

## Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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#### Bethlehem

- During an event in a museum in Efrat settlement, the Israeli settlers performed a story from the Holy Bible, where they wear Palestinian traditional dresses. (NBPRS 2 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Tequ village, east of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (RB2000 3 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities set up a 150 square meters tent and raised the Israeli flags in An-Nashash area in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city, to celebrate the opening of a new Israeli bypass road in the area. (Al-Quds Net 4 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest against the opening of the new Israeli Bypass road, in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA assaulted participants and arrested Hassan Barjiyah. The new Israeli Bypass road will link between the Israeli Bypass road No. 60 and Efrat settlement. (Wafa 4 July 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Al Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Maannews 5 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Beitar Illit settlement pumped wastewater into 100 dunums of Palestinian agricultural lands in Wadi Fukin village, west of Bethlehem city. (Wattan 7 July 2013)

- One-fifth of New Jerusalem park to be built on Palestinian land. The Refaim Valley Park will cover more than 1,425 acres, at the southern exit of Jerusalem where the Green Line passes through. The Jerusalem Planning and Building Committee have approved the establishment of a new national park in southern Jerusalem, part of which will include the lands of the village of Walaja. The boundary of the park will run along the security fence, which separates the villagers of Walaja from their farmland. However, the approval of the park also stops the establishment of a large settlement planned for the area. The Refaim Valley Park will cover more than 5,700 dunams, or 1,425 acres, at the southern exit of Jerusalem and will be part of the large urban park to surround Jerusalem on three sides. The Green Line runs through the base of the Refaim Valley, through which the park runs. An estimated 1,200 dunams of the park are terraced farmlands belonging to the villagers of Walaja. In fact, preserving the historically significant of the terraces is one of the reasons cited for creating the park. But villagers say the main threat to the ancient culture of terrace agriculture comes from the security fence under construction. In consideration of residents' objections, the committee stipulated that one of the park's aims is "preserving the organic cultural landscape" and the agricultural terraces. The plan includes elements to protect the terraces from damage by visitors. But once the fence is completed Walaja's farmers will only be able to access their fields by means of gates in the security fence. The national park plan prohibits habitation of the park; as a result, two families now living there, in caves and tin shacks, will be forced to leave. According to Aviv Tatarsky of Ir Amim, a nonprofit association that supports the "equitable" sharing of Jerusalem, the route of the security fence allows "the taking of lands from the inhabitants of Walaja and transferring them to Israelis, who will come to visit." In addition, he says, "Changing the character of the area from Palestinian farmland to an Israeli recreational site fits in with the plan to create contiguity between the city and the settlements surrounding it." Walaja's residents are apprehensive about the decision to create a national park. The security fence that now surrounds the village has just one opening in the direction of Beit Jala, northwest of Bethlehem. "The government wants to fence us in, first the fence and now the park and in the end they'll build a settlement there," Ahmad Sallah Barghout of Walaja says. Forty dunams of his land, and his parents' graves, are within the boundaries of the new national park. The original proposal submitted for the park included a birding center, dining facilities, sports facilities and a shooting range. The committee did not approve the shooting range. ([Haaretz](#) 7 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlement in Al Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. (Wafa 12 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinians under 40 years age from entering Jerusalem city through Gilo 300 crossing terminal, north of Bethlehem city. (Al-Ayyam 12 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian house owned by Salah Said Shaheen in Ein Ballut area in the central of Gush Etzion settlement bloc, southwest of Bethlehem city. The settlers hurled stones and empty bottles at the house. (Al-Quds Net 14 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest in Husan village, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA assaulted participants. (Wafa 15 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several houses in Wadi Em Ali area, As Saf and Jamal Abd An Naser Streets in Bethlehem city. During the operation, the IOA summoned two Palestinians to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police in Gush Etzion settlement bloc. (Al-Quds 16 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in Tequ village, east of Bethlehem city. (RB2000 17 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained for few hours Odeh Khader Al-Hrami (42 years) from Jabal Abu njelm village in Bethlehem, while he was an interview with the Israeli Intelligence Police in Gush Etzion settlement bloc. (RB2000 17 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Al Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA assaulted participants. (Wafa 19 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city, and fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinian houses. (Al-Quds 19 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Bet Ayin settlement torched 400 olive trees in Khallet Qadies area in Jaba village, southwest of Bethlehem city. (Al-Quds 19 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the entrance of Al Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (RB2000 20 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest against the cutting of water for more than 25 days in Al Ubeidiya village, east of Bethlehem city. The protest took place at Qaber Hilwa area, east of Beit Sahour town. (Al-Quds Net 21 July 2013).

- The Israeli High court of justice issued a temporary order to stop the construction in the Israeli Segregation wall in Palestinian lands of Beit Jala town and Al Walajah village in Bethlehem governorate. (PNN 21 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers stormed and set up a tent in Ein Faris area in Nahhalin village, west of Bethlehem city. (RB2000 23 July 2013)
- The Israeli Civil Administration handed out military orders to confiscate Palestinian agricultural land in Ein Faris and Al Matabakh areas in Nahhalin village, west of Bethlehem city. The orders state the construction of a new Israeli colonial road, which will link between Geva'ot and Betar Illit settlements. (Al-Quds 23 July 2013).
- The Israeli Occupation Jeeps stormed Um Rukba area in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city and fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds Net 24 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) confiscated and ripped a number of permits to visit Jerusalem city for a number of Palestinians, while they were trying to cross Gilo 300 checkpoint, north of Bethlehem city and Qalandyia checkpoint, north of Jerusalem city. (PNN 25 July 2013)
- The Israeli Civil Administration published one building scheme in Al Quds Daily Newspaper for Public Review. The Regional Plan No. (411/5), Mandate scheme, 4111, RJ/5 (Nokdim settlement) states the change of the status of land from agricultural to residential to build 40 new housing units in the settlement. The targeted bloc holds no 4 and is part of Al Kabna area in Arab Al Tamra land in Bethlehem Governorate. Note that in January 2013, the Israeli Civil Administration issued a tender to build 146 units in Nokdim settlement. (Al-Quds 15 July 2013)
- The Israeli Settlers laid the corner stone of two new housing units near Sde Boaz illegal outpost in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. the targeted land belongs to resident Khader Issa, in Kherbit Abu Ghalyon. The two units are being built in direct violation of a ruling issued by the Israeli court which prevents the settlers from building in the area. The area in question has been subjected to frequent Israeli attacks, as the settlers illegally confiscated local Palestinian land and repeatedly prevented the residents from entering them. (IMEMC 26 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Cremisan monastery for monks in Beit Jala town, west of Bethlehem city, detained, for few hours, a number of Palestinians and checked their ID cards. (Al-Quds 28 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Jamel Al-Balboul in Um Rukba area in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. During the operation, the IOA summoned Sameh Jamel Al-Balboul (32 years) to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police in Gush Etzion settlement bloc. (Al-Quds Net 28 July 2013)
- Around thirty Palestinian and international supporters of a Palestinian family, whose home was recently demolished, were evicted from a protest tent they had set up on the family's land in the village of Umm Salamuna, near Bethlehem city. The protest tent was set up on Saturday noon, and within a few hours, Israeli troops arrived on the scene and forced its removal, along with the removal of the demonstrators who had gathered to support the Abu Ayyash family, who were recently removed from their home. (IMEMC 28 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demonstrated in Ein Faris area in Nahhalin village, west of Bethlehem city. (RB2000 30 July 2013)

## Jenin

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched three Palestinian houses in Arbuna village, northeast of Jenin city. The targeted houses are owned by: Zuhair Ayman Abu Hassan, Jamal Mohammad Abu Hassan and Mohammad Jamal Abu Hassan. (Wafa 3 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Yabad village, west of Jenin city. The IOA fired rubber bullets and sound bombs at houses. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (Wafa 3 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded a Palestinian house in Al-Yamun village, west of Jenin city, and questioned Imad Hamdan Najeeb Samoudi (Raya 4 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several areas in Qabatya village, south of Jenin city. (Al-Quds 5 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the entrance of Dair Abu Daif village, east of Jenin city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards.(Wafa 6 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities decided to close Al Jalama checkpoint, north of Jenin city, every day starting from 7:00 p.m. (Al-Quds Net 14 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded a Palestinian gas station in Al Jalama village, north of Jenin city, and questioned Kamal Al-Far, Hamza Shaban and Sameer Al-Yamani. (Al-Quds Net 14 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian commercial structure in the industrial area in Jenin city. The targeted structure is owned by Kamal Al-Badawi. (Safa 16 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) held military exercises nearby Az Zababda village, south of Jenin city, and used live bullets. The IOA also, searched Palestinian lands and areas. (Raya 18 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided a Mosque in Jenin refugee camp in Jenin city, and fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of Mohammad Mataheen (19 years) and Mohammad As-Sous (18 years). (Wafa 25 July 2013)
- An Israeli Military jeep ran over a Palestinian child; Mu'men Marwan As-Sous (16 years), while he was in the central of Jenin city. (Wafa 25 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Al Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. During the operation, the IOA arrested Mahmoud Ala Ad-Diyn. (Wafa 26 July 2013)
- The Israeli Settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed the evacuated the settlement site of Tarsillah, south of Jenin city, and set up a number of tents and games for the children. The IOA prevented Palestinians from working in their land, and carried out provocative actions. (Wafa 28 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Jenin refugee camp in Jenin city. The IOA fired live bullets at Palestinians, which led to the injury of Mujahed Abu Al-Azz (20 years), Khadir Abu Qatnih (23 years) and Mahmoud Mtaheen (18 years). During the clashes, the IOA arrested Mohammad Al-Shabrawi (30 years) after storming and searching his house in the camp. The IOA transferred the arrestee to unknown location. (PNN 30 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlements committee in the north of the West Bank called on Israeli settlers to visit tourist sites in the northern part of West Bank, or what they call "Samaria". The committee recommended that hikers should visit Sabastya village, south of Jenin city. According to the Israeli channel 7 TV, the invitation included a guide to reach Shavei Shomron settlement", and to the archaeological site near the settlement. The invitation recommended group visits to the two aforementioned sites after coordinating with the Israeli security authorities and warning about individual visit to the sites. (Al-Quds 30 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation jeeps invaded and toured in Yabad village, west of Jenin city. (Maannews 31 July 2013)

## Jerusalem

- A group of Israeli settlers and Israeli soldiers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in the courtyard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (PNN 1 July 2013)
- Al Aqsa Foundation for Wqaf and Heritage warned that an Israeli company is ongoing with a plan to establish a path for Israeli settlers and tourists on the roof of Souq Al Lahameen and Al Atareen in the old city of Jerusalem. (NBPRS 2 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched the office of Al Aqsa organization in Salah Ad-Dein Street in Jerusalem city, and confiscated its contents. (Al-Quds 3 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli Intelligence Police along with the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Safa 3 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities forced Anad Younis Abu Armelah to demolish his two houses in Ath Thawri neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. The targeted houses are inhabited by 25 family members. (Al-Quds Net 3 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities prevented Hussam Sider from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (PNN 4 July 2013)
- Avigdor Lieberman, head of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, escorted by the Israeli Occupation Police (IOP) visited "David city" at the entrance of Wadi Hilwah neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 5 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city, and performed Talmudic rituals. (ARN 7 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers named "Return to Mount Temple", declared that they will set up protest tents for three days, starting from 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2013, in Saqir Park nearby the old city of Jerusalem. (Al-Quds Net 8 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli Settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city, performed Talmudic rituals and destroyed a number of olive trees. (Raya 8 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers tried to seize a Palestinian house and a 110 dunums of land in the Olive mountain area in At Tur town, east of Jerusalem city. The Israeli settlers invaded the house and set up a tent in the land,

under claim that they own it. During the operation, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers, where the latter assaulted and injured two Palestinians; identified as: Sami Al-Qaloni (53 years) and Jamal Abu Stef. (Maannews 8 July 2013)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds Net 10 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at Shufat checkpoint, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds Net 10 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Maannews 10 July 2013)
- Min. Ariel: Yesha Construction is the Key. Housing Minister Uri Ariel told the Finance Committee Wednesday, "The key to lowering housing rates is massive Yesha construction. Jerusalem construction will also maintain the demographic balance and encourage families to stay. While solutions for housing rates may take some time, we can immediately lower them by selling tens of thousands of Yesha units." ([Israel National News](#) 10 July 2013)
- Tens of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city, and tried to perform Talmudic rituals. (Maannews 11 July 2013)
- An Israeli settler performed religious rituals at Bab Al Nadir, one of Al Aqsa Mosque' gates. (Al-Quds 12 July 2013)
- Settler sprays 'slaughter Jews' on own car. Young Jewish man admits to police he staged 'Arab price tag' act to 'raise awareness'. A young Jewish man was arrested overnight Friday for staging an 'Arab price tag' act on his own vehicle. The 22 year old, who resides in a settlement near Jerusalem and was visiting family in the capital's Kiryat Moshe neighborhood, called the police a little after midnight and told the dispatcher that someone had spray-painted the phrase "Itbah al-Yahud" ("slaughter the Jews" in Arabic) on his car and slashed its tires. He also claimed that a mixture of sugar and silicon was poured on the hood. Officers who arrived at the scene interrogated the young man, who eventually admitted that he had damaged his own vehicle to "raise awareness" to "price tag" acts committed by Arabs against Jews. He spent the night in a detention facility. ([Ynetnews](#) 12 July 2013)
- The local planning and building committee at the Jerusalem municipality approved a new tourist attraction in Jerusalem city: An



Earth observation balloon which will be used to observe the main attractions of Jerusalem city from a height. The balloon's first stop will be on a new compound, of a height exceeding 150 meters every 15 minutes and about 30 people. The Ball will hold trainings in different languages. The Municipality explained that the balloon will be operated by Helium Gas which is environmentally friendly. Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, said: "It will be possible to see the beauty of Jerusalem not only from below but also from above." Barkat added that the Regional Committee is to expand the area of the first station north to the edge of the railroad tracks. Its decision will be the development of public spaces and buildings used for culture, leisure and recreation. ([Israel Hayom](#) 12 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities imposed a 2-month home arrest on Abdalla Alqam from Wadi Al-Joz area in Jerusalem city after being detained in Al Maskobiya jail for 13 days on charge of incitement and released on NIS 35,000 bail. The IOA also imposed a NIS 200,000 fine on Mr. Alqam to be paid next time the IOA summons him to Interview the Israeli Intelligence Police and doesn't show up and decided to deport him away from Shufat camp for 30 days for inciting residents of Shufat refugee camp, Ras Khamis, Ras Shihada and Al Salam neighborhood to not pay the water bills to the Israeli Water company, Gihon. (Al-Quds 14 July 2013)
- Tens of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (PNN 14 July 2013)
- The Israeli group called "Return to the Temple" set up a number of tents in Mamanalla cemetery in Jerusalem city. (Maannews 14 July 2013)
- The Israeli Civil Administration published one building scheme in Al-Quds Daily Newspaper for Public Review. The Regional Plan No. (227/10/2), Mandate scheme, RJ/5 targets block No, 1 (part of parcel No. 26) in Anata town, east of Jerusalem city, to change the status of the land to residential area and for other uses. The building scheme includes the construction of 256 new housing units and a road network in Kfar Adumim settlement. (Al-Quds 14 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed At Tur neighborhood in Jerusalem city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (Al-Quds Net 15 July)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) intensified its presence in the old city of Jerusalem especially around Al Aqsa Mosque. (Raya 15 July 2013)

- Dozens of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Police invaded and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Wafa 15 July 2013)
- An Israeli movement “Women for Israel” called to a protest at 10:00 p.m. above the Jerusalem wall, to mark “Tisha B'Av”. (Wafa 15 July 2013)
- Two Israeli settlers assaulted and sprayed pepper gas on the face of a Palestinian while he was waiting for the train in Jerusalem city. (Wafa 15 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest in Bab al Amoud area in the central of Jerusalem city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter assaulted Palestinians, which led to the injury of a number of Palestinians. During the clashes, the IOA arrested three Palestinians. (Raya 16 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers attacked and injured two Palestinians while they were nearby Bab Al-Asbat area in Jerusalem city, and destroyed three Palestinian vehicles. (SilwanIC 16 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers tried to storm Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city, to mark “Tisha B'Av” day. (Safa 16 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched a Palestinian house owned by Nadir Abu Tayih in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 17 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest for Palestinian journalists at Qalandyia checkpoint, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at journalists, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of others. (RB2000 17 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (PNN 17 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out a military order to demolish a Balcony and a fence surrounding a house in Wadi Yasoul neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. The targeted balcony and fence owned by Khalid Shweiki. (SilwanIC 17 July 2013)
- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem plan: the city of Jerusalem now plans to build a project that combines recreation and business in Mammila cemetery. Last time it was over legal appeals and international pressure that led to the cancellation of the program. Only two years ago, the President of the Supreme Court, retired Justice Dorit Beinisch, shelved the plan which aimed at building over the ancient

Muslim cemetery. Maariv has recently learned that the company started planning an alternative plan in place, which has already been budgeted by the Finance Committee in the municipality, and allows the rezoning of land for the construction of the hotel as well as businesses and real estate projects. Original Program was to bind all courts compounds operating in Jerusalem, except for the Supreme Court. ([Ma'ariv](#) 17 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Hikmat Na'mnah from entering Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (ARN 18 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Aziz Sider in Ath Thuri neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. (Al-Quds Net 18 July 2013)
- "Al-Aqsa Foundation for Waqf and heritage stated that the Israeli excavations under Al-Aqsa Mosque and its surroundings reached very serious stages. The Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) declared that the recent excavations reached a depth of four meters down the foundations of Al-Aqsa Mosque, and specifically in the extreme southwestern tip, beneath Al Aqsa Mosque. The IOA also claimed that some spaces have been identified down the foundations of Al-Aqsa Mosque during the extensive operations conducted in the area. The Israeli newspaper "Yediot Ahronot" published on its website a report on the occasion of what they call "Tisha B'Av - destruction of the Temple" includes details on the operations of the Israeli excavations down the foundations of Al-Aqsa Mosque near the Wailing Wall and Al Mughrabi gate. The report showed confessions and statements by the archeologist of the Israeli Antiques Authorities, Eli Shoqron, that the excavations reached into the depths of 3-4 meters down the foundations of Al-Aqsa Mosque, under the western wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Shoqron claimed that the IOA found an Old Jewish neighborhood built in the area, down the foundations of Al-Aqsa Mosque. (Wattan 18 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities issued an order that prevents Abdalla Abu Bakir from entering Al Aqsa Mosque for 3 months. (ARN 19 July 2013)
- An Israeli court ordered a Palestinian family to evacuate their 65 square meters house in As Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem city by the first of August 2013, under the claim that the house is owned by the "Custodian of Absentee Properties". The targeted house is owned by Siyam family. (NBPRS 19 July 2013)
- One day after announcement of the EU's new settlement guidelines, a request for building permits for 165 units in Neve Ya'akov was

published. The request concerns a plan (TPS 6513A) for which 393 units were approved in 2008—309 units of which were eventually tendered in March, 2009. Discussion and decision on the request for permits is anticipated in roughly one month's time. While these building permits are attached to a project that already received tenders more than four years ago, it is important to note the significance of Neve Ya'akov in the context of ongoing progress to consolidate the northern flank of East Jerusalem and connect it to northern West Bank settlements. (Ir Amim 19 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Police prevented Zina Amro “Um Radwan” from entering Al Aqsa Mosque for 3 months. (Wafa 22 July 2013)
- Israeli authorities began implementing a new ethnic cleansing policy aims at evacuating East Jerusalem of its Palestinian residents by not recognizing the Palestinians as citizens but only as residents. Palestinians who have recently renewed their Israeli-issued identity card have noticed that a new addition has been added on it which says the holder of the ID card is a resident only and that his or her residency is valid for 10 years. Adding that, after the 10 years, Israel will decide whether to ask the Palestinians to submit new documents to the Israeli Ministry of Interior or they will cancel the IDs. (PNN & Wattan 24 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al Isawiya town in Jerusalem city, after the IOA invaded several neighborhoods in the town. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Raya 24 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Police invaded and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. At the entrance of Al Aqsa Mosque, the Israeli Police stopped Palestinians and checked their ID cards. (Safa 24 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers destroyed a number of Palestinian vehicles in Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem city. The targeted vehicles are owned by Salah family. (RB2000 25 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) tightened its procedures at all the entrances of Jerusalem city, and prevented thousands of Palestinians from reaching Al Aqsa Mosque in the city. (Maannews 26 July 2013)
- Requests for building permits for 40 housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev (TPS8151, approved in 2007) were published. The permits were requested by the contractor who won the bid for the tender several years ago. Construction is slated for an area not far from the separation barrier, on the side of Pisgat Ze'ev facing Anata. The last day for submitting objections is August 15th. Once the permits are approved, building can commence. After publishing the results of a

tender, the issuance of building permits is virtually automatic given the binding contract established once the tender is awarded. Therefore, Ir Amim traditionally reports developments only up to the publishing of tenders. Developments along the northern perimeter of Jerusalem include: Publishing of tenders for 607 units of housing in Pisgat Ze'ev in November, 2012 and the opening of Road 20 in May, 2013. The tenders for Pisgat Ze'ev were conditioned on road construction and their release coincided with the wrap-up of construction on Road 20. The road connects Ne've Ya'akov and Pisgat Ze'ev—as well as northern West Bank settlements like Migron and Kochav Ya'akov—to the northern edge of the Begin Highway leading to Road 443 in order to streamline and expedite settler traffic from outside the city. Another fundamental infrastructure development concerns Road 21. October 29, 2012 marked the close of the bidding period for a tender to construct a portion of Road 21, a north-south roadway designed to connect Ramat Shlomo in East Jerusalem to the center of Jerusalem. Once completed, the road would travel from Road 9 (Ramot), past Ramat Shlomo & French Hill to the Atarot Industrial area and from there connect to Road 20. The portion of the road relevant to the bidding process in question would link Ramat Shlomo to Road 9, facilitating access to Jerusalem. The construction of Road 21 is also closely linked to the objective of advancing housing plans on the northern periphery of East Jerusalem. Road 21 would add another entrance to Ramat Shlomo—adjacent to Ramot—to increase access to the area and ease the advancement of new building plans. A plan for 1,600 housing units in Ramat Shlomo (TPS 11085) was deposited for objections by the District Planning and Building Committee on October 26, 2011, with no subsequent review of objections. Another plan for 650 units (TPS 11094) has not yet been deposited. (Ir- Amim 26 July 2013)

- The Israeli settlers punched the tires of 6 Palestinian vehicles in Jerusalem city. (NBPRS 28 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Wafa 28 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities forced a Palestinian family to remove tin plates on the roof of their house in Aqabat Al Khaldiyyeh neighborhood in the old city of Jerusalem. The targeted house is owned by Al-Sharbaty family. (SilwanIC 28 July 2013)
- A Palestinian was injured after an Israeli Police fired bullets at him in Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem city. (Al-Quds 30 July 2013)

- The Jerusalem Magistrate Court ruled that the Siam family of Sheikh Jarrah must evacuate its home by the end of July. The Siam family has been living in the residence since 1960. Because the home was considered Jewish property before 1948, it came under the jurisdiction of the Israeli General Custodian, which has been unable to locate heirs of the pre-48 Jewish owners. It appears that the Court based its decision, in part, on a contract signed by Nathira Siam (mother of the family), in which she surrenders protected residency status. However, because the contract was written in Hebrew and Nathira cannot read Hebrew, she was unaware of the ramifications of signing the document. In the last several days, the family appealed the Court's decision and now hopes to win a court order to delay execution of eviction until the appeal is heard. It is important to note that while the eviction and subsequent court case were initiated and overseen by the Israeli General Custodian, there are convincing signs that settler organizations are involved behind the scenes. (Ir- Amim 30 July 2013)
- Israeli TV, Channel 10, has reported that, despite an Israeli decision to release 104 Palestinian detainees and resume direct negotiations with the Palestinians, the Israeli Housing Ministry approved a new settlement “neighborhood” in the heart of occupied East Jerusalem. Channel 10 said that Israeli Housing Minister, Uri Ariel, approved the plan, and added that various Israeli political analysts believe this decision is a sharp blow to efforts to resume and maintain direct talks. The plan was first presented by the Israeli “Construction and Planning Committee” in 2004, but the application was voided because the planned constructions have high walls that violate the construction code of the Jerusalem City Council. Nevertheless, the plan was resubmitted and was approved by the City Council, and the constructions are planned to be built on five dunams of lands in the occupied city. (MEMC 30 July 2013)
- Al Aqsa Foundation for Waqf and Heritage warned of a new Israeli neighborhood proposed by the Israeli minister of housing, Uri Ariel, to be built in the old city of Jerusalem, only tens of meters away from Al Aqsa Mosque. The plan of the neighborhood will include the construction of four new buildings (21 housing units), of 2-4 storeys high, that is in addition to a synagogue and public buildings for the use of Israeli settlers who will live in the new neighborhood. The neighborhood will be implemented on 5 dunams of lands inside the old city of Jerusalem, near Bab As Sahera, in Burj Al Laqlaq area. (Al Quds 31 July, 2013).



