali Bennett also was quick to call for **renewed cooperation** under Herzog's leadership. Herzog's vision of Israeli concessions puts Israel's capital in his sights as well. "I see Jerusalem serving as two political capitals: in eastern Jerusalem the capital of the Palestinian state, and the west of the city as the Jewish capital," Herzog said, adding "the seat of the Palestinian government could be in one of east Jerusalem's neighborhoods in my opinion, I'm not afraid of that." When asked if all of Jerusalem would remain Israeli territory under his paradigm, Herzog wouldn't give details, saying "the Kotel (Western Wall) will stay in Israel's hands, as for the rest we have to be creative." Over a week ago Herzog said he's "**in no rush**" to join Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's coalition, calling it "an evil coalition." Instead, Herzog has revealed his plans to challenge the coalition. The newly

elected Labor head sees his party leading a large "center-left bloc," including Livni's The Movement party, Kadima, Meretz, and elements of Economics Minister Yair Lapid's Yesh Atid. If such a bloc could be formed, and if any party were to have enough votes to replace the current government, Herzog intends to challenge the coalition. Herzog also discussed the Israeli media's portrayal of him as a weak figure, saying the portrayal is "because I'm thin, and I don't have a low voice, and I have a baby face." "They call me a nerd," says Herzog. "I don't know what a nerd is. I live a normal life, keep a family lifestyle, invest myself into public needs. ...Maybe (being a nerd) is the right model for a public figure?" ([Israel National News](#) 7 December 2013)

- Coalition Head Warns Against Jordan Valley Concessions. MK Levin concerned at Kerry's Jordan Valley offer to PA. 'Security isn't the only issue.' Coalition head MK Yariv Levin (Likud-Beytenu) expressed concern Sunday over the extent of United States pressure on Israel to reach an agreement with the Palestinian Authority. In particular, Levin expressed worry over U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's offers to the PA regarding arrangements in the Jordan Valley. "Of course I'm worried. First of all, because the question isn't only security arrangements, but also our right to the Jordan Valley – a right we need to stand up for," he told Arutz Sheva. In addition, he said, "Israeli presence mandates the presence of communities, nothing else. So all these proposals, whether from Kerry or elsewhere, have no place." Kerry made various offers to the PA regarding security in the Jordan Valley. PA officials say PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas **rejected the offers** because they would not have prevented Israelis from living in the area. "Ultimately, it turns out it doesn't matter what the Palestinians are offered, because they aren't willing to accept anything," Levin said, adding, "There are a lot of objections on the Israeli side as well." "But I'm optimistic, in the sense that we are definitely able to prevent this," he added, referring to a withdrawal from the Jordan Valley. Kerry's proposals worried other Members of Knesset as well. MK Ofir Akunis (Likud) warned that "security arrangements" **is a euphemism** for uprooting Israeli communities and removing IDF positions. MK Moti Yagev (Jewish Home) argued that American "security arrangements" did not have a good track record, having failed to prevent a bloody terrorist war in the wake of the failed Oslo Accords. ([Israel National News](#) 8 December 2013)
- Ya'alon: We have no partner for two-state solution. Defense minister charges that Iran, not Israeli-Palestinian conflict, remains the main source of instability in the Mideast. In a thinly veiled criticism of the Obama administration, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said Saturday

that those who place the Israeli- Palestinian conflict as the source of instability in the Middle East are mistaken. He said that Israel has no viable peace partner in the Palestinians, who have yet to recognize Israel as a Jewish nation-state or signal their willingness to end the conflict. “Events in Tunisia, Egypt [and] Syria have no connection to this [Israeli-Palestinian] conflict. The Iranian issue also has no connection. This conflict is local, but it is not the most important in the Middle East,” Ya’alon said, speaking at the Israel Business Conference, organized by Globes. The defense minister said, “As someone who supported [the] Oslo [Peace Process], I’m learning that on the other side we have no partner for two states for two people. There is no one on the other side. [There] hasn’t been, since the dawn of Zionism, a leadership that is prepared to recognize our right to exist as a nation-state for the Jewish nation and to recognize an agreement as the end of the conflict and the end to demands. “We won’t talk about an inch, about a millimeter of territory, if we don’t see that we have a partner who talks about recognition, about the end of the conflict and about giving up the right of return. We will not implement the doctrine of stages.” Although the conflict is unsolvable at this time, other issues, like improving the Palestinian Authority’s economy, governability, law and order can be improved, Ya’alon said. The defense minister said he would be convinced that a partner exists on the other side “the moment they stop teaching their children to put on bomb belts and explode against us, when the state of Israel appears in text books and when Tel Aviv, which they consider to be a settlement, appears on the map.” The IDF and its freedom of operation in Judea and Samaria is what is protecting the Palestinian Authority from extremist Islamism, Ya’alon said. ([IPOST](#) 8 December 2013)

- Israel minister proposes partial West Bank annexation. Israel's new Economics and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett, leader of the Jewish Home party, arrives for the first cabinet meeting of the new Israeli government in Jerusalem on March 18, 2013 (AFP Photo/David Vaaknin) Jerusalem (AFP) - Economy Minister Naftali Bennett on Sunday proposed that Israel annex parts of the West Bank under its full military control where most Jewish settlers live. "I favour implementation of Israeli sovereignty over the zone where 400,000 (settlers) live and only 70,000 Arabs," said the head of the far-right Jewish Home religious party in the ruling coalition. Bennett also ridiculed the US-brokered peace talks between Israel and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas, whose writ covers the West Bank but not Gaza, ruled by the Islamist movement Hamas. "This is all a joke. It's as if

we're discussing the purchase of a car with only half of its owners," he told public radio. In another negative Israeli assessment of the peace process, Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon said Saturday: "There is no partner on the Palestinian side to reach a two-state solution for two peoples." Their views contrasted with a statement by US Secretary of State John Kerry on Friday at the end of his latest mission to Israel and the Palestinian territories. "I believe we are closer than we have been in years to bringing about the peace and the prosperity and the security that all of the people of this region deserve," Kerry told reporters. Direct negotiations were launched in late July but have made little apparent progress as they approach the half-way mark of a targeted nine months. ([Yahoo](#) 8 December 2013)

- A secret document published by Hebrew 10th channel declared that the budget of Israeli settlements in recent months, have doubled. the budget was raised from 58 million shekels in August 2013 to 614 million this month. The channel indicated in details to access the confidential document attesting the approval of the Minister of finance, "Yair Lapid" convert these amounts for the benefit of the settlement construction, where the paper demonstrated for 58 million shekels were transferred in last August, the amount has doubled ten times since then, where arrived this month to 614 million. The document indicated that the approval of the Ministry of Finance recently transferred to funds for settlements 90 million shekels, and unlike the previous resolution cuts, headed the Ministry of finance to the Knesset Finance Committee this weekend with the aim of diverting funds for construction in the West Bank. According to the document, add the converted 58 million during August, the Israeli Finance Ministry has transferred the \$ 191 million shekels in the November/October last year, while the amount transferred to 523 shekels. The Israeli Knesset (Parliament) member from the Meretz Party, "Zahava ghalo'on" said "this step is designed to prevent the exciting topic of Israeli public opinion, where they transfer funds monthly settlements in dark rooms". (Paltimes 9 December 2013)
- E. Jerusalem photographer's testimony || 'I was strip-searched, refused entry to event with Netanyahu'. Despite holding an Israeli government press card, Muammar Awad says he was 'humiliated,' turned away from Jerusalem event. An [East Jerusalem](#) photojournalist was refused entry last week by security guards at the capital's International Convention Center, after they ordered him to strip in public and questioned him for 90 minutes. "I was asked to strip in front of everyone," said Muammar Awad, who carries a press card issued by

Israel's Government Press Office, works for the Chinese news agency Xinhua. "I took off all my clothes, including my socks and my pants, and was left in my underpants and undershirt." Awad, who is 27 and has three children, had come to the ICC, also known as Binyanei Ha'uma, on Tuesday to cover the International Bible Contest for Adults. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attended the event. Awad, who has covered more than a few events attended by Netanyahu as well as by foreign heads of state, related that he reported to the ICC three hours early to allow ample time for a security check. "There is no explanation other than an intent to humiliate or to prevent me from entering, and there is no security problem, because otherwise how do you explain the fact that I went next to the stage at the memorial for Arik Einstein in Tel Aviv and photographed the prime minister from two meters away?" Awad said, referring to a ceremony on November 27 in Rabin Square, prior to the singer's burial. In March, Awad noted, he was at the President's Residence in Jerusalem during the visit to Israel by U.S. President Barack Obama. "That time I went in like everybody else," he said. "And I photographed the most well-protected man in the world, and there weren't any problems." The Shin Bet security service defended the decision to strip Awad and refuse him entry. "Mr. Awad was examined in accordance with the security procedures that apply to events in which the prime minister takes part," the Shin Bet said in a statement. "In the context of the security checks, Mr. Awad was asked his security background. Since his responses did not satisfy the security guards (significant contradictions were discovered in his responses to the questions he was asked) and in light of his background, the person responsible for security at the event decided it would not be possible to allow him to enter the event, for security reasons." Awad, who comes from a well-known family of Jerusalem photographers and has been a photographer himself for eight years, said the security guards went on the alert when he handed over his press card and his identity card. A short time later, he said, they took him aside, along with the freelance Israeli photographer accompanying him. They separated the two photographers from each other and two female guards began interrogating Awad. As other journalists looked on, Awad said, he was asked "countless" questions, including what time he woke up that morning. The guards also asked for his cell phone and seized his photography equipment, which they later returned to him in pieces. "They took all my equipment, even though I showed them how I take photographs, as they requested, and they saw that they were professional cameras," said Awad. "Every few minutes a security

guard came and took more things.” The guards asked him to strip while others were examining the equipment of the Israeli photographer, said Awad. At a certain point, he recalled, he told them he wasn’t interested in covering the event anymore and just wanted to leave. But he was informed that he had to complete the security check. “They checked my body with metal detectors,” said Awad. “My entire body was shivering from cold and from the feeling of humiliation.” He said he asked the guards to at least let him put his shirt back on, but they wouldn’t let him. Ninety minutes passed from the time the interrogation began until a security guard returned Awad’s clothing, he said. Just as he thought he would be allowed in, he was told he had to leave. “At the main entrance to the building, [a security guard] told me, ‘That’s it, get out of here and you’re not allowed to go in and take photos,’ and handed over a bag with my two cameras, which were dismantled. I was in shock. I almost cried from the humiliation.” Awad said he asked the security guards for their names and the names of their bosses, but they refused to answer. “I was left outside feeling shocked and insulted, and with the feeling that I don’t plan to go back to this career,” he said. ([Haaretz](#) 9 December 2013)

