#### Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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#### Bethlehem

- Four Palestinians suffered gas inhalation during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in At Tal area in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Wafa 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers closed, with huge stones, the eastern entrance of Nahhalin village, west of Bethlehem city, and uprooted a number of trees. (Al-Quds 3 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Ad Dhuheisheh refugee camp, south of Bethlehem city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Al-Quds 4 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in several areas in Bethlehem governorate. (Al-Quds 4 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers started digging Palestinian lands in Khallet Al Qoton and Khallet An Nahla areas, south of Bethlehem city, under the claim that they are looking for excavations. (Maannews 4 June 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ad Dhuheisheh refugee camp, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Al-Quds 5 June 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Al-Quds 5 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and the Israeli Civil Administration demolished a Palestinian room made of tin in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The targeted room is owned by Anas Ghinam. (Al-Quds 5 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities issued four military orders to stop the construction on Palestinian lands in Khallet An Nahla area, east Wadi Rahal village, south of Bethlehem city. The targeted lands are owned by: Nadi Faraj, Ahmed Badawi and Mohammad Aiyash. (ARN 5 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several houses in Beit Fajjar village, south of Bethlehem city. (Al-Quds 6 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA assaulted participants and hindered them from accessing the wall area. (ARN 7 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities closed with huge rocks an agricultural road in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city which leads to more than 50 dunums of agricultural lands planted with grapes. Closing the road will hinder Palestinians from reaching to their agricultural lands. (Al-Quds 8 June 2013)
- The Israeli Civil Administration escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out military orders to a number of Palestinian families in Shab Buhor area in Wadi Fukin village, west of Bethlehem city. The orders state the evacuation of lands adjacent to the Israeli settlement of Betar Illit under the pretext of being classified by the Israeli Authorities as "State Lands". Two of the targeted pieces are owned by: Mahmoud Mohammad Manasrah and Musrafa Sad Al-Hroub. (NBPRS 9 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers started to construct a room on a Palestinian land in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The targeted land is located between Danial and Elazar settlements. Noted that the Israeli settlers used Palestinian old stones. (Wafa 10 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers started to construct a Jewish Synagogue in Khallet Al Ein area in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The Synagogue will be built on Palestinian land owned by Salah family. (Paltoday 11 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Betar Illit settlement torched 10 olive trees in Khirbet Ad Deir area in Nahhalin village, west of Bethlehem city.(Al-Quds 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Al Masara

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village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA assaulted participants and hindered them from reaching to the Segregation wall area. (RB2000 14 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest against Settlements in the Israeli Bypass road No.60, which links between Israeli settlements in Bethlehem and Hebron governorates and Jerusalem city. (Al-Quds 15 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Tequ village, east of Bethlehem city. 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. (IMEMC 19 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked and injured Maki Khalil Sukar (35 years) from Beit Jala town, while he was in Jerusalem city. (Wafa 20 June 2013)
- An Israeli court decided to deport a Palestinian prisoner; Iyad Abu Founon from Bethlehem city, to the Gaza strip for ten years. (Maannews & Paltoday 20 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Al Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA assaulted participants and hindered them from reaching to the wall zone. (PNN 21 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Tequ village, east of Bethlehem city. 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. (RB2000 21 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest at DCO checkpoint in Beit Jala town, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA assaulted participants. (Raya 22 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out a military order to stop the construction of a water well and two cement walls in Um Rukbah area in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The targeted structures are owned by Mohammad Marzouq Zawahrah. (Wattan 23 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed the main road which leads to Al Makhrour area in Beit Jala town, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA hindered Palestinians from entering or leaving the area. (Wattan 23 June 2013).
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Khalid Shaheen in Beit Sahour town, east of Bethlehem city. (RB2000 25 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation jeeps stormed Husan village, west of Bethlehem city and set up a sudden checkpoint at the entrance of the village. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (RB2000 26 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. (Al-Quds 26 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers razed 25 dunums of agricultural lands planted with olive trees in Wadi Rahal village, south of Bethlehem city. As a result, 200 olive trees were uprooted, and a number of retaining walls were demolished. The targeted lands are owned by Mahmoud Asad and Mohammad Ayish. (Wafa & Maannews 27 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up three sudden checkpoints in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (RB2000 27 June 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. (Maannews 28 June 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians and houses, which to dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds 28 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest at Gilo 300 checkpoint, north of Bethlehem city. (Al-Quds 29 June 2013)

#### Jenin

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Az Zababda village, south of Jenin city, and took photos of several Palestinian houses. (Safa 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Jenin city, and fired teargas bombs at Palestinian houses. 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. During the operation, the IOA set up a checkpoint at the northern entrance of the city. (Al-Quds 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded several neighborhoods in Jenin city, and fired metal bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians and houses, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of a Palestinian in the foot. (Paltoday 3 June 2013)

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- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and the Israeli Water Authority stormed Al Yamoun and Kafr Dan villages in Jenin governorate, under the claim that they were looking for illegal water wells. (Wafa 3 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several houses in Jalqamus village, southeast of Jenin city, and occupied their roofs. The targeted houses are owned by: Fakhri Mohammad Al-Qram, Jehad Najeh Al-Qram, and Waseef Hafid Al-Haj. (Wafa 5 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched two Palestinian houses in Jaba village, south of Jenin city, and questioned some Palestinians in the houses. The targeted houses are owned by: Yahya Kamal Fakhouri and Amarah Awni. (ARN 10 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al Yamoun village, northwest of Jenin city. (Safa 11 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in Maythalun and Az Zababda villages, south of Jenin city. (Wafa 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers demolished two Palestinian houses, an animal barracks and a under construction room in Bartaa Ash Sharqiya village, west of Jenin city. The targeted structures are owned by Ahmed Omar Qabha. During the operation, the IOA declared the area as "close military zone". (RB2000 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several neighborhoods in Jenin city and Jenin refugee camp. (Safa 13 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed a Palestinian house in Kafr Qud village, west of Jenin city, and bombed the main door; as a result, the house was torched. The targeted house is owned by Saleh Nail Ahmed Ghazawi (22 years). (ARN 13 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation jeeps invaded and searched several houses in Maythalun, Al Jadeida, Siris, Faqqua, and Deir Abu Daif villages in Jenin governorate. (PNN 17 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) started military exercises in Palestinian lands located in Faqua village, west of Jenin city. (Wattan 17 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the entrance of Silat Ad Dhaher village, south of Jenin city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Al-Quds 18 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched two Palestinian houses in Arraba village, southwest of Jenin city. The

- targeted houses are owned by: Kamal Mazen Azz Ad-Diyn and Bakir Mohammad Abu Abed. (Paltoday 19 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint in Qabatyia village, south of Jenin city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Wafa 26 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Wasfi Qabha in Jenin city. During the operation, the IOA toured in the city and fired teargas and sound bombs nearby a Palestinian hospital, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Raya 27 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched two Palestinian houses in Qabatyia village, south of Jenin city. The targeted houses are owned by Abd Omar Kamel and Mohammad Rashid Kamel. (Raya 27 June 2013)

#### Jerusalem

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities issued an administrative order to demolish a 300 square meters house in Beit Hanina town in Jerusalem city. The targeted house is owned by Hussen Al-Kaswani. (Al-Quds 1 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out military orders to demolish two Palestinian houses in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. The targeted houses are owned by Odeh and Al-Rajabi families. (Wafa & SilwanIC 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed a checkpoint situated at the entrance of Anata town, northeast of Jerusalem. The IOA detained and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 2 June 2013)
- Two Israeli settlers attacked and injured a Palestinian taxi driver in the hand in Beit Safafa town in Jerusalem city. (Maannews 3 June 2013)
- For the second time in a week, staff of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded a Palestinian house owned by Hussen Al-Kaswani in Beit Hanina town in Jerusalem city, and handed him an administrative order to demolish his 300 square meters house and a number of commercial structures. (Maannews 3 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out a military order to demolish a Palestinian house in Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city.
   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 a Palestinian in the leg. (Al-Quds 3 June 2013)

- Staff of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem along with the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out an administrative order to demolish a 100 square meters house in Al Isawiya town in Jerusalem city. The targeted house is owned by Ali Hassan Aliyan. (SilwanIC 4 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles in At Tur town in Jerusalem city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) came to the site and arrested three Palestinians. Two of the arrestees were identified as: Amir and Ahmed Abu Isbitan. (SilwanIC 5 June 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(Raya 5 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out more than 20 military orders to demolish 13 Palestinian houses, 3 under construction houses, two commercial shops, an animal barracks and an under construction wedding Hall in Al Baqan area in Anata town, north of Jerusalem city. Note that the targeted structures are located in the area classified as "B", according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement of September 1995, in which Palestinians have the control over the civil responsibilities and Israeli continues to have overriding responsibility for security issues. (Al-Quds 5 June 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Police (IOP) in Abu Dis town in East Jerusalem after the latter raided the town and distributed leaflets declaring the town as "closed zone" starting from midnight and until further notice. The IOP set up checkpoints to arrest Palestinian young men. (Safa 6 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided a non-violent protest in Bab Al Amoud area (Damascus Gate) in Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians and assaulted others, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of two Palestinian women. During the operation, the IOA arrested Muaz Abu Rasheed (17 years) (ARN & SilwanIC 7 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers torched a Palestinian vehicles owned by Yasir Najeeb, and hurled stones at Palestinian houses in Ash Sheikh Jarah neighborhood in Jerusalem city. (Al-Quds 7 June 2013)
- Several Israeli organizations called to storm Al Aqsa Mosque on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. (Al-Quds 7 June 2013)

- Hassan Abu Hadwan, from the old city of Jerusalem, will be forced to demolish a 25 square meters room within few days, after the Israeli Occupation Authorities issued military order to demolish the room before the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2013. (Paltoday 8 June 2013)
- The Israeli Nature Authority escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers razed Palestinian lands located between At Tur and Al Isawiya towns in Jerusalem city to establish the Israeli National Park, TPS no. "A 11092". As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter arrested Mohammad Abu Al- Humus. Noted that the Israeli Authorities plans to seize 740 dunums of Palestinian lands in Al Isawiya and At Tur towns to establish the park. (SilwanIC 9 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and the Israeli settlers attacked a non-violent protest against the Jewish light festival in Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Al-Ayyam 9 June 2013)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers demonstrated and toured in the Old city of Jerusalem and carried out provocative actions. As a result, the Israeli Occupation Police forced the Palestinians who own shops in the old city of Jerusalem to close at 6:00 p.m. (ARN 9 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city, and tried to perform Talmudic rituals. (Safa 9 June 2013)
- In a declaration published by an Israeli lawyer from Ramat Gan, "Idi yechezkeli", in the Jerusalem daily newspaper on 28/5/2013, the Israeli Occupation Authorities claim ownership of plots of lands in As Sawana town in Jerusalem city. Several Palestinian families in Jerusalem city were given 30 days to object the Israel authorities' land ownership claim. (NBPRS 9 June 2013)
- Staff of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem along with the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) issued a number of administrative orders to demolish a number of (8 building and a number of stores) Palestinian houses and commercial structures in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. Three of the targeted houses are owned by: Al-Bana, Al-Sarfandi and Siyam families. (SilwanIC 10 June 2013)
- The Israeli Antiquities Authority escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) tried to close Al-Hush entrance in Wadi Hilwa neighborhood in Silwan city in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 11 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) sprayed pepper gas on the face of Shihab Al-Diyn Jamal Siyam (12 years) while he was on his way home in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 11 June 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) issued evacuation orders to eight families who live on the lands of Beit Hanina village, north of occupied

Jerusalem. Orders were handed to al-Ka'abna families that include 53 members. Since the early hours of the morning, the residents of the village staged a sit-in in an attempt to stop the implementation of the deportation orders. (Paltoday 11 June 2013)

- A group of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Police (IOP) and the Israeli Antiquities Authority tried to seize Palestinian land in Wadi Hilweh neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. The targeted land is owned by Siyam Family. The Israeli Antiquities Authority started to dig the land and set up iron columns. (SilwanIC 12 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers sprayed pepper gas at two Palestinians and assaulted them while they were walking nearby Al Magharbeh gate (Al Mughrabi Gate) in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. The assaulted Palestinians were identified as: Majd Halise and Hiyam Halise. (Al-Quds 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. During the operation, the IOA prevented Palestinians from entering Al Aqsa Mosque and detained their ID cards. (Wafa 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Police (IOP) along with bulldozers stormed Wadi Al Jouz Parking lot in the industrial area in Jerusalem city, and evacuated all the vehicles in the parking, under the claim that the Israeli State land Authority owns the land. The targeted lands are owned by Siyam, Abu Ta'a and Farhan families. (Al-Quds 13 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at a Palestinian, and injured him in the leg, while he was crossing Qalandyia terminal, north of Jerusalem city. (ARN 14 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers stormed a Palestinian car shop in Ash Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem city, torched two Palestinian vehicles and wrote anti-Palestinian slogans on the walls in the neighborhood. (RB2000 14 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers and Israeli journalists escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in the court yard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Safa 16 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers assaulted and injured two Palestinian females while they were waiting to take the train in Jerusalem city. The injuries were identified as: Laili Amran As-Sayad (23 years) from At Tur neighborhood and Anwar Abu Rumoz (21 years) from Wadi Qadum neighborhood. (SilwanIC 16 June 2013)