## Hebron

- Court rules Machpelah house lawfully purchased. Military court appeals committee criticizes Civil Administration for its handling of Hebron house evicted a year ago. A year and three months after the eviction of Hebron's Machpelah house, a military court appeals committee ruled that the house was lawfully purchased. It thus rejected claims by the Civil Administration and Defense Ministry that there were irregularities with the purchase. The decision will pave the way for the settlers' return to the house but is still subject to the authorization of Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon. The Machpelah house first caught public attention last April when settlers moved into it in the middle of the night claiming they legally bought the property. Several days later, after having received visits by rightist ministers and Knesset members, the house was evicted on the orders of then Defense Minister Ehud Barak. The Defense Ministry and Civil Administration claimed that the reason behind the eviction were irregularities in the purchase agreement which prevent the provision of permits by the Administration. The settlers then turned to the appeals committee which ruled in their favor. The court ordered the State to cover the legal costs of the proceedings and criticized the Civil Administration for its handling of the issue remarking that "this conduct is not in line with what is expected of (the Administration.)" The settlers are now expecting to receive Ya'alon final approval which would allow them to move back into the house. ([Ynetnews](#) 2 July 2013)
- A Palestinian man; Mutazz Shsrawnah (19 years) was killed after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired dum-dum bullets at him during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the IOA in Dura town, west of Hebron city. (Maannews 2 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured three Palestinians from Al Koum village, west of Hebron city, after stopping them at a sudden checkpoint set up by the IOA in the village. the targeted Palestinians were identified as: Sharif Riad Mohammad Al-Rjoub, Mohammad Al-Rjoub and Ahmed Musa Abd Al-Rjoub. During the operation, the IOA searched the vehicle and checked their ID cards. (Maannews 2 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) seized 70 dunums of Palestinian lands in Ash Shuyukh village, north of Hebron city, and started to plant the lands. (Al-Quds Net 2 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a grocery shop owned by Mohammad Tumeize, in Wadi Al Beir in Idhna town, west of Hebron city. (Safa 3 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed a Palestinian building in Ad Dhahriya town, south of Hebron city. (Safa 3 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities prevented Palestinians from performing noon prayer time at Al Ibrahimy mosque in Hebron city, under the claim that the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) is undergoing exercises inside the mosque. (ARN 3 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) removed and stole a number of stones in Al Hadra Al-Ibrahimiya inside Al Ibrahimy Mosque in Hebron city (Wafa 3 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrances of Dura and Halhul towns in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 3 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed the main entrance of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. The IOA intensified its presence in the area, stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles. (ARN 3 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched several Palestinian houses in Janba village, southeast of Yatta town. During the operation, the IOA fired sound bombs at Palestinian houses. (Wafa 4 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched Palestinian houses in Dura town, west of Hebron city. Three of the targeted houses owned by: Ra'fat Taleeb Ad-Darawesh (18 years), Asharf Fathi Abu Hisham (18 years), Nadem Odeh (18 years). (Wafa 4 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Raid Ahmed Mfleh Adi (37 years) and detained Amar Kassab Ali Abu Daya (33 years) in Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. (Wafa 4 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) occupied the roof of a Palestinian house owned by Nabel Al-Shwieke in Hebron city. (Raya 4 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out military orders to demolish two tents and a number of solar cells in Maghair Al-Abid area, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted tents are owned by: Shahada and Kamel Salamah Maghamrah. (ARN 4 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Susiya settlement razed Palestinian lands in Wadi Al Rakhem area, southeast of Yatta town, and transferred the



sands to the settlement. The targeted lands are owned by Al-Halees family. (PNN 5 July 2013)

- Two hundred Israeli settlers, escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA), invaded Al Karmel village, southeast of Hebron city, and carried out provocative actions. (Wafa 5 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to demolish a barracks and to stop the construction at a Palestinian clinic in Janba village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted barracks is owned by Ali Mohamad An-Najar. (Paltoday 5 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrances of Yatta, Halhul, Sair, Bani Naim towns in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 5 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and toured in several areas in Nuba village, west of Hebron city. (Safa 6 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest against settlements in Khirbet Um Al-Khair, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The IOA and settlers attacked and injured two participants. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter arrested four people, two of them were identified as Khaire Suliman Al-Hathaleen (23 years) and Belal Al-Hathaleen (27 years). (Maannews 6 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrance of Al Fawwar refugee camp and Halhul Bridge in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 6 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinians from reaching and working in their lands in Khirbet Um Al Khair, east of Yatta town under the claim that the lands are owned by Israeli settlers. During the operation, the IOA arrested Suliman Eid Al-Hathaleen (65 years). Note that the targeted lands are located nearby Karmel settlement. (Wafa 7 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city and fired teargas and sound bombs at houses. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. During the clashes, the IOA arrested three Palestinians; were identified as: Ala' Hilme Abu Ghazi, Rabah Bilal Fdilal and Yousif Mohammad Abu Afiya. The IOA transferred the arrestees to unknown location. (Maannews 7 July 2013)

- An Israeli settler living in Kiryat Arba settlement ran over Mohammad Issam As-Salaimah while he was nearby the Ibrahimi Mosque in the old city of Hebron and seriously injured him. (Paltoday 7 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the southern entrance of Beit Fajjar village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Al-Quds 8 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured Issa Amro, while he was nearby the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron city. (Safa 9 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Nawaf Abd Al-Latif Ash-Sharif in Al Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. (Safa 9 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Idhna town, west of Hebron city. The targeted houses are owned by: Ahmed Abd Al-Fatah Al-Asoud, Abd An-Naser Al-Batran and Hesham Al-Batran. (Wafa 10 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Susiya settlement razed 3 dunums of Palestinian land in Wadi Ar Rakhim area in Yatta town, south of Hebron city, and transferred the razed sand to the settlement. The targeted land is owned by Al-Halis. (RB2000 & Safa 10 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrances of Yatta, As Samu and Sair towns in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 10 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al Fawar refugee camp, south of Hebron city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. During the clashes, the IOA set up a checkpoint at the entrance of the camp, and assaulted Palestinians. (PNN 11 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to stop the construction of five Palestinian houses and an animal shed in Ad Dirat village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted houses are owned by: Ismail Mamoud Al-Adrah, Ibrahim Mahmoud Al-Adrah, Omar Mahmoud Al-Adrah, Mohammad Hussen Al-Amour and Taisir Mohammad Al-Adrah, and the targeted shed is owned by Fadel Mohammad Musif. (Al-Ayyam 11 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the entrance of Kharsa village, west of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (PNN 11 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Jabal Al Rahma area in the central of Hebron city, and set up a sudden checkpoint. The IOA

stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and detained several Palestinians and checked their IDs. Eight of the detained Palestinians were identified as: Wadee Karam Miswad (7 years), Muhib Mohammad Fouzi Abu Nijem (14 years), Hussam Huseen Ali Abu Sninah (16 years), Mahmoud Ali Mahmoud Abu Sninah (14 years), Mohammad Adnan Ali Ash-Shmali (10 years), Fadi Faiz Rajab Ashour (22 years), Jamal Jamel Mohammad Jmal (20 years) and Adballa Tahir Radwan Karki (19 years). (Al-Quds Net 12 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) intensified its presence at the entrances of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. (Safa 13 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the entrance of Al Fawar refugee camp, south of Hebron city. (Safa 13 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at Halhul Bridge, north of Hebron city. (Safa 13 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinian and international activists from entering lands located nearby Mitzpe Yair outpost, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted lands are owned by Awad family. During the operation, the IOA detained Mohammad Ibrahim Awad (19 years) for few hours (NBPRS 14 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Mitzip Yair outpost assaulted a group of Palestinian shepherds while they were nearby the outpost, and seriously injured Omat Jubail Ahmed Houshiyah (28 years). (Maannews 14 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrances of Dura town and Al Fawar refugee camp in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 15 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed with earthen mounts a road led to Al-B aq'a area, east of Hebron city, and prevented Palestinians from reaching their lands. (Raya 15 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Al-Quds Net 16 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in As Samu village, south of Hebron city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Safa 16 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation jeeps invaded and toured in Dura town, west of Hebron city. (Safa 16 July 2013)

- The Israeli settlers living in Kiryat Arba settlement assaulted Atta Jaber (50 years) and a number of his family members, after attacking his house in Al Baqa area , east of Hebron city. The Israeli settlers also uprooted 150 seedlings. (Maannews 17 July 2013)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed a building called “Ata’il tomb” in the central of Hebron city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (PNN 17 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities deported a Canadian activist after the IOA arrested her while she was nearby the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron city. (Wafa 19 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian houses in Jaber neighborhood located nearby Kiryar Arba settlement in Hebron city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers. During the operation, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) came to the area and arrested a Palestinian child, and transferred him unknown location. (Maannews 19 July 2013)
- The Israeli Settlers attacked a Palestinian house owned by Zeiad Abu Armilah At-Tamimi in the old city of Hebron, and destroyed windows and doors. (Wafa 20 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Mitzpe Ya’er outpost escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted Palestinian farmers and shepherds while they were working in their lands in Ad Deirat village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (Raya 20 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several neighborhoods in Hebron city. (Safa 21 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed several houses in Halhul town, north of Hebron city. (Safa 21 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided a Palestinian house in Jaber neighborhood in the old city of Hebron, assaulted Bara’ Aref Jaber (12 years) and arrested his brother Anas (17 years). (ARN 21 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Palestinian farmers and shepherds while they were working in their lands in Qawaqis area, east of Yatta town. (Safa 21 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Idhna town, west of Hebron city. (Safa 22 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out military order to demolish an animal shed and a mini market in Zweideen Al Kabna area, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted structures are owned by: Salamah and Nayif Al-Ka’abnah. (Wafa 22 July 2013)

- Israeli Occupation authorities decided to close the Ibrahimi Mosque in the city of Hebron in Laylat al-Qadr or "the Night of Destiny" to allow Jewish settlers to celebrate inside the mosque on the first day in the Jewish month of Ayloul (August). The Israeli authorities informed Al-Awqaf department in the West Bank Monday evening, that the mosque will be closed on Monday 5/8/2013, which coincides with the commemoration of the Laylat al-Qadr that marks the night when the Qur'an was revealed to the prophet Muhammad in the holy month of Ramadan. It's worth mentioning that Israel closes the mosque for almost 10 times a year in an attempt to violate the Muslim religious rights in their holy sites in Palestine. (PNN 23 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the northern entrance of Idhna town, west of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (PNN 23 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) surrounded a Palestinian house and destroyed its front yard garden in Al Baqa area, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted house is owned by Atta Jaber. (Al-Quds 24 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at Halhul Bridge and at the entrance of Idhna town in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 24 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed for few hours the Iron Gate at the entrance of Al Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. (Safa 24 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded a Palestinian house owned by Issa Isma'il Amro, in Tal Al Rumeida neighborhood in Hebron city. (Raya 25 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured two Palestinians; Ala' and Mutaseem Ibrahim Abu Hash-Hash, while they were at the entrance of Al Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. (Safa 25 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Idhna town, west of Hebron city. The IOA stormed and toured in several neighborhoods in the town. (Safa 25 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) tossed flyers in Idhna town, west of Hebron city, accusing its residents of destroying the Israeli Segregation wall. The IOA imposed closure on the town, set up several checkpoints and closed all the entrances. (Safa 26 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Jabal Abu Ruman and Wadi Al Hariya areas in Hebron city. (Wafa 27 July 2013)

- The Israeli settlers living in Mitzpe Ya'ir outpost escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted Palestinian farmers and shepherds while they were working in their land in Khirbet Qwawis area, east of Yatta town. (Wafa 27 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military order to demolish a number of residential tents and barracks and a water well in Khirbet Al Mafqara area, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted structures are owned by: Mohammad Hassan Jaber Hamamdah and Na'em Mohammad Hamamdah. (Raya 27 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrances of Sair and Halhul towns, Al Fawar refugee camp and Kharsa village in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 27 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) imposed closure on Idhna town, west of Hebron city, set up several checkpoints and closed all the entrance, and prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the town. The IOA accused Idhna residents of destroying the Israeli Segregation wall. (Wafa 28 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched three Palestinian houses in Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted houses are owned by: Khalil Riziq Bhiss, Ibrahim Shadi Makhamrih and Ibrahim Abu Raya. (Raya 31 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrances of Halhul and As Samu towns in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 31 July 2013)

## Qalqilyah

- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. During the operation, the IOA destroyed two Palestinian vehicles owned by Nasser Barham and Ayman Shatawi. (Wafa 2 July 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided 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 sound bombs at Palestinians. (Maannews 5 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) imposed blockage on Azzun village, east of Qalqilyah city, set up sudden checkpoint at all village entrances and prevented Palestinians from leaving or entering the village. (Al-Quds Net 9 July 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlement in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas bombs at Palestinians. (Wafa 12 July 2013)
- 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 sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. During the operation, the IOA invaded and searched several Palestinian houses. (Wafa 19 July 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinian and international activists suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA invaded the village and fired teargas and stun grenades at participants. Clashes erupted between participants and the IOA. (Maannews 26 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Al-Quds Net 31 July 2013)

## **Tubas**

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities confiscated six cows in Al Maleh areas in the northern of Jordan valley, and hindered Palestinians from reaching the area under the claim that the area is classified as “Natural zone”. (Wafa 2 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers demolished an under construction PNA licensed water well in Atuf area in the northern of Jordan valley and located in area “B” according to Oslo agreement.. The well was planned for agricultural use. (DWG 7 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a number of agricultural structures, barracks and tents in Ar Ras Al Ahmar, Atuf, Al Hadidiya areas in the northern of Jordan Valley. (Wafa 8 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities confiscated three Palestinian trucks working on the construction of a road in the northern Jordan Valley,

and ordered their owners to pay NIS 6236 each, to get their trucks back. (RB2000 11 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities (IOA) is still detaining Adil Aliyan Daraghmah from Ein Al Hilweh area in Tubas city in Ariel settlement Police Department. The IOA will fine Mr. Daraghmah NIS 3,000 NIS in addition to NIS 15,000 that he already paid for the release of his herd of cows. Note that the cows of Mr. Daraghmah were confiscated under the pretext of grazing in an area classified by the Israeli Authorities as “Closed Military Zone”. (NBPRS 12 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out two Palestinian families military orders to demolish their houses and tents in Ein Al Hilwa area in the northern of Jordan valley. The targeted houses and tents are owned by: Mohammad As-Saghir Ahmed Aliyan and Mohammad Al-Kabeer Ahmed Aliyan. (NBPRS 23 July 2013)

## Ramallah

- The Israeli Committee for Planning and Building revealed a plan to expand Mevo Horon settlement which was established on lands of Yalu and Imwas, west of Ramallah city. (Al-Quds 1 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest in An Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA prevented the participants from reaching to Ein Al Maya area, which the Israeli Authorities confiscated it. (PNN 2 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest in Beitin village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation case. During the operation, the IOA arrested Mohammad Al-Khateeb. (ARN 4 July 2013)
- 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 fired rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. The IOA imposed blockage on the village and declared the area as “closed military zone”. (Wafa 5 July 2013)
- The 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 sound bombs at participants, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of three people. (Maannews 5 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ein Ayoub neighborhood in Ras Karkar village, northwest of



Ramallah city, after the IOA attacked a non-violent protest against an Israeli colonial road that was established on lands of the village, where the Palestinians tried to close it. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of a Palestinian. During the clashes, the IOA arrested Jaber Abu Rahma. (ARN 7 July 2013)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Nilin village, west of Ramallah city. (ARN 7 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Dair Qiddis village, northwest of Ramallah city, after IOA attacked a non-violent protest against the expansion of Naaleh settlement. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. During the clashes, the IOA arrested three Palestinians; two of the arrestees were identified as: Jamel Al-Barghouthi and Iyad Al-Barghouthi. (Wafa 7 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) ordered Salman Ka'bnah and his 12 family members to leave their houses in Al Ka'abnah Bedouin community, east of Ramallah city. (Raya 9 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinians from using land at the entrance of Qalandyia refugee camp as a parking lot. (Al-Quds 10 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in An Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets and wastewater, teargas and sound bombs at participants, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 12 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers uprooted 40 olive trees in Turmusaya village, northeast of Ramallah city. (ARN 15 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up an Iron Gate at Atara checkpoint, located at the main and only entrance of Atara village, north of Ramallah city. (Raya 16 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded An-Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired live bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases, and the injury of Mahmoud Tamimi (22 years) in the leg. (Paltoday 17 July 2013)
- An international journalist was injured and dozens participants suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in An Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at participants. (Wafa 19 July 2013)

- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the 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 sound bombs at Palestinians. (Wafa 19 July 2013)
- Israeli Settlers from the outpost of Amona began tearing down the road leading up to the outpost before the eviction date, set for Wednesday (July 24, 2013) by the High Court of Justice. According to the High Court's decision, the road is to be torn down as well as one caravan in the outpost. ([Ynetnews](#) 23 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers invaded Rawabi town, northwest of Ramallah city, and stole the Palestinian flag raised at the entrance of the town. (Al-Quds 23 July 2013)
- Since the announcement of the start of the peace talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the Israeli government issued for the first time a tender to construct a new neighborhood in the settlement of Beit El in Ramallah Governorate. The plan includes the construction of five new buildings in the settlement, three floors each. The plan is actually part of a bigger plan in the settlement which includes the construction of 297 units in the settlement as part of the basket of benefits granted by the government to Israeli settlers of Ulpana outpost for their evacuation of Ulpana outpost a year ago. ([Walla](#) 24 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in An Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA closed the area and declared it as “close military zone”. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (Maannews 26 July 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 Bilin village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Maannews 26 July 2013)
- The Israeli Civil Administration handed out Al Bireh Municipality an order to close Al Bireh landfill starting from the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2013. (Al-Quds 31 July 2013)

## **Tulkarem**

- The Israeli settlers let go wild pigs at Palestinian lands in Ar Ras village, south of Tulkarm city. The pigs destroyed a Palestinian greenhouse. (Al-Quds 14 July 2013)

## Nablus

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several Palestinian houses in Beita village, south of Nablus city. (Maannews1 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched 6 Palestinian houses in Awarta village, southeast of Nablus city. The targeted houses are owned by: Falah Qawariq, Khalid Al-Qadi, Mahmoud Abu Zaid, Ahmed Sharb, Rif'at Abdat and Talal Awad. (Maannews 2 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched tens of Palestinian houses in Beit Furik village, southeast of Nablus city. (Maannews 2 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement invaded Urif village, south of Nablus city, and attacked and damaged an under construction water tank. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers. (PNN 4 July 2013)
- Hundreds of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Joseph tomb in the eastern part of Nablus city, and performed Talmudic rituals. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Safa & Al-Quds 5 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Bracha settlement invaded Burin village, south of Nablus city, and destroyed a number of olive trees. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers. (Wattan 5 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several areas in Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus city. (ARN 6 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian shepherds in Huwara village, south of Nablus city, punched the tires of a tractor, and destroyed the window screen of a vehicle. (Wafa 6 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented a group of Palestinian farmers from entering and working in their lands in Huwara village, south of Nablus city. The IOA ordered the farmers to get permits from the Israeli civil administration to allow them to work in their lands. (NBPRS 7 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several Palestinian buildings in Al Junid area in Nablus city. (Wafa 8 July 2013)

- Three hundred Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al Aziz Tomb in Awarta village, southeast of Nablus city, and performed Talmudic rituals. (Wafa 8 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al Juneid area, west of Nablus city, and surrounded a number of Palestinian buildings. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of four people. During the clashes, the IOA arrested Mohammad Abd Al-Hamid Talahmih. (Wafa 10 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched houses in Nablus city, and surrounded a number of Palestinian buildings. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Wafa 11 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Itamar settlement uprooted 1150 olive trees in Awarta village, southeast of Nablus city. (Wafa 11 July 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers uprooted 70 olive trees in Khirbet Al Tirah which is located between Burin and Huwara villages, south of Nablus city. (Wafa 12 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to demolish four Palestinian houses in Aqraba village, southeast of Nablus city. The targeted houses are owned by: Fouzi Abd Alla Bani Jaber, Mohammad Abu Hadbih and Sami Mustafah Bani Jaber. (Wafa 14 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several Palestinian houses owned by Sobeh and Shaban families in Ras Al Ein area in Nablus city, and arrested Ra'f Shaban. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds Net 15 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Nablus city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds Net 16 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Nablus city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of two people. During the clashes, the IOA arrested Ahmed (19 years) and Mohammad (18 years) Al-Ayish, after storming and searching their family house. (Wafa 23 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and occupied a school room in Huwara village, south of Nablus city. (Al-Quds 24 July 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Nablus city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of others. (RB2000 25 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian farmers and shepherds while they were working in their lands in Aqraba village, southeast of Nablus city, and killed a number of sheep. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers. (Wafa 31 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers hurled stones at Palestinian workers in Asira Al-Qibliya village, south of Nablus city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers. (PNN 31 July 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles at the entrance of Huwara village, south of Nablus city, and smashed the window screen of 15 Palestinian vehicles. (Maannews 31 July 2013)

## Gaza

- The Israeli military jeeps staged 150 meters into the northeast part of Khan Younis city, south of the Gaza strip, opened fire at Palestinian lands and houses and razed lands. (Al-Quds 2 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Jeeps and bulldozers staged 400 meters into the eastern part of Al Maghazi refugee camp, in the central of the Gaza strip. (Safa 3 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing in Gaza shore. (Al-Quds 4 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing in Gaza shore. (Al-Quds 6 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian lands in the eastern part of Khan Younis town, south of the Gaza strip. (Al-Quds 8 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation jeeps and bulldozers staged few meters into Al-Abu Rida neighborhood, east of Al Qarara town northeast of Khan Younis city, razed agricultural lands, and opened fire at houses. (Al-Quds Net 9 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) staged 300 meters into the eastern part of Khan Younis town, south of the Gaza Strip, razed Palestinian lands and opened fire at houses. (Al-Quds Net 14 July 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation jeeps and bulldozers staged into the eastern part of Jabalyia town, north of the Gaza strip, and opened fire at Palestinian lands and houses. (Wafa 16 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Bulldozers and jeeps staged few meters into the eastern part of Al Bureij refugee camp, in the central of the Gaza strip, and razed Palestinian lands. (Safa 22 July 2013)
- A 19 years old Palestinian was injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at him while he was in the northern area of Beit Hanoun town, north of the Gaza strip. (ARN 26 July 2013)
- A 25 years Palestinian was injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired live bullets at him while he was working near the border fence east of Al Bureij refugee camp, in the central of the Gaza Strip. (Al-Quds Net 28 July 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Bulldozes staged into the eastern part of Al-Fukhariya neighborhood in Khan Younis town, east of Khuza'ah village, and Deir Al Balah city in the Gaza strip and razed Palestinian land. (Al-Quds Net 31 July 2013)

## Others

- IDF officer sentenced over shooting of Palestinian gets state immunity for civil damages. IDF agrees to pay if suit against officer who commandeered a taxi in the West Bank, tied up the driver and then heedlessly shot a Palestinian, succeeds. A former IDF officer whose soldiers commandeered a taxi in the West Bank, tied up the driver and then heedlessly shot a Palestinian passerby will not have to pay from his own pocket in any civil suit, the State Prosecutor's Office has announced. Yaakov Gigi served a 15-month prison term after a unit under his command seized a taxi in Dahariya, bound the driver and shot a Palestinian passerby without authorization and without reporting to its superiors. In the past the state refused to defend him in a civil suit, leaving him to pay out of his own pocket if the wounded Palestinian were to win a civil suit against him. Now the state has changed its position and will indemnify Gigi. The incident took place in July 2007. Gigi, at the time a first lieutenant in the Kfir Brigade, received an order to patrol the outskirts of Dahariya. Gigi took the order a step further, and without permission from his commanders decided to undertake an undercover operation. He collected five of his soldiers and went out to a busy road in the city, where they ordered a taxi driver to halt. They tied and blindfolded the driver and put him inside the cab. Gigi then began to drive through town. At a certain point they approached a brick factory and encountered Badham