- 'Historic' Agreement to Link Red & Dead Seas. Energy Minister Silvan Shalom announces deal with Jordan and PA to save Dead Sea, provide desalinated water to all 3 parties. On Monday, Energy Minister Silvan Shalom announced that representatives of Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority (PA) will sign an "historic" agreement to cooperate in linking the Red Sea with the shrinking Dead Sea. Under the agreement, which is to be signed at the World Bank in Washington, *AFP* reports that water will be drawn from the Gulf of Aqaba off of Eilat in Israel's south, with some desalinated and distributed to all three members of the agreement, and the rest transferred in 4 pipes to the Dead Sea. While estimates say the Dead Sea is on pace to dry out by 2050, environmental groups have warned that the Dead Sea's delicate ecosystem could be damaged by a large influx of Red Sea water. In August, Jordan announced a **\$980 million project** to transfer water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, which appears to have been a recent impetus to the deal. After the deal is signed, Shalom said "an international tender will be issued for the entire project -- building the desalination plant in Aqaba and laying the first of the four pipes." Shalom praised the announcement as "a breakthrough after many years of efforts. It is nothing less than a historic move." He particularly noted the economic aspects of obtaining cheap water, the environmental aspect of "saving the Dead Sea," and diplomatic aspects of signing a deal as peace talks with the PA are **failing** by many

accounts. The announcement comes as the Jordan Valley region above the Dead Sea is becoming a topic of contention. On Sunday, Coalition head MK Yariv Levin (Likud-Beytenu) **warned** that US pressure on Israel in the peace talks threatens Israel's presence in the Jordan Valley. US Secretary of State John Kerry made several offers to the PA regarding security in the Jordan Valley during his recent visit. PA officials say PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas **rejected the offers** because they would not have prevented Israelis from living in the area. In response to concerns that Israel will give up on the Jordan Valley, Major General Nitzan Alon, the Head of the IDF's Central Command on Sunday **expressed firmness** in arguing "that the Jordan Valley is a strategic buffer for Israel," and added that the US supports this position. **Research** has shown why it would be a fatal strategic mistake for Israel not to have a security presence in the Jordan valley. ([Israel National News](#) 9 December 2013)

- IDF's Jordan Valley chief sees no possibility of army's withdrawal from area. In meeting with Yesha Council heads, IDF Central Command chief Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon is recorded as saying that plan for changes on the ground in the Jordan Valley is "an unhatched egg". "The Jordan Valley is a strategic buffer for Israel," he says. Against the backdrop of a U.S. security plan which includes the gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Jordan Valley, GOC Central Command Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon met Sunday with the heads of the Yesha Council, which represents communities in Judea and Samaria, and attempted to allay their concerns about the reports suggesting a permanent peace deal with the Palestinian Authority would include changes on the ground in the Jordan Valley. Alon referred to the rumored plan as "an unhatched egg," and told the group the Israel Defense Forces intends to maintain its presence in the Jordan Valley. He also said the Israeli military has been able to convince the American envoys, including recently retired Marine Corps Gen. John Allen, of its position. Alon was referring to comments made Sunday by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry at the Saban Forum, where Kerry said, "Gen. Allen is joined by dozens -- literally, I think there are about 160 people: military experts, intel experts and other ... highly qualified defense officials ... analyzing what began, frankly, back in 2011 as a preliminary analysis was made, and now is becoming state of the art as we ramp it up for this possibility of peace. They're all hard at work in close consultation with their IDF counterparts. And we will engage in further close evaluation with Shin Bet, with Mossad, with every aspect, and with the Palestinians – and with the Palestinians, which is critical." Kerry's

comments indicate that the Americans have been working on a security plan for Judea and Samaria as well as the Jordan Valley. In a recording obtained by Israel Hayom, Alon is heard saying: "We have been involved with this issue since before it made headlines. We discussed it during the previous round [of peace talks], during [Prime Minister Ehud] Olmert's government, in 2007. The recent developments in the Middle East -- the regional upheaval, the instability, everything happening in Syria -- it only helps our case. We are adamant that the Jordan Valley is a strategic buffer for Israel. We have to cultivate the strategic relationship with the Jordanians and create another 'protective vest' like that, and our position regarding the Jordan Valley is very clear." According to Alon, "This was a rare case where we were able to make a difference, including with the Americans working with us. It doesn't mean that the process is free of tensions, as we have to deal with the Palestinians' demand for sovereignty and so on, but for all intents and purposes, this is an unhatched egg. Overall, I have little faith in the prospects of the peace process." Last week, Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon (Likud-Beytenu) also ruled out a withdrawal of the Israeli military and civilian presence in the Jordan Valley. "The Americans are proposing joint control over the crossing points [into Jordan]," Danon told Army Radio. "From the Israeli point of view, there will not be any Palestinian presence at the crossing points. An Israeli civilian and military presence in the Jordan Valley is essential." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel would only accept the emergence of a Palestinian state if it was demilitarized, with Israeli troops deployed along the Jordan Valley. And he has completely ruled out any transfer of security control in the border area to a third party. The Palestinians find the idea of a multinational force acceptable. ([Israel Hayom](#) 9 December 2013)

- Analysis || Netanyahu using Iran as another excuse to put off peace with Palestinians. If Iran gives up its nuclear project, will Israel agree to withdraw from the West Bank? Our best efforts to achieve peace "will come to naught if [Iran](#) achieves a [nuclear bomb](#)" and if this happens it could "even undermine the peace deals we have with two of our neighbors – Egypt and Jordan," Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) [warned this week](#) in his speech to the Saban Forum. [Netanyahu](#) had always claimed that the Iranian nuclear threat should be kept separate from the conflict with the Palestinians. He roundly opposed the linkage that the United States' government had tried to forge between that conflict and the need to create a united Arab front together with

Israel against Iran. According to the U.S., a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could help create such a front, which would serve Israel's interests against the Iranian nuclear threat. Netanyahu understood that the political significance of this linkage meant withdrawal in exchange for preventing Iran from attaining a nuclear bomb. But the signing of an agreement with Iran and the powerful opposition to it by Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf States shows that such linkage is not essential. For a moment an unsigned "alliance" was created between Israel and the Gulf states, even without a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It turns out that the Arab countries have a few other interests in which Israel or the Palestinians are not the main players. But in a surprising turn, Netanyahu decided to give Iran the veto over the peace process, when he added a new precondition to the demand that the Palestinians recognize Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people. Netanyahu said that as long as Iran can attain a nuclear weapon there is no point in reaching peace with the Palestinians. Inherent in the connection is the baseless claim that if Iran stops developing its nuclear infrastructure, Israel will agree to withdraw from the territories. Just as the American assumption is wrong that peace between Israel and the Palestinians will make Iran set aside its nuclear aspirations, so Netanyahu's statement distorts reality. It is unlikely that any right-wing ministers support withdrawal from the territories in exchange for Iran ceasing its nuclear development. Even stranger is bringing the peace with Jordan and Egypt into the equation, because both Jordan and Egypt are anxious over Iran's efforts to attain regional hegemony, and both are encouraging the peace process and the two-state solution, without either one having seen a link between these interests. In fact, such a connection could rock the Arab states, which now fear that Iran will want to join the countries involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, after years of keeping it out. Back in the days of former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iran proposed its services to the U.S. in resolving regional conflicts, and was spurned by President Bush. Now, after signing the agreement, Iran might join the second Geneva conference on the Syrian crisis; it is intensely courting the Gulf States, including Saudi Arabia; it could propose to resolve the domestic Palestinian conflict and it sees no reason to keep out of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. If a final agreement is signed between Iran and the world powers Iran can also wave it as fulfillment of the condition Netanyahu set, and thus remove at least the new obstacle he has placed in the way of negotiations. Netanyahu would then probably have to find some other condition, even more far-reaching, to slow down the peace

process, if not cause it to fail. For example, as long as the sun rises there is no point to peace with the Palestinians. ([Haaretz](#) 10 December 2013)

- Father tells Arabic teacher: 'My blood is pure, yours isn't. After grade 7 student receives project on three religions, child's parent comes to school, curses teachers, coordinator. 'Who do you think you are that you'll decide what to do with my son'? The [father](#) of a grade 7 student entered his child's [school](#) and [cursed](#) the Arabic teacher on two different occasions. The school sent him away and filed a complaint with the police. The father came to the school, just before Hanukkah, after hearing that his [son](#) had to do a project in Arabic class that dealt with Judaism, Christianity and Islam. At first the father went to the teacher, who in turn told him to address the class coordinator, who organizes all Arabic lessons. They then started to have a conversation. After speaking for a few minutes, during which the father teased the Arabic teacher, the coordinator said that she herself was a Muslim Arab. The father then started cursing the coordinator as well, saying, "The difference between us is that my blood is pure and yours isn't." The student purportedly received permission to do the project on a different topic, but the teacher wasn't aware of this, and she refused to accept the new project. On Monday night, the father returned to the school, met with the coordinator, and began yelling at her. "You Arab, who do you think you are that you'll decide what to do with my son." The father told his son "not to listen to this Arab or the second Arab." After the incidents, the school filed a complaint with the police. The [Education Ministry's](#) Southern District said that it verified that the school filed a complaint, and that the father has been ordered to stay away from the school. "The father's contentions have no place in an educational institution and they're in complete contradiction to the integral model of values and education that the ministry is bringing about." The police spokesperson for the Eilat Region confirmed a complaint had filed, and that the police were investigating. ([Ynetnews](#) 10 December 2013)
- U.S. plan keeps Israeli army in Jordan Valley for 10 years. Palestinian official says time would be used to train PA security forces; Meeting in which Kerry presented plan to Abbas described as 'worse than bad.' The new security plan that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry presented to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas last week, as part of a future Palestinian state, calls for Israel to maintain a military presence in the Jordan Valley for a period of 10 years, the Palestinian daily Al Ayyam reported Tuesday. A senior Palestinian official, who

was not identified, told Al Ayyam that the 10-year period was to be used for training and strengthening the Palestinian security forces, before gradually transferring control of the Jordan Valley to them. According to the report, Kerry's proposal includes an "invisible" Israeli presence at the border crossings between Jordan and the future Palestinian state. Kerry hinted at this part of the U.S. proposal during his Saturday-night speech at Washington's Saban Forum, an annual dialogue between Israeli and American leaders sponsored by the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. "Needless to say, for a period of time this will obviously involve Israeli participation. It has to. But there also have to be objective standards by which we measure the performance ... It will take time to train, build, equip and test Palestinian institutions to ensure that they're capable of protecting Palestinian citizens – their primary responsibility is that – and also of preventing their territory from being used for attacks on Israel," Kerry said. The Palestinians are vehemently opposed to Kerry's security proposal. Al Ayyam characterized Friday's meeting, in which Kerry presented the plan to Abbas, as "worse than bad." Abbas views Kerry's proposal as a retreat from the proposal drawn up by U.S. Gen. James Jones in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations of 2007-08. That plan excluded an Israeli military presence within the borders of the Palestinian state. Instead, a NATO international force, under American command, would be stationed in the Jordan Valley and the rest of the West Bank for an extended period of time to guarantee security. Abbas believes the Americans have completely embraced Israel's position regarding the Jordan Valley, the border crossings and control of the air space of a future Palestinian state. Al Ayyam reported that on Sunday Abbas summoned the U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem, Michael Ratney, to a meeting, in which Abbas said the Palestinians are willing to have an international force stationed on the West Bank, but will not agree to the presence of a single Israeli soldier in the territory of the Palestinian state. Despite Palestinian opposition and Israeli reservations regarding the U.S. proposal, Kerry is not giving up. He is scheduled to return to the region on Thursday. He will meet separately with Abbas and with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for additional discussions on the details of the security proposal. Kerry met in Washington on Monday with the chief Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, Justice Minister Tzipi Livni and Saeb Erekat, respectively, and the U.S. envoy to the peace process, Martin Indyk. At the meeting Kerry was briefed on the progress in the negotiations. Livni, Erekat and Indyk attended the Saban Forum in Washington over the weekend, and on Sunday the three negotiators met twice. In the past

two and a half weeks the negotiating teams met five times, alternating the location between Jerusalem and Jericho. Nevertheless, there is still a wide gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions. Netanyahu even went so far as to say on Monday that despite the optimism expressed by Washington, the parties are not at the brink of signing a final-status agreement. ([Haaretz](#) 10 December 2013)

- Analyst: Kerry's Jordan Valley Arrangements 'A Death-Trap'. Arutz Sheva analyst reveals Kerry's Jordan Valley security arrangements follow 'Allon Plan,' would be 'death-trap for Israel'. Arutz Sheva analyst Mark Langfan has warned that US Secretary of State John Kerry's "security arrangement" proposals for Israel are an updated version of the 1967 "Allon Plan," and place the country in strategic danger. In the arrangements Kerry has reportedly proposed in ongoing peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA), Israel would for 10 years partially retain the 15 kilometer (9 mile) wide strip of the Jordan Valley as a security zone. The arrangements have been reportedly rejected by both sides; PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas opposed the plans for allowing Jews to remain in the area. Kerry's pressure on the PA to accept the plans by postponing terrorist prisoner releases led a senior PLO official to say Kerry's proposals for the Jordan Valley will lead to "total failure," after which Kerry announced he would return to Israel on Wednesday. Langfan, who heads Americans For a Safe Israel (AFSI), commented that Kerry's proposed arrangements follow the security plan drawn up by General Yigal Allon following the Six Day War. The AFSI Chairman warned that the arrangement threatens to become a "Philadelphi Corridor 2," referring to the failed security strip, which was tenuously kept by Israel between Gaza and Egypt after the disastrous "Disengagement" from Gaza in 2005. The corridor was later entirely abandoned under fire from Gaza-based terrorists. Kerry's arrangements are "a death-trap security plan for Israel," stressed Langfan, adding "people just don't understand the 'Jordan Valley' is the area of Judea and Samaria that's further away from Pre-1967 Israel, and with Western Samaria Highlands in Palestinian hands, the zone is essentially disconnected from Pre-1967 Israel." Langfan's explanation of the Allon Plan's security dangers can be seen here: In Langfan's words, a modern day Allon Plan of the type proposed by Kerry "is just a false wrapping for 'Auschwitz 2.0 Borders.' The residual Israeli-occupied portion of the Jordan Valley will be surrounded, virtually impossible to access, and attacked from both the east and the west, and it will be just as militarily unsustainable as was Gaza's Philadelphi Corridor. It's a prescription for a Holocaust 2.0."