- Three Israeli settlers attacked and injured a Palestinian old woman; Fathia Mohammad Ajaj (75 years) while she was waiting the bus nearby a hospital in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 16 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities forced a Palestinian; Hassan Mohammad Abu Hadwan, to demolish part of his house (25 square meters room) in the Old city of Jerusalem. (Maannews 16 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities approved a plan to construct a colonial building (10626 square meters) consisting of 7 floors in Wadi Hilwah neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. The building will be located 50 meters away from Al Aqsa Mosque. Five dunums of Palestinian lands owned by Siyam family were confiscated for the colonial project. (Al-Quds 16 June 2013)
- Staff of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded several areas in Silwan town in Jerusalem city, and handed out administrative orders to demolish three commercial structures, a house and a 9 square meters room. The targeted structures are owned by: Siyam family, Samir Sarhan, Iyad Abu Sobeh and MajdeAl-Abbasi. (Maannews 17 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers punched the tires of 28 Palestinian vehicles and wrote anti-Palestinian slogans on the walls of Abu Ghosh neighborhood in Jerusalem city. (Maannews 18 June 2013)
- An Israeli company for Water "Mekorot" in cooperation with the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem declared its intention to implement the project "drilling water well," in Wadi Al-Rababa neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city, with staff and municipal water company to suspend the tally on those lands. According to the Declaration, the municipality is seeking to convert the so-called area (p-9) (p-s), which means land of open public area, the draft regulation for a water well artisan subsidiary company of Mekorot, advertising people to object to the project within 60 days. The project also seeks to allocate part of the open land "National Park" to road vehicles so as to reach the well, according to the terms of the project construction area is selected (25 square meters), two floors (the second above-ground), note that the project will be implemented on an area of some 30 dunums owned by residents of Silwan town and the monastery. (SilwanIC 18 June 2013)
- An Israeli settler attacked and injured Mwafaq Al-Hamami while he was in the courtyard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city (Al-Quds 20 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers invaded the courtyard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city, and performed Talmudic and Religious rituals. (Al-Quds 20 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities decided to close the Palestinian National Theater (Al-Hakawati) in Jerusalem city, for a week starting from the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2013. The closure of the theater came before the theater started "The Palestinian children week Festival". (Al-Quds 21 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Ma'ale Adumim settlement hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles while they were driving nearby the settlement. As a result, a number of vehicles were damaged. (RB2000 22 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities forced a Palestinian; Munther Hijazi, to demolish his house in the old city of Jerusalem, under the claim that the house was built without license. (Raya 22 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked dozens of Palestinians while they were at Bab Al Amoud area (Damascus Gate) in Jerusalem city. During the operation, the IOA arrested two Palestinians; one of them was identified as: Saja Sweiti (16 years). (Wafa 23 June 2013)
- Thousands of Israeli settlers demonstrated in area "E1" located between Jerusalem city and Ma'ale Adumim settlement. The participants called on "Benyamin Netanyahu" to start building new housing units in the "E1" area, as promised. (NBPRS 23 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities are up to confiscate 70 dunums of Palestinian lands in Ghzeel neighborhood in Sur Baher town, south of Jerusalem city. The targeted lands are located nearby Armon Hanizev colonial neighborhood. (Paltoday 23 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities approved a plan to transfer thousands of Bedouins families from areas around Jerusalem city to lands inside the borders of Abu Dis town, near the landfill. The Israeli plan includes the building of thousands of housing units nearby the landfill. Note that the implementation of this plan will allow the Israeli Authorities to continue building the segregation wall and to start implementation of the E1 project. (Paltoday 23 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers punched the tires of 22 Palestinian vehicles and wrote anti-Palestinian slogans and draw David Star at Palestinian vehicles and house walls in Beit Hanina town in Jerusalem city. (Maannews 24 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers and journalists escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Al-Quds 24 June 2013).
- Al-Aqsa Foundation for Wqaf and Heritage declared that the Israeli
  Authorities started to dig in three different areas around Al Aqsa
  Mosque in Jerusalem city. The first location targets the southern part of
  Bab Al Magharbah (Al Mughrabi Gate), the second location targets the
  eastern part of the Umayyad palaces, south of Al Aqsa Mosque, while

the third location targets the southern entrance of Wadi Hilwah neighborhood in Silwan town. (PNN 24 June 2013)

- An Israeli Army attacked and injured Musalam Odeh and Said Sarhan while they were in an Israeli court in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 25 June 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the main entrance of Ar Ram town, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians and houses, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA arrested two Palestinians; and were identified as: Tareq Dweek and Yazan Az-Zarou. (Safa 25 June 2013)
- The Israeli tax Authority escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several Palestinian stores in Ras Al Amoud, Wadi Qadum, Bir Ayoub and Ein Al Louza neighborhoods in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 25 June 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. The IOA hindered Palestinian from entering Al Aqsa Mosque. (Safa 26 June 2013)
- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem handed out military orders to demolish a number of Palestinian houses in Al Bustan neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. (Wafa 26 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in the courtyard of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Wafa 27 June 2013)
- A planning committee granted final approval for the construction of 69 east Jerusalem homes, an official said. Arabs from the Palestinian Authority (PA) said the move demonstrated that Israel was not serious about U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's peace efforts, although an Israeli diplomatic source quickly sought to distance the government from the move. "The municipal committee has today given its final approval for the construction of 69 homes in Har Homa in east Jerusalem," councilor Meir Margalit told AFP. The approval was granted by the planning committee just before Kerry took off for Amman on his fifth visit to the region since February as he steps up efforts to draw Israel and the Palestinians back into direct negotiations. "This blind provocation against Kerry," said Margalit, a member of the leftwing Meretz party. "It proves just how much the government of Bibi Netanyahu wants peace," he said. Kerry is expected to meet with Abbas in Amman on Friday. US officials travelling with Kerry declined to comment on the announcement as they boarded his plane in Kuwait City ahead of a flight to Amman. "Israel is sending message after

message to Kerry that settlement is their response to any (peace) initiative," senior Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi told AFP. "And then they blame the Palestinians for not coming to the negotiating table." "Many times we asked the Americans to look at what Israel is doing on the ground. The United States is playing blind and deaf about Israel's actions and its declarations." But an Israeli diplomatic source insisted there was no government involvement in the Har Homa project, saying it was a question of "private construction on private land and not on state land". "This is not a government project and there were no government tenders issued," he told AFP. But Peace Now, Israel's settlement watchdog, dismissed his remarks, saying such a move, on the eve of Kerry's arrival, proved the "true policy" of the Israeli government was "to continue to develop the settlements in east Jerusalem and in the West Bank". "Construction can now begin within a matter of a few weeks," it said in a statement which indicated that since March 2013, Israel had advanced plans for at least 2,480 homes for Jews in the ancient Jewish heartland of Judea and Samaria. (Israel National News 27 June 2013)

Gov't ordered to fix Beit Safafa highway dispute. Court gives state 30 days to rectify plans for road that would divide and obstruct east J'lem neighborhood. The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that the government must present viable solutions within 30 days to the significant problems a proposed six-lane highway would pose for residents of the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Beit Safafa. In a petition reviewed by the court, the residents claimed the partially constructed highway would divide their neighborhood, obstruct many from traveling freely to pivotal local destinations, and be constructed within meters of their homes. Furthermore, the petition argued that the highway - connecting the tunnel road from Gush Etzion and the Gilo neighborhoods to the Begin Highway - was planned without the residents' approval and right to seek compensatory damages, as stipulated by law. "We say today, with all due respect and humility, that deception was used [by the government in the highway's construction]," said the petitioner's attorney, Muhammad Gubara Wednesday, who delineated numerous ways the highway would cause damage to neighborhood residents, legally and in practice. "Shouldn't such a huge project that destroys an entire neighborhood at least allow the residents to object and have their voice heard?" Gubara asked. Kais Nasset, an attorney who also represented the residents, criticized the government's contention that the court should allow the highway to be constructed because it is cost-effective, noting the human toll its construction would have on the community. "[The government] keeps

talking about costs, but we are talking about human rights," said Nasset. "It's saving money or saving the neighborhood." While the court stopped short of ordering the government to cease construction of the highway, following a protracted debate Supreme Court President Asher Grunis, who called the petition a "very unfortunate situation," ordered the government to resolve the dispute within 30 days. "At least at the theoretical level, if the people were looking into the [highway's] planning situation, which would be located near their home, at present they have no choice," said Grunis, who warned that permits for the highway could be revoked if an amicable settlement is not reached. Grunis went on to order the government to create a viable timeline that includes detailed explanations of how each problem facing the Arab-Israeli residents will be fairly resolved. "Submit the document without requesting an extension," he warned. "If it is not submitted, there are alternatives. You know what they are." Grunis also ruled that the court will reconvene for further deliberation only after the residents of Beit Safafa are given 30 days to respond to the government's proposal. While Jerusalem City Councillor Meir Margalit (Meretz), who holds the east Jerusalem portfolio, praised the court for taking measures to correct the situation, he said he took issue with its refusal to cease construction of the project altogether. "I am happy that the court realizes that there is a problem in the village with this [highway], but I'm disappointed that the same court has not stopped construction of it," he said Wednesday. "I would have expected the court would recognize that this is more problematic and take a more courageous position to stop the construction. "Instead," he continued, "they're giving the government one month to [attempt to] 'minimize' damages [to the community]." Margalit emphasized that the solution to the impasse is not to minimize damages but, rather, to cease construction of the highway, because there is no other feasible alternative. "This highway is a classic example of foolish planning, because they took one of the quietest and most Zionistic villages in Jerusalem and they are pushing them into the hands of the most radical groups in the Islamic wing," he said. "This will result in damage that will be impossible to minimize and we will pay an expensive price." (<u>IPOST</u> 27 June 2013)

• A group of Israeli settlers hurled stones at two Summer Camp busses in Silwan town in Jerusalem city while on their way back from a trip in Jenin city. The two buses carried 100 Palestinian children and teachers. (Safa 29 June 2013)

Report: J'lem to move forward 900 Har Homa units after Kerry visit. Army Radio reports municipality to discuss advancing plans to develop new housing units over the Green Line. Municipality's Finance Committee was scheduled to discuss advancing plans to develop 900 housing units in Jerusalem's Har Homa neighborhood, which is beyond the Green Line, Army Radio reported on Sunday. According to the report, the committee is set to discuss paving streets and adding needed infrastructure for the neighborhood which has been in planning since 2011. The report of the plans to advance the Har Homa neighborhood came as US Secretary of State John Kerry held a series of meetings with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas over the weekend in attempts to restart negotiations between the sides. Likud chairman in the Jerusalem Municipality, Elisha Peleg praised the decision to advance the plans. "Despite the visit by US Secretary of State Kerry in the region, nothing prevents us from starting to build, because it has been proved that freezing building in Jerusalem did not help to renew negotiations with the Palestinians, and only served to worsen the housing crisis in the city." Ma'ariv reported on Sunday that the municipality is scheduled to approve a tax discount on the new Har Homa housing units. The reported tax break is expected to bring down the price of the housing units by thousands of shekels and cost the Housing and Construction Ministry some NIS 100 million. Hagit Ofran of Peace Now criticized the plans to advance the Har Homa project. "Any timing would have been terrible, but the current timing, with Kerry's visit, is even worse." (<u>IPOST</u> 30 June 2013)