Samamra, a resident of Dahariya who worked at the plant. Gigi ordered the soldier next to him to chase Samamra away from the area. Samamra then made a gesture the soldier interpreted as threatening, prompting the latter to open fire. The bullet hit Samamra's left shoulder and wounded him. Eventually the troops abandoned the taxi, with the driver still bound inside. Gigi later ordered his soldiers to lie during questioning and not to disclose what really happened. During the investigation the officer gave a false account, claiming that one of his soldiers was wounded and that they had to take the taxi in order to rescue him. In 2009 Samamra filed a suit with the Kiryat Gat Magistrate's Court, demanding compensation for the damage caused him. Haaretz has learned that there were three reasons for the change in the decision about Gigi's immunity. First was his poor financial situation. Secondly, he was the one to fire the gun. Lastly, even if commandeering the taxi was wrong, the shooting of the Palestinian is not considered a "private action" that would deem him ineligible for immunity considering that the unit felt it was in danger. "After the state examined the details of the incident it became clear that the officer was not put on trial for wounding the plaintiff, but due to a number of offenses committed at the time of the injury," the Tel Aviv Prosecutor's Office said in a statement. ([Haaretz](#) 1 July 2013)

- Authorities meet over funding Har Homa construction. Municipality and the Knesset committee meet over infrastructure for potential new housing units in east Jerusalem neighborhood. The Jerusalem Municipality will hold a meeting Monday with members of the Knesset Finance Committee to approve funding for infrastructure construction on previously approved housing tenders for 930 homes in the east Jerusalem Jewish neighborhood of Har Homa. Construction of the homes are part of a large-scale project approved in August 2011 to build roughly 1,000 units in the controversial area, for which tenders were issued in April 2012, according to the NGO Peace Now and Jerusalem city councilman Meir Margalit (Meretz). The announcement drew a swift condemnation from the US State Department on Sunday, as "contrary to previous Israel commitments" while Secretary of State John Kerry visits the region to restart peace negotiations. "The policy of ongoing construction in the settlements is unacceptable to us," the State Department wrote in a statement. "Both sides must work to rebuild trust... and Israel must recognize that the policy of construction beyond the Green Line is harmful for peace." To assist the US in creating a calmer climate for renewed peace talks with Palestinian leadership, Israel has agreed to a "de facto freeze" on new tenders in West Bank settlements and Jewish east Jerusalem

neighborhoods, which it has upheld. However, no such freeze has been applied to previously approved building tenders, including Har Homa. Indeed, Israel has refused to accede to Palestinian demands to halt all West Bank settlement activity and Jewish building in east Jerusalem as a precondition for resuming talks. The Jerusalem Municipality issued a statement Sunday noting that approval for the units was given three years ago and that Monday's meeting is a "standard procedure for all development projects." Referring to the timing of the meeting, which coincides with Kerry's visit, it added that the municipality does not "coordinate their schedule with visiting political delegations." "Discussion on how to develop public land in Har Homa is neither dramatic nor new – it was established over three years ago, and it has nothing to do with the fact that [Kerry] is visiting Jerusalem this week," the statement said. "This is a standard and automatic procedure that happens with every development project." The municipality did not directly address queries about the planned vote to allocate funds from the Construction and Housing Ministry's budget to proceed with preliminary construction in Har Homa. In its statement, it said that during Monday's meeting the municipality and the Knesset Finance Committee will discuss over 130 items "pertaining to a variety of municipal-related issues," including allocating funding for new classrooms for Arab students in east Jerusalem and "developing public and green spaces in the Har Homa neighborhood." Jerusalem city council member Elisha Peleg (Likud) said approval for the construction of the project proves that "the temporary freeze in construction beyond the Green Line is over," according to Ma'ariv. Peleg noted that past efforts to enforce construction freezes in east Jerusalem "does nothing" to aid peace talks with the Palestinian leadership and only exacerbates the present housing crisis in the region. Upon approving construction permits for 69 new homes in Har Homa on Wednesday – the day before Kerry arrived to Israel – the municipality emphasized that construction policy in Jerusalem has not changed in 40 years. However, Peace Now claimed that the approvals in Har Homa, on the eve of Secretary Kerry's visit, prove that a "freeze of tenders is not a freeze at all." "The true policy of the Israeli government is to continue to develop the settlements in east Jerusalem and in the West Bank," it said. The organization added that it was dubious that the de facto housing freeze, with respect to issuing new tenders for construction since January, is "indicative of a serious commitment by the Israeli government to go to peace." "The government is continuing to allow and promote the creation of facts on the ground which will be devastating for the two-state solution," it said. The municipality flatly



denied Peace Now's assertion, claiming new construction is essential for the city's development by lowering costs for Jewish and Arab students and young adults alike. "We continue to build in all city neighborhoods according to zoning plans for Jews and Arabs," it said. "In the coming years, we intend to build tens of thousands of homes throughout the city, for the different population sectors." ([IPOST](#) 1 July 2013)

- Two weeks before the evacuation: State approved the purchase of land in Amona outpost. According to the state Supreme Court statements, it was supposed to evacuate the Amona outpost of its inhabitants, because large parts of it were actually on private land belonging to Palestinians. But today the State submitted a request to the High Court further extension of four days, for re-crystallization of the position. Request revealed that the land acquired legally registered at the Land Registry. "Now appears in the register of land purchase and the original owners," the policy statement. In addition, the Civil Administration claims another transaction, which is under review and approval prior to its implementation. Because of the sensitivity of acquisitions and fear life original owners of the land purchases were confidential information to the court, including aerial photograph. State committed to the High Court vacate the settlement in response to a petition filed in 2008 - Ten Palestinians claiming land owners in place and that the outpost was established harms owned. Now, in light of new acquisitions and the registration in the Land Registry created a new reality is more complex, which may further delay the eviction and perhaps cancel it. ([Ma'ariv](#) 1 July 2013)
- Defense Minister approves move that allows harsher police action against 'price tag' attacks. Defense Minister classifies perpetrators of 'price tag' attacks against Palestinians as 'forbidden organizations'; move gives Israeli law enforcement broader powers to arrest and interrogate suspects. Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon announced Monday that perpetrators of "price tag" attacks against Palestinians will from now on be designated a "forbidden organization," which gives law enforcement authorities broader powers to probe such incidents. The statement, released by Ya'alon's office, came after the definition was approved by the cabinet two weeks ago. "Price tag" is a term used to describe retribution exacted by settlers for any Israeli government policies to curb settlement activity in the West Bank, and attacks against Palestinians in revenge for violence against settlers. According to the Defense Ministry's statement, Israel Police

representatives and members of the Shin Bet security service said in a discussion of the matter that "price tag" activities are like the activities of modern terror organizations in that they are both ideologically inspired and involve secret activities designed to prevent the Israeli government from implementing political decisions and enforcing laws in the Palestinian territories. Furthermore, the police and Shin Bet representatives said "price tag" attacks were designed to instill fear among the country's leaders of making certain decisions, and some were designed to revenge the Arab population. However, others, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, oppose the idea of declaring the perpetrators of price tag attacks part of a terrorist organization, because they should not be compared to terror organizations such as Hamas or Islamic Jihad. The decision to designate the perpetrators of "price tag" attacks forbidden organizations will give both the Israel Police and Shin Bet broader powers to collect intelligence and investigate such incidents under the Defense (Emergency) Regulations. Broader powers granted to the Shin Bet, Israel Police and state prosecutor include the ability to detain suspects for longer periods of time, prevent them from consulting lawyers while investigations are underway, detain suspects until the end of proceedings, and seize assets, property or bank accounts of the group or its members. The courts' powers are also broader, for they can issue more severe punishments. Under the emergency regulations promulgated by the British Mandate government in 1945 and incorporated into Israeli law after the state was founded, a forbidden organization is "any group of people, whether organized or not organized, going by whatever name, which suggests, incites or encourages the eradication of the Israeli constitution or the Israeli government by force or violence, causing a holocaust or contempt, or incitement to hostility, against the government of Israel or one of its ministers in his official capacity, the destruction of government property or an attack or act of terror aimed at the Israeli government or its employees." If the defense minister declares a group a forbidden organization, the property, real estate or bank accounts of the group or any of its members can be confiscated. It also allows the security forces to use more aggressive tactics against its members and may lead to heavier sentences in court. The Knesset is in the process of legislating a new anti-terror law that would replace the obsolete ordinance that's on the books. An announcement by the Prime Minister's Office noted Sunday that unrelated to the security cabinet's decision, "the justice minister will continue to promote the anti-terror bill, which will also deal with this phenomenon [price tag attacks]." ([Haaretz](#) 2 July 2013)

- Archaeologists: We Found Shilo Tabernacle. The findings, to be displayed this week at Shilo, include hewn holes in which wooden beams could have been placed. Archaeologists say they have found the remains of the Biblical Israelites' Tabernacle at site of ancient Shilo. The Tabernacle precedes the Temples and dates to the period between the conquest of the Land of Israel by Joshua and the rise of King David. According to a report in *Yisrael Hayom*, the archaeologists will display their findings this week at the Shilo site in Samaria, in a conference that is to be held by the Shilo Organization. Among the findings are holes hewn into the rock at the site. These holes, the archaeologists explain, could have been used in order to prop up wooden beams used in a temporary structure like the Tabernacle. The beams formed part of the walls of the Tabernacle, and they would have had to be fixed to the ground in some way. Next to the hewn holes, in the northern part of Tel Shilo, structures have been discovered that date to the period between Joshua and King David. Earthenware vessels and three large stoves were also found in one of the structures. The researchers say they were not intended for home use. This makes it more likely that the structures were part of a central public facility. In addition, remains have been found of what appears to be the south-western corner of the wall that surrounded the city of Shilo. On the basis of this finding, researchers can also estimate where the entrance gate to the city was, and this in turn has implications for the location of the Tabernacle, which is known to have been located near the entrance gate. Past findings at the hills that surround the site included what researchers say are the bones of sacrificed animals that were eaten by the Israelites who came to Shilo. The dating of the bones corresponded with the Biblical dates for the activity of the Tabernacle at Shilo. ([Israel National News](#) 2 July 2013)
- J'lem Municipality set to approve Har Homa funding. US State Dept. dubs plans "harmful for peace"; Meretz city councilman: Plans show municipality wants to undermine peace. The Jerusalem Municipality was set to approve funding Monday for infrastructure construction on housing tenders for 930 homes in the east Jerusalem Jewish neighborhood of Har Homa, resulting in condemnation by the east Jerusalem portfolio head and the US government. Construction in the contested neighborhood is part of a large-scale project approved in August 2011 to build roughly 1,000 units in the area, for which tenders were issued in April 2012 – pre-dating the alleged “de facto freeze” on new building tenders there since January. “I’m very critical of this decision, especially because of the timing,” said Meretz city councilman Dr. Meir Margalit, who holds the east Jerusalem portfolio.

“It looks like someone in the municipality wanted to imitate the ‘Biden incident,’” he added, referring to the diplomatic flap that transpired in 2011 when the Interior Ministry announced plans to build in Ramat Shlomo during the US vice president’s visit to the country. The US State Department preemptively criticized the likely passage Sunday as “harmful for peace,” one day before US Secretary of State John Kerry left the country after unsuccessfully attempting to restart peace negotiations. Margalit said he viewed the approval as evidence municipality members want to “undermine the peace process.” “This is proof that many people in strategic positions within the municipality want to undermine the peace process,” he said by phone Monday. “If this happened intentionally, then that’s bad. If it happened unintentionally, it’s worse, because the meaning is that many people here don’t understand the political context of what they’re doing.” During Monday’s meeting the municipality and the Knesset Finance Committee discussed over 130 items pertaining to a variety of municipal issues, including allocating funding for new classrooms for Arab students in east Jerusalem and developing public and green spaces in the Har Homa neighborhood. The municipality patently denied the construction project will obstruct peace negotiations, claiming new construction is essential for the city’s development by lowering costs for Jewish and Arab students and young adults alike. “We continue to build in all city neighborhoods according to zoning plans for Jews and Arabs,” it said in a statement. “In the coming years, we intend to build tens of thousands of homes throughout the city for the different population sectors.” ([IPOST](#) 2 July 2013)

- Most Palestinian sewage in West Bank untreated, contaminating water along Green Line. According to a report by the Israel Parks and Nature Authority, a lack of Israeli-Palestinian cooperation has impeded solutions to this problem. Almost 90 percent of sewage from Palestinian towns in the West Bank flows into the environment untreated, contaminating the groundwater and 162 kilometers of streams, according to a report prepared by the Israel Parks and Nature Authority. A lack of Israeli-Palestinian cooperation has impeded solutions to this problem. The report, prepared for the Environmental Protection Ministry and the Civil Administration in the West Bank, is based on water samples taken from various locales in 2012. It found that some 50 million cubic meters of sewage flow into the environment from Palestinian towns every year. Only 5 million cubic meters go to treatment plants, some of which are substandard. This affects Israel as

well as the West Bank, since the polluted streams flow into Israel. The city of Nablus exemplifies the problem. It has 126,000 residents, as well as many olive presses that produce extremely toxic wastes. It has no treatment plant (though one is now being built), so most of the waste goes into the Nablus Stream. From there, about a third seeps into the groundwater of the mountain aquifer, a major source of drinking water for both Palestinians and Israelis. The rest flows into the Alexander Stream in Israel. Tul Karm's waste treatment plant broke down last week, as it does several times a year, sending untreated sewage into the Te'anim Stream, and from there to Israel. "This is an area in which we invested great effort cleaning up and repairing damage caused during the winter," said Nissim Almon, head of the Sharon Drainage Authority. "Now all that work is gone." But the worst problem, according to the report, is Hebron, which has nearly 170,000 inhabitants. Its waste includes toxic runoff from industries including stonecutting and leatherworking. More than 80 of the city's 100 stonecutting plants send their waste into pirate drainage pools, from which it flows into the Hebron Stream and then to Israel. Waste from the Hebron area alone has contaminated around 43 kilometers of streams. Jewish settlements also contribute to the problem: 13 percent of their sewage goes into the environment rather than to treatment plants. Israel has tried to cope with the problem by building treatment plants near the Green Line separating Israel from the West Bank and treating the contaminated water once it enters Israel. But the facility built to treat the Hebron Stream – the most polluted of all – can't handle the volume of waste it receives. Contaminated water reaches nearby communities, emitting a stench and attracting mosquitoes. Attempts at Israeli-Palestinian cooperation on this issue have largely gone nowhere, mainly because the Palestinian Authority refuses to cooperate with the settlements. Thus it refused to connect Palestinian towns in the northern West Bank to an Israeli sewage line because the line also serves several settlements. It also nixed a proposed treatment plant that would serve both Palestinian towns and the settlement of Ariel. ([Haaretz](#) 3 July 2013)

- Minister Ariel: Emissaries are telling 'Tall Tales'. Housing Minister: between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, there will be only one state Construction and Housing Minister Uri Ariel appeared to be taking a pot shot at U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry Thursday when he spoke somewhat derisively of "all kinds of emissaries running about" in the region, telling "tall tales" (literally, "grandmothers' stories") – presumably about a two-state solution. "In recent days... in the last year... there have been all kinds of emissaries running around



here, and they have been telling us 'tall tales,' to use a favorite term of the president," Ariel said. "We can say simply, with a calm voice, that between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, there is only one state, will be only one state. It is ours not because we conquered it but because we received a promise from G-d, and that is why we are here." "We have built many buildings, including many 'small temples'," said Ariel, employing a term used in the Jewish world to refer to synagogues. "We need something that is not 'like the Temple. We need the Temple. On the Temple Mount." Min. Ariel spoke at the Second Conference for Shilo Studies, where findings from the archaeological site at Shilo were presented. ([Israel National News](#) 5 July 2013)

- A day in Jinba, the tiny Palestinian village about to become a huge IDF training zone. Everything seems to be forbidden here; only the water tower of Avigail, the vineyards of Sussia, the cowsheds of the Maon Farm and the home of Mitzpe Yair are apparently permitted. Two upside-down concrete blocks on the side of the rocky road that descends to the beautiful wadi constitute the landmark. This is where the Israel Defense Forces' Firing Zone 918 begins, but all it says on the blocks at this particular place is: "Sick of the occupation." At the end of the slope, in the heart of the valley, lies the tiny and beautiful village of Jinba. It looks like something out of the Bible: a collection of several tents, huts, sheep pens and caves that are cut off from the electrical grid and water system, cut off from the 21st century, cut off from any semblance of justice or equality. It is a place whose residents have been suffering for decades under the yoke of the occupation. All around is a green sea of "legal" and "illegal" settlements. The High Court of Justice of the occupying state will decide on July 15th whether these people who are stubbornly attached to the land – the approximately 250 inhabitants of Jinba – will be allowed to remain in their village, or will once again be uprooted (and later, will likely return) as happened during the big expulsion in 1999. The reason for that would ostensibly be to turn this arid piece of land into yet another training area of the army of the occupation, in effect to cleanse this plot of all its Palestinian inhabitants. Everything is heartbreaking here: the ancient stone fences, the donkeys braying in the desert heat, the sheep and goats huddling in the pen to find a spot of shade, the tiny school built with donations from an Islamic organization in the United States, the dark caves where villagers live, and the white tent of the clinic set up about two weeks ago, thanks to contributions from an Italian charity and the Italian Foreign Ministry. The tent is especially heartbreaking: It contains only a few dusty chairs, an equally dusty hospital bed and a special table for infants. Every once in a while, a doctor comes from the town of Yatta.

The Civil Administration personnel who maintain law and order in the area already arrived here this week in order to document the place, to ask questions, to scare and threaten, probably on the way to issuing a demolition order for this forbidden tent. Needless to say, no house, road, vineyard or field belonging to any settlers is included in Firing Zone 918, in the land of the caves in the South Hebron Hills. This week we went down to Jinba on the winding and bumpy road in a jeep belonging to Ezra Nawi, an activist in Ta'ayush, an Israeli-Palestinian political nonprofit organization. Without him, and without the other devoted and determined Ta'ayush activists – along with long-time volunteer attorney Shlomo Lecker, members of the Rabbis for Human Rights and Breaking the Silence organizations who work in the vicinity day and night – the ethnic cleansing would long since have been completed here. The members of these groups are the “good Israelis” of the south Hebron hills. Nawi, sporting a purple Bedouin head scarf from Sinai, was afraid his jeep would be confiscated because he was driving into a prohibited zone. His colleague Guy Butavia made sure we fastened our seat belts in the back too, so there wouldn't be another excuse for harassment by the IDF force that was liable to show up. A tractor made its way with difficulty up the path opposite us, belonging to shepherd Khalil Younes, four of whose children were seriously wounded a few years ago when unexploded ordnance suddenly blew up; one died of his wounds. Younes was transporting goats to Yatta. We stopped at an observation point next to Bir al-Eid, from which we saw the tent of Haj Ismail, the elderly shepherd who was beaten by settlers a few months ago, and whose home we visited at the time. And we saw the tiny rubber pipe that transports a small quantity of water to Jinba from cisterns on the top of the nearby hill; it has been slashed by the settlers a number of times. And we could also see the wells that were sealed off by the Civil Administration and destroyed and demolished houses. There, not far away, the administration confiscated two special bathrooms for the disabled a few weeks ago. Everything seems to be forbidden here. Only the water tower of Avigail, the vineyards of Sussia, the cowshed of the Maon farm, the huts of Lucifer Farm and the homes of Mitzpeh Yair are apparently permitted. From the mountain Jinba looked to us like a handful of tiny dots on the wild, uninhabited, primeval landscape. It's hard to understand how a state can be waging such a prolonged war against it: The road leading in is not a road, and the village is not really a village, in the usual modern sense. Some residents live in Yatta too, during the dry season when the sheep and goats cannot graze in Jinba. “Jinba Welcomes Visitors,” says the modest sign at the entrance. Last week a group of Israeli writers

visited here at the initiative of Breaking the Silence. Among them were Zeruya Shalev, Eyal Megged, Alona Kimhi and Sayed Kashua. “Life here is not natural,” one resident told us. “Everything is decided by the occupation.” The new village school, built in 2011, may be the tiniest I’ve ever seen: four small classrooms, four to five tables in each, 35 pupils. In the classroom for first- and second-grade pupils there’s a blackboard and chalk. ([Haaretz](#) 5 July 2013)

- Hebron settlers do not pay rent to the state for decades. The Civil Administration, in charge of most Jewish homes in Hebron, now trying to get monies owed him for decade’s rental. The Civil Administration, most of the houses are inhabited by Jews in Hebron are the responsibility, never signed a contract authorizing them to use buildings. Lately Administration conducts negotiations with the Association of Jewish settlement in Hebron in order to reach an agreement and get the monies due to the decades in which it rents these apartments so revealing "Haaretz" in the published tomorrow (Friday). Most of the buildings are inhabited by Jews in the city were acquired in the 30th century by Jews and the rest belonged to the Spanish Kollel and includes Ashkenazim (Chabad). Following riots riots and the Arab Revolt in 1936 left almost the entire Jewish population of the city. Ever since the occupation of Hebron in the Six Day War were. ([Haaretz](#) 5 July 2013)
- Ministers approve new universal conscription law. Bill passes 14-0, with four abstentions, before heading to Knesset; mandates military or civil service enlistment for most ultra-Orthodox by 2017. A new draft bill paving the way for thousands of ultra-Orthodox men to be enlisted in the army was approved by the ministerial legislative committee Sunday, marking a key step in the battle to expand universal conscription to Haredi Jews. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said ahead of the vote that the bill was an important step in the right direction, and would lead to the further integration of ultra-Orthodox men into the workforce and society. “This is a historic day,” Finance Minister Yair Lapid told his Yesh Atid party at its weekly meeting ahead of the vote. After the bill completes its passage through the Knesset and takes force, he said, “there will be real equality.” Lapid said it took the coalition just three and a half months to deal with an issue that had brought down governments and ended political careers. “We’re making historic change,” he declared. The bill passed with 14 ministers voting in favor and four abstaining: Yitzhak Aharonovitch, Yair Shamir, Sofa Landver and Uri Ariel. It must now go before the Knesset before being signed into law, but the imprimatur of the



legislative committee means it has the coalition's backing and is likely to pass in parliament. The new law is "a significant step toward integrating the ultra-Orthodox community" in Israeli society, Housing Minister Uri Ariel (Jewish Home) said before the vote. The bill, he said, was the compromise needed to address the sensitive matters at hand. Justice Minister Tzipi Livni's Hatnua party, while critical of the motion, nevertheless said it would support it. The bill was a compromise, a statement by the party said, and as such was "partial and flawed." Ariel mentioned some changes in the bill that passed – not forcing girls to enlist, raising the number of exceptions for Torah prodigies from a few hundred to 1,800, and allowing men to study for three years until the age of 21 before being drafted – that he called positive developments that his party had written in. He noted, though, that the process of perfecting the bill wasn't over, though he hoped it would be shortly so it could be written into law. In contrast to the coalition members, Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism) mourned the decision, saying "[today] is a sad day for ultra-Orthodox Judaism. Today will be remembered as a black day in the history of Jews in Israel." Porush said the Jewish Home party had "burned the house" it claimed to protect. He also blamed the government for harassing the ultra-Orthodox, saying its actions were "on the border of persecution and cruelty." The proposal, drafted by the Peri Committee, gives the ultra-Orthodox population a four-year transition period, at the end of which all but select 1,800 students will serve either in the Israel Defense Forces or national service. According to the plan, which in May was welcomed by Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and called a "historic moment" by Lapid, by 2017 most ultra-Orthodox men will no longer be able to claim exemptions from military service based on yeshiva study? The bill has been vociferously opposed by sectors within the ultra-Orthodox community, many of whom have vowed to fight the new law and go to jail rather than serve in the military. Community leaders fear enlistment in the army will make it harder for the ultra-Orthodox to keep a strict interpretation of Jewish law and will cause unhealthy mixing with the secular population. But lawmakers and others say drafting ultra-Orthodox is essential to integrating that community and will also help "equalize the burden" of military service across Jewish Israeli society. Until last year, the ultra-Orthodox could claim a exemption under the Tal Law, which deferred service for yeshiva students. However, the law was declared unconstitutional last year, setting politicians and military brass scrambling to come up with a solution for drafting Haredim into the army. ([Time of Israel](#) 7 July 2013)