Recently Major General Nitzan Alon, the Head of the IDF's Central Command, said the US has agreed to an Israeli security presence in the Jordan Valley. It should be noted that Kerry's Jordan Valley arrangements would keep an IDF presence in the region. "In 1967, (General Yigal) Allon couldn't imagine, less plan for 1) protecting Israel's water resources flowing westward from Western Samaria; 2) air-space; 3) Palestinian terroristic use of Katyusha rockets from the 'West Bank' Terror state into Tel Aviv; or 4) massive influx of additional Palestinians into the new PA State. So for Israel, it's a literal 'dead-end' plan," remarked Langfan. ([Israel National News](#) 11 December 2013)

- UN slams Israel demolition of West Bank properties. West Bank home demolition harshly condemned by UN, human-rights NGOs. Issue highlights sensitive topic of West Bank construction. The United Nations Wednesday slammed Israel's demolition of 30 Palestinian properties in the West Bank, saying it displaced some families for the second time in less than two weeks. "I am concerned about the destruction of Palestinian structures in the [Jordan](#) Valley yesterday (Tuesday)," UN Humanitarian Coordinator [James Rawley](#) said in a statement. "The demolitions resulted in the displacement of 41 people, including 24 children, and affected another 20. Both refugee and non-refugee families were affected." the statement said. "Some of the families were displaced for the second time this month and a number of donor-funded structures were among those demolished." The civilian administration of the West Bank had no immediate comment on the demolitions. A group of 36 NGOs last week urged [Israel](#) to stop demolishing Palestinian homes, hours ahead of a visit by US Secretary of State [John Kerry](#) aimed at revitalizing Middle East peace talks."Demolitions often occur to facilitate the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements, with 60 percent of demolitions occurring in Palestinian communities close to settlement zones," rights groups and charities including Oxfam, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said in a joint statement."Since the resumption of the peace process in July, Israel has destroyed 207 Palestinian homes and property in the occupied West Bank, displacing 311 Palestinians, over half of whom are children," they said. This year, more than 630 Palestinian structures have been demolished in Area C, the 60% of the West Bank that is under full Israeli military control, according to the UN. Some 1,035 Palestinians have been displaced by the demolitions, the world body said, adding that more than 80 percent of the

displacement occurred in the Jordan Valley. ([Ynetnews](#) 12 December 2013)

- Livni: Construction beyond settlement blocs harming Israel's security. Justice minister accuses Naftali Bennett's Habayit Hayehudi party of trying to derail peace process, preferring settlements to Jewish and democratic state. Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, the minister responsible for negotiations with the Palestinians, sharply criticized Naftali Bennett's Habayit Hayehudi party on Wednesday, claiming that its members are trying to derail the peace process. Livni also said that the continued construction beyond Jewish settlement blocs harms Israel's security. "There is one thing that harms our ability to rally the world in support of the security arrangement necessary for Israel: More unchecked and irresponsible announcements of more construction in the settlements, mainly in remote settlements," she said during a conference by the One Voice organization at Tel Aviv University. Livni claimed that the ongoing, politically-motivated settlement construction "is meant to serve a small portion of the Israeli public and of this coalition," and does not serve Israel's interests. According to Livni, the government must choose between more construction in remote settlements and fortifying Israel's security. "The insistence on more construction is meant to derail negotiations," she said. The Justice Minister attacked Habayit Hayehudi, saying the party has assumed the right to veto the peace process. "They veto peace when they prefer isolated settlements over blocs, they veto peace when they prefer isolated settlements over a Jewish and democratic state," she said. Livni added that the government would soon have to make decisions on the Palestinian issue. "Decisions have to be made by a leadership that understands the price we will have to pay if the right decisions are not made," she said. "We stand before a window of opportunity for peace and we must not miss it. I want those who sit beside me in the government to know that there is a political price [to pay] in a situation where decisions are not made in time. What is important in an agreement is that it keeps Israel a Jewish and democratic state. If no agreement is reached, it is unlikely we will remain a democratic state." ([Haaretz](#) 12 December 2013)
- Bennett: No to Security Arrangements from US. Economics Minister Responds to reports of Abbas rejecting US proposal own rejection, citing historical evidence that US involvement fails. Economics Minister Naftali Bennett released a statement on his Facebook page Friday, discussing the talks which have resumed between Israel and

the Palestinian Authority (PA). Bennett cites history once more in his statement, and explains the extent of the US's involvement in a possible peace deal. "Recently we've been hearing a new tune: an international guarantee will 'safeguard Israel's security'," Bennett stated. "We are told that they found the answer to all of our security problems. We can evacuate Samaria, Judea and the Jordan Valley (they won't dare speak about the Golan Heights). We can place cameras, lasers, helicopters, and especially - rely on international forces and the security guarantee of our friends." The statement follows news that PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas rejected the US's proposal for security arrangements in the critical Jordan Valley region, which would provide a buffer zone between the two countries in the event of a two-state solution. Abbas originally **made statements** to that effect in a radio interview; PA officials confirmed the news to Kerry and to *AFP* Friday. While *AFP* reports that US Secretary of State John Kerry was set to meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at 6:30 am in Jerusalem for follow-up talks, no information has yet been released about that meeting - which may have been cancelled, delayed, or postponed in light of the **massive snowstorm** sweeping across Israel. Bennett notes that similar security arrangements in Lebanon, Iran and Syria have actually worked against their aims. "In 2006, at the end of the Second Lebanon War, the Security Council passed Resolution 1701, which prohibits the entry of all weapons into southern Lebanon. Result: Hezbollah has since smuggled in over 100,000 missiles into southern Lebanon." "In 2006, the Security Council passed Resolution 1696 that determined that Iran must stop all enrichment and may not build any additional centrifuges," he continued. "Result: Since then, Iran has increased the amount of its centrifuges from only 164 to 18,500." "Over a year ago, the President of the United States determined if Syria will use chemical weapons against its people that this would be crossing a red line which would lead to military action. Result: Syria has killed hundreds of residents with chemical weapons (no one is disputing that), and military action did not happen." "This has happened dozens of times around the world. Guarantees are words, they are not actions," he concluded. "We will continue to defend ourselves, by ourselves. It has worked not badly at all for the last 65 years." ([Israel National News](#) 13 December 2013)

- Kerry: Israel-PA deal possible by end of April. Secretary of state says Israel, Palestinians still on schedule to reach full Middle East peace deal by end of April, adds both sides are committed to negotiations. US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday [Israel](#) and the Palestinians

were still on schedule to reach a full Middle East peace deal by the end of April, and both sides were committed to the talks. Speaking at the end of his second visit to the region in a week, Kerry said the two sides were discussing a framework of core issues that lay at the heart of the decades-old conflict and would lead to the final status accord. "Both parties remain committed to fulfilling their obligations to stay at the table and negotiate hard during the nine-month period that we set for that," Kerry told reporters after separate talks with Palestinian and Israeli leaders. "We're not talking at this point about any shifts (in the schedule," he said, alleviating Palestinian concerns that Israel would delay a planned release of Palestinian prisoners at the end of the year. Seen as a vital confidence building measure, Israel has so far freed about half the 104 prisoners that it had pledged to release from its jails under a deal secured by Kerry in July to renew peace talks that had been frozen for three years. However, Palestinian and Israeli officials have indicated that the peace talks, held far from the media's gaze, have made little headway thus far, causing Kerry to make repeated visits to the area to try to gain some momentum. "We remain hopeful that we can achieve that final status agreement. Why? Because we are absolutely confident ... that for both sides, and the region at large, peace can bring enormous benefits," Kerry said. The US Secretary of State, whose program in Israel and the Palestinian territories was disrupted by strong snow storms, is also due to visit Vietnam and the Philippines. ([Ynetnews](#) 13 December 2013)

- Comments: Construction in Israeli settlements need the agree of 80 MKs. MK Michaeli filed a bill prohibiting construction beyond the Green Line, but a majority of 80 Knesset members. "Construction puts us in danger of isolation". MK Merav Michaeli (work) filed a bill prohibiting construction beyond the Green Line, but a majority of 80 Knesset members. Explanatory notes to the bill states that "construction beyond the Green Line is the biggest obstacle to reaching a final status agreement with the Palestinians for the establishment of two states for two peoples and the required solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian neighbor." Michaeli argues that "developing the areas not intended for the benefit of the population of the occupied territory or for military purposes violates international law; leading economic boycotts against Israel endanger the future of the economy and puts Israel at risk of international isolation. Moreover, the construction in the settlements and security involving financial expenditure tremendous burdens greatly on state budget and economic situation of civil and citizens. "Office of the Minister of Housing Uri Ariel said in response: "This is not a bill but a declaration

of a law aimed at nothing more titles. As was never so she ignored it. "Meanwhile, One voice conference, held last week attacked Justice Minister Tzipi Livni Jewish members of the House "when she said that" they put a veto on peace they prefer isolated settlements on the Jewish and democratic state . " response against the Jewish Home Minister Uri Orbach said that "Better Tzipi Livni would not seek to blame the difficulties in the negotiations within the coalition, but negotiations with its partners. Who won the excess power beyond its real weight Tzipi Livni, and we hope she does the responsibility of the excessive force be with her hands. "([NRC](#) 16 December 2013)