#### Hebron

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinians and international activists from holding a protest against the confiscation of Palestinian lands in Susiya village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (Al-Ayyam 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the entrance of Al Fawar refugee camp, south of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) surrounded Al Ribat mosque in Hebron city, and prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the mosque. (Wafa 4 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a residential tent in Khirbet Um Nir, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted

tent is owned by Omar Mohammad Ahmed Jabour. (Al-Ayyam 4 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrances of Idhna and Ad Dhahriyah towns and Al Fawwar refugee camp in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 5 June 2013)
- Israeli Settlers living in Beit Ayn settlement in Hebron uprooted 20 Olive trees in Abu Al Reesh area in Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. The trees are owned by Hammad Abdel Hameed Jaber Al Sleibi. (Wafa 6 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out Yatta Municipality a military order to stop the construction on a footpath at Palestinian bypass road in Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (Wafa 6 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrances of Idhna, Deir Samit towns and Al-Arroub refugee camp in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 6 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at Halhul bridge, north of Hebron city, at the entrance of Sikka village in the west, at the entrance of Al Fawwar refugee camp in the south where the IOA searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 6 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house in Dura town, west of Hebron city. The targeted house is owned by Naiyf Al-Rjoub. During the operation, the IOA summoned Hathefah Al-Rjoub to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police within the next four days. (ARN 8 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities notified Ismail Alyan Awad to demolish three greenhouses in the eastern part of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (Wafa 8 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) seized 50 dunums of lands in Khirbet Um Al Khair area, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The IOA declared the area as "closed military zone" and prevented Palestinians from entering the area. (Al-Quds 8 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Avigal outpost attacked Palestinian shepherds while they were nearby the outpost. (Wafa 8 June 2013)
- For the third time, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a
  Palestinian village, which was established by a group of Palestinian
  and international activists, between Surif and Al Jaba villages,
  northwest of Hebron city. The IOA declared the area as "Closed
  military zone" and arrested three Palestinian activists. The arrestees

were identified as: Yousif Abu Mariyah, Mahmoud Ala Ad-Diyn and Younis Arar. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians and lands, which led to dozens of suffocation cases, the injury of three people, and 3 dunums of lands were torched. (Safa & Wafa 8 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Beit Awwa town, west of Hebron city, and fired bombs at Palestinian lands, as a result 7 dunums of agricultural lands planted with olive trees were torched. The targeted land is owned by Mohammad Al-Masalmah. (Wafa 9 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers hurled stones and injured a Palestinian child;
   Sami Thair Jabir (14 years) in the Old city of Hebron. (Safa 9 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) issued military order to stop the construction of a 64 cm<sup>3</sup> water well in Al Baqa area, east of Hebron city. The targeted well is owned by Atta Jabir. (Wafa 9 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the northern entrance of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 9 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinian farmers from reaching their lands located nearby Karme Zur settlement in Halhul town, north of Hebron city. (Maannews 10 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers demolished a residential tent funded by the ERF in As Simiya village, south of Hebron city. ( DWG 11 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched Palestinian houses in Beit Awwa town, west of Hebron city. One of the targeted houses is owned by Mohammad Masalmah. (Wafa 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Palestinian mourners during a funeral in Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired metal bullets teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to the injury of Ahmed Mohammad Safi Aslibi (45 years). (Safa 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at Halhul Bridge and at the entrance of Al Fawar refugee camp in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked and injured Abdalla Mohammad Zeidan (16 years) from Al Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city, while he was on his way to the camp. (Wafa 13 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation jeeps stormed and searched two commercial structures in Ad Dhahriyah town, south of Hebron city. The targeted structures are owned by: Khalil Raba' and Yousif Al-Battat. (Safa 13 June 2013)
- The Israeli Civil Administration escorted by the Israeli Occupation Arm (IOA) invaded Khirbet An Nabi area, southeast of Yatta town, south of Hebron city, and prevented a Palestinian family from rebuilding a residential tent, and handed out military orders to demolish and evacuate all the Palestinians from the area. (Wafa & PNN 13 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation jeeps invade Dura town, west of Hebron city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA), where the latter fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. During the operation, the IOA set up several checkpoints at all entrances of the town. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinians vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 14 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed the entrance of Al Fawar refugee camp, south of Hebron city. The IOA detained a number of Palestinian vehicles and prevented them from entering or leaving the camp. (Maannews 14 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) imposed blockage on Dura town, west of Hebron city. The IOA stormed and searched several houses and assaulted Palestinians. During the operation, the IOA prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the town, and detained a number of Palestinian children. (RB2000 15 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured Mohammad Waleed Rizqat (23 years) from Tafuh town, west of Hebron city. (Safa 16 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted Salamah Khaild Salamah Al-Jundi after storming and searching his house in Al Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. (Safa 16 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Khirbet Um Al Khair, near Karmiel settlement in Hebron governorate, and attacked a group of Palestinian shepherds. During the operation, the IOA arrested Suliman Eid Al-Hathaleen (75 years). (Safa 16 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) removed a number of mobile bathrooms in Khirbet Um Al Khair, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (Wafa 17 June 2013)

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- The Israeli Occupation jeeps stormed and toured in Idhna town, west of Hebron city. (Safa 17 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrances of Dura, Halhul, and Beit Kahel towns in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 17 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several houses in Zif area in Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (Safa 18 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Surif, Beit Ummer, As Samu and Ad Dhahriyah towns in Hebron governorate.(Al-Quds 18 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Susiya settlement let go a number of dogs at Palestinian farmers, while they were working in their lands located nearby the settlement. (Wafa 18 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrance of Al Fawar refugee camp and Halhul Bridge in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinians vehicles. (Al-Quds 18 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at the entrance of Halhul and Sair towns in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 19 June 2013)
- The Land Research Centre (LRC) declared that the Israeli Occupation Authorities started to build new housing units and expand the borders of Susiya settlement, south of Hebron city. The Israeli bulldozers razed 2 dunums of lands in the northern part of the settlement. (LRC 20 June 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. The IOA 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 fired bombs at Palestinian houses and lands. (Maannews 21 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron city and started to dig at its entrance. (Safa 21 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Idhna town, west of Hebron city. (Safa 22 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers invaded Ein At Tinah area in Halhul town, north of Hebron city. (Safa 22 June 2013)

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- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at Halhul Bridge, north of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 22 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Jehad Al-Jabari in Beit Einun village, north of Hebron city. (Safa 23 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched a Palestinian house owned by At Tabaqa village in Dura town, west of Hebron city. (Safa 23 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Idhna town, west of Hebron city. (Safa 23 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers razed more than 150 dunums of agricultural lands nearby Susiya settlement, south of Hebron city, to expand the borders of the settlement. The targeted lands are owned by Ishriteh family. (Maannews 23 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Ahmed Rashid Sabarniha and arrested Hatim Sabarhinh (19 years) in Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. 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 two people. (Safa 24 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Karmel settlement attacked a number of Palestinian shepherds while they were in Ein Al Bida area, east of Yatta town. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers. During the clashes, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) got involved and arrested two Palestinians who were identified as: Ahmed Mohammad Suliman Abu Ahmid (18 years) and Nasser Ali Abu Ahmed (17 years). The IOA transferred the arrestees to unknown location. (Maannews 25 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at Halhul Bridge, north of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 25 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the entrance of Dura town, west of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 25 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (Wafa 25 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers loving in Avigal outpost attacked and injured a number of Palestinian farmers and shepherds while they were working in Khirbet Al Atariyah, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (ARN 26 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints at Halhul Bridge and at the entrance of Al Fawar refugee camp in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 26 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to stop the construction in 40 Palestinian structures (including houses, animal sheds and water wells) in Susiya village, south of Hebron city. (ARN 27 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers hurled stones and opened fire at a Palestinian vehicle nearby Zif area in Yatta town. The targeted vehicle is owned by Khalid Mahmoud Mohammad Bahis (35 years). (Al-Ayyam 28 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up sudden checkpoints nearby Negohot settlement, and at the entrance of Kharsa village in Hebron Governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 28 June 2013)

#### Qalqilyah

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qadum, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at participants and Palestinian houses, which led to dozens of suffocation cases, included a baby (7 month) (Wafa 7 June 2013)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) gathered at the entrance of Al Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city, and raised the Israeli flags. (Safa 7 June 2013)
- An Israeli settler living in Oranit settlement fire lived bullets at a Palestinian worker while he was nearby the settlement and injured him. The injured worker was identified as: Abdalla Imad Al-Bari (20 years). (Maannews 11 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qadum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. During the operation, the IOA detained Mohammad Abdalla Ali (10 years) for few hours. (Wafa 14 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers raised a flag at the entrance of Azun village, east of Qalqilyah city and wrote slogans in Arabic on some walls in the village such as "the village will be ours next Tuesday". The slogans were signed by "As Samirah women". (Maannews 18 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers started to raze a 120 meters long and 12 meters wide yard of a Palestinian school in Azun Atma village, southeast of Qalqilyah city. The targeted schoolyard is located in the eastern part of Sha'are Tikva settlement. The razing of the aforementioned area is part of the wall constructions that are going on in the area. (Wafa 18 June 2013).
- Two Palestinians were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the northern entrance of Azun village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (ARN 19 June 2013)
- Dozens of Israeli settlers gathered at the entrance of Azun Atma village, south of Qalqilyah city, and carried out provocative actions. (Paltoday 19 June 2013)
- Four Palestinian were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly nonviolent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qadum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. The injured Palestinians were identified as: Mahmoud Shatwi (25 years), Yousef Mustafah Shatawi (21 years), Wissam Ayob Shatawi (26 years) and Bashar Mahmoud Shatawi (22 years). During the operation, the IOA assaulted and arrested two Palestinian journalists, were identified as: Ahmed Shawer and Bashar Nazal, and confiscated their cameras. (PNN 21 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qadum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired metal bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of two people; the injured Palestinians were identified as: Nasser Aqil (40 years) and Othamn Jum'a (24 years). (ARN 28 June 2013).

#### **Tubas**

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Ras Al Far'a village, southwest of Tubas city, and set up a checkpoint at the entrance of the village. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 8 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Tamoun village, south of Tubas city. (Safa 8 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired bombs at agricultural lands planted with wheat in Tamoun village, south of Tubas city. As a result, more than 25 dunums of lands were torched. (Raya 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several houses in Al Faraa refugee camp, south of Tubas city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired metal bullets at Palestinians, which led to the injury of five Palestinians. The injured Palestinians were identified as: Ahmed Abd Jadad, Zakahroyah Abd AL-Hadi, Abd Al-Rahman Amir, Quies Abu Al-Hassan and Suliman Shawish. (Wafa 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished several Palestinians structures in Khirbet Ar Ras Al Ahmar in Tubas governorate. (DWG 27 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers demolished six agricultural barracks in Al Baqiah area, east of Tamoun village, south of Tubas city. Two of the targeted structures are owned by: Jamel Salman Bani Odeh and Lutfi Said Bani Odeh. During the operation, the IOA attacked and injured Jamel Salman Bani Odeh. (Maannews & Raya 27 June 2013)
- A number of Israeli settlers burnt a Palestinian agricultural structure in Bardala village, near Tubas city. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA), stationed at a nearby military roadblock, prevented Palestinian firefighters from extinguishing the fire. The burnt structures belong to a resident and local farmer identified as Fawwaz Sawafta. Sawafta said that he recently built his farm in his own land, after the IOA demolished his farm, last month, destroying several green houses. (IMEMC 28 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) evacuated Tayaseer checkpoint at the entrance of Tayasir village, north of Tubas city. (Al-Quds 30 June 2013).
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Bardala village in the northern of Jordan Valley and handed out military orders to demolish a number of barracks. During the operation, the IOA confiscated a Palestinian vehicle carried tents to Palestinians in Khirbet Al Ras Al Ahmer. (ARN 30 June 2013)

#### Ramallah

- A group of Israeli settlers torched a number of Oak forest trees in Beit Illu village, northwest of Ramallah city. (Wafa 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest to mark An-Naksa day, at Ofar jail, southwest of Ramallah city. The IOA

fired rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs at participants. (Wafa 5 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al Mughayer village, northeast Ramallah city, after closing all entrances leading to the village, and imposed curfew forcing the villagers under house arrest. The IOA claimed that local youths hurled stones at Israeli military and settlers' vehicles near the village, and threatened to keep the village under siege and curfew for an entire week. As a result, clashes took place between the IOA and Palestinians. The IOA fired several rounds of live ammunition, rubber-coated metal bullets, and gas bombs, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (IMEMC 7 June 2013)
- Two Palestinians were injured; Basil Mansour (36 years) and Omar Hashem Brnat (25 years), 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, northeast of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians and lands. As a result, a number of trees were torched. (Wafa 7 June 2013)
- Two Palestinian were arrested and other was injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in An Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Participants and houses, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and damages in Palestinian properties. The arrestees were identified as: Tamim Ahmed Faraj Tamime (19 years) and Mumen Ahmed Faraj Tamime (17 years). (Al-Quds 7 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Nilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Raya 7 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Betunyia village, south of Ramallah city. (Raya 10 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities isolated the eastern neighborhood of Qalandyia refugee camp, south of Ramallah city, by closing the wall gate, which prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the area. (Al-Quds 13 June 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 Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of two people. The injured Palestinians were identified

as: Ashraf Jamal Al-Khateeb (28 years) and Amjad Aiad Abu Rahma (18 years). During the operation, the IOA fired bombs at agricultural lands planted with Olive trees; as a result, a number of trees were torched. (Wafa 14 June 2013)

- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation, after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attached the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in An Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired metal bullets, teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians and houses; as a result, several of houses were damaged. (Wafa 14 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Nilin village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Wafa 14 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest in Wadi Al Latroun area west of Ramallah city. 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. During the operation, the IOA raided and searched several houses. (Wafa 16 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Mohammad Tubish, a Palestinian prisoner who is on hunger strike in Ofar Jail. The IOA transferred him to unknown location. (Wafa 16 June 2013)
- The Israeli Civil Administration handed out a Palestinian family in Saffa village, west of Ramallah city, an order to evacuate 14 dunums of lands under the pretext of being classified by Israel as "State Land". The targeted piece is located in the area known to local Palestinians as "Bati Al Hasan" area, east of the Modi'in Illit settlement bloc which Israel intend to annex to its proper through the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall. (Saffa Village Council 18 June 2013).
- The Israeli occupation authorities preceded with the amendment of the Israeli segregation wall route near Rantis village, located in the northwest of Ramallah city in the central West Bank, to allow for oil and gas drilling in the area. The area contains a field of a commercially viable oil and natural gas wells stretching from Qalqilyia city in the northern West Bank to Ramallah city. The Israeli occupation Authorities have been drilling for oil and gas from Rantis village near the 1949 Armistice line (Green Line), from a well named (Meged-5 oil field), owned and operated by Givot Olam Oil Ltd, currently the sole player in Israel's tiny onshore oil and gas production sector. ). The area contains more than 1 billion barrels of oil and more than 180 billion cubic meters of natural gas. (Paltoday 19 June 2013)

- Dozens of Palestinian and international activists 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 participants and Palestinian lands planted with olive trees. As a result, a number of olive trees were torched. (PNN 21 June 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 participants, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. During the operation, the IOA assaulted a Palestinian journalist; Belal At-Tamimi. (PNN 21 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired teargas bombs at Palestinian houses during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the IOA nearby Ofer Jail in Ramallah governorate. As a result, dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation. (Maannews 21 June 2013)
- A young Palestinian man was shot and injured by the Israeli Occupation army near the Al Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah city. The soldiers shot the young man after his car collided with a military jeep. As a result, dozens of soldiers invaded the camp searching for the wounded Palestinian. The invasion led to clashes between the soldiers and locals; the army fired gas bombs and rubbercoated metal bullets, no injuries have been reported. (IMEMC 23 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers demolished two residential structures in Al Ka'abneh Bedouins in Al Mu'arajat area, east of Ramallah city. (DWG 27 June 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinians and international activists 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 teargas and sound bombs at participants. (Wattan 28 June 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Qalandyia refugee camp, south of Ramallah city. The IOA fired live and rubber bullets; teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of a Palestinian. (Maannews 28 June 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinians 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 An Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber

bullets, teargas and sound bombs at participants. During the operation, the IOA arrested a Palestinian and an international activist. (ARN 28 June 2013)

#### **Jericho**

• The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers demolished four Palestinian houses, four barracks and a shed in An Nuweima village, north of Jericho city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (DWG & Raya 4 June 2013)

#### Salfit

- The Israeli settlers closed the main entrance of Yasuf village, northeast of Salfit city, and prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the village. (Wafa 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers seized, razed and set up fences around a Palestinian land in Khirbet Al Fkhakhir in Bruqin village, west of Salfit city. (Wafa 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities issued military orders to evacuate 23 dunums of Bruqin village, west of Salfit city. (Bruqin Municipal Council 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers razed Palestinian lands in Khirbet Deir Simaan in Kafr Ad Dik village, west of Salfit city. (Al-Ayyam 4 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Revava settlement continued razing Palestinian lands to expand the border of the settlement. The targeted lands are owned by Palestinians in Haris and Deir Istiya villages, northwest of Salfit city. (PNN 5 June 2013)
- The Israeli military jeeps invaded Salfit city, and harassed several Palestinians while inspecting their ID cards. Clashes have been reported, no injuries. (IMEMC 7 June 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Salfit city. The IOA fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians and houses, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (PNN 10 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint between Salfit city and Bruqin villages. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Al-Ayyam 10 June 2013)

- The Israeli settlers let go a number of wild pigs at agricultural lands in Salfit governorate. As a result, a number of trees were damaged. (PNN 17 June 2013)
- The Israeli Civil Administration published one building scheme in Al-Quds Daily Newspaper for Public Review. The Regional Plan No 2/165 Mandate scheme S-15, targets blocks No. 4, 9, 8, and 7 in Saniryah village, and block No. 4 in Az Zawiya village in Salfit Governorate. (Al-Quds 25 June 2013)

#### **Tulkarem**

• The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed, with cement blocks, the main entrance of Shufa village, southeast of Tulkarm city. (Al-Ayyam 2 June 2013)

#### **Nablus**

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities issued military order to confiscate 63.4 dunums of Palestinian land in Awarta and Rujeib villages southeast of Nablus city. The targeted lands are located nearby Itamar settlement. (Maannews 2 June 2013)
- The Jewish settlers used toxic chemicals to annihilate about 750 olive trees last week south of Nablus city, according to Tadamun (solidarity) society for human rights. The society explained that the settlers sprayed this number of live trees with deadly chemicals in Awarta and Burin villages south of Nablus in order to annex more than 10,000 dunums of Palestinian land to the settlements Yitzhar and Itamar, who were established illegally on Palestinian lands. Head of the municipal council in Awarta Sami Awad said that the farmers in the village cannot work about 12,000 dunums of their land which is partially located inside the fence of the illegal settlement of Itamar. (Al-Ayyam 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers torched 10 dunums of land planted with wheat in Madama village, south of Nablus city. (Wafa 3 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed Zatara checkpoint, south of Nablus city. (Wafa 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Burin village, south of Nablus city, and torched 200 dunums

of agricultural fields. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter hindered Palestinians from extinguishing the fire. (Wafa 4 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities prevented a Palestinian journalist, Nawaf Ibrahim Al-Ameer (50 years) from Kafr Qallil village, southeast of Nablus city, from traveling to Jordan. (Maannews 7 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Kafl Haris village, north of Nablus city, visited An Nabi Yousha and An Nabi Kafl areas and performed Talmudic rituals. The IOA set up checkpoints at all the entrances of the village and hindered Palestinians from entering or leaving it. (Safa 7 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers attacked and injured a number of Palestinian farmers while they were working in their lands in Rujeib village, southeast of Nablus city. (Wafa 7 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a number of Palestinian houses in several areas and neighborhoods in Nablus city. 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. One of the targeted houses is owned by Nasir Ash-Shair. During the operation. The IOA summoned two Palestinians to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police. (Al-Quds 8 June 2013)
- Hundreds of Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Joseph tomb in the eastern part of Nablus city, and performed religious 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 the injury of three people. (Al-Quds 10 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers caused the burning of more than 900 olive trees in lands located between Azmut and Deir Hattab villages, east of Nablus city. (Al-Ayyam 10 June 2013)
- Against efforts to resume dialogue with the Palestinians, the state of Israel is promoting a plan to build 550 housing units as well as sports and leisure facilities in Brukhin settlement that was considered until recently an outpost. The U.SA. Is trying to renew negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians However, the recent state-building plan of 550 new housing units in the outpost of Brukhin, increases the outpost size five times than its current size today. According to the plan, the community, which is currently inhabited by about one hundred families, will receive 550 new housing units, along with public

institutions, commercial area and employment, sports, and recreation areas and public open spaces, trails and roads. The plan which won official approval by the Israeli government in April 2013, after many years of being considered as an outpost due to the lack of a final signature of the Ministry of Defense that time. The government not only intends to legalize the existing structures, but it also includes planning for the construction of hundreds of housing units in the settlement. Recently, the Israeli Civil Administration deposited the plan in Palestinian media for objections. (Walla 11 June 2013)

- The Israeli settlers attacked and injured a Palestinian driver while he was driving nearby Yetzhar settlement. (Al-Quds 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to demolish seven Palestinian houses in Surra village, west of Nablus city. The targeted houses are owned by: Ahmed Mohammad Turabi, Mazen Mohammad Turabi, Zahi Mohammad Turabi, Hussen Mahmoud Turabi, Hilme Mahmoud Turabi and Mohammad Rawhi Turabi. (Maannews 12 June 2013)
- Itamar settlement to get 675 additional housing units. State pushing ahead with previously approved plan to build additional units in West Bank settlement which will see its territory significantly expanded. As US Secretary of State John Kerry continues his efforts to restart peace talks, <u>Israel</u> continues to push West Bank construction plans. There are plans to build 675 new housing units in the settlement of Itamar, Ynet has learned. The construction plan was approved by former Defense Minister Ehud Barak prior to the latest elections. Of the 675 housing units, 137 are existing apartments that have now been approved. The plan comes amid settler claims that the government is imposing a "silent freeze" policy in the West Bank whereby construction permits are being denied without an official cabinet decision on the matter. The Shomron Regional Council, where Itamar is situated, welcomed the move. "Samaria has recorded an impressive 10% annual growth rate and provides thousands of young couples, both secular and religious, high levels of culture and education and vicinity to central Israel," a statement said. Conversely, the Peace Now movement criticized the move. "Netanyahu has decided to change the rules and ruin any chance of revived talks. The government has become addicted to the construction of settlements that will not remain in Israel under any agreement. It will fall to Israel's citizens to pay the diplomatic and financial cost." Meanwhile, a joint Israeli-Polish statement is causing embarrassment for the prime minister's bureau. A statement drafted by the National Security Council expressed objection to unilateral steps in the context of the Israel-Palestinian peace process. The international

community generally views settlement construction as a unilateral step. Politically, the statement may prove problematic given the positions of some coalition members as Habayit Heyehudi and the Likud. The statement exposed a lack of coordination with the Foreign Ministry which was left out of the process. The prime minister's bureau said, "The statements are in accordance with Netanyahu's past comments. Had he seen the wording he would have phrased it a bit differently but as the statement is already out there is little point in dwelling over it." (Ynetnews 12 June 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) surrounded and stormed several areas in Nablus city, and fired teargas and sound bombs at houses and lands. (Al-Quds 13 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement closed the main street nearby the settlement and hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles, while led to the destruction of a number of cars. (Maannews 13 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Bracha settlement hurled Molotov cocktails at a Palestinian house in Burin village. The targeted house is owned by: Bashir Al-Zein. (Maannews 13 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed Zatara and Huwwara checkpoints, south of Nablus city. The IOA stopped and detained Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (RB2000 13 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed a checkpoint at the entrance of Beit Furik village, southeast of Nablus city. (RB2000 13 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demonstrated in Jammin village, south of Nablus city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter attacked and injured a Palestinian. The targeted Palestinian was identified as Ghassan Bakir. (RB2000 14 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers destroyed 25 olive trees and attacked a Palestinian house owned by Ali Hassan in Qusra village, southeast of Nablus city. (Wafa 16 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers set fire in agricultural lands planted with Olive trees in Imatin village, west of Nablus city. As a result, more than 300 olive trees were torched. During the attack, clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli settlers. (Al-Quds 16 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement tried to torch Saw Stone cutting tools in the southern of Nablus city. (Wafa 17 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several houses in Qabalan village, south of Nablus city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired

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- rubber bullets, teargas and sound bombs, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (ARN 19 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers attacked Asira Al Qibliya village, south of Nablus city and torched a Palestinian room. (Wafa 19 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed Huwwara and Zatara checkpoints, south of Nablus city. The IOA detained dozens of Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wattan 19 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles and destroyed one owned by Amjad Ameen Jaber, while he was driving on Nablus–Qalqilyia road. (ARN 20 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles driving nearby the settlement, as a result, 6 vehicles were damaged. (Wafa 20 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities issued military orders to demolish nine Palestinian houses in Duma village, southeast of Nablus city. The targeted houses are owned by: Mohammad Abd Al-Latif Dawabsha, Mahmoud Abd Al-Latif Dawahsha, Najeh Ahmed Dawabsha, Zahir Sami Dawabsha, Waheed Mohammad Dawabsha, Majde Said Dawabsha, Dirar Ahmed Dawabsha and Nail Salaouda. (Wafa 20 June 2013).
- An Israeli settler ran over a Palestinian old woman and seriously injured her; Zahiya Odeh (70 years) while she was walking in the main street in Huwwara village, south of Nablus city. (Maannews 21 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers continued razing Palestinian agricultural lands in Al Yanoun village, southeast of Nablus city, to establish two Israeli settlements on the lands of the village. (Al-Ayyam 22 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar and Bracha settlements invaded Burin village, south of Nablus city, and set fire in agricultural lands planted with Olive trees; as a result, tens of trees were torched. During the operation, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers. (ARN & NBPRA 23 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation jeeps invaded and toured in the old city of Nabuls, Balata refugee camp and in several areas in Nablus city. (Wafa 25 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Huwwara and Odala villages, south of Nablus city. (Raya 25 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Beita village, south of Nablus city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the