- Lieberman: I'd Order Conquest of Gaza. The "dubious quiet" in Gaza is being used by Hamas for building its power, says MK. MK Avigdor Lieberman, Head of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said Saturday that if he were prime minister, he'd order the IDF to conquer Gaza. Speaking on *Voice of Israel* radio, Lieberman said that there is "a dubious quiet" in Gaza at the moment, which is being used by Hamas for building its power. Regarding the rebellion and coup in Egypt, Lieberman said that he has no doubt that jihadist elements in Sinai will try to take advantage of the situation in order to hurt Israel. He said that Israel has an interest in Egypt's stability. Lieberman said that the reports that Israel intends to make gestures toward the Palestinian Authority ahead of a resumption of negotiations are untrue, to the best of his knowledge. He said that the Yisrael Beytenu faction inside Likud will oppose such moves. According to Alsharq Alawsat, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's plan for resumption of talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority includes an undeclared building freeze outside the settlement blocs and a gradual release of 103 terrorist prisoners who have been in jail for over 20 years. ([Israel National News](#) 7 July 2013)
- Ahead of 6<sup>th</sup> Kerry visit, Israel says no to preconditions. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is expected to visit Israel this weekend to continue efforts to get the Palestinians at the negotiating table. A senior Israeli official said on Saturday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has no intention of caving to Palestinian demands ahead of talks, and that his objective is clear: To renew negotiations immediately, without preconditions, with an assurance that negotiations will be held over a long period of time and will cover all the issues. Netanyahu wants to avoid a situation whereby Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas will try stepping away from the negotiating table after a few meetings and turn to the United Nations in September under the premise that Israel is to blame for the failure of the talks. Meanwhile, the London-based Arab daily newspaper Al-Hayat reported Saturday that, according to Western and Palestinian officials, Kerry's plan to renew negotiations includes, among other measures, a quiet Israeli construction freeze in Judea and Samaria outside of the large settlement blocs without a public announcement and a phased release of 103 Palestinian security prisoners who have been in Israeli jails since before the Oslo Accords were signed. The report was denied by Israeli officials, who said that the prime minister has no intention of releasing Palestinian prisoners as a good will gesture or a response to preconditions set by Abbas. Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Avigdor Lieberman, said Saturday that the

Yisrael Beytenu party (which he also chairs) will object to any Israeli concession. "Whoever looks at the international arena understands that conditions are not yet ripe for a breakthrough," Lieberman said. "We will fight against and adamantly object to any decision regarding the release of terrorists or freezing construction." ([Israel Hayom](#) 7 July 2013)

- Settlers to protest to High Court over Amona evacuation. Residents say they purchased many of the lots in the outpost that is scheduled to be evacuated on July 15. Amona outpost residents are expected to file to the High Court of Justice on Monday their argument against the evacuation of the West Bank hilltop community set for July 15. The court decision in April to evacuate the outpost next week came in response to a 2008 Yesh Din petition on behalf of 10 Palestinians who claim ownership on the land, located in the Binyamin region of the West Bank, next to the Ofra settlement. But Amona residents have argued that they have purchased many of the lots on which their homes are located. Late Thursday night, the state asked the court to modify its ruling to demolish the outpost. It asked the court instead, for permission to remove only those homes against which there are no settler purchase claims. It noted that the issue of the purchase claims was now before the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court. The state told the court that on July 15 it plans to demolish the access road to the outpost, which it said was built on private Palestinian property. But the state did not speak of any attempt to legalize the outpost, as it has in other cases. Yesh Din attorney Shlomi Zachary charged that the state was attempting to undermine the court decision to evacuate the full outpost. "The fact that the state is searching for loopholes and facts that will allow the outpost to remain, is shameful for the rule of law and another step toward its collapse," he said. Yesh Din is expected to submit its response to the High Court on the matter on Thursday. Built in 1995 with NIS 2.1 million from the Construction and Housing Ministry, Amona is one of the oldest West Bank outposts. According to Peace Now, there are some 60 structures in the outpost. It was unclear from the state's response how many homes it wanted to remove, and how many could remain. A 2005 government commissioned report by attorney Talia Sasson stated that the outpost was built on private Palestinian property without proper permits. The outpost is best known for the violent clashes that took place there on February 1, 2006, when the IDF and the police demolished nine newly built permanent Amona homes on private Palestinian property that also lacked proper permits. ([IPOST](#) 7 July 2013)

- After Itamar, Brukhin and Beit El settlements, Israel is currently promoting construction of new housing units in settlements of Kfar Adumim and Maon. The U.S. Secretary of State has already left the area, and the Israeli Civil Administration continues to promote construction plans in the West Bank: After promoting plans to build hundreds of new housing units in the recent weeks, the civil Administration now promotes two more new plans. It plans to establish 255 new housing units in the settlement of Kfar Adumim in the Ma'ale Adumim settlement bloc. East of Jerusalem and the construction of 230 new housing units in the settlement of Maon in the southern Hebron hills. The plan to expand Kfar Adumim settlement (close to 400 families) includes construction of residential buildings, public institutions, commercial area and roads. By the weekend, the plan will posted for public objections in Israeli and Palestinian media by the Israeli Civil Administration. In fact, the expansion of the 'Brat' neighborhood, an independent neighborhood with 120 families and part of Kfar Adumim settlement, will increase the size of the largest settlement three times than its current size. The Plan was submitted for public review and includes rezoning of land, which was originally intended for agriculture and now the state wants to convert it into a residential area. ([Walla](#) 8 July 2013)
- Israel's District Court in Jerusalem issued a decision to allow settlers to obtain information on Palestinian land owners through the Land Registry (Tabo) for the first time since the occupation of the West Bank 46 years ago. Haaretz Hebrew-language newspaper reported that Israeli occupation has prevented settlers' access to information on Palestinian landowners due to fraud land transactions made by settlers in order to seize the lands, especially the lands whose owners living outside the Palestinian territories. Israeli organizations headed to the court and demanded an access to information on the owners of the lands located near the settlements in order to purchase them for settlement expansion purposes. The court's judge issued a decision allowing settlers to obtain information and such decision will give the chance for settlers to reveal the identity of the Palestinian owners and therefore expanding the settlements in Ramallah, Jordan Valley and Tulkarem. It's worth mentioning that a senior officer in the "Israel's Civil Administration was convicted a year ago of leaking information about the Palestinian land for settlers who forged documents in order to control Palestinian land. ([PNN](#) & [Haaretz](#) 9 July 2013)
- The Israeli Civil Administration works on uprooting Palestinian olive trees in a nature reserve north of the West Bank. Administration inspectors marked 1,500 trees for removal which will harm the nature

reserve. Palestinians claim infringement of their right to work in the land; however, the Israeli Civil Administration inspectors began marking trees for removal in the nature reserve of “Wadi Qana”. According to the administration, operations designed to prevent damage to the reserve due to the expansion of the agricultural activity of the Palestinians. The planted trees are located nearby the Palestinian village of Deir Istya. According to the Palestinians, uprooting the trees would be violating the right to work in the land. According to the Israeli environmental activist Aviv Tatarski, the Israeli Civil Administration inspectors came to “Wadi Qana Reserve” and began marking the 1,500 olive trees for removal. “Wadi Qana” Reserve is one of the most important nature reserves across the area. ([Haaretz](#) 9 July 2013)

- Following the State’s foot dragging on responding to a petition against the forced evacuation of a thousand residents of Masafer-Yatta (Firing Zone 918), Deputy Supreme Court President Miriam Naor expressed displeasure with the State Attorney’s conduct and delayed the July 15 hearing on the petition. Deputy Supreme Court President Naor, in a long and detailed decision, yesterday criticized the State Attorney for failing to abide by proper civil procedure in its response to petitions against the forced evacuation of the residents of Masafer-Yatta in the South Hebron Hills (commonly referred to as “Firing Zone 918”). Justice Naor cancelled the scheduled hearing set for July 15, ordered the state to file its final response by July 12, and asked the clerk to set a new hearing date immediately after the Court’s summer recess. In January of this year the Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) filed an updated petition against the forced evacuation of residents of villages in an area declared by the army as “Firing Zone 918.” The court immediately restrained the state from expelling the residents until a decision in the case was reached, and gave it 60 days to file a response. In March, the state filed a preliminary response that did not address the merits of the petition, declaring that it was undertaking the necessary examinations of the petitioners’ factual and legal claims, and that it would file a full response within 90 days. Ninety days later, the state had still failed to file its answer – the state had essentially taken an extension without leave of the court, and then failed to abide by it. In response to an inquiry from ACRI, the State Attorney claimed it is authorized to file its response up to 3 days before the hearing (which was scheduled for July 15). Concerned that this would not leave the petitioners enough time to prepare for the hearing, ACRI filed a motion to order the State Attorney to file its full response to the petition by



July 7. Justice Naor issued her order in response to ACRI's motion. ([ACRI](#) 9 July 2013)

- Yesh Atid Minister Admits: Palestinian Authority is the Problem. Yesh Atid Minister still looks to "Saudi Initiative," but notes that the PA is standing in the way. Minister Yaakov Perry (Yesh Atid), who has made headlines for his support for the Arab Peace Initiative and public criticism of Israeli interrogation techniques, has stated that he now believes it is the Palestinian Authority, not Israel that is proving an obstacle to negotiations. Perry spoke during a Knesset event organized by the Geneva Initiative organization. "At the current time, we have to be honest and say that it seems the obstacle to renewing talks is on the Palestinian side," he declared. "I have to say, I'm sorry about that." He explained, "At a time when the Prime Minister of Israel explicitly declares that he is prepared to return to the negotiating table without preconditions, and the American Foreign Minister invests all his energy in attempts to restart the process, and the Quartet is sparing no effort to build cooperation and an economic framework that will serve as a basis and support for the diplomatic process, at a time when there is majority support both in the Knesset and in the Israeli public for moving the peace process forward – I can't understand why the Palestinian Authority continues to refuse to come back to the negotiating table and give the process a real chance." Perry immediately balanced his criticism with an expression of sympathy for PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas. "I am not discounting the difficulties and complications facing the Palestinian Authority Chairman as he returns to the negotiating table, both politically, within the PA, and against Hamas," he said. Abbas must also face "the Palestinian public's deep fear and growing doubt due to the many years in which [the process] has been frozen," he added. However, he said, "there is reason for serious concern that the failure of the current attempt to restart negotiations could have serious implications for both sides, in terms of security, politically, and on the international stage." Despite his criticism of Abbas, Perry reiterated his support for the Arab Peace Initiative, also known as the Saudi Initiative, which promises that Arab states will normalize their ties with Israel if Israel will withdraw from Judea, Samaria (Shomron), the Golan and eastern Jerusalem, including the Old City and Temple Mount. The initiative also demands an agreement regarding the "right of return" – the Arab demand that millions of descendants of Arabs who fled pre-state Israel be allowed to "return" to Israel. "The Saudi Initiative is one of the currently existing paths the state of Israel could take to solve the conflict, and it

requires serious thought,” he argued. “Of course, we cannot accept the principles of the initiative exactly as they are... But they could definitely be a basis and a starting point for negotiations, and point out the direction we need to take,” he continued. The Geneva Initiative is an organization created to encourage support for the Geneva Accords, an agreement reached between left-wing Israelis and PA officials lacking the political power to authorize diplomatic plans. It gets significant foreign funding, which it uses to provide tours and other events aimed at encouraging Israeli politicians to support its plan. ([Israel National News](#) 10 July 2013)

- Knesset revives attempt to restrict foreign funding of left-wing NGOs. Bill would restrict groups that call for boycotting Israel or indicting IDF soldiers from raising funds from foreign sources. The Knesset is once again attempting to restrict foreign donations to certain nongovernmental organizations: MK Ayelet Shaked, chairwoman of the Habayit Hayehudi Knesset faction, submitted a new bill on this subject on Tuesday. According to the bill, groups that call for boycotting Israel or for indicting Israel Defense Force soldiers in international tribunals are among those that would be restricted in raising funds from foreign sources, as would individuals identified with such groups. It would be enough for a single paid employee of an organization, or someone who sits on its board, to call for a boycott of Israel to apply the restrictions, the bill states. The bill would limit the funding such groups could obtain from a “foreign political entity” to NIS 20,000 a year. In addition to calling for a boycott or sanctions against Israel and calling for soldiers to be tried in international tribunals, the bill cites three other actions that would spark the restrictions: rejecting Israel’s existence as a Jewish and democratic state, incitement to racism, and support for armed struggle against Israel by an enemy country or a terror group. In November 2011, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu froze two similar bills that the coalition was promoting at the time, though he said he supported them in principle. One of those bills, proposed by then-MK (now deputy minister) Ofir Akunis of Likud, would have banned “political” organizations from raising over NIS 20,000 a year from foreign countries. The other, by then-MK (now deputy minister) Faina Kirshenbaum of Yisrael Beiteinu, would have imposed a tax of 45 percent on funds raised overseas by groups that are not supported by the government. But after the bills were merged and given permission in principle to move ahead, they were effectively frozen. The current bill, which resembles the Akunis proposal, is based on data compiled

by the right-wing group Im Tirtzu. According to Im Tirtzu's information, foreign governments have funded Israeli groups involved either directly or indirectly in delegitimizing Israel or attempting to have senior IDF officers indicted in foreign tribunals. As an example, Shaked cited the Goldstone Report. This report, which accused Israel of war crimes during Operation Cast Lead in Gaza in 2009 but was later recanted by its principal author, was based on false information provided by Israeli groups funded by foreign sources, she charged. Human rights groups like B'Tselem and Adalah, which claimed that Cast Lead "violated international law because it was directed against civilians and involved disproportionate force," would also see their foreign donations restricted by the bill, Shaked said. "Foreign money distorts the power and will of the Israeli voter and gives an extremist minority greater means of expression than the Israeli majority has," she said. MK Zahava Gal-On (Meretz) charged that the bill would "harm human rights groups, which do not take money from the government because of their professional ethics ... They cannot be dependent on government funding and also criticize the government." "Restrictions of this type exist only in nondemocratic regimes," she added. But Gal-On said the bill would never pass, because if it did, Israel would forfeit both its political and economic agreements with the European Union and its membership in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. ([Haaretz 10 July 2013](#))

- In 2002, the Government of Israel decided to build a Barrier with the stated aim of preventing violent attacks by Palestinians inside Israel. However, the vast majority of the Barrier's route is located within the West Bank, separating Palestinian communities and farming land from the rest of the West Bank and contributing to the fragmentation of the oPt. The inclusion of Israeli settlements behind the Barrier is the single most important factor behind the deviation of the route from the Green Line. 2. The Barrier has reduced the access of Palestinians living in communities located behind the Barrier to workplaces and essential services. To continue living in their own homes and to maintain family and social relations with the rest of the West Bank they must obtain permits or "prior coordination" and pass through Barrier checkpoints. Access of service providers to these communities, including ambulances and fire brigades, has been impaired. 3. Agriculture-based livelihoods of thousands of families have been undermined due to the permit and gate regime, which restrict access to farmland behind the Barrier. Permit applications are regularly rejected on grounds that farmers failed to prove their "connection to the land" to the satisfaction of the Israeli authorities, as well as on security grounds. The limited



opening of the agricultural gates has forced permit-holders to stop cultivation or to shift from labor-intensive to rain-fed and low-value crops. 4. The Barrier has transformed the geography, economy and social life of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, as well as the life of those residing in the wider metropolitan area. Neighborhoods, suburbs and families have been divided from each other from the urban centre, and rural communities separated from their land in the Jerusalem periphery. 5. In its 2004 Advisory Opinion, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) established that the sections of the Barrier which run inside the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, together with the associated gate and permit regime, violate Israel's obligations under international law. The ICJ called on Israel to cease construction of the Barrier, dismantle the sections already completed, and repeal all legislative measures related to that the Barrier. ([OCHA](#) 11 July 2013)

- Uri Ariel: Yesha Building Will Bring Housing Prices Down. There's an obvious solution to Israel's housing crisis, said Housing Minister Uri Ariel. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister disagrees. It's no secret that real estate prices in Israel are high and rising. For nearly a decade, Israeli governments have tried numerous ideas to bring prices down – but it seems that no matter what they do, prices continue to rise. The problem, according to many experts, is simply that not enough affordable homes and apartments are being built. With land prices in cities in the center of the country constantly rising, and the Israel Lands Administration reluctant to release too much land to developers at one time, more creative solutions are needed. Housing Minister Uri Ariel has suggested an idea of his own, which is sure to divide opinions. Speaking at a meeting of the Knesset Finance Committee Wednesday, Ariel suggested building more homes in communities in Judea and Samaria that are in commuting distance of the Tel Aviv area. “Towns like Bet Aryeh, Ofarim, and Elkanah, all in Western Samaria, are integral parts of the center of the country,” Ariel said, and land prices there are substantially lower than in nearby cities like Petach Tikvah and Kfar Sava. Homes built in communities like these would be “easy sales” for residents of the crowded cities of the Dan region in central Israel, and would be substantially more affordable as well. Ariel is ready to immediately begin marketing some 10,000 housing units in Judea, Samaria, and areas of Jerusalem liberated in the Six-Day War. In recent interviews, Ariel has said that all the paperwork is done and all the permits for these homes have been issued; the one thing missing, he said, is Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's signature. “We are building all over Judea and Samaria according to plans that were approved two years ago,” Ariel said in the interview with *Radio*

*Tel Aviv*, adding that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had ordered him to freeze construction in these areas. Not building in Jerusalem is a mistake, Ariel said, because Jerusalem needed more Jews to maintain a proper demographic balance – while not building in Judea and Samaria is also a mistake, because such construction could help bring down prices. Supporting Ariel during the discussion was fellow Bayit Yehudi MK Nissan Slomiansky, who said that “solutions to the housing crisis without including Judea and Samaria in the occasion are useless.” ([Israel National News](#) 11 July 2013)

- Government mulls force-feeding hunger-striking prisoners. Having been pressured into releasing long-fasting detainees, state is looking for a solution that will take away strikers’ leverage. The Attorney General’s Office is currently examining the legality of a government-proposed bill that would enable prison authorities to force-feed hunger-striking prisoners. In the past year Israel has faced mounting challenges from hunger-striking Palestinian security detainees, in some cases leading to the early release of convicted terrorists. The bill, set forth by the Justice Ministry as well as the Ministry of Internal Defense, the Shin Bet, the Prisons Authority, the IDF, and members of the National Security Council, is at its early stages of review, the final outcome of which is expected in the upcoming weeks, Channel 2 News reported Wednesday. In May two Islamic Jihad operatives had their administrative detentions reduced by two weeks after they went on a hunger strike more than 90 days. In April, Palestinian hunger striker Samer Issawi agreed to a deal with Israeli military prosecutors that ended his eight-month-long hunger strike in exchange for an early release from prison. Ayman Sharawneh, 36, was released from Israeli prison in March, bringing to an end a seven-month hunger strike that made him a symbol of resistance for the Palestinians. In perhaps the most famous case, Israel imprisoned a member of the Palestinian national soccer team for nearly three years before he was released last year after a lengthy hunger strike. Israel had accused Mahmoud Sarsak of being active in the violent group Islamic Jihad, a claim he denied. In all the cases, the releases were approved despite the objections of the Shin Bet, Israel’s internal security organization, who recommended not giving in to their demands. The hunger strikes, however, attracted significant attention in the international media and prompted demonstrations throughout the West Bank, as well as solidarity hunger strikes among other Palestinian inmates. Defense officials have expressed fear that, were prisoners to die of malnourishment or complications stemming from the strikes, a serious conflagration could erupt in the West Bank. The Justice Ministry issued a statement

reading: "Faced with the growing phenomenon of hunger strikes, we are examining a legislative solution that will protect the prisoner's health and at the same time prevent the damage caused by the strikes." Force-feeding of hunger striking prisoners is legal in several countries. On Monday, a US judge denied a Guantánamo prisoner's request to halt the force-feeding of hunger strikers at detention facility. Later, White House Spokesman Jay Carney issued a statement defending the practice, stressing, "We don't want these individuals to die." ([Time of Israel](#) 11 July 2013)

- Report: Israel may Release PA Prisoners. *NRG* reports Israel may release 40 PA terrorists in advance, and the PA has not committed itself to negotiate even after the release. Many have opposed submitting to PA preconditions. The PM and Secretary Kerry await PA chairman Abbas' response to the proposal. Altogether another 64 will be released gradually as negotiations progress. ([Israel National News](#) 11 July 2013)
- Transport Minister Katz: I'll not agree to a Palestinian state. Transport Minister Yisrael Katz said before a Yesha Council plenum: "I will not agree to a Palestinian state. The only practical solution is an autonomous entity in the A and B areas with an affiliation with Jordan and Israeli security control." Kats added that "we should disengage from Gaza on the civilian level. There's no reason we'll give them electricity, water and food. The reason that doesn't happen is that the defense establishment is conservative." ([Ynetnews](#) 11 July 2013)
- Two-state solution best way to reduce Palestinian-Israeli violence, says computer. Computer model developed by Israeli and Swiss scientists finds best way to limit violence in Jerusalem is separating Jews and Arabs as part of a two-state solution. Separating Israelis and Palestinians in Jerusalem as part of a two-state solution could offer the best way to reduce violence in the disputed city, according to a computer simulation developed in Switzerland and Israel. Social scientists mapped population groups in Jerusalem and analyzed their relationships in order to develop a computer model, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich said Thursday. The model was then used to simulate several political options to see how they would lower the risk of violence in the city. Voluntary relocations to separate Israelis and Palestinians as part of establishing two states would have the most positive effect, according to the study recently published online by the American Journal of Political Science. "Although people don't want violence, they have not been able to get it under control," said ETH sociologist Dirk Helbing told dpa. Israel considers Jerusalem

its united and eternal capital. [Palestinians](#) say they want east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state. ([Haaretz](#) 12 July 2013)

- High Court pushes back eviction of Amona outpost. Court orders that West Bank structures, which were ordered for demolition by July 15, be demolished by July 24; this is the fifth time a demolition order has been issued against the outpost. Israel's High Court on Friday once again postponed the evacuation of the illegal settlement outpost of Amona in the West Bank, which had been scheduled for July 15. The court gave settlers nine additional days, ordering that structures on land not bought from Palestinians must be evacuated by July 24. The court extended the deadline due to the Jewish day of fasting, Tisha B'Av, which begins on the evening of July 15, the school summer break and the Muslim sacred month of Ramadan, which started Thursday. However, the court accepted part of the state's argument, determining that structures built on plots of land that settlers say they bought, whose ownership is being litigated in a lower court, should not be evacuated until the lower court issues its ruling. The July 24 deadline applies to the approximately 30 structures on the 30 plots that the settlers are not claiming were purchased. Amona was established in 1995 on a mountain overlooking the West Bank settlement of Ofra. Most of the land Amona sits on is private Palestinian property. Demolition orders have been issued over the years against mobile homes and other semi-permanent structures on the site in 1997, 2003 and 2004. On Feb. 1, 2006, after a petition filed by Peace Now, the state demolished nine houses at the outpost. Hundreds were injured in confrontations between police and thousands of protesters who tried to prevent the evacuation. The state had promised in court to carry out the evacuation by the end of last year, but then asked that it be postponed until April and then again until July. Supreme Court President Asher Grunis gave the state until July 15 to carry out the operation, noting that he was going beyond the letter of the law. In the interim, however, a political battle among those seeking to head off the evacuation continues behind the scenes. Through a company called Al-Watan, which is owned by the Mateh Binyamin Regional Council, the settlers say they have managed to buy four parcels of land in Amona in addition to other plots of land. ([Haaretz](#) 12 July 2013)
- The Israeli occupation authorities have begun construction work on a West Bank road which will link cities within Israel and illegal settlements and outposts. Road 9 will link the coastal Israeli city of Khdeira with illegal settlements in Jenin and the Jordan Valley. The

project, due to be completed in 2014, will confiscate thousands of dunums of Palestinian land in the northern West Bank. Road 9 will be around 183km when finished. (Maannews 14 July 2013)