- US Military Chiefs Advised Against Judea-Samaria Pullout in '67. Declassified document obtained by Arutz Sheva shows Joint Chiefs agreed Israel must not give up Judea, Samaria. The heads of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff were of the opinion, shortly after the 1967 Six Day War that Israel cannot afford to give up Judea and Samaria, for strategic reasons. A **declassified document** obtained exclusively by Mark Langfan for *Arutz Sheva* reveals that the military opinion of the US military leadership after the war is in line with that of present-day nationalist Israelis who say that Israel must not, under any circumstances, relinquish control of the Jordan Valley. In fact, the map drawn by the Joint Chiefs shows Israel keeping a swathe of land that stretches from the Jordan River in the east, all the way up to the center of the mountainous ridge in Judea and Samaria in the west. *Arutz Sheva* analyst Langfan pointed out Monday that current IDF generals have become more "leftist" than the US generals were in 1967 regarding Israel's safety. The military reportedly is willing to cede most of Judea and Samaria to the Palestinian Authority and maintain only an IDF "presence" along the Jordan River. US Secretary of State John Kerry is pressuring Israel to accept this deal. Under the subheading "requirement," the document, which is dated June 26 and June 29, 1967, states that "A boundary along the commanding terrain overlooking the Jordan River from the west could provide a shorter defense line" for Israel. However, "as a minimum, Israel would need a defense line generally along the axis Bardala-Tubas-Nablus-Bira-Jerusalem and then to the northern part of the Dead Sea." This describes an Israeli presence along present-day Route 60 that connects Shechem and Jerusalem. The line is considerably westward of the Jordan Valley and is far more generous to Israel than the maps being currently considered in "peace talks." "From a strictly military point of view...the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff...(see as necessary Israeli) control of the prominent high ground running north-south" through Judea and Samaria, reads the report. Langfan notes that this region,

deemed crucial for defensible Israeli borders, is the very area that is slated to be given to the PA under Kerry's plan. He says: "In 1967, before shoulder-fired anti-air missiles, before laser-designators, before radar and radio-jammers, before Katyushas from Lebanon and Gaza, before rampant Muslim-on-Muslim use of Sarin-tipped-chemical-Katyushas in Syria, the greatest collection of military professionals in the world concluded Israel's retention of Western Samaria was a military necessity for Israel." ([Israel National News](#) 17 December 2013)

- The Knesset will hold an initial hearing on legislation that would impose severe constraints on Israeli officials in any negotiations on Jerusalem. According to the law proposed by Yaakov Litzman (Ultra Orthodox party Degel HaTorah), such negotiations would require prior approval by at least 80 Knesset members or two thirds of the Knesset. Although the proposed legislation garnered the approval of the Ministerial Committee for Legislation--and thereby the support of the coalition--two weeks ago, Minister of Justice Tzipi Livni appealed the decision, forcing another discussion in the Ministerial Committee. This action should have postponed Wednesday's hearing but Litzman declared his intention to advance the bill and Coalition Chairman Yariv Levin (Likud) announced that he will allow it to go to a vote before the coalition. According to legislation in place [today](#), there are no prohibitions against negotiating the status of Jerusalem. However, the results of any peace agreement that change the status of Jerusalem, or parts of Jerusalem, must be approved by a majority of Knesset members. (Ir –Amim 18 December 2013)
- Netanyahu: Palestinian Authority, Not Building, Prevents Peace. After criticism from leftist groups, Roman Catholic priest, Netanyahu maintains building in Judea and Samaria does not harm peace process. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu reiterated at a Likud convention Wednesday night that it is the Palestinian Authority's refusal to recognize Israel as a Jewish state - not construction in Judea and Samaria - which has hampered ongoing peace talks. "I do not know if a peace agreement will come or not, but we will bring it to the Knesset and the people will decide whether the agreement is good," Netanyahu stated, warning that "We will not tolerate underhanded opportunism." On that note, Netanyahu vowed not to let attempts from the international media, leftist groups, or religious leaders influence the direction of talks toward another building freeze in Judea and Samaria. "We are not ceasing or slowing down efforts to build up our land and to develop it, nor [are we stopping] expansion efforts," he declared. "They keep on telling us that the reason that we don't have peace is due to our construction efforts, and due to our presence in

Judea and Samaria. This is wrong." "The real reason is ongoing opposition to a Jewish state under any borders," he continued. "We have the right to have a state like any other nation - or perhaps even more than any other nation." "This is our people. This is our country. This is our homeland. Agree to recognize a Jewish state," he urged. "The question is not why we insist on the recognition; it is on why they are too stubborn to recognize us. This is the root of the conflict upon which we are standing." Regarding the current negotiations, the Prime Minister stated that he would accept an agreement only if Israel's security needs was met. "Without a security arrangement, an agreement would not hold for longer than two hours," he reasoned. "[There will be] no missiles, no suicide bombers [. . .] if we have to, we will do something again [like] Operation Pillar of Defense. Our enemies will understand very quickly what intimidation means." "Israel will defend itself. That will be true in the event that peace, if attained, begins to unravel. After all, we are in the Middle East." Relating to political pressures, Netanyahu stated, "I have to say that talks with the U.S. are conducted in good spirit, but there are attempts in the world, its various parts, pressed upon us here and there." "It's not always easy to withstand the pressures, but we stand [. . .] On critical issues we do not compromise," he affirmed. "[I have] one goal - to ensure that the people of Israel [stay] in its historic homeland. This is what guides me." ([Israel National News](#) 19 December 2013)

- J'lem patriarch: Settlement construction 'hampers' peace. Top Roman Catholic cleric in Holy Land, Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, delivers Christmas message, says Mideast peace efforts are being 'hampered' by Israeli settlement construction. Mideast peace efforts are being "hampered" by Israeli settlement construction, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem said Wednesday in his traditional Christmas message. "The Israeli-Palestinian talks resumed in late July, after three years of interruption, but the efforts are hampered by the continuous building of Israeli settlements," said [Fuad Twal](#), the top Roman Catholic cleric in the Holy Land. "As long as this problem is not resolved, the people of our region will suffer," he said. Twal stressed that, "while the world's attention has shifted from the situation in the [Holy Land](#) to the tragedy in [Syria](#), it must be stated that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains crucial to the region and is a major obstacle in the development of our society and stability in the Middle East." Shifting to the Syrian conflict, he called to "immediately establish" a "sustainable" ceasefire and to "prevent any entry of outside weapons." "As the Syrian problem cannot be resolved by the force of arms, we call on all political leaders to assume the responsibility for finding a mutually acceptable political

solution that will end the senseless violence and uphold respect for the dignity of people," he said. Twal noted that instability in the Middle East "affects everyone, but especially our faithful who are tempted to emigrate." Referring to Pope Francis, set to visit the Holy Land in May 2014 in a trip yet to be officially announced, Twal said: "He cares about the Holy Land and the Middle East." Both Israeli President Shimon Peres and his Palestinian counterpart, Mahmud Abbas, have invited the pope to visit the Holy Land. Twal said Israel "wants to introduce changes" as part of negotiations with the Holy See on the legal and financial status of church property, which could include an end to tax exemptions."Paying a little more or a little less is not the core of the issue," he said."What is the important thing is not to 'touch' east Jerusalem, as it is still on the negotiating table. We do not want these agreements to have a political implication that changes the status of east Jerusalem, which was occupied in 1967." The patriarch, who will celebrate Christmas Eve midnight mass in Bethlehem on Tuesday, condemned all "forms of religious fundamentalism," noting an "increase in acts of vandalism carried out by extremists that affected some twenty holy places or places of worship" under his care this year. Twal is responsible for the tens of thousands of Catholics living in Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan and Cyprus. ([Ynetnews](#) 19 December 2013)

- Ya'alon: Where Jews don't live, there's no security. Defense minister addresses possible security arrangements regarding Jordan Valley in future peace accord. Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said he does not believe Israeli soldiers will remain in the Jordan Valley if there are no Israeli citizens living there. "I'm a man [who believes in] settlements," he said. "Where Jews don't live, there is no security." The defense minister's comments come amid reports that US Secretary of State John Kerry [offered to maintain Israeli presence in the Jordan Valley](#) for ten years following the signing of a peace accord with the Palestinians. Ya'alon also addressed the Sunday night incident in which a rogue Lebanese soldier [shot and killed St.-Sgt. Maj. Shlomi Cohen](#), saying he will be put on trial by the Lebanese army. In a meeting with UNIFIL officials, Lebanese officers briefed their IDF counterparts on the results of their investigation of the soldier, saying he acted on his own accord. The Lebanese army is expected to update the IDF on the case. Cohen, 31, from Afula, was killed by cross-border gunfire while driving in an army vehicle 50 meters from the Lebanese border near Rosh Hanikra on Sunday night. He was carrying out an official mission near an IDF border post, when six to seven shots struck him and the jeep, critically injuring him. He succumbed to his injuries soon after being rushed to

the Nahariya Hospital for the Western Galilee. ([IPOST](#) 20 December 2013)

- Israeli Minister of Defense Moshe Ya'alon stated that the proposed military academy should be built in its currently planned location. It is unclear whether the timing of this statement is coincidental or reflects the possibility, as raised in [yesterday's](#) alert (see below), that Ma'ariv published its report to reactivate progress on the plan. Ir Amim will continue to closely monitor developments. A full-page article published [today](#) in both Maariv and the right wing Makor Rishon newspapers (single ownership) reports on a potential freeze of the plan to construct a military academy on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem. According to the article, Prime Minister Netanyahu has ordered the freeze and army officials are already identifying alternative sites for the academy. The report suggests Israeli anxieties about the US response to the plan as the basis for Netanyahu's decision. Prior to Ir Amim's demand for a retraction, Maariv also attributed potential halt of the plan to the opposition of Ir Amim and other "anti-Israel" NGOs. While that reference has been removed from the Maariv site, it remains in the Makor Rishon edition as well as a republishing of the report on the Israel Nation News site. Based on thorough and consistent monitoring of the plan since its initial announcement, Ir Amim judges the article to be factually inaccurate and clearly influenced by sources invested in the plan's approval. It is likely that the underlying motivation behind the piece is to use speculation on a freeze to actually create pressure for advancing the plan toward approval. As previously reported, the plan for the military academy was scheduled for final approval in the District Planning and Building Committee several times at the beginning of 2013 but was repeatedly removed from the Committee's agenda. If constructed, the [military academy would be sited in a strategic location](#), connecting the Hebrew University campus at Mt. Scopus to the Beit Orot settlement in A-Tur/Mt. of Olives while linking the recently approved Mt. Scopus Slopes National Park to the Emek Tzurim National Park. Via the Mount Scopus Slopes, the academy would also link to E-1 and Ma'ale Adumim. (Ir-Amim 20 December 2013)
- Want to see nature? For Palestinians convicts, it's a no go at West Bank reserve. At Ein Prat Nature Reserve, parks authority inspectors keep out Palestinians who served time for security offenses. Palestinians convicted of security offenses are being barred from entering the Ein Prat Nature Reserve in the Judean Desert, even though visitors' security records aren't checked at other West Bank nature reserves.