- IOA. During the clashes, the IOA arrested a number of Palestinians. (Wafa 25 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers attacked a group of people working for "Yesh Din" organization (Volunteers for Human Rights), an Israeli human rights organization working to achieve long-term structural improvement in the human rights of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation. The group was in Sarta village, southwest of Nablus city when the attack took place, and their vehicles were destroyed. (Raya 25 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) destroyed a number of Palestinian vehicles while they were driving on Nablus- Ramallah road. (Raya 25 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed Huwwara and Zatara checkpoints, south of Nablus city for few hours and detained the Palestinian prime minister's convoy; Dr. Rami Al-Hamdallah. (Maannews 25 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement demonstrated nearby the settlement and hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles driving nearby the settlement. As a result, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed the road. (Maannews 26 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers set fire in 20 dunums of agricultural land in Huwwara village, south of Nablus city. (Maannews 26 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military order to confiscate 379 dunums of Palestinian lands in Kafr Qallil village, southeast of Nablus city. The targeted lands are located nearby Bracha settlement and are owned by Mohammad Darwish Abu Zarour, Sameh Sadaqa, Bassam Al-Shak'a, Jamel Khadir, Abd Al-Fatah Kashkash, Mohammad Hassan Qani, and Kadim Abd Al-Ghani. (Maannews 26 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded several neighborhoods in Nablus city and arrested a number of Palestinians; four of them were identified as: Maher Qarib, Nasser Al-Kharaz, Hassan Abd Al-Haq and Samer Airan. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Raya & Wafa 27 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Shavei Shamron settlement set fire in agricultural lands in Sabastiya village, northwest of Nablus city. (Wafa 27 June 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement set fire in agricultural lands in Einabus village, south of Nablus city. As a result, more than 200 olive trees were torched. (Maannews 30 June 2013)

- The Israeli settlers living in Bracha and Yetzhar settlements torched Palestinian lands in Burin village, south of Nablus city. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers under the eyesight of the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) who later came to the site of clashes to protect the settlers, and fired teargas and sound bombs at Palestinians. (Maannews 30 June 2013)
- The Israeli settlers torched olive fields in Tal and Surra villages, west of Nablus city. (NBPRS 30 June 2013).

#### Gaza

- The Israeli Occupation Navy boats fired rounds of live ammunition at Palestinian fishing boats near the coasts of As Sudaniya and Beit Lahya shores in the Gaza strip. The Israeli attack led to property damage but no casualties were reported. (IMEMC 1 June 2013)
- A Palestinian was injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at him while he was working in his land in Jabalyia town, north of the Gaza strip. (Wafa 2 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing in Rafah shore, south of the Gaza strip. (Al-Ayyam 3 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired firebombs at Palestinian fields in the eastern of Absan village, east of Khan Younis town in the Gaza strip. As a result, huge tracts of lands were torched (Al-Quds 4 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing on the northern shore of the Gaza strip. (Safa 7 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation jeeps and bulldozers staged 400 meters into the northern and eastern parts of Beit Hanoun town, north of the Gaza strip, and opened fire at Palestinian lands and houses. During the operation, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) surrounded a group of Palestinian farmers, while they were working in their lands in the aforementioned areas. (Al-Ayyam 7 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian lands in the eastern part of Jabalyia town, north of the Gaza strip. As a result, large tracts of agricultural land planted with wheat were torched. (Al-Ayyam 9 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired live bullets and seriously injured a Palestinian farmer, while he was nearby the border fence, east of Khan Younis town, south of the Gaza strip. (Maannews 10 June 2013)

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- The Israeli Occupation Jeeps and bulldozers staged few meters into the eastern part of Al Maghazi refugee camp in the central of the Gaza strip, and razed Palestinian lands. (RB2000 11 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Jeeps and bulldozers staged few meters into Juhor Ad Deik area, east of Al Bureij refugee camp in the central of the Gaza strip, and razed Palestinian lands. (Paltoday 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at a Palestinian while he was nearby the border fence east of Al Qarara village, northwest of Khan Younis city. No injuries were reported. (Safa 12 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian houses and lands in Absan village, east of Khan Younis town in the Gaza strip. As a result, several houses were damaged. (RB2000 13 June 2013)
- A Palestinian; Omar Abu Muharib (48 years), was injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at him, while he was working nearby the border fence, east of Deir Al Balah town in the central of the Gaza strip. (Wafa 14 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) launched two missiles at a Palestinian house in Al Faraheen town, east of Khan Younis city, south of the Gaza strip. The targeted house is owned by Abu Rijelah family. (Al-Quds 17 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation gunboats launched two missiles and fired bullets at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing in Beit Lahya shore and Khan Younis shore in the Gaza strip. (Al-Quds 19 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian agricultural lands in Deir Al Balah and Al Qarara towns in the Gaza strip. (Al-Quds 19 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation jeeps and bulldozers staged few meters into the eastern part of Al Qarara town, east of Khan Younis city in the Gaza strip, razed Palestinian lands and opened fire at houses. (Al-Quds 20 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian lands and houses in Ash Shuka village, east of Rafah city, south of the Gaza strip. (Al-Ayyam 22 June 2013)
- The Israeli warplanes launched several missiles at empty and open areas in Rafah, Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah towns, south of the Gaza strip. (Maannews 24 June 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing in Rafah shore, south of the Gaza strip. (Al-Ayyam 26 June 2013)

#### **Others**

One-third of Israeli settlements' sewage facilities not up to code. 2.2. million Cubic meters a year of sewage flow directly into waterways or cesspits in Israel's West Bank communities. Nearly one-third of sewage treatment facilities in the West Bank settlements are either not up to code or not in operation, according to a state report. As a result, a third of the settlements' sewage is continuing to pollute the environment and to endanger groundwater sources, it warns. The survey, conducted by the Environmental Unit of the Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority, was carried out in 2012 on behalf of the Civil Administration and the Environmental Protection Ministry. Unlike other, similar studies, it included comprehensive testing not only of all sewage collection and treatment facilities in the settlements, but also in the surrounding areas. The study covered more than 150 residential centers for a combined population of 350,000. In most cases the sewage was household and not industrial waste. According to the report, the Jewish population beyond the Green Line produces 17.1 million cubic meters of sewage annually. The majority of this waste is directed to treatment facilities, but 2.2. million cubic meters a year flow directly into waterways or cesspits. The study found 54 sewage treatment facilities were up to code, while 39 installations were either belowstandard or not in operation. These 39 facilities are designed to handle the waste of 28 percent of the settler population. At Yitzhar, for example, whose population exceeds 1,000, the surveyors determined that the community's raw sewage was not being treated, but rather that it "flows into the environment from five different outlets." The community's sewage treatment plant, they noted, is "idle and disassembled." The sewage from the Avnei Hefetz settlement and from an adjacent army base also goes untreated, flowing directly into a nearby stream. A treatment plant near the community has been out of service for several years. The waste produced by the 20 trailer homes of a nearby unauthorized outpost drains into a cesspit before percolating into the surrounding ground. The sewage from Elkana's nearly 4,000 residents flows from its treatment facility into an adjacent stream that is one of the sources of the Yarkon River. Certain locales have shown improvement in recent years, the surveyors note. Sewage from the area of the Kaneh stream flows into Israeli territory, where it is used for agriculture. However, many settlements whose sewage treatment facilities do meet standards make only partial use of the treated wastewater for crop irrigation, reusing 64 percent compared to 90 percent within Israel proper. A large part of the treated water is of low

quality, and is directed to flow above the groundwater of the mountain aquifer, one of Israel's two major sources of groundwater. "We endeavor each year to upgrade the waste treatment plants, spending more than NIS 15 million," said the head of the Samaria Municipal Environmental Association, Yitzhak Meir. Yet Meir noted the "budgetary difficulty" faced by the agency, saying, "Unlike many communities within Israel, we do not receive grants but rather loans to build infrastructure." As for the relatively sparse use of recycled water for irrigation, Meir said there isn't enough land under cultivation in certain areas of the West Bank, and that treated wastewater is widely used for agriculture in the Jordan Valley. While the survey focuses on the problems caused by building and expanding settlements without first making sure waste can be properly treated, it is clear from the findings that the majority of untreated sewage generated by West Bank communities comes from Palestinian cities and villages. These communities have very few treatment plants and barely use the treated water they produce for irrigation. According to Alon Zask, head of the Environmental Protection Ministry's water, sewage and stream division, the study's findings indicate an improvement in sewage treatment but also show room for additional growth. Zask called for ensuring proper maintenance and upgrading treatment plants, as well as increasing the use of recycled water. "Jerusalem is now building a sewage treatment facility in a new neighborhood, the water from which is to be used for urban irrigation; there's no reason this can't be done in other places," Zask said. (<u>Haaretz</u> 2 June 2013)

NGO petitions court against sewage plant near Ofra. Israeli human rights group tells high Court of Justice to halt IDF plans to open a sewage treatment plant on land belonging to private Palestinians. The High Court of Justice must halt IDF plans to open a sewage treatment plant by the Ofra settlement on land that belongs to private Palestinians from the nearby village of Ein Yabrud, the NGO Yesh Din said in a petition to the court on Sunday. The Israeli human rights group said that in February, the Environmental Subcommittee of the Higher Planning Council for Judea and Samaria said it was working to authorize the plant. Yesh Din said the subcommittee favored opening the plant after a water engineer assessment said that the plant offered the best solution for regional sewage treatment and that the plant would serve both Ofra and nearby Palestinian villages such as Ein Yabrud. The plant has already been constructed, but additional work is needed before it can be operational. However, in its petition to the

High Court of Justice, Yesh Din attacked the credentials of the water experts and said the report had a number of errors and inaccuracies. "The author of the document addresses a wide range of issues [security, planning, surveying, etc.] that have nothing to do with his field of expertise. Accordingly, it is difficult to understand why his opinion should be used as a source for the decision," the NGO said and added that other available options were not considered. It said the plant only has the capacity to treat sewage from Ofra and will not be able to handle the sewage from nearby Palestinian villages. This is the second time Yesh Din has filed a petition against the plant. Its first 2009 petition resulted in a HCJ injunction barring the Civil Administration from opening the plant until the legal status of the land had been resolved. According to Yesh Din, the IDF's solution to the debate of ownership would be to confiscate the land. It added that an initiative to purchase the property had failed. "An attempt is being made to create the false impression that this sewage plant could function as a regional plant and could also serve the Palestinian villages in the areas. According to the data presented by the state itself, the capacity of this sewage plant is sufficient only for the settlement of Ofra," said Yesh Din's attorney Shlomi Zacharia. "Israel has repeatedly undertaken in court, and in diplomatic agreements, not to confiscate private Palestinian land for the needs of the settlements. Now, however, the state is attempting to justify its own violation of the law," Zacharia said. He added that other legal options are available. (IPOST 2 June 2013)

Palestinians to petition High Court over Ulpana buildings'. Petitioners say outpost homes built on Palestinian property. Palestinians from the village Dura al-Qari'a will ask the High Court of Justice on Tuesday morning to order the complete evacuation of the West Bank outpost of Ulpana, Army Radio reported. In June 2012, residents of five apartment buildings in the outpost agreed to voluntarily evacuate their homes and have the buildings relocated to the nearby Beit El settlement, after the High Court of Justice ruled the buildings were built without proper permits on private Palestinian property. The petitioners now claim that the rest of the buildings in the outpost were built on private Palestinian property as well and should therefore be evacuated. "The state will have to decide whether it prefers a political

crisis with the settlers, or a legal crisis, at the end of which Israel will completely divorce itself from being a democratic state," Dror Ateks, who represents the petitioners, told Army Radio. A representative of the Ulpana outpost rejected the Palestinian petitioners' claims, saying the state of Israel encouraged their settlement there. (IPOST 4 June 2013)