- Bennett: No Palestinian prisoners should be freed. Almagor robo-message impersonates PA minister thanking PM; Bennett: Freeing prisoners not a gesture but a disgrace. The government must not release Palestinian prisoners as a gesture to open peace talks, Economy and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett said Sunday, as the Almagor terror victims organization sent messages to cabinet ministers in the same vein. “Not one murderer can be let out,” Bennett told Army Radio. “This isn’t a gesture; it’s a disgrace.... Why should we have to give over murderers in order to receive the dubious privilege of being able to negotiate with [Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud] Abbas?” The Bayit Yehudi leader emphasized that the prisoners were people who murdered Israelis and other Jews, including children. “I don’t believe that [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu will release murderers just so he can start negotiations,” he added. Also on Sunday, cabinet ministers received pre-recorded phone calls, ostensibly from Palestinian Authority Prisoners Minister Issa Karaka. “I want to praise your prime minister,” the caller said. “It’s important for him to have a meeting with our leader, but for that meeting to happen, our friends have to return home.” By “friends,” the caller meant Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. “It’s true that they killed and murdered, but it was for our goal, for our country, Palestine. So they killed a few Jews. What’s the big deal? All they want is to return home with a college degree.” The calls, sent by Almagor, featured a voice actor impersonating Karaka and referred to the widespread practice by Palestinian prisoners to obtain a higher education while incarcerated. “What are we asking for?,” the actor said. “Just a few – 120, no fewer. Thank you Netanyahu.” Almagor launched a campaign in recent weeks to prevent the government from releasing Palestinian prisoners as a gesture in peace talks. It followed reports that US Secretary of State John Kerry’s peace plan demanded that Israel release over 100 Palestinian prisoners arrested before the Oslo Accords were signed. The organization’s director, Meir Indor, has visited several ministers and political headquarters, as well as Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein, presenting them with a list of the 120 terrorists Abbas requested be released, and the names of people each one killed. The list appears in a booklet titled “Have we gone crazy?” and features photos of the terrorists and their victims. ([IPOST](#) 14 July 2013)



- Reservists to PM: Allow soldiers to sue IDF slanderers. After AG blocks Jenin Jenin Bill which allows soldiers to file class actions for libel of IDF in general, 40 IDF officers send letter to PM, AG requesting they push law through, give soldiers chance to have day in court . Two weeks ago Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein opposed the Jenin Jenin Bill – a bill allowing IDF soldiers to file class actions against those defaming the IDF even if no specific soldier was harmed –claiming it infringed on the balance between libel and freedom of speech. Sunday, his decision was met with a fierce response, prompting some 40 IDF officers to send a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urging him to work to advance the bill. A copy of the letter was also sent to MK Yoni Chetboun (Habayit Hayehudi), who initiated the bill, and to Weinstein himself. "We, combatants and commanders in the IDF's reserves wish to express our astonishment at your opinion in regards to the law criminalizing defamation of IDF soldiers," the group wrote to Weinstein in their letter. According to them, "the current formulation of libel laws does not allow a person a chance to take his slanderer to court to examine the validity of his or her claims, because the law focuses only on personal individuals or corporations." The IDF is considered neither an individual nor a corporation and hence cannot sue under the law's current formulation. "This small but meaningful loophole leaves us exposed; it allows anyone to spread lies about us and the IDF as his heart desires; these can range from claims of perpetrating a massacre or of raping civilian populations." In his decision regarding the bill, the attorney general claimed that it infringes on freedom of speech in an excessive manner and is hence unfitting – specifically because the law was formulated in an attempt to overcome a High Court ruling which came in response to a petition filed against Jenin Jenin director Mohammed Bakri. At the time, the High Court shot down the petition, claiming that libel laws do not allow lawsuits for the defamation of the "public" (the IDF) but only corporations and individuals. In their letter, the officers responded to the claim that the law infringes on freedom of speech, the reason cited by Justice Minister Tzipi Livni for her objection to the law. "We wish to point out that libel is not enshrined in freedom of speech and the current amendment will not change that. All this law will do is allowing us to take assistance from the courts in clarifying slanderous claims made against us." Meretz Chairwoman Zahava Gal-On said: "There is no doubt that soldiers have the right to a good reputation, but this law does the exact opposite. It sullies the IDF's name, branding it as an army that needs to shut mouths and make threats to prevent criticism. ([Ynetnews](#) 15 July 2013)

- Court sets hearing date for firing zone evacuation plan. State is expected to present court with relocation plan for 8 small Palestinian Beduin villages in W. Bank. The High Court of Justice has scheduled for September 2 a hearing on the state's plan to expel eight small Palestinian Beduin villages in the West Bank's South Hebron Hills from Firing Zone 918. On Friday, in light of that date, the state asked the High Court for an August 6 deadline to file its latest position on the matter. The state did so after failing to twice to meet the High Court deadline for that written argument. After it failed to meet its July 7 deadline, the court cancelled a hearing set for July 15, but insisted the state must submit its written argument by July 12. The state failed to meet that deadline as well, and instead asked for an extension until August 6. As part of its written argument the state is expected to present the court with a relocation plan for the villages. According to the state, the eight villages were illegally constructed in a closed military zone. The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, which has helped the villages battle the expulsion order for over 15 years, has explained that these small communities have existed in the South Hebron Hills prior to the Six Day War, when the area was under Jordanian rule. The eight villages, of some 1,000 people, consist of homes inside caves, tents, and small one room structures that allow the Palestinian farmers to herd sheep and goats as well as produce small crops. The villages are set off from the main paved roads, and are accessible only by dirt roads. Late last month, some 24 Israeli writers signed a petition on behalf of the villages, including David Grossman, A.B. Yehoshua, Amos Oz, Eyal Megged and Yoram Kaniuk before he died. "For the past 20 years, Israel has been actively expelling and displacing the inhabitants of the South Hebron Hills villages. These villagers have always practiced a unique lifestyle: most of them are cave dwellers and find their livelihood in sheep and goat herding and small crop farming," the authors said. "Over these years they have suffered unceasing harassment by the Israeli army and settlers. Their dwellings are repeatedly demolished, water cisterns ruined and sealed, and their crops destroyed," the authors said. Megged said, "If we can do something to somehow lessen the injustice that is being done here, if we can say something to gild the ugly face of Israeli society as it is reflected in the state's actions here, I believe that we will already have done something." He added, "I think that no one is interested in what is going on here, it's a godforsaken place far from the center of attention, while the symbolism of all these wrongdoings is great and meaningful. This is a very ugly mirror image of the country." ([IPOST](#) 15 July 2013)

- Israeli court: Real estate transaction that evicted Palestinian family was forged. Lawyers will now ask the Israel Defense Forces to remove a Torah institute from the home. The Jerusalem District Court has ruled that a real estate deal by a settler purchasing arm was faked – a forged transaction that led to the eviction of a Palestinian family in favor of a Torah institute. The Palestinian families will now ask the Israel Defense Forces to remove the institute from the home in the West Bank near Ramallah. "Ten years of legal struggle have proved that the purchase was fake and that, as far as [purchasing arm] Al-Watan is concerned, the end justifies the means," said Attorney Muhammad Dahleh, representing the Palestinian side. "We hope the authorities, which so far have not helped the Shehadeh family return home and have worked hand in glove with the company, will do what they should without excuses and delays. They should evict the company's people and help the Shehadeh family come home." Attorney Daniel Kramer, who represents Al-Watan, said the ruling was inconclusive but declined further comment. Settlers had sought to acquire the home on the outskirts of a village near Ramallah. The two-story home and yard was built in 1988 on land owned by the Shehadeh family. When the Ramallah bypass road was paved, the home was cut off from the rest of the village. It lay on the eastern side of the road, next to the settlement of Ofra. In 2003, the family came home one evening to discover that the locks had been changed. Settlers claimed they had bought the land from the family. Machon Mishpatei Aretz, a Torah institute specializing in religion and finance, moved in. Ofra later put up an illegal fence surrounding the institute. The fence was destroyed on orders of the High Court of Justice, and now guard dogs watch over the site. Al-Watan is registered in the West Bank because under Jordanian law only a local company can buy land in the territory; Jordan ruled the West Bank from 1948 to 1967. Al-Watan had already been involved in another forged deal to buy land in the Migron settlement. A police investigation found that the Torah institute transaction never occurred, but the case was closed because the police could not prove who forged what. The company Binyanei Bar Amana controls 80 percent of Al-Watan. In turn, Binyanei Bar Amana is a subsidiary of the Amana cooperative society, a settlement agency in the West Bank. Amana is headed by Ze'ev "Zambish" Hever. The Mateh Binyamin Development Company, a subsidiary of the regional council, and a privately owned firm own the remaining 20 percent in Al-Watan. After the takeover of the home, Al-Watan applied in 2003 to the IDF's Civil Administration to have the land registered in its name. The Civil Administration rejected the request after finding problems in



the documents. Al-Watan petitioned the district court in 2008 to order the Civil Administration to complete the registration process. The company claimed that five family members had presented a will to a notary and sold the land. Judge Arnon Darel, however, has rejected the suit. During the hearings, it emerged that Yitzhak Solomon, the notary for the deal, had been convicted in criminal court for stealing from his clients and had had his license revoked. Likewise, he failed to identify in court the family member he claimed to have met twice. Solomon claimed that one family member identified himself with an ID card from 1995 that was issued in Ramallah, while it was issued in 1998 in Beit El. The agent in the deal was Khaled Kadura, a resident of Hebron. He has been indicted for falsifying documents, a case going through the Jerusalem District Court. He disappeared a few years ago and his whereabouts are unknown. ([Haaretz](#) 15 July 2013)

- EU: Future deals with Israel won't apply to territories. Jerusalem describes move as an 'earthquake,' says will make it impossible to sign accords with Brussels. The European Union has published a binding directive to all 28 member states forbidding any funding, cooperation, awarding of scholarships, research funds or prizes to anyone residing in the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The regulation, which goes into effect on Friday, requires that any contract signed by an EU country with Israel include a clause stating that the settlements are not part of the State of Israel and therefore are not part of the agreement. A senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, described the new ruling, which was published on June 30, as an "earthquake." "This is the first time such an official, explicit directive has been published by the European Union bodies," the senior official said. "Until today there were understandings and quiet agreements that the Union does not work beyond the Green Line [the pre-1967-war border]; now this has become a formal, binding policy." The official noted that the significance of the regulation is both practical and political: From now on, if the Israeli government wants to sign agreements with the European Union or one of its member states, it will have to recognize in writing that the West Bank settlements are not part of Israel. In the Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry there is great tension and anxiety over the new regulation and its implications for Israeli-EU relations. The efforts of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Deputy Foreign Minister Ze'ev Elkin to stop the move have all failed. Senior EU officials say they would like to hold talks with Israel concerning the new directive, but since it will go into effect by the end of this week, the chance of its being amended is

extremely slim. "We will have to decide what to do from this day forward," a senior Israeli official said. "We are not ready to sign on this clause in our agreements with the European Union. We can say this to the Europeans, but the result could be a halt to all cooperation in economics, science, culture, sports and academia. This would cause severe damage to Israel." The new directive was published by the European Commission, which is the executive branch of the European Union. The ruling determines the parameters for cooperation between the Union, along with its member states, and Israeli private and governmental entities between 2014 and 2020. The most significant part of the directive is its "territorial clause," which for the first time will appear as a binding rule on all agreements between the European Union and Israel. The new clause determines the areas in Israel that are entitled to cooperation with the Union, and those that are not. The territorial clause determines that all agreements will be valid only within Israeli borders recognized by the European Union, meaning the borders prior to the 1967 Six-Day War. The new directive forbids any cooperation by European Union members with private or governmental bodies located beyond the Green Line. It allows cooperation with Israeli government offices in East Jerusalem, such as the Justice Ministry, but only if the activities themselves are carried out within the 1967 borders. Senior European officials briefed the Israeli delegation to the European Union in Brussels about the new directive immediately after it was published, and offered to discuss how it would be implemented in pending agreements. Thus, for example, the new regulation is already in force in negotiations between Israel and the European Union over the EuroMed Youth agreement, which deals with joint youth projects, conventions, classes and exchanges of delegations. EU negotiators told Israeli representatives that the EuroMed Youth agreement must include the 'territorial clause' spelling out that the pact can only be implemented within the Green Line. EU officials said the new rules were drawn up as a result of the decision by European foreign ministers last December, which stated that "all agreements between the State of Israel and the EU must unequivocally and explicitly indicate their inapplicability to the territories occupied by Israel in 1967." The EU delegation is Israel further noted: "The guidelines are also in conformity with the EU's longstanding position that Israeli settlements are illegal under international law and with the non-recognition by the EU of Israel's sovereignty over the occupied territories, irrespective of their legal status under domestic Israeli law." The new rules are intended to prevent a boycott against Israel, and to enable Israel to cooperate in EU projects and benefit from the funding

they bring, the delegation pointed out. The European Union "wants to be sure that Israel's participation is not put in question so that Israel will be in a position to make use of all possibilities offered by the new financial framework," the delegation stated. ([Haaretz](#) 16 July 2013)

- Danon: Equal Prayer Rights on Temple Mount Now. Dept. Defense Minister Danny Danon joins growing calls for Jews to receive equal rights to worship on the Temple Mount, just like Muslims. Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon on Monday demanded that Jews receive the same rights to free worship on the Temple Mount afforded to Muslims. Danon made the demand in the wake of the forced removal of hundreds of Jews who had come to the site on Monday morning, the eve of the Ninth of Av. Speaking to Arutz Sheva, Danon said that the current situation on the Mount, in which Arabs riot if a Jew dares to mutter a prayer on the Mount, could no longer be allowed to continue. "We are in favor of freedom of religion on the Temple Mount, and that means freedom for all religions," Danon said. "That includes Jews. We must take steps to ensure that Jews are not only able to visit the Temple Mount, but are also able to pray there. I see no logic in allowing Muslims to pray there, but not Jews. I am committed to this idea," Danon said. "We don't need a permit from the Muslim world" Earlier Monday, hundreds of Jews came to the Temple Mount were forced to leave as as Muslim worshippers physically blocked them, and appeared to be preparing to riot. "Today, on the eve of Tisha B'Av, the Israel Police failed do discharge its duties again," Michael Fuah of the Jewish Leadership faction of the Israeli Likud Party, who was at the Mount., said. "Hundreds of Jews who came to the Mount from all parts of the Land of Israel, were kept waiting for a long time at the entrance to the Mount, at the only gate where Jews are allowed to pass, while hundreds of Muslims entered from the other gates without any check or delay. "As the third group that the police allowed inside entered the Mount, many Muslims began to gather and shout. As usual, instead of preventing the rioters from ascending to the Mount and grouping together, the police quickly informed the Jewish pilgrims that it will not allow them to carry out a full tour of the Mount, and quickly made them leave through the nearest gate," Fuah said. Danon sad that such incidents were no reason to prevent Jews from praying at the site. "We do not need a permit from the Muslim world to for every little thing we do. We do what is best for the Jewish people. It is the job of police to take all scenarios into account and ensure freedom of worship for Jews at the Temple Mount," Danon added. "Our rights to Jerusalem are eternal, and not dependent on anyone else. During these days

when we commemorate the destruction of Jerusalem we can put all the international pressures and threats in perspective. Anyone who believes in our historic rights will not be frightened off by these threats.” ([Israel National News](#) 16 July 2013)

- **Outrage as Culprit in Hevron Massacre to Manage Holy Site.** MK Yariv Levin calls to suspend all agreements with PA regarding Cave of Machpela until appointment of Taysir Abu Sneina is cancelled. Taysir Abu Sneina, a terrorist who was involved in the murder of six Jews in Hevron on May 2, 1980, is the man whom the Palestinian Authority has appointed to manage the Muslim side of the Cave of Machpela (known in English as the Cave of the Patriarchs). The *Hatzala Yosh* organization reported Sunday that Abu Sneina participated in the terror attack on the building known as Beit Hadassah, on May 2, 1980, in which six students from the Nir Yeshiva in Kiryat Arba were murdered. The students were making their way home by foot from the Cave of Machpela, after the Sabbath Eve prayers, when Arabs who had been hiding inside neighbouring houses ambushed them and opened fire. Besides the dead, 16 others were wounded in the attack. Abu Sneina makes no attempt to hide his terrorist past, and actually seems quite proud of it. His Facebook page proclaims that he is “one of the heroes of the operation at Dabuya,” as the area of Beit Hadassah is known in Arabic. The cover photo of his profile is of the terror squad that carried out the attack, with Abu Sneina's face circled. MK Yariv Levin (Likud) called Monday on the government to suspend the arrangements it has agreed upon with the PA regarding the Cave of Machpela until the appointment of Taysir Abu Snea is cancelled. The appointment comes only days after Muslim worshippers once again desecrated the Jewish section of the Cave, which is the second holiest site in Judaism after the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It is the burial place of the Jewish Biblical patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - as well as three of the four matriarchs - Sarah, Rebekah and Leah (the fourth, Rachel, is buried in Bethlehem). The site is usually split between Jewish and Muslim worshippers, but this past Friday it was open exclusively to Muslim worshippers in honour of Ramadan. After Muslim prayers had finished, Jewish worshippers arrived to find that holy items had been stolen or damaged, and that mud and garbage had been strewn across the room. MK Levin further demanded that the people involved in defacing the mezuzot at the site be punished, and added: "In view of this appointment it is no surprise that the mezuzot at the Cave of Machpela were defaced." David Wilder, a spokesman for Hevron's Jewish community, told *Arutz Sheva* that the appointment "exposes the true face of the *Waqf* (the Islamic authority which administers Muslim

holy sites in Israel)" "Appointing a convicted murderer of six young men and putting him in charge of a holy site in the very place where he committed his crime says a lot about the *Waqf* - who they are, what they are, and what their tendencies are. He also expressed his concerns for the safety of Jewish worshippers at the site, and called for Israel to relieve the *Waqf* of its responsibilities in light of such a decision: "I think this is very dangerous. This murderer is today responsible for a site frequented by 800,000 Jewish visitors each year. How can the Israeli security services cooperate with the *Waqf* at all after this? Any control the *Waqf* has over the Cave, or indeed any other place, should be taken from them by Israeli government." Asked about the ongoing investigation into Muslim desecration at the site, Wilder echoed the scepticism of other community members, and remained pessimistic about the authorities apprehending any suspects. However, he called for the government to take tough action in response." "Next Friday, the Arabs will gain exclusive access to the Cave again. The government must show that there are repercussions for this kind of vandalism." ([Israel National News](#) 16 July 2013)

- The Israeli Planning Committee is to approve 1071 units in settlements. The Settlement Subcommittee of the Higher Planning Council of the Civil Administration (the body in charge of approving plans for settlements) will convene tomorrow to discuss and probably approve the promotion of plans for 1,071 units in settlements. On the agenda of the subcommittee for Wednesday 17/7/13, there are five plans to be approved for depositing and another plan to get the final approval for validation: Plans to be approved for depositing: 1. Plan no. 317/2 for the construction of 234 units in Galgal (at the Jordan Valley). 2. Plan no. 242/1/3 for the construction of 38 units in Kochav Yaacov (East of Ramallah) 3. Plan no. 604/4 for the construction of 31 units in Almog (the Jordan Valley) 4. Plan no. 227/10/3 for the construction of 19 units in Kfar Adumim (at Nofei Prat neighborhood) 5. Plan no. 205/14 for the construction of 17 units in Shilo (North of Ramallah). In addition, the subcommittee is supposed to approve for validation plan no. 210/6/3 in Modi'in Illit for the construction of 732 units. ([Peace Now](#) 17 July 2013)
- Israeli cell companies paying West Bank settlement for use of private Palestinian land. Beit El collects thousands of shekels a month for keeping communications equipment on land outside its jurisdiction; Civil Administration has issued demolition orders against all the buildings and trailers, as well as the Telephone pole, to which antennae are attached. Israeli cellular companies pay the local council in the West Bank settlement of Beit El thousands of shekels every month to

keep communications equipment on private Palestinian land just outside the settlement's jurisdiction. According to a conservative estimate, the Beit El local council has made hundreds of thousands of shekels over the past 13 years for keeping two communications structures at Jabel Artis. One of the structures belongs to Partner and Mobile Hot (formerly Mirs), and the other belongs to Pelephone and Cellcom. The payments came to light when Partner submitted an initial response to a petition by Palestinians demanding the evacuation of buildings built on their private land at Jabel Artis. The petition to the High Court was submitted on June 4 by attorneys Husaam Younes and Kamel Natour on behalf of six Palestinians from the village of Dura al Qar'a and the head of the village council. They demand the removal from land they own nine buildings, around 30 trailers, a water reservoir, the two communication centers and the fence that surrounds area. The nine buildings are part of the Ulpana neighborhood, where five buildings were already evacuated and dismantled last year, following a 2008 petition of other Dura al Qar'a residents and a High Court order. The Civil Administration has issued demolition orders against all the buildings and trailers, as well as the Pelephone pole, to which antennae are attached. Partner was the first company to build equipment at the site – which belongs to the late Zagloul Hassan – in the beginning of 2000. According to court documents submitted by Partner's attorneys Yaakov Cohen and Orly Vidan, Partner signed a contract with the Beit El council on July 18, 2000, stipulating that "Partner is permitted to use the land in return for monthly rent." The attorneys added in their response to the Jabel Artis petition that Partner has indeed paid the settlement council every month for the past 13 years. According to the response, the Civil Administration issued permits for the communications equipment, as did the Environmental Protection Ministry official responsible for the monitoring of non-ionizing radiation. In May 2006, Mirs (now Hot Mobile) put up its equipment at the site, again on land owned by Hassan. Pelephone responded to the petition by stating that it had put up the pole in 2003 (the demolition order states that it went up in 2004) after also signing a contract with the Beit El council. Attorneys Guy Tsafrir and Ron Schwartz, writing on behalf of Pelephone, stated that it was a temporary pole "placed on Pisgat Ya'akov near Beit El ... according the permit by the owner of the land – the Beit El local council." The Beit El local council declined to respond to Haaretz's questions on July 11 regarding the payments received from the cellular phone operators over the years. The local council also refused to comment on its use of land that is beyond its jurisdiction and which it



does not own. Spokespeople for Pelephone and Partner said they do not reveal details about their commercial contracts. But a source at Partner told Haaretz on Sunday that such rental agreements are open to negotiation and that there is no fixed fee. ([Haaretz](#) 17 July 2013)

- Settler leaders: Israel should ban EU projects in Area C. Gush Etzion head calls on gov't to annex Area C of W. Bank; Yesha Council blasts EU for publicizing directive on Tisha Be'Av to ban grants, funding to Israel projects over pre-1967 lines. The government should ban European Union-funded projects in Area C of the West Bank until the EU rescinds its new policies against areas across the pre- 1967 lines, the Council of Jewish Communities of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip said on Tuesday. "All European projects [for Palestinians] in Judea and Samaria should be stopped until this unilateral decision is rescinded," the council stated. It was one of a number of calls by settler and rightwing organizations that urged the government to take a no-holds-barred approach to combating the EU's anti-settlement stance. Gush Etzion Regional Council head David Perl called on Israel to annex Area C. "Now is the time for the prime minister to stand up and apply Israeli law on territory that is part of our homeland, and in so doing fix an ongoing historical distortion," Perl said. The Legal Forum for the Land of Israel urged the government immediately to pass the Edmund Levy report, which says that Israel has a right under international law to settle in the West Bank. "The right answer to the EU is the immediate implementation of the Edmund Levy report to clarify to the Europeans and others that it is not our policy to weaken our legal and historic right to the land," the forum said. ([IPOST](#) 17 July 2013)
- Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon delays approval of West Bank settlement construction. Civil Administration committee member says defense minister's decision to delay approval of 300 housing units likely due to Israel-EU tensions and John Kerry's imminent Middle East visit. Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon decided Tuesday to postpone deliberations in the Civil Administration on the approval of 300 new residential units in isolated settlements in the West Bank. The Civil Administration's Supreme Planning Council met Wednesday morning to approve the construction of 732 residential units in Modi'in Ilit and dozens more units in the settlements of Shiloh, Kokhav Yaakov, Kfar Adumim, Almog and Galgal. When the members of the committee arrived at the hearing, it turned out that Ya'alon had decided to postpone the deliberations regarding Shiloh, Kokhav Yaakov, Almog and Galgal. The minister did not explain his decision, but a committee member said the postponement was likely due to the

upcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in the region and diplomatic tensions with the European Union. The committee approved the construction of the 732 housing units in Modi'in Ilit and 19 in Kfar Adumim, but Ya'alon has not yet given them his stamp of approval. Haaretz revealed Tuesday that new guidelines on settlements were drawn up by the European Commission. The guidelines were circulated among all the EU institutions, foundations, investment funds and aid organizations two weeks ago, as well as to all 28 EU member states, and are expected to be officially released on Friday. They go into effect on January 1. During the discussion Wednesday morning, the planning committee approved plans to build 732 housing units in Modi'in Ilit. The Palestinian village next to it, Dir Qadis, opposed the plans, claiming that some of the construction would encroach on their lands. Last month, however, their objection was rejected by the committee on the grounds that the plans would not encroach on private land. Following the committee's approval on Wednesday, the plans will once again be submitted to Ya'alon for his approval. If he grants permission for construction, the plans could be carried out in the near future. The committee also approved the advancement of a plan to construct 19 residential units in Kfar Adumim in the Judean Desert. After the report was published, a high-ranking U.S. administration official involved in attempts to resume peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians warned that if Kerry's efforts to restart talks were to fail, the EU countries would take additional measures against the settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. "The Europeans are giving us time to complete the efforts to resume the talks," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "But if we don't succeed, they'll want to go in other directions and take measures. The Israelis know that very well. ([Haaretz](#) 18 July 2013)