Inspectors from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority kept two Palestinian visitors out of Ein Prat, also called Ein Fara, two weeks ago, said Dror Etkes, a researcher who monitors settlement construction and was with them at the time. This is in keeping with recent practice at the site, according to the mayor of the nearby Palestinian town of Anata. When the two Palestinians sought to enter with Etkes, inspectors asked them for their identity cards. "I heard one of the authority men conducting inquiries by telephone, and after a few minutes, he returned and told the Palestinians that they weren't allowed to enter the reserve," said Etkes. Yasser Mohammed Hamdan, one of the two Palestinians with Etkes, said the parks inspector "approached me and said I couldn't enter," adding: "I didn't get any explanation. This is a difficult feeling, because I have land inside the reserve, but I can't go there." Hamdan spent seven years in an Israeli jail for terrorist offenses committed during the first intifada, but said he has not been denied entry to a public place on account of his record in years. The other Palestinian who was barred from entering Ein Prat served a jail sentence of just 10 days. The incident earlier this month is only the latest at that site, said Anata Mayor Taha Hamdan. The three men had gone to the reserve to investigate a complaint by the mayor that authority inspectors were conducting security checks on visitors to the reserve and denying entry to people with a record of security offenses. Taha Hamdan said he discovered the new procedure a few months ago, when he visited the reserve with a friend. He was allowed to enter, but after inspectors examined his friend's identity card, the friend was denied entry due to a past conviction on terrorism charges. "It's okay to protect nature, and that's above any conflict," Hamdan said. "But why make a distinction between people like this and deny them entry to the reserve? It was really disappointing to return home with our friend like that after we just wanted to enjoy ourselves a little in the reserve." The Nature and Parks Authority said the security checks are done at the discretion of on-site parks inspectors. "The checks are performed selectively, at the discretion of the worker at the entrance, on anyone who seeks to enter the territory of the nature reserve by a route other than the entrance from the settlement," the authority said in a statement. Etkes, Yasser Mohammed Hamdan and the third man came to the nature reserve via a dirt road often used by Palestinians, rather than entering via the main road from the nearby Jewish settlement of Anatot. The parks authority did not respond to questions of who approved this procedure, when it was instituted or why it exists at this reserve but not others. Inquiries at other West Bank nature reserves revealed that

these reserves don't check the security records of Palestinians visitors. These include the reserve of Einot Tsukim (Ein Feshkha), which is visited by many Palestinians, and a reserve located near Ein Prat that allows free entry to both Palestinians and Israelis with no security checks whatsoever. The decision to bar entry to Palestinians with security records "is another manifestation of the expropriation of most of the West Bank from the Palestinians and its appropriation to the Israelis," said Etkes. "But this time, it's happening under the guise of security considerations. This is further proof, for anyone who needed it, of the fact that the Nature and Parks Authority is yet another agency through which Israel engineers the expanse of the occupation." Ein Prat also charges a higher fee to Palestinian residents of the area than it does to residents of nearby settlements, even though some of the local Palestinians own land inside the reserve. According to Israel's Civil Administration in the West Bank, residents of settlements in the Binyamin region get a discount because those settlements contribute to developing and maintaining the reserve. However, the administration added, it is currently looking into the possibility of giving discounts to other population groups as well. ([Haaretz](#) 20 December 2013)

- 'No Judea, Samaria Building without Netanyahu's Go-Ahead'. Prime Minister signs off on all construction in Judea and Samaria, is preventing new projects, Israel Lands Authority official reveals. The head of the Israel Lands Authority, Bentzi Lieberman, revealed Sunday that no construction project in Judea and Samaria (Shomron) goes into effect without approval from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. "The marketing in Judea and Samaria is diplomatic-political, and the Prime Minister is one of the only ones who gives authorizations," Lieberman was quoted by *IDF Radio* (Galei Tzahal) as saying at the Conference for Quality Government. Approvals for construction in Judea and Samaria "are not in the 2014 work plan," Lieberman said. Construction in Judea and Samaria is a source of tension between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the United States and Europe. The PA claims that construction for Israelis in the region hampers diplomatic talks. PA leaders recently threatened to end diplomatic talks if Israel does not cancel building tenders for roughly **20,000 homes** in Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem. The U.S. and EU have been **strongly critical** of Israeli construction as well. Israeli leaders say Israeli communities in the area have a right to exist and to grow. Over the past several years construction has been approved only within the borders of existing communities, and primarily in "settlement bloc" cities, which have been slated to remain under Israeli sovereignty under the terms of

previous proposed agreements with the PA. (Israel National News 22 December 2013)

- Report: Netanyahu to Begin Building Freeze in Judea and Samaria. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu allegedly slated to cave in to international pressure, freeze marketing and construction plans. The Prime Minister's Office will institute another building freeze in Judea and Samaria next week, *Maariv* reports Tuesday. Unconfirmed "Israeli officials" stated to the daily that the government - which is also set to release 24 more Arab terrorists as part of the negotiations with the Palestinian Authority (PA) - has postponed marketing plans for Judea and Samaria land for the time being. The result: a de facto building freeze in the region. If true, the news confirms reports that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has been **preventing new building** in Judea and Samaria, and that the go-ahead for new projects is exclusively in his hands. On Sunday, Bentzi Liberman, the head of the Israel Lands Authority stated, "the marketing in Judea and Samaria is diplomatic-political, and the Prime Minister is one of the only ones who gives authorizations." Approvals for construction in Judea and Samaria "are not in the 2014 work plan," Liberman said. In addition, the IDF complained earlier this month that the Prime Minister has been **preventing plans** from going through which would allow military academies to be built on Mount Scopus. The plans had been approved in 2012, but have been postponed multiple times because of red tape, according to the official. "If they had not stopped me, I could have gotten it done a long time ago," says a source involved with the details of the project. "The trouble is that we have reached a situation where nothing can advance in the city without the approval of higher politicians. Sometimes the smallest actions require the approval of the prime minister [himself]," according to the source. "Only when we release terrorists, or when the Palestinian Authority turns to the United Nations, does the Prime Minister's Office give us permission to build. This is an abnormal situation," the source concluded. *Maariv* quotes a "political source" who insists that the move stems from continuing pressure from Europe and the United States not to link a terrorist release with construction in the region, as Netanyahu has done in the past. The source claims that both foreign national bodies warned that more building would torpedo the ongoing peace talks between Israel and the PA. The PA has continually denied to the international media that it agreed to allow more construction in Jewish villages in Judea and Samaria as part of the agreement. International pressure regarding building over 1949 Armistice lines has been escalating over the past several months. PA leaders recently threatened to end diplomatic talks

if Israel does not cancel building tenders for roughly **20,000 homes** in Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem. The US and EU have been **strongly critical** of Israeli construction as well. Both have linked "settlements" to the success of talks, and have put enormous pressure on Israel to successfully implement a two-state solution. US Secretary of State John Kerry will allegedly **present an interim deal** to Israel in January 2014; reports indicate that he will **"force"** a deal on the Prime Minister which would include major withdrawals from Judea and Samaria over a 5-10 year period. The EU, meanwhile, has offered an enormous **economic aid package** to both the PA and Israel in the event that talks succeed. ([Israel National News](#) 24 December 2013)

- Report: New Revelations On Kerry's Israel Plan. Kerry wants IDF Jordan border control gradually shifts to PA, IDF drones to monitor Judea Samaria terror following withdrawals. Additional details about US Secretary of State John Kerry's security arrangement plans were revealed in a report by *Galei Tzahal* (IDF Radio) on Tuesday morning. Kerry's plans reportedly give Israel temporary control of the Jordan border, soon shifting control to the Palestinian Authority (PA). The IDF will patrol the length of the Jordan border for the first few years of the US plan. However, after a few years joint patrols will be held with PA forces, with the cooperation of the Jordanians on the other side of the river. This aspect of Jordan Valley withdrawals in stages over 5 to 10 years matches the **contents of Kerry's secret plan** revealed by journalist Baruch Yedid to *Arutz Sheva* earlier this week. Yedid's revelations came from his extensive official and unofficial PA sources. Israeli withdrawals in the plan appear to include large parts of Judea and Samaria, as the new report mentions Kerry's intentions to build a massive border fence in the area. Regarding the security threat, of what is feared by many to become a terror state in Judea and Samaria, Kerry's plan would have the IDF deploy drones over the area to monitor terrorist activities and gather information. Apparently the presence of drones in Judea and Samaria is the "creative security solutions" Yedid spoke of, when he noted that Israeli security sources added such "solutions" to meet US demands when submitting the plan to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. While Israel has said Kerry's plan could be an opening for negotiations, PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas has **rejected** the plan, and further called an Arab League emergency meeting in which **they rejected** the plan as well. Nevertheless, Kerry's aids have reportedly rented 50 rooms in a Jerusalem hotel for January to mount a diplomatic "attack" on Netanyahu, **forcing him** to accept the plan of Israeli withdrawals. Yedid's sources confirmed the reports, adding the Americans have also

rented 2 or 3 stories in a luxury Jerusalem hotel for computerized equipment, maps and databases to aid their efforts. Analyst Mark Langfan has called the plan a "**death-trap**" for Israel. Langfan added that the plan doesn't even meet the **minimum "defensible"** borders presented in a secret 1967 US Joint Chiefs of Staff (USJCoS) memorandum, based on the military technology realities of 1967. ([Israel National News](#) 24 December 2013)

- Official: Netanyahu plans new settlement construction. Israeli official says Netanyahu is likely to announce plans for new settlement construction next week, coinciding with expected release of third group of Palestinian prisoners. [Israel](#) likely will announce new plans for construction in Jewish settlements next week, an official said Wednesday, a move that is likely to trigger an international uproar and threaten peace talks with the Palestinians. The timing of the announcement would coincide with the expected release of a group of Palestinian prisoners. The government has announced new settlement construction plans during previous prisoner releases to blunt domestic criticism. The Israeli official said he "expects" an announcement on new construction next week, but declined to elaborate. He spoke on condition of anonymity pending a formal announcement. Israel's Channel 2 TV said Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) planned to announce "massive construction" next week. Channel 10 TV spoke of 1,000 to 2,000 new homes. Both reports cited anonymous officials close to the prime minister. Wasil Abu Yousif, a [Palestinian official](#), said the expected announcement is evidence that Israel is "not serious" about [pursuing peace](#). "It's clear to everyone now that the Israeli government is [killing](#) the peace process." While stopping short of threatening to withdraw from the current round of peace negotiations, he said Israel's policy would force the Palestinians to seek "more substantial alternatives." Israeli construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem has been a major source of tension in Mideast peace efforts. More than 550,000 Israelis live among 2.5 million Palestinians in these areas, raising fears that the growing numbers will soon reach a point of no return that will make it impossible to partition the land. For years, the Palestinians refused to negotiate with Israel while settlement construction continued, saying it was a sign of bad faith. But under heavy US pressure, the Palestinians reluctantly agreed to resume talks with Israel last summer. Under a US-brokered package, Israel agreed to release 104 long-serving Palestinian prisoners. The releases, taking place in four stages, have caused an uproar in Israel because the

prisoners have been convicted in deadly attacks on Israelis. Next week's release would be the third stage. While Israel did not agree to halt settlement construction, US Secretary of State John Kerry has urged restraint. During one visit to Israel, he questioned Israel's commitment to peace in light of the ongoing construction. Because of the Christmas holiday, there was no immediate American reaction Wednesday. The international community considers Israeli settlements to be illegal or illegitimate. The European Union said last week it had asked Israel not to announce new construction in connection with the prisoner release, warning Israel would be held responsible for a resulting failure in peace talks. The Israeli official said Israel is "strictly abiding by understandings reached in the framework of this round of negotiations." The talks are scheduled to last for nine months, until late April, with the goal of reaching a "framework" agreement. ([Ynetnews](#) 25 December 2013)