- The Israeli Supreme Court allowed an Israeli construction company to carry out construction work in the settlement of "Alei Zahav," and extend control over the land for another year, under the pretext of the absence of another possibility to reach the construction site located on a hill adjacent to the settlement. The "Harry Zahav" company is currently building 150 housing units, as part of a bigger plan to build 700 units in the settlement, in an attempt to expand it . The construction work is carried out on a private Palestinian land owned by Shurat Abu Shareefa from Kafr Ad Dik village. The company confessed that Abu Shareef'a land was mistakenly included in the master plan of the new neighborhood that is being built on a nearby hill adjacent to the settlement to construct an access road that connects the hill with the settlement; However, the company refused to evacuate the land despite mistakenly taking it for settlement construction because the court has stated that settlers who already bought the housing units will be affected in the absence of an alternative road that passes through the land of resident Abu Sharefa. (NBPRS 4 June 2013)
- Israel's AG: Absentee properties in East Jerusalem can be confiscated. Yehuda Weinstein's decision that the state can confiscate property owned by people residing outside the country is a reversal of his predecessors' position. A law allowing Israel to confiscate "absentee" properties may continue to be applied to Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem, Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein said in a legal opinion. Weinstein's opinion goes against the decisions of his predecessors, including Meir Shamgar, who said as far back as 1968 that the Absentee Property Law should not be applied in Jerusalem, and Menachem Mazuz, who served as attorney general immediately before Weinstein. According to the law, which was passed in 1950, any person living in an enemy state or outside Israel is considered an absentee, and his property goes to the Custodian of Absentee Property, today a body within the Justice Ministry. After the 1967 Six-Day War, residents of the occupied territories who held property in Jerusalem found they had been deemed absentees without ever leaving their homes. The decision over the application of the law in East Jerusalem has

for Jewish significant implications settlement in the city's predominantly Palestinian neighborhoods. Over the years, Absentee Property Law has become a tool for right-wing groups seeking to increase the Jewish presence in East Jerusalem. These groups ask the custodian to expropriate houses whose residents are in the West Bank and then rent the premises from the custodian, usually for a nominal fee. The Iyad family from the Palestinian town of Abu Dis, for example, owned the Cliff Hotel, which is 200 meters from their home. Because the Jerusalem municipal boundary runs between their home and the hotel, the custodian in 2003 declared them absentees and transferred the hotel to the state's ownership. The hotel now stands deserted. In another example, a family, represented in Monday's hearing by attorney Sami Arshid, lives in an older part of the Beit Hanina neighborhood, located in the West Bank, but owns property in a newer part of the neighborhood, only a few hundred meters away, within Jerusalem's boundaries. The family's Jerusalem home was taken by the state. Although in 1968, Shamgar, then the attorney general and later a Supreme Court justice, ordered that the law not be applied to East Jerusalem, with the establishment of the Likud government in 1977, the law came back into force. The pendulum swung back again in 1992, under then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, but in 1997, restrictions on the law's application were once again loosened, and in 2004, under then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the cabinet decided, against the position advocated by the Justice Ministry, to restore all the custodian's powers with regard to property in Jerusalem. In 2005, Mazuz wrote a sharply worded letter as attorney general ordering that the law not be applied in Jerusalem. "The application of the powers of the Custodian of Absentee Property to properties in East Jerusalem raises many serious legal difficulties regarding the application of the law and the reasonableness of its decision, and ... the obligations of the State of Israel toward the traditional principles of international law," he said. In 2006, then-District Court Judge Boaz Okun also ordered the law not be applied in Jerusalem, but at the end of that year, the state appealed Okun's rulingto the Supreme Court. Two weeks ago, an expanded bench of Supreme Court justices held a hearing regarding an appeal of four cases in which East Jerusalem properties belonging to residents of the Palestinian territories were confiscated based on the Absentee Property Law. During the hearing, the justices ordered Weinstein to appear before them in person to explain his position. On Tuesday, the state prosecutor informed the court that the attorney general had approved the application of the law in Jerusalem. "[Guidance] was sought from the attorney general on the topic, and it

was decided that the indeed the legal status was that the properties located in East Jerusalem, with their owners residents of the Judea and Samaria region, were absentee properties," the state prosecutor said. "This the language of the law and the ruling of the High Court of Justice show." Nevertheless, the attorney general said the four cases that reached the Supreme Court should be referred to a special committee that operates based on the Absentee Property Law to examine the possibility of releasing the properties from the hands of the custodian and returning them to their original owners. The Palestinian plaintiffs objected to this solution, because it would entail legal recognition of the confiscation of their properties and require the filing of special requests to have them released. The state prosecutor announced the entire issue will be brought to the attention of the political echelon. The next Supreme Court hearing is scheduled for this September, when Weinstein will be expected to appear. (Haaretz 5 June 2013)

Acting the Landlord: Israel's Policy in Area C, the West Bank. Not long ago, Israeli Minister of Economy Naftali Bennett, former chairman of the Judea, Samaria and Gaza Council, called on Israel to impose sovereignty unilaterally on Area C and then grant Israeli citizenship to Area C's local Palestinian residents, whom he said numbered 50,000. The above proposal considers Area C an independent region, separate from the rest of the West Bank. Yet the division of the West Bank into Areas A, B and C does not reflect a geographic reality, but rather an administrative division made as a part of the Interim Agreement of the Oslo Accords. The division was to have been temporary and to have enabled an incremental transfer of authority to the Palestinian Authority. It was not designed to address the needs of long-term demographic growth. Nonetheless, this "temporary" arrangement has remained in force for nearly twenty years. Some 60 percent of West Bank lands have been classified as "Area C" and are under full and exclusive Israeli control. Area C is home to an estimated 180,000 Palestinians and includes the major residential and development land reserves for the entire West Bank. Israel prohibits Palestinian construction and development on some 70 percent of Area C territory, arguing various rationales, such as being "state lands" or "firing zones." Israel's planning and construction policy virtually ignores the needs of the local population: it refuses to recognize most of the villages in the area or draw up plans for them, prevents the expansion and development of Palestinian communities, demolishes homes and

does not allow the communities to hook up to infrastructure. Thousands of inhabitants live under the constant threat of expulsion for living in alleged firing zones or "illegal" communities. In addition, Israel has taken over most of the water sources in Area C and has restricted Palestinian access to them. In theory, Israel retains full control in the West Bank only of Area C. In practice, Israel's control of Area C adversely affects all Palestinian West Bank residents. Scattered throughout the vast expanses of Area C are 165 "islands" of Area Aand B-land that are home to the major concentrations of population in the West Bank. The land reserves that surround the built-up sections of West Bank towns and villages are often designated as Area C, and Israel does not allow construction or development on these reserves. Israel thereby stifles many Area A and B communities, denying them the opportunity to develop. This is one of the contributing factors to the difficulty in obtaining lots for construction, the steep price hike in the cost of the few available plots, the dearth of open areas, and the total lack of suitable sites for infrastructure and industrial zones. If, for want of an alternative, residents of these areas build homes without permits on nearby land – owned by them but classified "Area C" – they live under the constant shadow of the threat of demolition. This report presents Israel's policy as implemented in Area C, primarily by the Civil Administration, and explores the policy's implications for the population of the West Bank as a whole. The report focuses on several specific locations in Area C where the policy has considerable impact on the lives of the residents: There are dozens of Palestinian villages in the South Hebron Hills that the Civil Administration refuses to recognize and for which it does not prepare master plans. Over 1,000 people, residents of eight of these villages, currently live under the perpetual threat of expulsion on the grounds of residing in a designated "firing zone". The Civil Administration plans to uproot at least two thousand Bedouins from land near the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim and transfer them to so-called "permanent communities" in order to expand nearby Israeli settlements and achieve a contiguous built-up bloc linking the settlements to the city of Jerusalem. Previously, hundreds of Bedouins from this area had been displaced for the establishment and then the expansion of Ma'ale Adumim. Palestinians in the Jordan Valley are subject to frequent house demolitions. They are occasionally evacuated for the benefit of military exercises and must deal with the confiscation of water cisterns that are the source of drinking water for them and their livestock. Al-Khader, Yatma and Qibyah are examples of Palestinian communities most of whose built-up area is located in Area B. Yet most of these

communities' lands available for construction of homes, infrastructure and public services are located in Area C, where the Civil Administration does not allow construction and development. Palestinians in these communities, who, for the want of any other options, built homes on their community's lands in Area C, face the constant threat of demolition. Some Area C residents, harmed by Israel's planning and building policy, have applied to Israel's High Court of Justice for redress. However, of the dozens of petitions submitted, the court deemed not a single case worthy of its intervention with Civil Administration considerations. The court thus enabled the restrictive, harmful and discriminatory policy to carry on. At the same time, and counter to international law, Israel encourages its own nationals to settle in the West Bank. Israel allocates vast tracts of land and generous water supplies to these settlements, draws up detailed plans that take into account both current requirements and future expansion, and turns a blind eye to violations of planning and construction laws in settlements. Israel's policy in Area C is anchored in a perception of the area as meant above all to serve Israeli needs. Consequently, Israel consistently takes actions that strengthen its hold on Area C, displace Palestinian presence, exploit the area's resources to benefit Israelis, and bring about a permanent situation in which Israeli settlements thrive and Palestinian presence is negligible. Through its actions, Israel preserves a de facto annexation of Area C and creates circumstances that will help perpetuate this state and influence the final status of the area. Israel's policy in Area C violates the essential obligations of international humanitarian law, namely: to safeguard occupied territory on a temporary basis; to refrain from altering the area or exploiting its resources to benefit the occupying power; and, most importantly, to undertake to fulfill the needs of the local residents and respect their rights. Instead, through the Civil Administration, Israel pursues a policy designed to achieve precisely the opposite: the Civil Administration refuses to prepare master plans for the Area C communities and draws on the absence of these plans to justify the prohibition of virtually all Area C construction and infrastructure hook-ups. In cases where, having no alternative, residents carry out construction despite the prohibition, the Civil Administration demolishes their homes. Israel utterly ignores the reality that residents cannot build their homes legally. Israel conducts itself as though this situation were not in fact a direct result of its own policy. As long as Israel controls the West Bank, including Area C, it must meet its obligations under international law and human rights law. First, Israel must revoke the allocation it has made of vast tracts of "state land" to

the local and district councils of settlements' – whose very existence is in contravention of international law - and also retract the classification of extensive areas as firing zones. Second, Israel must allocate lands throughout Area C to Palestinians for housing, infrastructure and industrial zones, and pursue an expert planning process whose top priority will be the needs of the Palestinians in the West Bank. In accordance with Jordanian law which was in effect in the West Bank before Israel changed it, representatives of the local Palestinian population must be included in this process. The process must also feature recognition of existing communities in the West Bank, and all Palestinian residents of the West Bank must be promptly hooked up to water and power infrastructure. Israel must work in conjunction with Palestinian Authority representatives to promote overall planning in the West Bank and to address the planning and development needs of the residents of the entire West Bank. As long as Israel retains planning authority in Area C and does not allow Palestinians to build legally, it must immediately desist from demolishing homes, business-related structures (e.g., buildings used for agriculture or trade) and rainwater-collection cisterns. In addition, Israel must not expel people from their homes in the absence of a clear, essential and immediate military justification. (<u>B'tselem</u> 5 June 2013)

- New interchange between the from Ma'ale Adumim will allow construction in E1. Jerusalem District Committee is expected to approve tomorrow the interchange of Olives. Opponents: shunt promote the controversial construction area and will perpetuate discrimination against Palestinians Tomorrow is expected to be approved a plan to build a new interchange between Jerusalem and Maale Adumim. Today will be the plan for approval by the Local Planning and Building Committee to recommend approval of the District discussing it tomorrow. According to opponents, the new interchange, interchange called Olives assist in connecting settlements Binyamin and Samaria and Jerusalem, but also allow Israel to build a new neighborhood in the future the disputed territory, E1. The plan will be submitted for approval is the final step in building the interchange connecting the eastern ring road, leading to Almon and Geva Binyamin, Highway 1 descends from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea. Shunt also allows direct connection of the eastern ring road and tunnel Scopus away into. (Haaretz 5 June 2013)
- Zoning board expected to approve two 34-story towers for Jerusalem. But local residents are planning to submit objections to construction

plans. The Jerusalem Regional Planning and Building Committee are expected to approve tomorrow a plan to construct the two highest buildings in the capital. Each of the two towers, which will be at the western entrance to the city, will be 34 stories high. They will contain space for hotels, offices, commercial and other uses. The debate over high-rise buildings in Jerusalem is almost as old as the city itself. For years residents, environmental organizations and architects have objected to towers in the capital, on the grounds that they would destroy Jerusalem's unique, historic skyline. The residents of nearby buildings are expected to submit objections, since the planned towers will block off much of their natural light. The various plans to build such towers over the years have always brought with them major battles. In the days of the long-serving mayor Teddy Kollek guidelines called for a ban on buildings over eight stories, except in special cases. But there were many special cases; the cityscape came to be altered by tall buildings that won approval after bitter battles. But the new plan for a major jump in height at the city entrance has so far proceeded with little opposition. In the past several years environmental organizations have decided to focus their attentions on fighting the city's incursion into open spaces, rather than battling high-rise construction. Under Jerusalem's new master plan the area at the entrance to the city is designated as the new center for business and commerce. The fast train from Tel Aviv to the capital, now under construction, together with the two light-rail lines, will enable the development of a "city" with a concentration of towers, city planners say. The first two buildings of this new complex to be approved are at the intersection of Jaffa and Herzl streets, and will reach a height of 150 meters. By comparison, the round tower of Tel Aviv's Azrieli Center is 187 meters high. The new Jerusalem towers will have five levels of underground parking and 78,000 square meters in total floor space. The Israel Lands Administration is developing the project, which Farhi Zafrir Architects is designing. The main problem with the towers is their shadows, according to the environmental opinions submitted to the zoning board, which will reach for hundreds of meters on the ground and affect most nearby buildings and streets. But others question the need for what they say is a grandiose project. "The problem with the plan is that it creates a precedent for such tall buildings," said city council member Rachel Azaria, adding, "After approving such a building, no developer in the area will ask for less than 35 stories." Continuing, she said, "It is possible the building will integrate into the fabric and the skyline, but it is reasonable to assume there will also be problems with such massive construction. That is

why it is proper to start with a much lower building, of 12 or 18 stories, to see how it goes and then to move on to plan such tall and massive construction." "Jerusalem is a city that demands caution and modesty in planning, and that is not happening in this building. I hope the regional [planning] committee will learn to significantly reduce its height," said Azaria. (<u>Haaretz</u> 5 June 2013)