- Israel losing millions to settlers who don't pay land leasing fees. State comptroller's report urges Civil Administration, Israel Lands Administration and Finance Ministry to collect leasing fees. Residents of 83 settlements in the West Bank do not pay an estimated NIS 50 million per year in leasing fees on the property afforded them by the state, the State Comptroller's report reveals. The report cites negligence on the part of the Civil Administration and the Finance Ministry, adding that the financial loss to the state has totaled hundreds of millions of shekels. The West Bank contains some 1.4 million dunams of "state-owned" land, which are administered by Yossi Segal, the official in charge of government and abandoned property in the



territory. Of that land, 450,000 dunams have been allocated to two types of Jewish settlements in the West Bank: municipal settlements (towns and local councils run by the Housing Ministry) and rural settlements. The comptroller's investigation revealed that residents of municipal settlements are required to sign contracts with the Civil Administration and pay fees to lease the land; however, the same protocol is not enforced with residents of the rural settlements, which translates into a cumulative loss of hundreds of millions of shekels. Furthermore, according to the report, senior officials have been aware of this lapse for years. In 2005, Segal noted that he lacked the manpower to collect the leasing fees and that he needed 38 staffers to do so. In 2007 and 2008, discussions were held on the matter at the Finance Ministry, but no decision was reached. In August 2010, the Defense Ministry's legal adviser, Ahaz Ben-Ari, wrote a letter to then-Defense Minister Ehud Barak, saying that the system is defective and the failure to collect the leasing fees in the rural parts of the West Bank effectively provides land to settlers for free. He added that the lack of enforcement also favors rural settlers over others and deprives the treasury of revenues. As a result, in April 2011 another discussion was conducted at the Finance Ministry's Budget Department, in which it was resolved that a collection unit should be established – which has yet to be created. In his report, State Comptroller Joseph Shapira wrote that the findings are "particularly grave," adding that, "this is a fundamental failure on the part of all the parties involved that has persisted for many years." He called on the heads of the Civil Administration, the Israel Lands Administration and the Finance Ministry's Budget Department to resolve this problem without delay. If they cannot reach an agreement, they must bring the matter to the chief of staff, defense minister, finance minister and, if necessary, to the prime minister. The Finance Ministry responded that it "will review the issue of additional workforce for 2013 and on." The Settlement Division wrote that "the director of the Israel Lands Administration and the head of the Civil Administration issued a directive that leases for new settlers should be drawn up by the Settlement Division. The contracts were to be signed by officials authorized by the administrator, and the fees were to be paid to the administration's account. This directive was not implemented due to reasons known only to the administrator." The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories wrote that "this is a systemic failure, yet this result cannot be separated from the initial conduct of the Zionist Organization and the government's findings." "In order to carry out regulation regarding leasing contracts, we are required to invest in resources and positions in order to provide the

administrative capability to the authority responsible for state and abandoned property in Judea and Samaria. The matter was discussed many times with representatives of the treasury, but in practice no tools were given to the person in charge to implement this responsibility. There is no doubt that it is necessary to regulate this matter, as the State Comptroller notes. If the resources requested in the past by the Civil Administration and the Israel Lands Administration are provided, it will be possible to reach proper regulatory action for the matter." COGAT also added: "Providing approvals to the Agriculture Ministry is done as a default, but because of the inability of the person in charge to issue leases on agricultural land, we are regretful to oppose the accepted practice, when in the end there is a direct contract between the farmer or the developer and the person in charge. Nonetheless, this solution is the best one for agriculture in Judea and Samaria in light of the existing situation. It must be emphasized that the permits are not given in a sweeping fashion but only after an in-depth examination of the status of the area, the existence of a general contract for the area, a proper request from an Agriculture Ministry representative, and an examination of all the data including an analysis in the field by the Civil Administration. It should also be noted that administrative efforts are underway to add the industrial area into the Shomron Regional Council's jurisdiction." ([Haaretz](#) 18 July 2013)

- Israeli general: IDF erred in detaining 5-year-old Palestinian boy. A week after the incident Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon clarifies protocol concerning detention of minors in the West Bank. The Israeli army made a mistake when soldiers detained a five-year-old Palestinian boy last week in Hebron, the head of the IDF Central Command said on Wednesday. Video footage recorded last week by Israeli human rights group B'Tselem field researchers show the boy, Wa'adi Maswada, being detained by soldiers in Hebron after he allegedly threw a rock at a settler's car. The age of legal responsibility in the occupied territories, as in Israel, is 12. IDF officials note, however, that soldiers occasionally face children who throw rocks and firebombs. "We made a mistake during the event, both in detaining the boy and detaining his father," GOC Central Command Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon told commanders during an operational assessment conducted in the command. Alon added that the commanders should clarify to their soldiers what are the limitations when detaining children. Only on Wednesday, a week after the incident occurred, the Command responded to the event. At the end of the assessment, division commanders were reminded of the procedures soldiers should follow when detaining children, including

those under the age of legal responsibility. They were also instructed to brief the regional brigade commanders and pass the information down the chain of command. On Tuesday, the IDF opened an investigation into the incident. Col. Doron Ben Barak, the legal adviser of the IDF in the West Bank, was said to oversee the investigation. The purpose of the investigation is to determine whether the boy's detention was legal and review the appropriate protocol in such cases. ([Haaretz](#) 18 July 2013)

- IDF court judge condemns Israel Police interrogations of Palestinian minors. Threats, coached responses and incomplete recording of interviews - just some of the ways investigators violate the rights of young suspects in the West Bank, court says. The Judea Military Court has slammed the way Israeli law enforcement authorities treat Palestinian minors suspected of criminal offenses. The remarks were part of Judge Maj. Shahar Greenberg's written verdict on Monday convicting a Palestinian minor for throwing rocks. The defendant is identified only by the initial Z. In the course of the trial it was disclosed that a police investigator had verbally threatened minors and coached them to incriminate their peers. Greenberg's criticism comes one week after Israeli soldiers detained a 5-year-old boy from Hebron for throwing rocks. "There is cause for harsh and pointed criticism of all aspects of the investigation procedures for Palestinian minor suspects by the Israel Police in the area," Greenberg wrote, adding, "One cannot ignore the heavy feeling, felt throughout the entire case, that the Israel Police have not assimilated their legal obligations." Greenberg noted various flaws and possible illegalities in the investigation of the case. He mentioned in particular the failure to use certified youth investigators or investigators fluent in Arabic. Greenberg also noted the failure to videotape suspect interviews, rather than using audio recordings alone. In addition, he wrote, investigators interview underage suspects when the minors are extremely tired and also threaten and coach them during the interviews. Z. was arrested in March 2012 on suspicion of throwing rocks at passing Israeli cars two weeks earlier, during a demonstration in support of Palestinian security prisoner Khader Adnan. Z. was represented by attorney Nery Ramati. The investigation was carried out by Sgt. Maj. Solomon Desta from the Hebron region. Dasta is a veteran investigator with the Hebron station. A year ago he headed an investigation in which a 16-year-old Palestinian spent more than five months in jail as a rape suspect before being cleared of suspicion and released by the court. By law, parents or a defense attorney must be given the opportunity to be

present during the interrogation of a minor. Desta informed Z.'s family of the interview and began it immediately. Greenberg noted that the parents of underage Palestinian suspects are often unable to reach the police station due to security considerations. ([Haaretz](#) 18 July 2013)

- Bennett: The answer to the EU is building in Judea and Samaria. We were here before Paris and we will be here after Paris.” A fledgling Jewish community in Judea and Samaria is the answer to the European Union’s new guidelines against West Bank settlements, Economy and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett said on Wednesday night as he stood outside in the Keda outpost. “If this is not our home, then I am homeless,” he said. He spoke under a half-moon on a small makeshift stage on a dusty lot by the outpost’s day care center. Wearing red T-shirts, the 50 outpost families had gathered there to celebrate their 10-year anniversary. They set up plastic tables with watermelon and pastries, as well as metal urns with coffee and tea. Located on the outskirts of the Shilo settlement, Keda is seeking government approval to become an authorized community, either as a neighborhood of Shiloh or as a new settlement. As the Bayit Yehudi head looked out at the Keda residents sitting on plastic chairs, he told them, “The real response to the EU’s latest action is coming here to another beautiful community in Judea and Samaria.” He noted that in the past few weeks there had been a number of births in Keda. “More kids, more trees, more vineyards, more homes – that is the real answer to the EU,” he said. Jews, he said, was in Judea and Samaria thousands of years ago and would continue to live there thousands of years into the future. “We were here before Paris and we will be here after Paris,” Bennett said. He told reporters who crowded around him after the event that Israel still had a few days to try and prevent the EU’s publication of new guidelines that clarify the EU’s long-standing policy not to recognize territory over the pre-1967 lines as part of Israel. For Keda resident Matanya Chaya, who immigrated to Israel from the Czech Republic, the celebration of Keda’s 10th anniversary took on a special meaning in light of the EU’s strong anti-settlement stance. “After we heard what the EU is saying about us and thinking about us, it is important to say we are here and we are staying here for a long time,” Chaya said. ([JPOST](#) 18 July 2013)
- East Jerusalem is not a Palestinian territory. The U.S. State Department cannot refer to east Jerusalem as Palestinian territory, according to a statement made by the Zionist Organization of America on Monday. The statement was made in response to the U.S. State Department's announcement of joint U.S.-Palestinian cultural program that was to

take place at the "Palestinian Heritage Museum, East Jerusalem, and Palestinian Territories." "Eastern Jerusalem is actually the eastern half of the city of Jerusalem, including the ancient Jewish section populated by over 200,000 Jews, the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest sites," the statement read, later calling the State Department's usage "legally inaccurate, politically biased and prejudicial to the prospect of genuine peace negotiations." The written statement continued to say that the usage contradicts the years old U.S. policy that the status of Jerusalem could only be determined in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The statement, signed by ZOA President Morton Klein, also noted that the neglect of eastern Jerusalem only ended under Israeli rule and after the unification of Jerusalem. "Eastern Jerusalem was seemingly unimportant to Jordan because it failed to provide even the most basic municipal services there," Klein said. "Eastern Jerusalem's residents lacked electricity, plumbing, health care services and even a steady water supply. It was Israel that began providing those badly needed municipal services to eastern Jerusalem, including to Arab homes and businesses." The ZOA called on the U.S. State Department to immediately to correct all instances of the "incorrect usage" on its website. ([Isarel Hayom](#) 18 July 2013)

- Israeli minister of Housing and construction, Uri Ariel, stated that Israel will not be seriously damaged by the European Union's decision to stop financial cooperation between the EU and Jewish bodies in the settlements. Minister Ariel said in a radio interview that Israel has the means to deal with this decision, including halting the activities of the European Union in the areas under full Israeli control in the West Bank (Area C) and compensate losses resulting from the European Union's decision, from the Tax Funds that Israel transfers to the Palestinian National Authority each month. Minister Ariel considered that while expanding the scope of "anti-Semitism" in Europe, the European countries are seeking to harm citizens of Israel and the conditions for negotiations. (NBPRS 18 July 2013)
- Bennett threatens to leave Netanyahu government over peace talks on '67 lines. Habayit Hayehudi leader, Likud MKs express strong objection to negotiations with Palestinians based on '67 borders, as outlined in John Kerry's plan to resume talks; Palestinians have yet to decide on accepting plan. Habayit Hayehudi leader Naftali Bennett said Thursday that his party would not sit in a government that negotiates with the Palestinians based on 1967 borders. Other right-wing cabinet ministers and MKs were also quick to clarify that they

would not cooperate with Netanyahu if he proceeds with talks on this basis. Such opposition may lead to a breakup of the coalition government, but will also seriously constrain Netanyahu within his own Likud faction. A senior Israeli official told Haaretz Thursday that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was expected to announce the resumption of peace talks on Friday. The outline for talks, according to the official, includes negotiations on borders based on 1967 lines, with land swaps – taking into account the current reality in the West Bank, i.e. the major settlement blocs. Kerry's announcement, however, depends on the outcome of meetings between the Palestinian leadership in Ramallah. At the time of this report, there was still no final outcome from the deliberations. Economy Minister Naftali Bennett, who heads Habayit Hayehudi, railed against the possibility that the government will agree to resume negotiations on this basis. "We would like to make it clear. Habayit Hayehudi under my leadership will not, even for one second, be part of a government that is party to negotiations based on the 1967 borders. Our capital Jerusalem is not, and never will be, a subject of negotiations," Bennett said. Likud MK Miri Regev also strongly objected to using the 1967 borders as a basis for negotiations. Regev may become part of a broadly based front within the Likud, which will obstruct any effort by Netanyahu to reach a political settlement. "The decision to resume negotiations on the basis of the 1967 borders is a mistake that endangers, rather than serves the security of Israel, while negatively impacting the settlers and their endeavours," she said. Regev called on Netanyahu to convene Likud party institutions in order to present to central committee and Knesset faction members the outlined plan that is shaping up." Opposition leader Shelly Yachimovich sent an open letter to Netanyahu on Thursday urging him to resume negotiations with the Palestinians. "Reality now dictates unambiguous conclusions leading to immediate commencement of political talks with the Palestinians in a sincere attempt to reach a solution. This is not the result of an American, European or even Palestinian interest," Yachimovich wrote. "The Israeli and Zionist interest now lies in continuing to realize the vision of a Jewish and democratic state. We hope that Secretary of State Kerry succeeds in reigniting the stalled negotiations. There are grounds for being optimistic, but this needs to be strengthened by positive winds blowing from Israel. Anyone supporting this move belongs to the national camp. Anyone who fails to understand this places himself in the camp supporting a bi-national solution." Yachimovich assured Netanyahu of a "strong and effective parliamentary safety net in case you run into political difficulties in



your immediate vicinity." President Shimon Peres hinted earlier Thursday that there was progress in the resuming negotiations, saying the renewal of peace talks was "within reach" due to Kerry's efforts. Peres also urged European Union not to publish its new guidelines regarding Israeli settlements to avoid thwarting peace talks. "From the latest information I have, Kerry has succeeded in promoting the chances of opening negotiations," Peres said. "The coming days will be critical, but we are within reach. I believe that the enormous effort is proving fruitful on the Israeli side and the Palestinian side. Both sides are making a supreme effort to overcome the latest obstacles. ([Haaretz](#) 19 July 2013)

- Attorney-general: Only one Amona building must be evacuated. Despite recent High Court ruling stipulating the evacuation of 30 buildings allegedly built on privately owned Palestinian land, Yehuda Weinstein insists on removal of one house and one access road. The residents of Amona -- an outpost in Judea and Samaria -- may have gotten a temporary reprieve on Thursday. Deputy Attorney-General Dina Zilber announced Thursday that in keeping with a recent High Court of Justice ruling, the Israel Defense Forces have been instructed to evacuate the outpost by July 24, but at this point, the evacuation will not include 30 buildings, as originally thought, but merely one access road and one building found to have been illegally built on privately owned Palestinian land. Attorney-General Yehuda Weinstein informed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon of the decision on Thursday to evacuate only one plot by next Wednesday. The building slated for evacuation currently houses a family of seven. As for the access road, the residents of Amona have already paved an alternate route into the community, anticipating the demolition of the old road. Demolition orders will also be enforced on current construction projects on existing farmland, to ensure that no construction extends into private Palestinian land. The High Court, under Chief Justice Asher Grunis, recently ruled that 30 buildings in Amona must be evacuated by July 24, arguing that the residents had not legally purchased the land on which they were built. As for the remainder of the buildings in the outpost, which the prosecution argued had been partially purchased by a company called Al-Watan, Grunis agreed to defer the evacuation on the condition that the residents settle the legal purchase of the land at the Jerusalem District Court by the end of the month. The court ruling came in response to a 2008 petition filed by human rights organization Yesh Din, nearly three years after nine permanent houses demolished in the outpost sparked violent clashes in 2006. The petition sought to evacuate the entire

outpost, citing Palestinian claims that it was built on their lands. A source in the Justice Department said Thursday that "we are implementing the decision made by the High Court of Justice after having studied the ruling." Yesh Din legal adviser Michael Sfard said Thursday that the attorney-general's decision was tantamount to "openly announcing intent to flout an explicit High Court ruling." ([Israel Hayom](#) 19 July 2013)

- State gets two more weeks to defend expulsion of Palestinians from West Bank firing zone. High Court of Justice agrees to extend until July 29 the Israel State Prosecutor's Office deadline for responding to petitions against evictions from South Hebron Hills military firing zone. The High Court of Justice has extended until July 29 the deadline for the State Prosecutor's Office to respond to two petitions against the planned expulsion of Palestinians from an Israeli military firing zone in the South Hebron Hills. The petitioners seek to prevent the eviction of 1,300 Palestinians from eight villages in an area that had been declared Firing Zone 918. This was the second extension in five months, and it was granted despite the court's censure of the state for its foot-dragging on the issue. Whether directly or not, the State Prosecutor's Office must address in its response a legal opinion, submitted with the petitions filed by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel and attorney Shlomo Lecker, in which Israeli experts in international law Eyal Benvenisti, David Kretzmer and Yuval Shany cited the Geneva Convention's prohibition against the forcible transfer of a protected population (in occupied territory) and argued that the Palestinians could seek redress in the International Criminal Court in The Hague. It should be noted that the European Union position is also that these expulsions will be considered a "forcible dislocation" that violates international law. In the extension application the director of the High Court petitions office in the State Prosecutor's Office, Osnat Mandel noted the "hundreds of hours" spent in Israel's Civil Administration in the West Bank and in the Military Advocate General Corps preparing the response. She also noted the "dozens of pages and two binders of appended documents" in which MAG submitted its position to her office in early July. ([Haaretz](#) 19 July 2013)
- Israel agrees to free Palestinian prisoners in order to resume peace talks. Minister Yuval Steinitz says some 'heavyweight' inmates to be released; adds that Palestinian Authority pledged to negotiate for nine months, refrain from pursuing action against Israel internationally. Israel has agreed to a long-standing Palestinian demand to release Palestinian prisoners in order to resume peace talks, but will not yield



on other central issues, Strategic and Intelligence Affairs Yuval Steinitz said on Saturday. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday that Israel and the Palestinians had laid the groundwork to resume peace talks after an almost three-year stalemate, but he warned that the deal was not final and required more diplomacy. "There will be some release of prisoners," Steinitz told Israel Radio. "I don't want to give numbers but there will be heavyweight prisoners who have been in jail for tens of years," he said. The release would be carried out in phases, he added. Steinitz insisted that this latest agreement doesn't compromise other principles stipulated by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ahead of the talks. A settlement construction moratorium remains out of the question, and no preliminary guarantees are to be made with regard to a future Palestinian state's borders. Furthermore, the minister noted that the Palestinians have pledged to take part in negotiations over the course of at least nine months, as well as to avoid taking action against Israel in the international arena. Palestinians have long demanded that Israel free prisoners who have been held in Israeli jails since before 1993, the year the two sides signed the Oslo Accords - a interim deal that was intended to lead to an independent state the Palestinians seek in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians, with international backing, have said negotiations over their future state must have borders approximating the boundaries of those territories before Israel captured them in a 1967 Middle East War. ([Haaretz](#) 20 July 2013)

- B'Tselem spokeswoman wounded by Israeli Border Police fire at West Bank protest. Sarit Michaeli, of the human rights group B'Tselem, was hit by a rubber bullet shot at close range during weekly Nabi Saleh protest. Sarit Michaeli, the spokeswoman of human rights group B'Tselem, was slightly injured during a Friday demonstration at Nabi Saleh after a Border Policeman shot her with a rubber bullet at close range. Michaeli was videotaping the protest being held at the village of Nabi Saleh, near Ramallah- an event held every Friday, which is routinely dispersed by IDF forces. This week, Border Police troops belonging to the Binyamin regional command were policing the area. "I was on the village's main road," said Michaeli, speaking to Haaretz. "A few youths were throwing stones. Some nine policemen and soldiers stormed the group, causing them to run away. I was standing to the side. At a certain point, one of the policemen fired a rubber bullet at me, at a range of about 15 or 20 meters. I do not know why he shot at me. I was not doing anything that could be perceived as a threat to any of the soldiers. Also, I was not in the route of the soldiers' advance, so

they had to have intentionally aimed at me or the two women standing beside me." The bullet pierced Michaeli's thigh, and she was evacuated to Ichilov hospital, where she is still hospitalized. From Michaeli's description of the events, it appears the policemen were not acting in accordance with regulation on opening fire. According to the IDF's rules of engagement, rubber bullets are only to be used from a range of 50 meters or more, a distance at which the projectiles are meant to hit skin without penetrating it. The fact that the bullet pierced Michaeli's thigh indicated it was shot at close range. In addition, such ammunition is not to be used during a forces' advance- rather, being a precise weapon, aimed at specific targets pre-approved by senior officers. ([Haaretz](#) 21 July 2013)

- Netanyahu: Israel will enter peace talks honestly, won't give up security demands. Prime minister tells cabinet that negotiations with the Palestinians won't be easy, but will be conducted in a serious and initially discreet fashion; Peres calls Abbas to congratulate him on his decision to resume talks. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that he intended to embark on negotiations with the Palestinians honestly, but assured ministers at the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem that he would stand his ground on Israel's security needs throughout the talks. "I am committed to two objectives that must guide the result ... if there will be a result. And if there will be a result, it will be put to a national referendum," he said at the start of the cabinet meeting, two days after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced that direct Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations were due to begin next week in Washington. "Negotiations with the Palestinians will not be easy but we are entering them with integrity, honesty and hope." "Our negotiating partners will have to make concessions that enable us to preserve our security and crucial national interests," Netanyahu said, adding that the negotiations would be conducted in a responsible, serious and businesslike fashion and that "at least in the early stages they will also be carried out discreetly." Kerry made his announcement on Friday following six visits to the region within four months and countless hours in talks with Netanyahu and [Abbas](#). ([Haaretz](#) 21 July 2013)
- Israeli labor law to apply to West Bank. Ministerial Committee votes to apply labor laws intended to protect women from discrimination in workplace to Judea, Samaria, thus expanding law's current jurisdiction beyond green-line. Does move pose threat to peace talks? The Ministerial Committee on Legislative Affairs approved by a majority of

seven supporters against one in opposition – with Health Minister Yael German (Yesh Atid) opposing – a bill proposed by MK Orit Struk (Habayit Hayehudi), according to which women's labor law will be applied in the West Bank. The move to expand an existing law to include the disputed Judea and Samaria territories is not irregular, but its timing in coincidence with the renewal of peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians presents a position which does not necessarily bode well with negotiations. Under the bill, women working for Israeli employers in the West Bank will be entitled to all the protections provided by Israel's labor laws in cases in which they are absent from work due to maternity leave, pregnancy, adoption or fertility treatments. The law applies equally to Israeli and Palestinian women. Currently, Israeli law does not have jurisdiction in the territories, which are governed by laws decreed by the IDF general in charge of the area. A source with the committee predicted that petitions to cancel the law might be filed with the High Court, but in the meantime, the bill will continue along the legislative route, and move onto the Knesset where it will likely enjoy coalition support. According to the proposal, the law in its current form "is confined to the territories included in Israel's sovereignty and does not apply to Israeli citizens living in Judea and Samaria. In light of this, the rights of women in these areas are trampled, and they are barred from enjoying the rights the legislature worked to grant them. ([Ynetnews](#) 21 July 2013)