- UN condemns Israeli demolitions of Palestinian homes. United Nations' Agency for Palestinian refugees condemns Israel's demolitions of Palestinian structures in West Bank, urging Israel to 'immediately halt' demolition, which displaced hundreds during 2013. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees on Wednesday condemned Israeli demolitions of Palestinian structures in the West Bank and called on [Israel](#) to "immediately halt" them. "UNRWA condemns the latest demolitions in the [West Bank](#), which displaced 68 people, the most recent of which occurred on Christmas Eve," spokesperson Chris Gunness said. "The demolitions took place in Ein Ayoub near Ramallah and Fasayil al-Wusta near Jericho in the [Jordan](#) valley with 61 persons displaced in Ein Ayoub, and seven persons, all refugees, displaced in Fasayil al-Wusta," he added in the statement. Gunness said at least 1,103 Palestinians have been "displaced" with "663 structures, including 259 residential units" demolished in the West Bank and [east Jerusalem](#) during 2013. Gunness said Israel must "abide by its obligations under international law" and called for an "immediate halt to administrative demolitions." A spokesperson for the [Civil Administration](#), the Israeli military body that administers parts of the West Bank, did not immediately comment. Israel says it only demolishes structures that have been built without the required permission, but Palestinians say they are rarely granted permits. ([Ynetnews](#) 25 December 2013)
- Knesset Interior Committee holds heated discussion over alleged destruction of ancient Jewish relics on Temple Mount. MK Feiglin accuses Wakf Muslim religious trust of illegally removing antiquities

from First and Second Temple eras. The Knesset Interior Committee on Tuesday held a heated meeting with concerned MKs, representatives from the Antiquities Authority and police to discuss accountability and oversight of archeological relics allegedly being illegally removed from the Temple Mount. According to MK Moshe Feiglin (Likud Beytenu) – an outspoken advocate for equal Jewish prayer rights at the holy site – the Wakf Muslim religious trust, which controls the area, is responsible for the purported illegal activity. “For more than 15 years I have gone to the Temple Mount at least once a month, and I see that slowly but surely relics are being removed,” he said Tuesday. “I see it with my own eyes.” Feiglin accused the Wakf of spearheading an ongoing campaign to remove antiquities – including wooden pillars and other remnants from the First and Second Temples – in an attempt to erase Jewish history from the area. “No one else has an interest in removing these artifacts,” he said. “When I first started going up, there were big piles of wooden pillars on the south-end section by the Aksa Mosque – wood from the time of King Solomon! And every month I have seen the pile getting smaller and smaller.” MK David Tzur (Hatnua) led the meeting in committee chairwoman MK Miri Regev (Likud Beytenu)’s absence. The discussion was initiated by MK Orit Struck (Bayit Yehudi), Feiglin and MK Hilik Bar (Labor) to address their joint concerns over the alleged infractions. Although Cmdr. Avi Biton of the Israel Police claimed supervision of the Temple Mount is “better than ever,” committee members called into question the Antiquities Authority’s purported lax oversight of the holy site. While Dr. Yuval Baruch, the Jerusalem regional director of the Antiquities Authority, conceded that some relics may have been displaced without the organization’s knowledge, he claimed that the authority is not, in fact, responsible for management of the Temple Mount. “Any request for action on the Mount is ultimately the responsibility of the Ministerial Committee for Holy Places,” he said. Indeed, according to the Antiquities Authority’s website, the organization is not directly responsible for archeological activities at locations legally defined as “holy sites,” including the Temple Mount. “Any changes [e.g., excavation, construction, preservation of ancient walls, etc.] require approval of the Ministerial Committee for Holy Places, which consists of the ministers of justice, education and religious affairs,” it stated. “The Antiquities Authority is responsible for the integrity of these holy sites.” Still, Struck pointedly asked how such an ongoing lack of accountability and “lawlessness” could remain unchecked at Judaism’s most sacred location. “We cannot abandon even the wooden beams of [the Temple],” the MK said. While Feiglin claimed he understood the

complexity given the numerous parties involved, he emphasized that he does “not accept the situation.” “It’s amazing that a nation with 3,000 years of history can allow this to happen,” he said. “No normal nation would let something like this take place,” Feiglin continued, adding that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu must be held accountable for the ongoing lack of appropriate oversight. To that end, the committee agreed to send a formal inquiry of the matter to the Prime Minister’s Office, to be reviewed upon its completion. Asked for comment regarding Feiglin’s accusations against the Wakf’s alleged removal of Jewish artifacts, Meretz councilman Dr. Meir Margalit, who holds the east Jerusalem portfolio, said he was dubious of the MK’s claims. “I don’t believe Feiglin’s comments,” said Margalit by phone Tuesday. “Of course I am against such actions, just as I am against Elad [the Ir David Foundation] removing all kinds of artifacts that belong to the Christian and Muslim periods in the City of David.” Margalit said regardless of Feiglin’s assertions, political ideology must be entirely removed from all archeological endeavors in the capital. “I think it is very urgent to create a committee of neutral academics and archeologists from different countries and bring them to the city to check what is going on in both places and prepare a report,” he said. The Interior Committee said it will reconvene after the Prime Minister’s Office completes its requested inquiry. ([IPOST](#) 25 December 2013)

- Prisoners Release Sweetener: 1,400 New Homes. Prime Minister set to announce tenders for new homes in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria next week. Embracing the idea that “a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down,” Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has told the relevant ministries to publish tenders for the sale of 1,400 housing units in the disputed heartland of the Jewish state next week, to coincide with the release of 26 terrorist murderers, according to *Maariv-NRG*. The news site quotes diplomatic sources as saying 600-700 homes will be sold in Jerusalem, apparently in Ramat Shlomo, and the rest of the units marketed will be in Judea and Samaria, most likely inside the “settlement blocs.” Finance Minister Yair Lapid (Yesh Atid) criticized the plan in a joint press conference Thursday with Health Minister Yael German at Ziv Hospital in Tzfat. “It was wrong to connect the matter of the prisoner release to the announcements of construction in Judea and Samaria,” said Lapid. MK Moshe Feiglin (Likud-Beytenu) used stronger language, calling the linkage between the release of murderers and the construction of new homes “a moral infection and a prostitution of the value of settling in the Land of Israel.” MK Feiglin

wrote on his Facebook page that in the course of his visits with Jonathan Pollard, the jailed Israeli agent told him “I refuse to be released in exchange for terrorists. I would rather die in jail than see a single Jew murdered by a terrorist who was freed in exchange for me.” The Palestinian Authority’s “minister for prisoners” told *Maariv*-NRG that “the equation of releasing prisoners in return for construction in the settlements is unacceptable to us.” “Unlike the release of prisoners, which advances the peace process and creates hope in people’s hearts regarding the possibility of reaching an agreement, construction in the settlements destroys the possibility of progress [in talks] between the sides,” he said. The Supreme Court **rejected on Thursday** a petition seeking a temporary restraining order on the **third batch** of 20 terrorist murderers set to be released early next week as part of peace talk “gestures.” The planned release has evoked **strong protests**. “With all due understanding of the petitioners’ pain, their petition does not raise any legal ground for intervention. The claims have been raised and ruled on in the past,” stated the judges. Petitioners had called for the establishment of clear criteria regarding the release of terrorists, and the cessation of terrorist releases until then. ([Israel National News](#) 26 December 2013)

- ‘We Won’t Let Jordan Valley Become a Second Lebanon’. Council head warns Jordan Valley could become terror base, says Israeli residents gearing up for a struggle. Residents of the Jordan Valley will fight the latest attempts to delegitimize their presence in the area, Jordan Valley Council head David Elhayani told Arutz Sheva. United States diplomats have been promoting the idea of **an eventual Israeli withdrawal** from the region, in the context of a final agreement proposed by the Obama administration. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has reportedly suggested that international forces could protect against terrorism in the IDF’s absence. But residents of the Jordan Valley are up in arms at the suggestion, which they say compromises Israel’s security. “The communities of the Jordan Valley will not sit silently in the face of the recent reports regarding a change in the Jordan Valley’s status, at least in the Americans’ eyes,” Elhayani said. Residents are planning a campaign “to explain the importance to security of the Jordan Valley communities, to explain that this is important to the entire nation of Israel,” he said. “We want the position that the Jordan Valley needs to be under Israeli sovereignty to have overwhelming support, so there will be no question mark hanging over the Jordan Valley’s future,” he explained. Replacing Israeli communities with an international force would be a disaster for Israel, he warned. The area would be like southern Lebanon, he said, where

Hezbollah seized control and deployed thousands of rockets aimed at Israeli cities, despite the presence of international troops. "You and I can't send an army to patrol the border with Jordan in a hostile Palestinian environment, where an RPG could be fired at them at any moment," he stated. Palestinian terrorist groups have already declared that if foreign troops are stationed in the region, **they will be attacked**. "There will be no security here without Israelis living here," Elhayani concluded. The Jordan Valley runs through eastern Samaria (Shomron), to the north of what is often referred to as the "West Bank". Vis-a-vis negotiations, Israeli leaders have long subscribed to the "**Allon Plan**", which maintains that in the event of a withdrawal from the rest of Judea and Samaria, the Jordan Valley would need to be kept by Israel for strategic reasons. But the theory that an Israeli withdrawal from Judea and Samaria would still be "safe" for the Jewish state as long as a presence was maintained in the Jordan Valley has been challenged. In particular, Arutz Sheva analyst Mark Langfan has pointed towards **formerly classified US military documents** which posit that, on the contrary, the Jordan Valley - along with all of central Israel - would be extremely vulnerable to attack in the event of an Israeli withdrawal from the rest of Judea and Samaria. Langfan further warns that any military presence in the Valley - Israeli or otherwise - **would not be sustainable** if the neighboring highlands of western Samaria were ceded to the Palestinian Authority. In any event, John Kerry's proposed plan is said to preclude even an Israeli presence in the Jordan Valley. **Kerry's plan** would reportedly only permit Israel to partially retain the 15 kilometer (9 mile) wide strip of the Jordan Valley as a security zone for 10 years. ([Israel National News](#) 26 December 2013)

- Israel to build new West Bank homes, Palestinians urge US to intervene. As Israel announces plans to build 1,400 new settlement housing units, Palestinians petition US to halt move, 'save the peace process'. A senior negotiator says the Palestinian president has appealed to the US to block plans by Israel to announce new construction of 1,400 settlement housing units. Top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said President Mahmoud Abbas voiced his plea at a late-night meeting with senior US officials Thursday in West Bank. Abbas "asked for US intervention to stop the Israeli government from issuing new settlement decisions in order to save the peace process and the American efforts," Erekat said Friday. Thursday Abbas met with US Mideast peace envoy Martin Indyk in Ramallah. Israel plans to build a further 1,400 homes in the West Bank, and will announce the projects next week after releasing a group of Palestinian prisoners, an

Israeli government official said on Friday. The Palestinians have said any further expansion of Israeli settlements on land they seek for a state could derail US-brokered peace talks that resumed in July after a three-year break. Israel has been expected to release about two dozen Palestinian prisoners, the third group to be freed since the negotiations restarted, by the middle of next week and to announce a new settlement push of hitherto undisclosed size shortly after. The official said about 600 homes would be announced in Ramat Shlomo, a settlement of mainly Ultra-Orthodox Jews located in East Jerusalem. Another 800 would be built in several other West Bank settlements which Israel also plans to keep in any future peace deal, though the list was not yet finalized, the official – who spoke on condition of anonymity – said. Israel had agreed to release 104 long-serving Palestinian prisoners, convicted of killing Israelis at least 20 years ago, as part of the package worked out by Washington to resume the peace talks. A previous round of direct negotiations broke down in 2010 in a dispute over settlement construction, and since their revival this year the peace talks have shown little sign of progress. ([Ynetnews](#) 27 December 2013)