IDF received NIS 4 million for leadership training by right-wing group. Allocation earmarked for activities conducted by Elad, which promotes Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem neighborhoods. The Israel Defense Forces' Education Corps recently received a special NIS 4 million budget to fund leadership training provided to IDF soldiers by the right-wing organization Elad (a Hebrew acronym for "To the City of David") in East Jerusalem. A senior IDF commander has confirmed that the amount was transferred; however, he claimed that there was nothing amiss in the IDF working with this organization because the Education Corps monitors all of the content of Elad's instruction programs for IDF units. Elad, which promotes Jewish settlement in Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, has worked with the Education Corps for many years. Apparently, the money was transferred though a special allocation from the budget of one government ministry. The senior commander confirmed that the money was earmarked in advance for this purpose - in other words, the Education Corps received it with the stipulation that it would fund the training sessions given by Elad. He added that the organization specializes in instruction sessions focused on the City of David, an archaeological site immediately south of Jerusalem's Temple Mount. The content of every lecture delivered to IDF soldiers, he noted, is approved in advance by the Education Corps, which also closely monitors the training sessions in the field in order to ascertain that the persons conducting them are complying with the terms of the agreement between the Education Corps and Elad. "The IDF supervises these activities meticulously," the senior commander emphasized. Last month, Haaretz reported that hundreds of cadets in officer training school spent a weekend at a "leadership Sabbath" in East Jerusalem that was initiated by the Education Corps and organized by Elad; some of the lecturers appearing before the soldiers on behalf of Elad were rabbis. The event is part of the IDF's training program for combat officers destined to serve in field units. Cadets who participated said the speakers tended to avoid outright political statements, but the lectures contained a clear ideological message for strengthening the Jewish presence in the eastern part of the city. They visited the Jewish neighborhood of

Ma'aleh Zeitim on the Mount of Olives and, from an observation point on the roof of one of the houses there, were able to get a good view of the Temple Mount. The father of one cadet told Haaretz that the lecturers "marketed a concentrated religious doctrine concealed under the heading of leadership." A reservist officer, who in the past has served in senior positions in the Education Corps, says that "there are various perspectives on Jewish identity, ranging from the ultra-Orthodox to Modern Orthodox and non-Orthodox, and I am not at all certain that the army is sufficiently balancing the picture." The new IDF Chief Education Officer, Brig. Gen. Avner Paz-Tzuk, assumed the post yesterday, replacing Brig. Gen. Eli Shermeister who served six years in that capacity. Shermeister, who is retiring from military service, recently said in an interview with the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper: "The IDF is not a religious army, although it does have religious soldiers." He added in that interview that he did not feel that the Military Rabbinate was trying to take over the IDF. (Haaretz 6 June 2013)

- The European Union demanded Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to stop Israel's illegal settlement activities, and stated that the EU would support the Palestinian Authority in joining the International Criminal Court should Israel fail to stop its violations. Several senior EU leaders said that they fear Netanyahu is obstructing the efforts of U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, aimed at resuming peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. They said that Israel's settlement construction and expansion activities, especially in occupied Jerusalem, are serious threats to the prospects of resuming direct Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Israeli sources have reported that the E.U warned Netanyahu that Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, would resume the "unilateral" international diplomatic moves by trying to achieve full international recognition, and joining the International Criminal Court (ICC). The sources added that the EU would even support Palestine in joining the ICC should Israel fail to stop its settlement activities. Israel recently declared it would be constructing thousands of units for Jewish settlers in occupied East Jerusalem. (IMEMC 6 June 2013)
- Construction largest settlement cities of Beitar Illit and Modin Illit roared back to life after being almost dormant for 3 years. Settler housing starts spiked by 176% in the first quarter of 2013, as construction in the two largest settlement cities of Beitar Illit and Modin Illit, roared back to life after being almost dormant for the last three years, according to Central Bureau of Statistics Data. In the first

three months of this year, work began on 865 new homes in Judea and Samaria, of which 265 were in Beitar Illit and 241 were in Modin Illit, according to the CBS. In comparison, during the first quarter of 2012, work began on only 313 new settler homes out of which, 12 were in Beitar Illit and 26 were in Modin Illit. If one looks at the figure for work that began on new settler homes in the first three months of this year, without Beitar Illit and Modin Illit, than the 359 new starts, is very similar to the 313 starts in the first quarter of 2012. Both the Beitar Illit and Modin Illit settlement blocs are very close to the pre-1967 lines and would likely become part of Israel in any final status agreement with the Palestinians. In the last 18 years, construction in Beitar Illit and Modin Illit as well as the next largest settlement city Ma'aleh Adumim has often made close to 50% of the new building in Judea and Samaria. In 2009, right before Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu imposed a ten-month moratorium on all housing starts in West Bank settlements, those three settlements made up 45% of the 1,963 starts in that year. When the moratorium was lifted in September of 2010, the number of new starts in those three settlements remained at almost a standstill. As a result, the number of new housing starts in West Bank settlements has been unusually low in the last three years; 1,044 in 2012, 1,107 in 2011 and 736 in 2010. The 2010 number is a direct result of the moratorium on housing starts which was in place for nine-months of that year. In contrast, in 2008, there were 2,324 starts and in 2007, 1,471 new start in West Bank settlements. Ma'aleh Adumim is unlikely to see a similar building surge because it has used up almost all of its zoned land. It cannot continue to expand unless plans for 3,500 new homes in the un-built area of the city, known as E1, are authorized. But at present, according to city Mayor Benny Kashriel, the E1 plans are frozen, because Netanyahu has not allowed them to be re-deposited with the Higher Planning Council for Judea and Samaria. Still, the building in Beitar Illit and Modin Illit was enough to dramatically spike the number of West Bank settlement housing starts. The CBS data comes as US Secretary of State John Kerry is pushing a new diplomatic initiative to re-kindle direct Israeli Palestinian talks which have been largely frozen since December 2008. To encourage those efforts Netanyahu has promised the United States not to initiate new building projects in West Bank settlements or in Jewish neighborhoods of east Jerusalem. Since January no new tenders have been published for West Bank settlement or Jewish homes in east Jerusalem. The new building in Beitar Illit and Modin Illit is the result of building permits granted before Kerry's new diplomatic initiative. According to the CBS, in contrast to the housing starts data, the number of finished

homes in Judea and Samaria has dropped by 13% in the first quarter of 2013, from 310 in the first three months of 2012, to 251 for the first three months of this year. Overall the number of finished homes in Judea and Samaria has dipped significantly. In 2009, there were 2,063 finished homes; in 2010 that number was 1,670. It stayed relatively the same in 2011, with 1,682 finished homes. It dropped in 2012 to 1,269 finished homes. (IPOST 9 June 2013)

- Construction Starts in Settlements Reach 7 Year High. Construction Starts in Settlements Reach 7 Year High; Inside Israel Construction Starts Decrease. According to recent Israel Central Bureau of Statistics data, construction starts in the West Bank skyrocketed during the first quarter of 2013. Despite the fabled 'settlement freeze' or 'restraint', construction continued uninterrupted. Between January 2013 and March 2013 construction of 865 new housing units began. This is three times as many construction starts compared to the same quarter last year (January-March 2012). If compared to the final quarter of last year (October-December 2012), this is an astonishing 355% increase. Peace Now: So long as there is no full settlement freeze settlements will continue to grow wildly. A government committed to peace would not allow nor continue to build settlements, which inevitably harm the chances for peace. These findings provide further evidence of a continuing government policy of prioritizing settlement expansion, at the expense of the majority of Israeli citizens. Settler populations are a mere 4% of the population but received 176% increase in construction starts, while the other 96% of Israeli citizens received an 8.9% decrease in construction starts. Construction starts in the same period inside Israel decreased 8.9% despite continued public outcry over increasing economic hardship and the cost of housing. Meanwhile, construction starts in the West Bank increased 176%. The CBS statistics does not provide a breakdown of all construction starts by location so it is unclear exactly how many units were begun in each location. However, the CBS data does note that many of the units are located in Modiin Illit (241 units) and Beitar Illit (265 units). According to our research construction is taking place in many settlements east and west of the separation barrier. (Peace Now 9 June 2013)
- Palestinians lay groundwork for future state. Yedioth Ahronoth obtains document detailing planned construction projects that are part of 'Fayyad Plan,' which aims to create territorial continuity in West Bank, especially Israel-dominated Area C, lay down foundations for future state. Six cities, two airports, a high-tech complex, a university and a system of highways to connect all of the above are included in

the new Palestinian construction plan aimed at setting facts on the ground and creating a territorial continuity in the West Bank. Dozens of sites in the West Bank are part of the new trend of construction, as the authorities refuse to wait for the revival of peace talks and are laying down the foundations and infrastructure for an independent state. Yedioth Ahronoth obtained a document detailing the planned construction projects that are part of the "Fayyad Plan," a template for a de facto Palestinian statehood. The majority of the projects are in the Israel-controlled Area C, and many of them have already begun. Some are awaiting the approval of the Civil Administration, the Israeli governing body that operates in the West Bank. The Palestinians hope to push the projects that the Civil Administration will reject through negotiations as "confidence-building steps." In view of US Secretary of State John Kerry's frequent visits to the region, the plan looks grounded in reality. The petitions submitted to the Civil Administration reveal the Palestinians intend to erect five cities, and a tourist town on the shores of the Dead Sea called Moonlight. The two airports will be built in East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley. Plans are also in place to better harness the natural water and energy resources and water purification facilities. The partition of the West Bank as stipulated in the Oslo Accords is as follows: Area A represents 11% of the West Bank, a geographically non-contiguous area subject to continual Israeli incursions which render it an area of a very limited autonomy. An approximate 28% of the West Bank is subject to Israeli military control and Palestinian civil control is designated as Area B; while Area C is an approximate 61% of the territory and is under full Israeli control. In August of 2009, then-Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad issued a document titled "The end of the occupation and the creation of a state," saying a Palestinian state will arise over the West Bank up to the borders of 1967, east Jerusalem included. Since then Fayyad is working to blur the distinctions between the three areas. Some of the projects in the plan are bankrolled by foreign governments, most notably Germany. The Yesha Council said in a statement the plan represents a peril to Israel's security, a violation of obligations given to Israel, and runs afoul of international law. (Ynetnews 9 June 2013)

• Israel official: No Palestinian state in '67 lines. Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon says gov't will not agree to borders demanded by Palestinians, days before US State Secretary Kerry's visit to area. A senior Israeli official said the government would not agree to the borders that the <u>Palestinians</u> are demanding for an independent state.

Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon said <u>Israel</u> would not let such a state be established within the regional boundaries that existed prior to the 1967 Mideast war. Palestinians want east Jerusalem, the <u>West Bank</u> and <u>Gaza</u> - territories captured by Israel in that war. Danon's remarks were broadcast on Israel Radio Sunday. His remarks came ahead of another visit by US Secretary of State <u>John Kerry</u> to the region this week. The government has distanced itself from similar comments made by Danon last week. Israel's chief negotiator <u>Tzipi Livni</u> told the station Sunday she was hopeful talks will resume with the Palestinians despite "elements" within the Israeli government. (<u>Ynetnews</u> 9 June 2013)

- The Israeli reconciliation court ordered a Palestinian, Daoud Siyam (35 years) to pay a NIS 45,000 to an Israeli settler under the claim that Mr. Siyam assaulted the settler. (SilwanIC 10 June 2013)
- The Israeli Settlers have destroyed over 2,500 Palestinian olive trees in the Nablus area since the beginning of June, Nablus governor Jibrin al-Bakri declared. The areas primarily affected by settler violence are the villages of Awarta, Burin, Azmut and Deir al-Hatab, all of which are in close proximity to illegal Israeli settlements. Settlers have uprooted and burned olive trees and Palestinian agricultural fields in Nablus, destroying the main source of income for villagers in the area, al-Bakri said. In 2011, Oxfam and local organizations calculated that settler violence against olive trees and agricultural land cost Palestinian farmers an estimated \$500,000. Since 1967, 800,000 olive trees have been uprooted resulting in a loss of around \$55 million to the Palestinian economy, according to a report by the PA Ministry of National Economy and the Applied Research Institute- Jerusalem. (Maannews 10 June 2013)
- Netanyahu: Settlement construction will continue, but Israel must be smart about it. Deputy Minister in PMO says past has shown settlement freeze drives Palestinians away from negotiations; Lieberman confirms Israel has observed partial freeze in East Jerusalem. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that construction in major settlement blocs does not substantially affect Israel's ability to come to an agreement with the Palestinians and the substantial question is whether the Palestinians have the will to accept the Jewish state. "Construction in communities in Judea and Samaria will continue, and is continuing still today, but we must be aware of what is happening around us," said Netanyahu. "We must be smart, not just right," he added. "Settlement in the [West Bank and East