- Peace Now: Freeze? What Freeze? Left-wing NGO says current government has thus far approved more than 1,500 housing units in Judea, Samaria. Peace Now, a far-left group that opposes any Jewish presence in the mountainous Biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria, says that nationalist complaints of a building freeze are unjustified. The present government, it says, has carried out large scale construction in Judea and Samaria. According to Peace Now, the government that was sworn in in March has thus far approved over 1,500 housing units in Judea and Samaria. According to the group's complaints, which were quoted in *IDF Radio*, Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon has approved plans for enlarging a number of communities in Judea and Samaria, including Shiloh, Beit El, Nofei Prat, Almog and Alei Zahav. Three hundred of the units Peace Now is referring to are the ones that are supposed to be built in Beit El, following the prime minister's promise to do so after the High Court insisted on the destruction and relocation of several buildings in the Ulpana Neighborhood last year. Another 1,000 units are planned in Alei Zahav, in Samaria. Yaalon has also approved 3,600 units that were already approved at an earlier stage of

planning by his predecessor in office, Ehud Barak. Peace Now's complaints notwithstanding, it should be noted that none of the approvals are final permits for construction on the ground. Rather – they are all approvals for future plans that require further approvals from the political echelon before they turn into actual building sites. Peace Now chairman Yariv Oppenheimer told the radio station: “Despite the talk of a quiet freeze and a reining-in of construction policy in the territories, the present government is advancing construction plans at an unprecedented scale.” “It appears that in the Israeli summer, the word 'freeze' is a particularly fluid one,” he added. Nationalists have been saying for years that the Netanyahu government has imposed a de facto freeze on construction in Judea and Samaria, and have expressed concern that a resumption of “peace talks” with the Palestinian Authority might be accompanied by a continuation of this freeze. Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon has said that he would fight any decision to impose such a freeze. ([Israel National News](#) 22 July 2013)

- Israel set to release 82 Palestinian prisoners as gesture ahead of talks. Army backs move, saying freeing veteran prisoners will strengthen Palestinian Authority President Abbas, who is under fire from Palestinian public and parts of Fatah leadership. Israel is planning to free some 82 of the 103 Palestinians sentenced to prison terms in Israel before the Oslo Accords were first signed in 1993, as part of the gestures to the Palestinian Authority in the context of the renewal of peace talks. The prisoners will not all be released immediately but rather in four different stages during the talks. All the prisoners to be released have already served between 20-35 years in prison, most being Fatah members. Defense officials believe that most of them will not constitute a future risk, taking into account their age and the slim chance that they will resume terrorist activity after their release. These “Fatah Elders” have awaited their release during previous goodwill gestures and prisoner-swaps, such as the 2003 deal in return for the bodies of three missing Israel Defense Forces soldiers and abducted IDF Col. (res.) Elhanan Tenenbaum; the 2008 deal for the return of the bodies of two reserve soldiers; and the Gilad Shalit deal of 2011. Most of the prisoners whose release has been denied are Israeli citizens. Israel maintains a long-standing position that it cannot allow the PA to “own” Israeli citizens or represent them in prisoner deals. There might yet be another consideration: the release of Israeli-Arab murderers could lead to a demand to release Jews involved in terror attacks against Arabs, such as Ami Popper, convicted in 1991 for the murder of

seven Arabs in Rishon Letzion. Defense sources told Haaretz: “In contrast to several reports in recent days, Israel has decided at this stage to release only 82 prisoners, without adding post-Oslo prisoners as a so-called compensation for the 21 prisoners who were on the list but won’t be freed. The prisoners will not be released soon, during Ramadan, but on a later date. We intend to free them at the beginning of the second month of the negotiations, in four ‘pulses,’ every two months.” For some time now, the IDF has supported freeing the veteran prisoners, arguing that it would serve a need to strengthen the position of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. As always, the Shin Bet security service’s position is more cautious. Defense Minister Moshe Ya’alon has fully approved the move and will support it when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presents it to ministers and the security cabinet. A defense official said on Sunday that even though the released prisoners are murderers, the move can be accepted due to the long terms they have already served and the low risk involved, due to their age. The official mentioned one of the prisoners, who planted a refrigerator packed with explosives in Jerusalem in the 1970s. The official said that not only had Israel negotiated with the terrorist’s commander, Yasser Arafat, but furthermore, his direct commander, Mustafa al-Liftawi (Abu Firas), who was the head of the PLO’s Western Sector intelligence group in Beirut (responsible for attacks in Israel in the 1970s and ‘80s) was one of the officials who returned to the West Bank with the PLO leadership, was appointed governor of Ramallah and had constant contacts with IDF commanders and Shin Bet officials for almost two decades. Meanwhile, Abbas is under fire from the Palestinian public and part of the Fatah leadership. Hoping to boost his standing, the PA president is considering calling an election in the Palestinian Authority, the first since Hamas won the parliamentary election in 2006. It seems that Abbas and his advisers are considering offering Hamas a joint election in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Such an offer might seek to exploit Hamas’ recent weakness in the polls and the difficulties it faces due to the renewed negotiations and the crisis in relations with the Egyptian army. In recent weeks, both the PA and Hamas have tried to revive the four-year reconciliation talks, but it seems that Hamas will most likely reject Abbas’ offer. Egyptian army commanders suspect that Hamas, or some of the smaller extremist groups in the Gaza Strip, is supporting Islamic terrorists in the Sinai Peninsula, leading to the demolition of the tunnels between Gaza and Egypt, causing prices to rise in Gaza. Abbas told the Palestinian press that he agreed to renew the talks following the demands of the Arab

League. Observers note it was easier for him to say that he succumbed to Arab pressure than to admit that it was actually direct U.S. pressure. ([Haaretz](#) 22 July 2013)

- Danon: Construction Freeze? Terrorist Release? No Way! Deputy Defense Minister vows to fight any initiative to freeze Jewish construction in Judea and Samaria or release terrorists. Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon (Likud) promised on Sunday that he would fight any Israeli initiative to freeze Jewish construction in Judea and Samaria or release terrorists as a “gesture” to the Palestinian Authority for resuming peace talks. Speaking to *Arutz Sheva*, Danon said that he does not understand why PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas should be rewarded with the freeing of terrorists with blood on their hands simply because he agreed to send a representative to meet Israeli envoys. “In the Middle East, this is perceived as weakness,” said Danon, adding that he believes that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is essentially trapped between left-leaning ministers such as Tzipi Livni and Amir Peretz and members of his own party who are encouraging him to remember and adhere to the values of the Likud. “We were able to prevent a construction freeze, we were able to avoid talk about the pre-1967 borders and I believe the last word has not yet been spoken about the release of terrorists,” he said, adding that he is convinced that the Netanyahu will not have a majority in the Likud if he chooses to hold talks on the basis of the indefensible pre-1967 borders. “These are not Likud positions, but extreme leftist positions,” said Danon, emphasizing that neither he nor other Likud members intend to be subcontractors for Livni’s positions. Danon denied that a construction freeze was currently being implemented in Judea and Samaria, noting that he himself fought a previous government decision to freeze construction. As of right now, he added, there has been no official decision to freeze construction. He said that while private construction continues throughout Judea and Samaria, government construction tenders must be issued as well. He said that such tenders have been issued, albeit at a slower pace than desired. “I would like to see much more,” admitted Danon. While some have welcomed the announcement that Israel and the Palestinian Authority will resume talks, a growing number of ministers and MKs have expressed concern over the promises that Netanyahu is rumored to have made in order to win Abbas’s agreement to negotiate. Members of the Bayit Yehudi (Jewish Home) part, including ministers Naftali Bennett and Uri Ariel, have expressed concern as well. Ariel warned that if reports regarding Netanyahu’s concessions to Abbas were true, “this is a serious



mistake.” There have been several reports regarding Netanyahu’s promises to Abbas, who formerly listed several preconditions to talks, among them the release of terrorist prisoners held by Israel and a complete ban on construction of new housing for Jews living east of the 1949 armistice line. Some foreign papers have said that Netanyahu agreed to base talks on the “1967 lines,” meaning the 1949 Armistice Line. Others report that Netanyahu promised to free terrorist prisoners prior to his first meeting with Abbas. Some reports say Netanyahu agreed to an unofficial building freeze in Judea and Samaria, as well. ([Israel National News](#) 22 July 2013)

- Settler leaders hold emergency meeting against renewed Israeli-Palestinian talks. Council of Jewish Communities in West Bank ask to meet with PM. Settler leaders on Sunday afternoon held an emergency meeting in Jerusalem against renewed Israeli-Palestinian talks, but have yet to formulate a clear battle plan to oppose them. Following the meeting, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip asked to meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. It also plans to hold a joint meeting in the Knesset Tuesday with the Land of Israel parliamentary lobby group. The council is operating under the assumption that three major points widely published in the media with regard to the talks are true: that they will be based on the pre-1967 lines; Palestinian prisoners will be released; and that there will be some form of a settlement freeze. There is some speculation among settlers that Netanyahu might temporarily break the de facto freeze that exists on the publication of tenders for West Bank settlements, as a prelude to a more lasting freeze. They have speculated that this break in the de facto freeze would be taken at the same time that Netanyahu announces plans to release Palestinian prisoners. Talks under these conditions are very dangerous, said Jordan Valley Regional Council head David Lahiani. “You should not enter negotiations when you do not know how you are going to get out of them,” Lahiani said. “What are this government’s red lines?” he asked. It is not possible to conclude a peace deal, Lahiani said, adding that Israel will be blamed when the talks fall apart. Israel’s situation after the talks will be worse than before, Lahiani warned. Efrat Council head Oded Revivi said that he supported the idea of talking with the Palestinians, to better understand how best to live alongside them. But he warned, the United States was mistaken if it believed that negotiations should occur in an atmosphere where Israelis and Palestinians could not meet each other’s expectations. “Everyone has expectations that are obvious the other side will not agree upon,” Revivi said. He was particularly opposed, he said, to the idea of releasing Palestinian terrorists as a



precondition to renewed talks. “It’s absurd,” he said and added that it was proof that Israel and the Palestinians were not on the same wavelength. Ma’aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel said that more terror attacks would follow as a result of the prisoner release. “Peace and security will not come as a result,” Kashriel said. He urged the government to break its de facto freeze on building tenders and not to halt any other kind of settlement activity. West Bank building, particularly in the settlement blocs such as Ma’aleh Adumim, should continue as an Israeli right, and should not be linked to the talks or to punishment measures toward the Palestinians, as it has in the past, he said. “We should build in Judea and Samaria, particularly in areas where there is consensus,” he said. ([JPOST](#) 22 July 2013)

- Catherine Ashton: Israeli settlement products to be labeled in EU by end of 2013. Letter obtained by Haaretz shows EU foreign policy chief is seeking to recruit support from all relevant commissioners for West Bank labeling guidelines. European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton is seeking to draft comprehensive guidelines on labeling settlement products by the end of this year, she told several senior EU officials last week. She made the comment in a letter - a copy of which has been obtained by Haaretz - sent on July 8 to European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and the seven commissioners responsible for justice, industry, consumer protection, agriculture, taxation, trade and internal market. The commission is the EU's executive arm. The letter's goal was to recruit support from all the relevant commissioners for issuing guidelines on labeling settlement products that would apply to all 28 EU member states. Ashton said she would need the commissioners' help and political backing, and asked each of them to instruct their staffs to work on the issue. Her effort comes on the heels of a new EU directive that prohibits funding, investing in or awarding grants and prizes to entities with activities in the settlements. This directive also said that any new agreements between Israel and the European Union should include a provision stating that Jewish communities in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are not part of Israel, and hence not covered by the agreement. In her letter, Ashton said the commission must adopt guidelines on labeling settlement products, and, if necessary, regulations as well. The former are nonbinding, while the latter are binding. "The guidelines could be adopted as a nonbinding Commission Notice and published in the Official Journal of the EU before the end of 2013," Ashton wrote. "I hereby call for your commitment toward ensuring the effective implementation of existing

EU legislation relevant for the correct labeling of settlement products by adopting EU guidelines and other implementing acts where necessary," the letter continued. "I would highly appreciate your support for a political commitment of the College [of Commissioners] as a whole and for all further efforts needed from your services." Ashton said the need to properly label produce from the settlements is "closely linked" to the EU's general stance opposing the settlements. She also noted that some EU states have already published their own guidelines on labeling products from the settlements - a reference to Britain, Denmark and Holland - and said that other countries are planning to do so soon. "An overwhelming majority of Member States have recently supported or openly demanded the preparation of EU-wide guidelines on this issue in order to implement EU law in a coherent manner," she wrote. The European External Action Service, which she heads, has reviewed the relevant EU legislation on the matter over the last few months, and found that while labeling is mandatory for some products - like cosmetics and agricultural produce - it is voluntary for others, such as food other than fresh produce, the letter said. ([Haaretz](#) 23 July 2013)

- Economy and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett promised on Tuesday to continue settlement construction despite Palestinian demands that Israel freeze building in the West Bank ahead of the imminent renewal of bilateral negotiations. "We will continue building, and you will see this soon," said Bennett, who heads the religious-nationalist Jewish Home party, at an event in the Shiloh settlement in the northern West Bank. "I am sending the message from here to all the parties in the negotiations: The land of Israel belongs to the nation of Israel." Bennett's statements came on the heels of his threats Monday to collapse the government by voting against the coalition's proposed budget unless Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu advances a bill creating a Basic Law that would put any peace deal to a national referendum. Netanyahu had already committed to such a measure. "I don't think these decisions can be made, if there is a deal, by one government or another, but need to be brought as a national decision," the prime minister said Sunday. He added that his main guiding principles in the talks will be to maintain a Jewish majority in Israel and to avoid a future Palestinian state becoming an Iranian-backed "terror state." Also on Tuesday, a few settlers from Amona, a contentious outpost with a standing demolition order, began clearing out of their caravans without a fuss — two days ahead of the court-set date for their departure, July 24. Amona was the scene of violence between settlers and Israeli troops during a previous evacuation in

2006, which left hundreds injured. Amona's evacuation was deferred three times recently. The High Court of Justice gave the state a July 15 deadline to clear the site. The Amona outpost, on a hilltop outside Ofra in the central West Bank, was founded without state authorization in 1995 on Palestinian land and is home to around 200 people, who live in trailer homes and semi-permanent buildings. The outpost has been the subject of years of legal wrangling. Tuesday's statement isn't the first time Bennett has come out against a settlement freeze as reports of renewed negotiations have emerged. "It's been proven that when we stand firm in our demands, we can enter talks without preconditions, without construction freezes, and certainly without the crazy demand that we base negotiations on the '67 lines," Bennett said Saturday. "As negotiations get underway, we will insist on continuing construction in Jerusalem and the West Bank. History has taught us that building produces life, while dismantling settlements produces terror." A total settlement freeze has been a central Palestinian condition for returning to talks in recent years. The last attempt at negotiations, in 2010, ended after three weeks when Israel rebuffed Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's demand for the extension of its 10-month settlement building freeze. The PA president had waited until the last month of the freeze to agree to sit down and talk. Israel has said it is willing to offer other goodwill gestures in the early stages of the talks, including the reported release of 82 "serious" Palestinian prisoners, held since before the Oslo Accords were signed 20 years ago — but Intelligence Minister Yuval Steinitz told Israel Radio that "a settlement building freeze isn't on the table." Housing Minister Uri Ariel, also of the Jewish Home party, which has strong links to the settler movement, said Sunday that a freeze was "inappropriate for the Jewish people, for the land of Israel and for a sovereign state... we are in favor of building as much as possible." Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz, from the ruling Likud party, said halting construction in the settlements would be "immoral, un-Jewish and inhuman." ([Time of Israel](#) 24 July 2013)

- Israel's deputy foreign minister: EU directive on labeling products would sting 20,000 Palestinian families. Deputy Foreign Minister Zeev Elkin adds that the EU's new funding regime 'takes a stand on borders even before negotiations have begun.' Deputy Foreign Minister Zeev Elkin told a senior EU official Tuesday that 20,000 Palestinian families stood to lose their livelihood if products from the settlements were identified as such in Europe. At a meeting with Elmar Brok, the chairman of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee,

Elkin said Palestinian workers in agriculture or manufacturing in the settlements could find themselves out of work if these businesses shut down due to a drop in exports to the European Union. On July 8, the EU's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, sent a letter to seven relevant EU commissioners asking for their support in issuing guidelines on labeling settlement products that would apply to all 28 EU countries. Ashton wrote that she wanted the process completed by the end of this year. "You are asking us to approve European projects and operations in Area C, but you are trying to hurt Israeli enterprises that already exist and provide a respectable livelihood for tens of thousands of Palestinian families," Elkin told Brok, referring to the area of the West Bank under full Israeli control. "This is simply bizarre." Elkin also broached the new EU directives banning funding for Israeli entities with links beyond the 1967 borders. He told Brok that the decision could impair Israel's cooperation with the European Union. "This is very serious and problematic from our point of view because the decision takes a stand on borders even before negotiations have begun," Elkin said. "You are asking not only not to fund research and enterprises in Judea and Samaria, but also trying to tell us ... how to distribute the money we invest, and that is unacceptable to us." ([Haaretz](#) 24 July 2013)

- Quiet settlement freeze: Netanyahu denies, Ariel thinks otherwise. Prime Minister states no restrictions exist on construction in territories, says all in coordination with Housing Minister Ariel. Minister replies: 'It never happened.' Confidants of minister: 'Ready to market thousands of apartments, but in practice it is not happening'. The renewal of the peace process is becoming a more realistic possibility, but the policy regarding continued construction beyond the Green Line is still unclear. In a letter sent Tuesday, Housing and Construction Minister Uri Ariel reveals the ambiguity with which Netanyahu is managing the issue: To those within his party, the prime minister says that construction in the territories continues without reservation, but the minister states that there is no coordination between the two men on the subject, and hints that policy on the ground does not allow for the promotion of projects in the settlements. During the faction meeting for Likud-Beiteinu on Monday night, Netanyahu was asked about restrictions on building in the territories on the backdrop of the political process. Attendees at the meeting told Ynet that Netanyahu replied there are no restrictions in place on construction, and that Israel had not committed to a freeze. He added that things are coordinate via Housing Minister Ariel. Following this, Deputy Minister Danny Danon

requested of Ariel a response in regard to Netanyahu's statement. Ariel replied to Danon's question in a handwritten letter, "I listened in amazement when the prime minister said at a Likud faction meeting that there were no limits on construction in Jerusalem and that this was coordinated with Minister Uri Ariel." "I hereby announce: This never happened," Ariel wrote in response. Sources close to the minister clarified that tenders for construction in the settlements were not going out for a clear reason – they would not be promoted. A Housing Ministry official added, "We are ready at any time to market thousands of units in Jerusalem, but the test of reality is that this does not happen. Anyone can draw a clear conclusion why." Deputy Defense Minister Danon said to Ynet in response, "Given that the prime minister and housing and construction minister say that there is nothing stopping construction in Jerusalem, I expect the release of tenders for construction which are pending approval." The Prime Minister's Office has not issued a response. Earlier this week, an aide to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was quoted in The Wall Street Journal saying that the Israeli government had agreed to a "quiet freeze" of construction in the settlements. ([Ynetnews](#) 24 July 2013)

- Israel pushing ahead with grandiose West Bank railway plan, ignoring political borders. The plan, which includes 473 kilometers of rail with 30 stations on 11 lines and dozens of bridges and tunnels, is meant to connect all West Bank cities with one another; Palestinian Authority refused to cooperate with plan. The Civil Administration decided Wednesday to go ahead with its grandiose railway plan for the West Bank and open it up for public objections, after the Palestinian Authority refused Israel's request to participate in the planning. The program is being aggressively promoted by Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz (Likud). Some NIS 1 million has already been invested in the planning process. The plan, first made revealed by Haaretz, included 473 kilometers of rail with 30 stations on 11 lines, meant to connect all cities and regions within the West Bank and the West Bank with Jordan and Syria. Due of the West Bank's hilly terrain, the plans include dozens of bridges and tunnels. The railway plan, which is supposed to accommodate all populations living in the West Bank, completely ignores all current political borders. Initial discussions were held about 18 months ago. Even if the hundreds of billions of shekels needed to realize the plan are never found, the mere existence of the plan means that any construction program from now on will have to take the theoretical railway lines into account. Today the Civil Administration discussed the details of the plan, presented by Alex

Schmidt , who was hired by Israel Railways to planning the lines. "There are 11 tracks. The central line runs parallel to the route connecting Jenin, Nablus, Jerusalem's outskirts, Hebron and Be'er Sheva. Another line runs along the Jordan Valley and connects to Jordan and Syria. There will also be latitudinal lines connecting the two main lines: a line between Nablus and the Adam Bridge, Tul Karm and Nablus, and Nablus and Rosh Ha'ayin; a line connecting the Allenby Bridge to Jerusalem and Ramallah; a line from Ramallah to Lod and Tel Aviv; a line connecting Kiryat Gat to Hebron; and another line in Gaza that will make it possible to connect Ramallah with the Gaza Strip using Israeli trains." In terms of the demand for railway services, Schmidt said: "We used the data provided by the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics. We got the number of residents who work in the industrial areas. We checked how many people use private vehicles compared to how many use public transportation. We also calculated population growth. We expect 12,000 people to use the mountain ridge line between Jerusalem and Ramallah during the morning rush hour, and 3,000 between Hebron and Beer Sheva at the same time. We estimate that 2035 will see 30 million train rides." During the discussion, it was revealed that the Civil Administration forwarded the plans to ask the Palestinian Authority asking for its input but that PA personnel refused the request. The issue was also raised at a meeting between the Civil Administration head and the director general of the PA's Interior and Civil Affairs Ministry but to no avail. It was therefore decided to proceed without Palestinian input. Survey Staff Officer Eli Livni, who is also a member of the Supreme Planning Council in Judea and Samaria (and brother of Minister of Justice Tzipi Livni), asked if such a small area really required so many lines. Schmidt responded, saying "This is what reality on the ground requires considering the cities that have to be connected." Committee member Benny Weil added "OK, let's say you're right about the mountain ridge. But the Jordan Valley?! There are hardly any buses traveling there today. Is there really a demand for trains?" Schmidt responded that "The mountain ridge line is for local passengers and commuters, whereas the valley line would serve tourists traveling to the Dead Sea, Eilat and the Sea of Galilee. In any case, it's the last of our priorities." At the end of the discussion it was decided to publish the plan for submission in another 30 days, which means that the documents will now be made public so that reservations and comments may be submitted. Once these objections are discussed, the plan will be published for final validation, whereupon concrete discussions of each and every railway line will begin. Committee chairman Daniel Halimi said that he hopes that the



Palestinians will cooperate this time. "From our perspective, publishing the plan for comment submission is an important step for including the public in the planning process." ([Haaretz](#) 25 July 2013)

- 'There will be no settlement freeze' || Israel to limit West Bank tenders to 1,000 housing units during peace talks. Netanyahu tells Kerry he will also limit the approval of construction during the next 6-9 months to the large settlement blocs; release of Palestinian prisoners to be expedited. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that Israel will limit the issuing of building tenders to 1,000 housing units in West Bank settlements during the six to nine months of negotiations with the Palestinians, Israeli officials said on Thursday. The talks between Israel and the Palestinians will resume on Tuesday in Washington, Energy and Water Resources Minister Silvan Shalom told reporters in Jericho Thursday following a meeting with chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat. Senior Israeli officials familiar with the diplomatic jockeying said Netanyahu is expected to announce the tenders on Sunday, along with his announcement of the release of 82 Palestinian prisoners. The officials, who wished to remain anonymous, said that throughout the past three months of discussions on resuming the negotiations, the Palestinians had demanded a complete freeze on all construction in the settlements. But Netanyahu refused to suspend all construction again, as he did for 10 months during his previous term in office, they said. Netanyahu therefore told Kerry he would continue to approve construction of a few hundred housing units, but mainly in the large settlement blocs, as he has been doing since March. "There will be no freeze, but we won't build thousands of housing units everywhere, either," Netanyahu told Likud MKs at the party's faction meeting earlier this week. In briefing Kerry on his plans for construction in the settlements during the talks, Netanyahu made the following commitments: 1. Israel will issue tenders to build no more than 1,000 housing units in the large settlement blocs – Ariel, Ma'aleh Adumim and Gush Etzion. The tenders had been issued previously, but were disqualified due to technical faults. They will now be reissued. 2. Apart from that, the government will not carry out or announce any construction in the settlement blocs. 3. Regarding private construction, the defense minister will approve no new master plans in isolated settlements, even if the plans have already been approved by the other relevant authorities. 4. Nevertheless, private construction that is legally approved by regional councils in the West Bank will continue. But Netanyahu told Kerry this does not apply to a large number of homes.