- Ministers support bill annexing Jordan Valley settlements to Israel. Bill would extend Israeli legal, administrative systems to West Bank settlements and lift restrictions on construction. A bill to annex the Jewish settlements in the Jordan Valley to Israel and apply Israeli law to them, was passed Sunday by the Ministerial Committee for Legislation, 8:3. However, Justice Minister Tzipi Livni (Hatnuah) and Science and Technology Minister Jacob Perry (Yesh Atid), both of whom opposed the bill, said they would appeal the decision and demand a revote. The bill was also opposed by Finance Minister Yair Lapid (Yesh Atid). Voting in support were ministers from the Likud, Habayit Hayehudi, and Yisrael Beiteinu. Meanwhile, the yea vote means that the bill, sponsored by Likud MK Miri Regev, will go to the plenum with government backing. Under the bill, the State of Israel's legal and administrative system would apply to the settlements in the Jordan Valley and the roads leading to them. No restrictions will apply to construction in the area unless specifically approved by the Knesset. Regev said she submitted the bill "solely for diplomatic and security reasons, since the communities and lands of the Jordan Valley constitute the strategic defense line of the State of Israel on its long eastern border." Livni condemned the ministers for supporting the bill and wondered why, on issues of far less importance, they insisted on a lengthy debate. The vote in this case had been taken "in haste," she said. "This is an irresponsible and populist bill that seeks to tie the

hands of the government and the prime minister” as it pursues peace talks with the Palestinians, Livni said. “Its price will be harm to the State of Israel and isolation in the world.” Interior Minister Gideon Sa’ar, however, countered: “During the period of the disengagement [from Gaza] the prime minister and the defense minister promised that security would be assured by leaving military forces along the Philadelphi Corridor, but in the end that didn’t happen. A military presence is not sufficient to provide security.” Sa’ar added: “There is a public consensus that the Jordan Valley will remain Israeli. It’s not so terrible for the world to also know that the Jordan Valley will remain Israeli under any permanent arrangement.” Meretz chairman MK Zehava Galon responded to the vote by saying that “de facto annexation of the Jordan Valley not only contravenes international law, it’s an unnecessary provocation when the American administration is trying to advance a diplomatic agreement. In an era in which the future threat from the east comes from high-trajectory weapons, even security experts understand that the valley no longer serves as a security barrier. Therefore, the initiative to apply Israeli law in the Jordan Valley is a purely political initiative and not a strategic-security one.” The Likud ministers know very well that the bill will never pass the Knesset, a political source said on Sunday. “So they can allow themselves to flex their muscles for a while and speak about the importance of settlement in the valley. They also knew that Livni and Lapid would appeal, so today’s vote was irrelevant.” Dr. Saeb Erekat, Member of the PLO’s Executive Committee said the bill is yet further evidence of Israel’s disinterest in a two-state solution. “Netanyahu’s government continues to destroy international peacemaking efforts by turning its occupation into an annexation,” he said in a statement to the press. “Denying Palestine of its only international border with Jordan is a clear step towards a permanent Apartheid regime consisting of one state with two segregated systems.” “The international community must hold Israel accountable for this latest step. This government of settlers, for the settlers and by the settlers is succeeding in destroying the chances of a negotiated two-state solution. We reiterate our call upon the international community to ban all settlement products, and to cut all possible ties with the Israeli occupation, including the organizations supporting it. We call upon the countries who have not yet recognized the State of Palestine on the 1967 border to do so. Palestine is currently evaluating its next steps, including recourse through legal and diplomatic venues such as the International Criminal Court and other international forums.” (Haaretz 29 December 2013)

- Netanyahu warned against Jordan Valley annexation bill prior to vote. All Likud ministers on committee voted to annex settlements in Jordan Valley despite PM's warning that this move could hurt Israel's standing in peace talks. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Likud ministers on Sunday morning against voting for a bill to annex Jordan Valley settlements, saying such a move could be perceived as provocative and might harm Israel. According to a minister present at the closed meeting, Netanyahu said discussing MK Miri Regev's bill to annex the Jordan Valley at this time might be considered "outrageous" and even cause damage. The minister told Haaretz that though Netanyahu did not ask his party to vote against the bill, he advised against raising the issue of annexation at this time. The minister added that Netanyahu told the ministers that peace talks were not nearing completion, and therefore there was no room for such moves, and that any decisions that affect the peace process should go through the government and not through independent legislation by individual members of Knesset. Hours after the closed Likud meeting, the Ministerial Committee for Legislation convened, and, despite Netanyahu's warning, all Likud ministers in the committee voted for Regev's bill. The bill passed the committee vote 8-3. Following the vote, Justice Minister Tzipi Livni and Science and Technology Minister Jacob Perry appealed the vote. Now, this hot potato will return to Netanyahu, who will have to find a way to freeze the bill and prevent it from reaching the Knesset plenum, where the government would vote on the issue. ([Haaretz](#) 29 December 2013)
- Has Court Found a Solution for Amona? Israelis facing expulsion in Amona hopeful as court apparently seeks to register their land claim. A new development in the **legal battle over the town of Amona** has given Israeli residents cause for cautious optimism. The court has asked residents to deposit hundreds of thousands of shekels in order to officially register their claims to land in the community. The town of Amona north of Jerusalem has faced the threat of forcible eviction since 2006, when the Supreme Court ruled that it was built in part on privately owned Arab land. Amona residents say that most of the land on which their community was built was legally purchased from local Arabs. They are asking the court not to seek demolition orders against homes built on the purchased land. Rabbi Yair Frankel of Amona spoke to Arutz Sheva about the case. Currently, he explained, the debate before the Supreme Court is centered on the question of lands that have been claimed as Arab-owned land in theory, but which are not claimed by any particular Arab as his or her property. "The state has argued that we should **remain where we are**, because there's no

logical reason to expel families when there is no claimant,” he said. “We are arguing that, beyond that, as those who have been on the land for about twenty years we have rights.” The money that Amona residents are being asked to leave as a deposit would be set side and given as compensation to Arab owners of the land, if such owners do in fact exist and later make an appearance, he explained. Residents came up with the money by taking loans, he said. “We’ll have to raise the money later,” he added. Some of the Arabs seeking Amona’s destruction are affiliated with Hamas, Rabbi Frankel reported. However, he said, many are simply afraid of what will happen to them if they do not go along with the lawsuit. “Some of them are arguing that the land is their’s because of the law that selling land to Jews is a death penalty offense,” he said, referring to a Palestinian Authority law which imposes the death penalty for selling land to Jews. “If that law weren’t there, the same people would happily take the money and it would be over, but because of that law and the violence in the Palestinian street, those who sold their land and those with no connection to the land are fearful, and claim ownership.” ([Israel National News](#) 29 December 2013)

- Proposal on Jordan Valley: Make It Part of Israel. MK Regev seeks Israeli sovereignty in Jordan Valley, warns constant land concessions ‘could leave us with just Tel Aviv.’ A new proposed law that will come before government Sunday would counter United States Secretary of State **John Kerry’s proposals** regarding the status of the Jordan Valley. While Kerry is putting heavy pressure on Israel to hand control of the **strategically valuable area** to the Palestinian Authority, MK Miri Regev (Likud), head of the Knesset’s Internal Affairs Committee, is suggesting that Israel do the opposite: officially annex the region. The purpose of the law is simple, Regev said, “To ensure that the current government of Israel continues to maintain Israel’s eastern line of defense, as every previous government has done.” There is precedent for annexing strategically critical land disputed land, she noted. “Just to remind everyone, there was opposition to imposing Israeli sovereignty on the Golan region, but the sky didn’t fall when it happened,” she said. “It’s no secret that the towns in the Jordan Valley have tremendous importance in terms of defense and strategy... Ultimately, we have a responsibility to the citizens of Israel,” Regev declared. “Not every round of negotiations has to end with land concessions and forcibly evacuating Israeli towns,” she added. “If this continues, eventually we’ll end up with just central Tel Aviv.” Regev expressed hope that the ministers from Likud, Yisrael Beytenu and Jewish Home would not vote down her proposal despite the

controversy – and international backlash – expected over declaring land claimed by the Palestinian Authority to be officially Israeli territory. She noted that the Likud had just had a stormy party meeting “in which the ministers made it clear to the government how important they think it is to keep the towns in the Jordan Valley.” A similar law has been put forth by MK Motti Yogev (Jewish Home). Yogev argued that the overwhelming majority of Israeli citizens agree that Israel must keep the Jordan Valley. “The Jordan Valley is strategically vital, and must remain under Israeli sovereignty under any future diplomatic arrangement,” he stated. ([Israel National News](#) 29 December 2013)

- Israel’s population reaches more than 8 million at year’s end. 6.1 million are Jewish, 1.6 are Muslims, Arab-Christian and Druse; population is on track to reach 11.4 million by 2035. Israel’s population is over 8 million at the close of 2013, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced Sunday. The CBS report, published just days before the New Year, estimates that the population of Israel is 8,132,000. The country’s population increased by 1.8 percent – or 147,000 people – since 2012, according to the report. Before this past Rosh Hashana, CBS’s annual report showed that the Israeli population surpassed 8 million. Sunday’s data showed that 75.2% of the country – approximately 6.1 million Israelis – are Jewish. The Arab population of Israel, which includes Muslims, Arab-Christians, and Druse, is 20.6% – 1.6 million. The remaining 4% of Israel’s population – 348,000 – are either non-Arab Christians, individuals practicing another religion, or those with no religious affiliation. The report also showed that 175,000 infants were born in Israel in 2013. In a similar report CBS published on Independence Day last April, about 41,000 people died and some 163,000 infants were born from 2012’s Independence Day to 2013’s. Israel’s population is on track to reach 11.4 million by 2035, according to a report CBS released in June. Israel’s annual population growth rate, however, is predicted to decline from 1.8% to 1.4% because of declining fertility rates. Nevertheless, Israel will remain exceptionally fertile, especially in comparison to neighboring Arab states. Citing UN estimates, CBS indicated the most fertile Arab nation, Jordan, has a projected 2035 fertility rate of 2.41 children born to the average woman. Israel’s Jewish fertility rate, in comparison, is predicted to increase from 2.99 to 3.04, while the rate for Israeli Muslims is projected to decline from 3.37 to 2.71. CBS also estimates that Israel’s already high life expectancy is set to increase across all sectors by 2035. In 22 years, the average Jewish female born in Israel may expect to live 89.5 years, as opposed to 86.3 for Arab females, 84.8 for Jewish males, and 81.6 for Arab males. CBS’s latest population statistics do not account for the

foreign population of approximately 202,000 who live in Israel, which includes anyone who entered Israel without a residence permit. ([IPOST](#) 29 December 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Authorities issued tenders to construct more than 1400 new housing units in several Israeli settlements in West Bank; as follow: 600 housing units in settlements in east Jerusalem, 100 housing units in Immanuel settlement, 80 housing units in Karne Shomron settlement, 100 housing units in Adam settlement, 60 housing units in Alfei Menashe settlement, 40 housing units in Ariel settlement, 40 housing units Pisgat Ze'ev settlement, 40 housing units in Betar Illit settlement and 100 housing units in others location in Israeli settlement. (Al-Quds 30 December 2013)
- Yair Lapid: 'Time to separate from the Palestinians'. Minister of Finance referred to the political negotiations and said that "we want to divorce them because we cannot pick our midst four million Palestinians." About equality burden Lapid said that "working people do not have to pay the bills of people who have decided not to come to work" Finance Minister Yair Lapid referred to political negotiations, saying that "we still need to bring a settlement with the Palestinians, it was time to say goodbye to them." He said, "We are not looking for a wedding with the Palestinians, we want to divorce them finally because we cannot swallow his victim more than 4 million Palestinians, and continue to be Jewish and Zionist state." Lapid spoke at Kalkalist deals projections and said, "My prediction is that we will continue to work hard and fight for every day. The lesson taught us last year. This is a reminder that we receive every day. Struggle never ends." "We still have in passing the second reading and third equality burden and spend tens of thousands of Orthodox young people into the labor market that we can no longer pay their bills. We need to move the entire country from a culture of allowances culture of work that the people working does not have to pay the bills of people who have decided not to come to them to work," said Minister of Finance. - [Saeb Erekat: the annexation of the Jordan Valley - grounds for appeal to the United Nations](#) - [Ayelet Shaked: There a Future invited to quit the coalition](#) torch also made it clear that he is aware that there is a lot more to complete tasks in front of issues like civil marriage and changing the system of government. "We are facing political forces accustomed for years to thwart any attempt to change the status quo. They are lubricated, they are effective, and they do not surrender without a fight. "System does not want to change, so we'll make it. Things happen that I mentioned here, sooner, later, easily or with

difficulty, but they happen, because there is one thing we have learned: No Nothing in this world can resist a determined group of people who have the right ideas and the right values. “(NRG 30 December 2013)

- Stating facts: Saar inaugurates a new neighborhood in the Jordan valley. The Land of Israel will conduct a tour of the valley communities MKs and Minister of the Interior, in view of approving the valley sovereignty. Against the background of political turmoil and political concerning a possible evacuation of [the Jordan Valley](#) in a future settlement and attempts to Israeli sovereignty over the region in the legislation, visit this week Interior Minister Gideon Saar valley and inaugurate a new neighborhood community Gittit. Saar's visit will take place in partnership with the Land of Israel Lobby in the Knesset, which rejects any political agreement or evacuation areas. Statement circulated in a limited circulation for the event was members of the Knesset to reach tour "in light of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians." Beyond the dedication neighborhood Gittit are also expected Knesset members visit other communities in the valley, and among other things they will tour the post Plunger, where they "learn about the strategic importance of Jordan Valley, "as the message spread by the [Land of Israel Lobby](#). Sa'ar reach the valley leading a group of Knesset members from Likud, Shas, Yisrael Beiteinu and the house of Judah and the whole event will be held under the slogan "Jordan Valley Israeli." in preparation for the visit organized settlers tractors and mixers Concrete, when their intention is to direct a picture of Minister Sa'ar and other members of the Knesset pour foundations for new houses Gittit. thus, hope the organizers, sent a clear message to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, which should be clarified that there is a resistance to substantial concessions in the Jordan Valley and that residents will not accept them easily. Visiting minister Saar particularly noticeable against the failure of senior ministers Likud reaching events associated with the settler Likud members, which include for example the refusal to increase the ruins of the Sa - Nur and dedication of the community there, conducted earlier this year. (NRG 31 December 2013)
- How many housing units were built in the territories since negotiations began? Within a day, 26 Palestinian terrorists are expected to be released. The two previous rounds which freed Palestinian terrorists brought with them assurances from Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu

that there will be more construction in the territories. So what is the situation on the ground related to settlement construction in the territories since the beginning of negotiations? Building in the territories in exchange for freeing prisoners is the equation created by Israel's Prime Minister since the negotiations began. A day before another 26 Palestinian terrorists are set to be released from Israeli jails, there are voices critical of freeing terrorists alongside the renewed construction in the territories. Since the beginning of the negotiations, the Israeli government has progressed in the construction of 8,056 housing units in the territories, a record by all accounts. The building of course has still not begun, but an aerial tour of the West Bank reveals the actual construction of thousands of housing units already. The largest amount of construction is reported to be in Bracha, close to Nablus. Not far away, in Yitzhar, another construction project appears to be in the works these days. A similar picture emerges in the landscape of Nehemiah. The building boom did not skip over Ariel either. So how many housing units are being built these days in the territories? According to estimates by settlers, about 1,400 housing units are being built in the territories. The Israel Central Bureau of Statistics states about 2,500 housing units are being constructed, while if you ask Peace Now, the number is about 3,000. One of the accusations against the Palestinian Authority is the fact that under their watch, during the negotiations, Israel continues to build in the territories. Every increase in settlement construction within the territories brings home the message that PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas cannot justify the Palestinians continuing to negotiate with Israel. "If Netanyahu really wants a two-state solution, there is no reason now to build thousands of housing units in the territories," Lior Amichai of Peace Now stated. "Netanyahu is exploiting the negotiations and the release of prisoners in order to build and certify thousands of housing units." Conversely, Yigal Dilmoni, Yesha Council Head, stated that the release of Palestinian terrorists "is designed to satisfy their desire for negotiations, the Palestinians and some elements of the government." According to him, there is no connection between this and construction in Judea and Samaria. "We will continue to build in Judea and Samaria, without a connection to official negotiations or the release of terrorists." ([Jerusalem Online](#) 31 December 2013)

- Netanyahu: Talks in our interest, but Palestinian must recognize Jewish state. After Livni warned of economic dangers of talks' failure, Netanyahu claims talks in Israel's interest, Palestinian must give up

territorial demands. Meanwhile, Bennett pokes fun at Livni: 'Maybe we'll make peace with aliens' Hours before the third wave of Palestinian prisoners are expected to be released and after Israel's chief peace negotiator warned of the economic dangers of failing to reach an agreement with the Palestinians, political tensions regarding peace talks reached a new high. While Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) stressed the strategic importance of peace talks, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon claimed that between rockets and boycott, Israel prefers a boycott. Meanwhile Economy Minister Naftali Bennett took a jab at negotiations, offering Justice Minister and chief negotiator [Tzipi Livni](#) to try to make peace with extraterrestrials instead of the Palestinians. At a [Likud](#)-Beiteinu faction meeting, Netanyahu said: "The state of [Israel](#) has a strategic interest in the existence of political negotiations. Both sides have taken it upon themselves to avoid unilateral steps in the international arena." Netanyahu clarified Israel's conditions for reaching an agreement with the Palestinians, saying a deal would be signed "only if Israel will be recognized as the nation state of the Jewish people, and only if the Palestinians give up their dream of the right of return or any other demand on the territory of the Jewish nation. Above all, (an agreement) will be possible if Israel will be able to defend itself in the face of any threat it faces. "In any case, any agreement which will be reached will be put to a national referendum." Nonetheless, Netanyahu added that, "Leadership is tested by its ability to reach decisions – difficult as they may be." Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon spoke at the Calcalist committee and said: "If the alternatives are a European boycott or rockets from Nablus, Jenin, or Ramallah on Israeli cities, on our strategic homefront, on Ben Gurion Airport – we'll take the European boycott." He added, "Anyone who thinks the conflict will end on the '67 lines is simply wrong. We don't have to talk too much about the solution; we need to talk about the way. We're pressuring ourselves with all sorts of statements about time working against us." Bennett took a jab at Livni's comments that "the issues is not if there is a Palestinian partner or not. We must set a goal for ourselves – if there is no Palestinian partner - we must make peace with the world. " On his Facebook page, Bennett joked saying, "The next step – if there's no Palestinian partner, we'll go for peace with aliens." Tensions have been running high as the release of the [Palestinian prisoners](#) nears. Opposition Chairman Isaac Herzog addressed the Monday release of the prisoners, saying: "To release them with nothing real in return is immoral. We allow this move to promote the negotiations, which are vital for the future of the country, but we will not allow the prisoner release to turn into a real estate

deal." Herzog added that "to say now that we prepare for building across the Green Line, only to destroy the process for which we are doing this immoral move, only shows what failure comes from the Israeli right." ([Ynetnews](#) 31 December 2013)

- Settler leaders: Washington understands the Jordan Valley must remain in Israeli hands. Area's Regional Council head tells 'The Jerusalem Post' "the Americans cannot say this, because it would destroy the negotiations." The United States understands that the Jordan Valley must remain in Israeli hands, for security reasons, in any final status agreement with the Palestinians, and that includes its 22 settlements, David Lahiani, the area's Regional Council head, told The Jerusalem Post on Monday night. "But the Americans cannot say this, because it would destroy the negotiations," he said. Lahiani is not just imagining the American position. Three months ago a group of American military experts visited the valley, he said. It was his understanding that they saw how from a military perspective it is impossible to withdraw from the valley that borders with neighboring Jordan. The settlements bolster a military presence in the valley because otherwise the soldiers are alone in a hostile territory, Lahiani said. He is taking Sunday vote by the Ministerial Legislative Committee to annex the Jordan Valley very seriously. The vote was only the first step of a long bureaucratic process that many politicians and pundits believe will go nowhere, because its passage would need the active support of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. But the prime minister did not stop the ministers in his party from voting on the proposal sponsored by MK Miri Regev [Likud], said Lahiani. And among those that voted for the bill was Interior Minister Gideon Sa'ar who is a senior politician, Lahiani said. Sa'ar's emerging role in the battle for the Jordan Valley as well as his plan to visit the region on Thursday, gives Lahiani hope that the initiative might in the end succeed, even as most politicians and pundits have dismissed it as symbolic. "I think it is serious," said Lahiani. On Monday, Economic and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett, who heads the Bayit Yehudi party, posted on his Facebook page a 1995 quote from former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin that said, "The security border of the State of Israel will be located in the Jordan Valley, in the broadest meaning of that term." Bennett also published on his page a photo of a visit he took to the valley years ago and said, "In short, the Jordan Valley is a beautiful place, and it is too important to attempt suicide by handing it over. And, most importantly, it is ours. ... So forget it." Meretz leader Zehava Gal-On told her party's faction in the Knesset on Monday, "we blame the prime minister for not stopping the Jordan Valley

annexation bill from being raised. Every crazy Likud MK can propose another ridiculous bill, but the prime minister is quiet.” Environmental Protection Minister Amir Peretz, told Israel Radio on Monday that a vote, even one that had no teeth and was only symbolic pushed Israel into an “unnecessary diplomatic pirouette from which it will be hard to get out of.” Labor MK Shelly Yacimovich said that Israel’s current geopolitical situation allows it to make compromises on the Jordan Valley, since there are no threats from the east. The former Labor chair said she believes the United States will offer its own proposal for a framework agreement. “Netanyahu will say ‘yes,’ and then nothing will happen,” Yacimovich told Israel Radio. “Netanyahu is a right-winger,” she said. “There is no difference between him and [Economy Minister] Naftali Bennett.” The Palestinians have insisted that the Jordan Valley must be part of their future state. In response to Sunday’s ministerial vote as well as Israel’s expected announcement of more building in West Bank settlements, Palestinians have ratcheted up their rhetoric against any possible peace deal with Israel. The rising tensions come as US Secretary of State John Kerry is expected to set out for Israel and the Palestinian territories on January 1. Labor parliamentarian said that such steps destroyed any positive benefits in the negotiations and in world opinion that Israel might have derived from the release of 26 Palestinian prisoners on Monday night. Labor faction chairman MK Eitan Cabel said, “It’s like there’s Dr. Bibi and Mr. Netanyahu. With one hand the government releases murderers with blood on their hands, and with the other it builds over the Green Line. It’s taking a difficult step and at the same time making a decision that prevents us from getting any credit for it at all.” Labor party leader MK Isaac Herzog, “It’s not ethical to release vile murderers who killed men, women and children without receiving anything in return. We accepted it in-order to advance a diplomatic process, but we won’t let it turn into a real-estate deal in which we build over the Green Line and end the process for which we let the murderers go.” ([IPOST](#) 31 December 2013)

- Knesset Finance Committee approved to transfer the amount of NIS 60 million extra for the benefit of the settlements in the West Bank, in the framework of the so-called callbacks "local authorities" of settlements. According to the newspaper "Haaretz", it has raised intense debate in the Committee, and asked the committee members of the Labor Party, why is this urgency to convene a session of the Committee, which was exceptionally on Sunday, and accused the committee members of the party "Htnoah" and "United Torah Judaism," Chairman of the

Committee in April Smolnski of the Jewish home that he is funneling money illegally coalition in favor of the settlements, as a student member of the Knesset from the Labor Party received clear reports on the amounts that are converted to settlements in the West Bank. The newspaper said he was at the end of it, and in spite of strong opposition has approved the transfer of such funds, while the demand of the opposition members to re-vote on it. (PNN 31 December 2013)

- Monthly Violations Statistics – December 2013

Governorate	Land Confiscated (Dunums)	Lands Threatened of Confiscation (Dunums)	Uprooted Trees/ Burnt trees	Demolished Houses	Demolished structures	Houses threatened of Demolition	Israeli settlers violence
Bethlehem	100	0	40	0	0	0	2
Jerusalem	0	0	0	0	0	12	19
Jenin	0	0	0	0	0	10	1
Tulkarm	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ramallah	400	0	0	14	0	0	4
Nablus	10	0	0	0	0	0	7
Salfit	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Jericho	0	0	0	7	6	0	0
Gaza	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qalqilyah	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Hebron	0	0	0	0	0	13	8
Tubas	0	0	0	4	2	25	0
Total	510	15	40	25	8	60	45