5. Israel will deny the existence of any agreement to freeze construction in the settlements. “You can’t call it a freeze, but you can describe it as a policy of restraint and tighter supervision over construction,” one official said. “Naftali Bennett, Uri Ariel and the Likud ministers are also aware of this,” he added, referring to two ministers from Habayit Hayehudi. The officials said Netanyahu will announce the building tenders on Sunday, to make it easier for rightist ministers and the settlers to swallow the announcement of the release of 82 Palestinian prisoners. The prisoners have been in jail since before the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993, for involvement in terror attacks that killed Israelis. Likud ministers Yuval Steinitz and Moshe Ya’alon are expected to support Netanyahu in these moves, as are Yesh Atid’s five ministers, Hatnua’s two and probably Yitzhak Aharonovitch of Yisrael Beiteinu. The three Habayit Hayehudi ministers are expected to object, along with three Yisrael Beiteinu ministers. Likud minister Yisrael Katz said he would object, while Gilad Erdan, Gideon Sa’ar, Silvan Shalom and Limor Livnat said they have not yet decided how to vote. Netanyahu’s agreement to free the first 20 Palestinian prisoners in the next few days made the meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams in Washington possible. Justice Minister. ([Haaretz](#) 26 July 2013)

- Yaalon: Don't Cooperate with EU. Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon orders that any EU request relating to Judea, Samaria and Gaza be turned down because of its latest ban. Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon has ordered the Coordinator of Government Activities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, Maj. Gen. Eitan Dangoth, to turn down any request by the European Union which relates to these regions, *Channel 2 News* reported on Thursday evening. Yaalon’s directive is a direct response to the EU’s new guidelines which forbid any contact with Israeli companies operating beyond the 1949 Armistice Lines, said the report. Last week the EU published these guidelines despite Israeli efforts to dissuade it from doing so. According to *Channel 2 News*, Yaalon instructed Dangoth to make it difficult for the Europeans to operate in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. In the past week, Israel has denied several European requests to fund projects in the Palestinian Authority. In addition, eight requests by EU officials to cross from Israel into PA-assigned areas were denied and meetings between EU and Israelis officials were canceled. Two days before the guidelines were published; Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Kerry and told him that European sanctions will hurt his attempt to restart negotiations between Israel and the PA. He also

spoke with the president of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, asking him to postpone the publication of the new guidelines. Israel met European envoys last Friday, warning them of a serious crisis between the European Union and Israel over the move. Hundreds of legal experts from Israel and around the world have appealed to European Union Foreign Affairs Commissioner Catherine Ashton to annul the EU's plan. The experts are noting that the decision does not have a legal basis, because, they argue, Judea and Samaria is not occupied territory in the legal sense of the term. ([Israel National News](#) 26 July 2013)

- Israel bars European aid staff from entering Gaza, western diplomat says. Diplomat says move is part of Israeli response to new settlement guidelines; Ashton's spokesperson: EU hasn't received official communication on orders to limit work with EU on the ground, is seeking 'urgent clarifications.' Several European aid staff has been barred from entering Gaza as part of Israeli *measures in the wake* of new EU guidelines barring cooperation with settlements, a western diplomat said Friday. The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the humanitarian aid staff had failed to receive permits to enter the Gaza Strip. On Thursday, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon ordered defense officials to halt cooperation on the ground with EU representatives. This includes any assistance to EU *infrastructure* projects in Area C, which is under full Israeli civilian and military control. Ya'alon also reportedly planned to make it more difficult for EU officials to pass through the Erez Crossing, to the Gaza Strip or back to Israel. In Brussels, Maja Kocijancic, spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, said on Friday: "The EU is concerned by reports in the Israeli media that the Israeli Minister of Defense has announced a number of restrictions affecting EU activities supporting the Palestinian people. "We have not received any official communication from the Israeli authorities. Our delegations on the spot are seeking urgent clarifications," Kocijancic added. In his decision, Ya'alon adopted a list of recommendations he received from the coordinator of government activities in the territories, Maj. Gen. Eitan Dangoth. Israel's security establishment would adopt a cold shoulder policy toward EU activities in the territories, Haaretz learned from security sources Friday morning. However, they clarified, this would apply only to specifically EU activities and not activities conducted by EU member states. It seems that Ya'alon's moves are being made in coordination with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Following the EU announcement of the new guidelines, Israeli political and defense officials warned that Israel would retaliate to the new

policy. The European Commission published the guidelines barring EU agencies from funding entities connected to settlements in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and residential areas in the Golan Heights on July 19. ([Haaretz](#) 26 July 2013)

- Israel's West Bank railway plan will face hundreds of objections. The plan aims to strengthen Israel's link to the settlements, but it's unlikely that tunnels will be excavated around Hebron, Ramallah and Nablus in the next two or three years. The grandiose West Bank railway project that defense officials approved this week is tailored for Jewish settlers now and in the future, not the Palestinians of the West Bank. The plan, which pretends to offer a regional railway network, is being pushed by Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz. This is the minister who recently said on the Walla website that "a Palestinian state is unacceptable, mainly because of our right to this land." Some NIS 1 million has already been invested in the planning, which envisions 473 kilometers of track and 30 stations on 11 lines, meant to connect the West Bank's cities and regions, and in turn these cities and regions with Jordan and Syria. The plan is not new. On May 24, 2005, the Defense Ministry's Civil Administration launched a master plan crafted by Israel Railways' infrastructure division. The plan, presented in May 2011, was intended to "create continuity between the railway lines within the Green Line and the lines planned for Judea and Samaria." In other words, to justify the huge investment, the plan aimed to further strengthen the link between Israeli cities and West Bank settlements, and to encourage more Jews to live in the West Bank. Even if Palestinians use the rail network, its route, like the West Bank's roads, is designed according to the Jewish population's needs. It ignores the fact that the West Bank is part of the Palestinian state recognized by the United Nations. The planners' invitation to the Palestinian Authority to take part in the planning is deceitful. Several modest and much more urgent infrastructure plans the PA wants to advance have been gathering dust in Civil Administration committees for years or have been rejected. The PA was not invited as the future government of a neighboring state, but rather to portray it as recalcitrant. ([Haaretz](#) 26 July 2013)
- Elkin: Netanyahu Would Give the PA 86% of Judea and Samaria. Deputy Foreign Minister: Netanyahu would give 86% of Judea and Samaria to the PA, but luckily they will never settle for that. Deputy Foreign Minister Zeev Elkin (Likud) believes that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would be willing to give more than 80% of Judea and Samaria to the Palestinian Authority as part of a future peace

agreement. In an interview with the *Maariv* daily newspaper which was published on Friday, Elkin said that former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had spoken with the PA about Israel keeping 14% of the so-called “settlement blocs” and handing the remaining 86%. The PA refused, he noted, but that is in fact what saved Israel because, he predicted, if they would ever agree to such an arrangement, Netanyahu would go for it. “Ariel Sharon spoke about 14 percent of the blocs remaining with us,” said Elkin. “The Palestinians did not agree and will never give up [on having everything]. The only agreement they would be willing to accept is the map offered by Ehud Barak and Ehud Olmert. Netanyahu cannot sign this map. It’s impossible to be Olmert or Barak and lead the Likud. They’re not the Likud.” If, however, the PA would be willing to agree to Sharon's formula, Elkin said, “Then I would be worried. Netanyahu would go for it, forming a Palestinian state in 86% of Judea and Samaria.” Such an agreement, said Elkin, would mean evicting some 70,000 Jews who reside beyond the “settlement blocs” from their homes. “Isolated communities like Yitzhar, Itamar or Tapuach will face a difficult choice in such a case,” he added. “I say that if the Palestinians, G-d forbid, will become flexible and go for it, we will get the worst agreement possible. Upon receiving 86% of the land, they will establish a terrorist state,” said Elkin. He added that he does not trust the Arabs that their Palestinian state, under such an agreement, would be demilitarized, since the PA cannot be trusted to keep their part of an agreement. “Agreement? What agreement? They have agreements? They pledged not to unilaterally turn to the United Nations. It is enshrined in the Oslo Accords. Did that stop them?” Elkin told *Maariv*, rejecting the notion that Israel would be safe from a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria because it would be surrounding this state. “We also surround Gaza. Kfar Saba will become Sderot [under such an agreement],” he said. Asked how he thinks the upcoming negotiations will go, Elkin responded, “There are three possibilities: the two sides advance towards each other; one side insists and the other surrenders; the third option is that the talks will explode.” “There will be no real compromise,” he predicted. “The Palestinians will insist on getting everything, and then either we’ll give up or everything will blow up.” The Arabs “will not move an inch. Half of them, that are Hamas, want to throw you into the sea. The other half is ready to talk to you under the conditions of the pre-1967 borders with minor modifications, threads of Jewish settlement, a division of Jerusalem and the right of return. None of them would be willing to give you 14 percent of the land,” noted Elkin. “I’ll accept an interim agreement based on today’s

status quo,” he added. “If the Palestinian Authority is upgraded to statehood, then I’m against.” Asked whether he supports a referendum on any agreement, Elkin responded, “I am in favor for three reasons: First, the people will decide and we will not sign an agreement over some political trick; Second, the referendum gives the public a good feeling and may prevent rifts in society; Third, the referendum will affect the people sitting in the negotiating room. They will not offer far-reaching suggestions that the public will not support. They will not make fools of themselves.” ([Israel National News](#) 27 July 2013)

- The Israeli government will increase the number of Palestinian prisoners set to be released as part of a gesture to the Palestinian side to resume peace talks. The number of prisoners released is set to increase to 102. Israel may free Palestinian prisoners who hold Israeli citizenship, as well as prisoners held on criminal charges. Earlier this week, an Israeli official said around 80 long-serving Palestinian prisoners would be released. “The prisoner releases will start when talks commence,” the Israeli official told AFP on condition of anonymity. “We’re talking about releasing them in stages.” There were “some 80 prisoners” set to be released, all of them “pre-Oslo,” the official added, referring to Palestinians imprisoned before the 1993 Oslo peace accords. (Maannews 27 July 2013)
- Officials: If PA Doesn’t Act, IDF Will Close Down Radio Stations. Israel threatened on Sunday to take military action if needed to protect its skies from PA “radio terrorism.” Israel threatened on Sunday to take military action if needed to protect its skies from PA “**radio terrorism.**” In a statement, the Communications Ministry said that it “took a very dim view” of the PA’s attempts to wreck Israeli aviation at Ben Gurion Airport by not closing down illegal radio stations. The Ministry has filed an official complaint with the PA. On Sunday, officials at Ben Gurion Airport said that they had experienced significant interference in communications with incoming planes, to the extent that some landings would have been dangerous had weather conditions been less stable. If such interruptions occur again, the officials said, they would have to shut down the airport, preventing planes from landing or taking off. The source of the interference is illegal radio stations operating in the PA, especially Ramallah. Although procedures for regulation of the airwaves and licensing of radio stations is included in the Oslo Accords, the PA has never sought official permission for new radio stations, nor has it enforced its own commitment to shut down illegal stations. Ben Gurion Airport uses a portion of the FM band for communications with incoming and outgoing planes, and Israeli radio stations are banned from those frequencies. The FM band in recent

years has become very crowded with illegal PA radio stations, many of which broadcast on frequencies used by Israeli stations, with the result that drivers are “treated” to snippets of Arabic music and talk-shows interspersed with the programs they were listening to on Israeli stations. Seeking open frequencies, illegal PA radio stations have “settled” in the restricted Ben Gurion frequencies – endangering air traffic, as air traffic controllers have a hard time communicating with planes. In recent years, Israeli authorities aggressively pursued Israelis who were operating illegal radio stations that, it was also claimed, interfered with communications at Ben Gurion Airport. However, as Israel has been very reluctant to enforce tenets of the Oslo Accords with the PA, Ben Gurion officials realize that the likelihood of getting the PA radio stations off the air are very low. Regardless, they said that they could not continue to take chances with passengers' safety and that if something was not done to stop the interference, they would have to shut the airport down. In its statement Sunday night, the Communications Ministry said that if the PA did not comply with its commitments, it would ask the IDF to get involved and to close down the radio stations. ([Israel National News](#) 28 July 2013)

- Israel ramps up efforts to block illegal smuggling of waste into the West Bank. The Environmental Protection Ministry is setting up a new unit with the authority to arrest suspects, carry out searches and impound trucks at checkpoints. The Environmental Protection Ministry will launch a special unit in the next few months to prevent the smuggling of construction debris and other waste into the West Bank. Recent years have seen an increase in illegal dumping over the Green Line; the ministry says that at least half of all construction debris is discarded at illegal sites. Much of it is dumped at illegal sites in the West Bank run jointly by Palestinians and Israelis; many of these sites are near Jerusalem and the villages of Na’alin, Shukba and Rantis in the Modi’in region. Four years ago, Central Command prohibited the transport of garbage over the Green Line without special permission. The Environmental Protection Ministry and the Defense Ministry’s Civil Administration were supposed to enforce this rule with the help of the security forces at the checkpoints, but these efforts proved spotty at best and waste continued to reach the West Bank. As a result, the state and the owners of legal trash-disposal sites are suffering economic damage on top of the environmental damage that the country is suffering. Truck drivers and contractors who take part in the smuggling save the money they were supposed to pay legal sites for burying and recycling waste in Israel proper. The legal operators have



repeatedly asked the Environmental Protection Ministry to do more against the smuggling, saying their profits were suffering and they might have to close down. At the same time that Central Command issued its rule, the Environmental Protection Ministry established its Yahalom unit to document illegal smuggling and dumping. The unit is unrelated to the Israel Defense Forces' combat engineering unit of the same name. The ministry unit's efforts have been held back by the clash over dividing powers and jobs between that unit and the ministry agency colloquially known as the green police. Environmental Protection Minister Amir Peretz says members of the Yahalom unit will be stationed at the West Bank crossings within a few months. "It's the most effective way to put the unit into action," Peretz said last week. Ministry officials say Yahalom will work with the green police within the Green Line and with the Civil Administration's supervision unit across the Green Line. At the checkpoints themselves, Yahalom will have the authority to arrest suspects, carry out searches and impound trucks. According to a green police report, 2012 saw a record number of cases opened for illegal dumping of construction debris, roughly one-third of all environmental infractions. Last year, 64 vehicles involved in the illegal transport and dumping of construction debris were impounded. ([Haaretz](#) 29 July 2013)

- The Israeli Minister of science and technology, and Member of the Ministerial Committee for the release of Palestinian prisoners, Jacob Perry, stated that Israel will intensify construction in major settlement blocks in the coming months in parallel with the negotiations that are going to be held with the Palestinians and the release of Palestinian prisoners. Perry told the Army Radio, "I hope that negotiations succeed, and before the end of the nine months, we will start to talk about the settlement blocs, the moment where things are going in the direction of the settlement blocs agreed, we shall intensify the building blocks that will (under Israeli control) through the permanent agreement." (Al-Quds Net 29 July 2013)
- US Jewish Group Runs BDS 'Summer Camp' to Teach Boycott Tactics. An anti-Israel group is running a summer camp to teach activists how to boycott Israeli products. The Israeli government and private groups are watching closely the activities of an anti-Israel American group that supports the BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) movement against Israel. The Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), a San Francisco-based organization, has been operating since 1996 and has conducted numerous anti-Israel activities, especially on college campuses. JVP claims not to be anti-Israel, but many officials in the Jewish community said that, based on its agenda, there was no way JVP could claim to be pro-Israel, but was



actually the opposite. The NGO Monitor group accused JVP of seeking to sow dissent among American Jewish campus groups by holding provocative campus events that have caused numerous splits in Jewish organizations on campus. Among its supporters are well-known anti-Israel activists, including linguist Noam Chomsky, Broadway playwright Tony Kushner, and actor Wallace Shawn. The group's latest gambit, NGO Monitor said, was a "summer camp" for campus activists to train them in the most effective methods to conduct a BDS campaign against Israel. The camp promises to train participants to identify Israeli products in stores, how to prepare an anti-Israeli product campaign, how to recruit other BDS activists, and how to lobby the community to join in the boycott. JVP has caused a great deal of disunity in the Jewish community. In September 2011, San Francisco's Jewish Community Relations Council said that "Jewish Voice for Peace routinely allows itself to be used as political cover by organizations promoting anti-Israel boycotts and divestment so that they can claim that they have Jewish backing for their positions, even though JVP represents a tiny fraction of the community." Earlier that year, Brandeis University's Hillel voted to deny JVP membership in its group of Jewish campus groups, saying that "while we understand that JVP at Brandeis considers itself a pro-Israel club, based on positions and programming JVP has sponsored, we do not believe that JVP can be included under Hillel's umbrella." In a just-completed study on JVP, NGO Monitor wrote that JVP has "actively promoted the central dimensions of the political warfare strategy against Israel." JVP, the report said, "supports or has partnered with groups such as Sabeel, Electronic Intifada, Al-Awda, International ANSWER Coalition, the International Solidarity Movement and Students for Justice in Palestine, all of which label Israel a racist apartheid state, support BDS and, in some cases, support violence against Israelis." Responding to recent media reports, a JVP spokesperson said that the group "is committed to the vision of full equality and democracy for Israelis and Palestinians. We also support the use of non-violent strategies to achieve this goal." The BDS effort fits the description of a "non-violent strategy," the spokesperson said. ([Israel National News](#) 30 July 2013)

- Ex-Mossad Head: Peace Talks were Bungled. Meir Dagan pins little hope on negotiations with Palestinian Authority, says now is not the time for Iran strike. Meir Dagan, the former head of the Mossad intelligence agency, said in an interview published Tuesday that the negotiations vis-a-vis the Palestinian Authority (PA) were poorly handled and therefore do not have much chance of succeeding. "This should have been handled differently," he explained. "We should have

conducted secret negotiations with the Arab League, and only then begun open negotiations with the PA. The problem of Jerusalem, for instance, is not a PA problem but a problem of the entire Arab world. At least two states, like Jordan and Saudi Arabia, need to be brought on board, in order to give backing to any move." The PA and Israel have common reasons to want to advance the talks, Dagan opined. These include "the strengthening of Islam, the Iranian problem and the weakening of the PA. All these can give a boost, but I do not have much hope for the negotiations that began tonight." Regarding Syria, Dagan said that Israel need not fear "a few dozen Al Qaeda terrorists along the fence." It is the Syrian army that gives Israel a reason to worry, he said, "and as far as Israel is concerned, Assad needs to go home as soon as possible." Dagan said that the military regime in Egypt is a good thing for Israel, and that Jordan is also in a good situation. "The regime is stable and strong, and the Hashemite monarchy is in full control of the kingdom." "At this time," Dagan added, "Israel has no need to attack in Iran. We have not yet reached that situation. When the reality changes, western intelligence will know everything. Today, an attack means uniting the Iranian nation, which is currently disunited, against Israel – and this includes a war. At this time, it will give us nothing." ([Israel National News](#) 30 July 2013)

- A video aired by the Israeli channel 10 T.V showed an "Israeli soldier" assaulting a group of Palestinian workers without any reason. According to the video, An Israeli soldier wearing civilian clothes, was proceeding with his car when he saw a number of Palestinian workers near one settlement, parked his car, took his weapon and began, without any reason, to beat the Palestinian workers, one by one. (Paltoday 31 July 2013)
- PM 'Promised 5,000 Homes' in Deal with Bayit Yehudi. Maariv reports Netanyahu got Bayit Yehudi to accept terrorist release by promising to build in Judea, Samaria. Prime [Minister](#) Binyamin Netanyahu promised the Bayit Yehudi party to approve construction of about 5,000 housing units in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, in exchange for the party's acquiescence regarding the release of 104 terrorists as a "gesture" to the Palestinian Authority, reported *Maariv* Wednesday. The newspaper said that contacts regarding the deal, which has not been finalized, have been carried out by Construction and Housing Minister Uri Ariel and Netanyahu, by means of letters they have been writing and handing to each other personally, in order to preserve secrecy. "Senior sources in Bayit Yehudi" who apparently decided to

break that secrecy said that approvals for 1,000 housing units are expected soon, and that approvals for another 3,500 to 4,500 units are expected in the coming months. The party's Knesset members were reportedly asked, in the faction meeting Monday, not to issue threats about possibly bolting the Coalition, because of the deal. "The test will be if Netanyahu does not live up to the agreements on construction in the next few months," party sources were quoted as saying. "That is what we will look at, and that is the only thing we will base our decisions on in the future." Far-left group Peace Now, which opposes Jewish life in Judea and Samaria, reportedly asked the attorney general to make public any deal that was struck with Bayit Yehudi, as a matter of good governance and transparency. *Maariv* quoted reactions from Minister Ariel and the Bayit Yehudi that did not deny the existence of these agreements. It said that Netanyahu chose not to respond to questions on the matter. Bayit Yehudi ministers and MKs have come under intense pressure ever since the vote to release 104 terrorist murderers as a "gesture" to the Palestinian Authority (PA). The move is opposed by an overwhelming majority of Jews, polls show. Bayit Yehudi voted against the release but did not leave the Coalition, as some expected. The Labor party has said that if Bayit Yehudi leaves the Coalition because of "advances" in the "peace process," it will be willing to give the government a parliamentary "security net" to prevent it from being toppled. Labor has 15 Knesset seats, three more than Bayit Yehudi. ([Israel National News](#) 31 July 2013)

- Danon: Livni Won't Think About Judea and Samaria. In New York, Deputy Defense Minister warns that the interests of Judea and Samaria will not be represented by the negotiating team. As Israeli and Palestinian Authority negotiators met in Washington to restart peace talks, Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon (Likud) was in the U.S. as well, presenting his own view on the talks. Danon, who also heads the Likud Central Committee, visited the offices of 5W Public Relations in New York, where he warned that Judea and Samaria had no representation at the talks. "I don't like the fact that Tzipi Livni is the chief negotiator of the State of Israel along with Abu Alaa and Martin Indyk," Danon stated during the meeting. "Who is representing us? Who thinks about the Jews who are living in Judea and Samaria? No one! It was proven that all of them, in the past 10 years, were willing to sign agreements that were bad for Israel." He admitted that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu could legally take an agreement with the Palestinian Authority and bring it to a referendum, bypassing the Likud Central Committee. "Legally, he can bypass the Likud party,"

said Danon. “Sharon did that in the past. Sharon went even further: He went to a referendum among the Likud members, lost, ignored it and went ahead with the Disengagement.” Netanyahu could “cook” a peace agreement with the PA and then bring it to the public for a referendum, warned Danon. Danon recently spoke out against a two-state solution to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict, and said that if Netanyahu brings the issue of a Palestinian state to a vote in the government, nobody will vote in favor. Livni quickly denounced Danon's remarks, saying, "The prime minister must decide if he is going to allow 'Danonism' to control the debate or if he will let forces that understand that a diplomatic solution is in Israel's interest make a decision." She and members of her Hatnua party later worked behind the scenes to enlist the Yesh Atid party into a bloc within the coalition that would promote negotiations and work against the so-called “Danonism”. Initially, Yesh Atid responded positively to Hatnua’s overtures, but following an inquiry from the *Maariv* daily, sources in Yesh Atid reportedly said they would rethink this positive attitude – because no one consulted them about talking to the media. ([Israel National News](#) 31 July 2013)

### Monthly Violations Statistics – July 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	5700	0	400	0	0	0	6
Jerusalem	0	110	0	2	1	2	20
Jenin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tulkarm	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ramallah	0	0	40	0	0	1	3
Nablus	0	0	1220	0	0	4	10
Salfit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jericho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gaza	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qalqilyah	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hebron	70	3	0	2	5	6	16
Tubas	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5770</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>1620</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>57</b>

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