Jerusalem] blocs does not significantly change our ability to reach an agreement – that is a false claim. The real question is whether there is or isn't a willingness [among the Palestinians] to accept a Jewish state." Ofir Akunis, a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office, backed the prime minister's remarks by asserting that past experience has shown that a halt to construction has only driven the Palestinians away from negotiating with Israel. "The Likud policy is very consistent. Our call to the Palestinians to enter into direct peace negotiations without precondition is in effect," he said. Netanyahu and Akunis made his remarks shortly after Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Avigdor Lieberman confirmed that Israel has observed a de facto building freeze in Jerusalem neighborhoods located beyond the Green Line since the beginning of the year, despite repeated denial to that effect by Netanyahu and Akunis. City planning officials in Jerusalem had previously stated that in practice, construction in Jewish neighborhoods of East Jerusalem is on hold. But Lieberman offered the first official confirmation. In his remarks Monday, Netanyahu declared that construction in West Bank settlements was ongoing and would continue. "It is continuing now," he said, but added: "you need to understand what is going on around us." He also said that the imposition of more and more preconditions on the part of the Palestinians presents what he called "an insurmountable obstacle," but the alternative to negotiations is a bi-national state, which Israel does not want. Israel, he added, was not imposing preconditions, while the Palestinians have been deliberately interjecting unacceptable demands "just to avoid entering negotiations." If a Palestinian state is established, the prime minister said, it would have to be demilitarized and with arrangements that rely fully on the Israel Defense Forces for security. In an apparent reference to the failure of United Nations peacekeeping troops to maintain order on the Syrian side of the ceasefire line in the Golan Heights and the withdrawal of the Austrian contingent, Netanyahu added: "International forces could be in the area, but there cannot be reliance on them. We've seen what is happening with the international forces in the Golan Heights. The discussion pertaining to Jerusalem construction came after Army Radio reported that since the beginning of 2013, not one apartment has been marketed beyond the Green Line in Jerusalem, citing information it had obtained from the Housing and Construction Ministry. Sources at the Israel Lands Administration told the radios tation they blamed the Prime Minister's Office for the delay. The Prime Minister's Office declined to comment. Lieberman made clear in his confirmation that while the halt to new construction hasn't been made official, no new

tenders are being issued. However, work on projects already approved is continuing. "This should be viewed as a temporary hiatus," Lieberman told a session of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Monday. "We have an interest in [U.S. Secretary of State John] Kerry succeeding. You don't always have to be right. You can also be smart." Referring to the crisis in relations with Washington that occurred in 2010 when public housing tenders were issued for Jewish neighborhoods of East Jerusalem during a visit by U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, Lieberman said those tenders were poorly timed, while Israel's current approach is "measured and correct." When it comes to settlement construction in the West Bank, in March Lieberman said that his Yisrael Beiteinu party would seek to prevent any renewal of a construction freeze. He told reporters at a press conference that after "seeing no results" from a freeze, he would "oppose every effort" to try again. "We are prepared to make gestures, but they cannot be unilateral," Lieberman said. "All members of Yisrael Beiteinu will oppose a freeze if such [a suggestion] is raised." (<u>Haaretz</u> 11 June 2013)

The Israeli Government passed the "Anti-Terror Bill", authorizing harsher punishment against individuals suspected or convicted of aiding armed groups in the country, and anywhere in the world. Several human rights groups in Israel and around the world voiced serious concerns regarding direct human rights violations, especially since this law strengthens and "legalizes" Administrative Detention orders confining hundreds, and even thousands, behind bars for extended periods without charges or trial. The bill passed during a vote at the Israeli Ministerial Committee for Legislation, headed by Israeli Justice Minister, Tzipi Livni. It does not only target those "convicted of terror attacks", but also those who express support, emphasize and "incite terror activities" in addition to those believed to be engaged in preparations to carrying out violent acts. Part of the penalties that this bill proposed include sentencing individuals for a life term without the possibility of parole, and allows the Police, the Security Services and all related agencies to confine "suspects" up to 30 days without granting them the right to any legal representation. The passed bill also allows Israel to seize property of armed groups and individuals, in addition to preventing them from traveling abroad when there are no arrest warrants against them. Israeli daily Haaretz has reported that the new legislation, would replace the "national state of emergency regulations" that Israel enforced after its establishment in the historic land of Palestine in 1948. Those regulations affect civil, security and economic issues. The law particularly targets Palestinians

and the indigenous Arab population in Israel, as those facing charges of "security or criminal violations", whether in civil or military courts, would be facing very harsh sentences. Head of the Meretz opposition party, Zahava Gal-On, said that Israel is denying human rights under the guise of combating terror. She said that the emergency law applied in the country since the British occupation of Palestine, "cannot just be replaced with legislation that is anti-democratic". (IMEMC 11 June 2013)

- The Godfather of settlement Ari King announced start hearing to evacuate of 14 Palestinian families to seize their houses, claiming that the houses were built on Jewish land. King said on social networking site Facebook that the houses located on an area of 4,400 square meters, without specifying the location or the names of families threatened with eviction. King criticized the Israeli Government's policy toward the "unauthorized" construction in Jerusalem, and "recover Jewish property, the Jews decided to take matters into their own hands." And on King also said an Israeli court decision to vacate the House, 3 residential units. (IMEMC 13 June 2013)
- Danon: Conflict with PA 'Better Than Making More Mistaken Deals'. Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon expects the Israel-PA conflict to be resolved with help from Egypt and Jordan, he said in an interview. In a discussion of how he expects the Israel-Arab conflict to finally be resolved, Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon said that ideally Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinian Authority would cooperate on regional issues, thus resolving generations of enmity. "I am looking for true cooperation with these partners on matters of state and security," including resolving the Israel-Arab conflict for once and for all, Danon said in an interview on the Knesset Channel Monday. "Our interest is to retain as much territory in Judea and Samaria as possible, placing it under Israeli sovereignty. The status of the rest of the land, as well as that of most of the Palestinian population, will be decided with input from Egypt and Jordan." Cooperation on this level, Danon said, would ensure that all outstanding issues would be definitively resolved, ensuring a bright and secure future for both Israel and the PA. In Danon's vision, Israel would not provide citizenship to PA Arabs. "We want their citizenship status to be decided jointly with Egypt and Jordan," he said. In lieu of such an agreement, Danon added, it was better to leave the political situation alone, given Israel's bitter experience in peacemaking efforts with a recalcitrant and uncooperative Palestinian Authority. "The current situation, where we are in conflict with the Palestinians, is better than

the results of mistakes we are liable to make in a future agreement, as we already did in the Oslo Accords or the Disengagement," he said. (<u>Israel National News</u> 13 June 2013)

PA objects to Israel's Western Wall plans. PA religious affairs minister: Moving entrance to Temple Mount for egalitarian section may "push all of us to new conflicts". The Palestinian Authority will not permit Israel to change the entrance to the Temple Mount in order to facilitate the building of an egalitarian prayer area near the Western Wall, PA Religious Affairs Minister Mahmoud Habbash told The Jerusalem Post in Ramallah on Thursday morning. And any Israeli attempt to "Judaize" holy sites in Jerusalem would be viewed by Arabs and Muslims as a declaration of war, Habbash warned. Jewish Agency chairman Natan Sharansky's plan would allow for the construction of an additional section of the Western Wall Plaza at the southern end of the Kotel - equal in size and height to the northern prayer area for egalitarian worship - and accessible as part of one unified Western Wall complex with a single entrance. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has told Sharansky to meet with National Security Adviser Yaakov Amidror to deal with sensitive issues surrounding Mughrabi Bridge. "Any changes in Haram a-Sharif [Temple Mount] are unacceptable to the Palestinians and the Arab side," Habbash said in a meeting with Israeli journalists organized by the One Voice organization. "It's a change of our heritage site and I believe such changes may push all of us to new conflicts and problems." Habbash, who is a former Hamas member from the Gaza Strip but strongly backs two states for two peoples, said any change in the status quo regarding the Temple Mount must wait until a final-status agreement between Israel and the PA. "Any changes in this situation will make the problem more difficult," Habash said. "We don't agree to any changes. It's a Wakf [Islamic trust] place, and Islamic place and we have documents to prove it. You can pray how you want after the liberation of Palestine." Habbash said he would agree with Netanyahu that there should be peace talks without preconditions, but only if the prime minister gave guarantees that the talks would not fail like past negotiations. He said he is trying to persuade his people to support a two-state solution but he is concerned that Netanyahu will not be willing to translate his support for a Palestinian state into actions. "If you believe in two states, where do you imagine it - on the moon?" he asked rhetorically. Israel is trying to "change the situation inside Jerusalem," Habbash told the PA's Voice of Palestine radio station. "Israel is trying to change the status quo," he charged. "This would be considered a turning of the tables in the face of all." He added: "How

can there be negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel in light of these practices against the rights of the Palestinians? How can there ever be any peace process with Israel?" Meanwhile, PA Foreign Minister Riad Malki condemned statements by Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon, who said in a series of interviews in the past few days that a Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 lines would not be acceptable for some of his government colleagues. Danon was quoted as saying that the governing coalition was "strongly opposed to a two-state solution and would block the creation of a Palestinian state if such a proposal ever came to a vote." Malki said that Danon's statements "expose the real face of the occupations and its leaders and the true strategy pursued by Israeli governments since 1967." Malki has dispatched letters to the UN secretary-general, foreign ministers of several countries and the Arab League drawing their attention to Danon's statements, which he said jeopardized the peace process. He urged the international community to hold Israel responsible for the failure of US efforts to revive the peace talks, adding that Danon's statements were aimed at thwarting US Secretary of State John Kerry's mission to restart the peace process. (<u>IPOST</u> 14 June 2013)

WZO Settlement Department gets more money than it is budgeted. In 2012, the department - which owns almost all the land allotted to building settlements in territories - was granted an annual budget of NIS 60.3 million, while its expenses reached NIS 272 million. The World Zionist Organization's Settlement Department's annual spending is several times higher than its original budget, Haaretz has learned. In recent years the government has transferred additional funds to the Settlement Department ranging from several dozen million shekels to hundreds of millions. The department is funded and directed by the government, despite being formally part of the World Zionist Organization. It owns almost all the land allotted to building settlements in the territories. The department manages the lands and transfers them, usually to Amana, the settlement branch of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria. In recent years the government has authorized the department to establish communities for settlers evacuated from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank settlement Migron, as well as building communities in the Negev and Galilee. The department is currently headed by Danny Kritchman, who was appointed to the post by Yisrael Beiteinu leader Avigdor Lieberman. Haaretz has discovered that in recent years there has been a huge difference between the department's budget and the actual sums it is allotted. While the annual budget approved by the Knesset

usually ranges between NIS 50 million and NIS 90 million, the actual sums transferred to the department consistently reach several hundred million shekels. All the extra funding is approved by the Knesset's Finance Committee, but since the government transfers the money in several installments during the fiscal year, supervision of the funds is weakened. In 2012, the department was granted an annual budget of NIS 60.3 million, but its expenses reached NIS 272 million. Thus the original sum for improving infrastructure in the department's central district – in other words, in the territories – grew from NIS 4 million to NIS 49 million. Budgets for "social activities" in the settlements grew from NIS 2.2 million to NIS 2.9 million. The establishment of a new site for settlers evacuated from Migron, which did not appear in the original budget, cost a further NIS 28 million. In the northern district, infrastructure improvements were initially budgeted at NIS 1.5 million, but eventually cost NIS 13 million. A further NIS 5 million beyond the original budget was transferred for research and development grants. In the Negev, NIS 1.2 million was transferred for establishing communities, and a further NIS 26 million for infrastructure. In 2011 the settlement department's original budget was NIS 62 million, but it grew by 500 percent to NIS 373 million. Budgets for infrastructure in the territories grew by NIS 5 million and for social activities by a further NIS 1.5 million. More substantial funds were spent on student communities in the south of Israel, infrastructure work in the north and investments in the relocation of evacuated Gaza Strip settlers. Meretz leader Zahava Gal-On, a member of the Knesset's Finance Committee, called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to "immediately halt the transfer of irregular sums to the settlement department, which is subordinate to your office. These sums are transferred without serious supervision by the Knesset, and without public debate. The data I revealed make it clear that in recent years scandalous sums have been transferred to the Settlement Department, through the Finance Committee, in a manner that bypasses the Knesset and makes the annual budget irrelevant." The Settlement Department's response: "All funds transferred to the department are approved by the Knesset's Finance Committee following debates and precise details of every sum and its intention. The sums transferred to the department [beyond the original budget] are used to carry out projects by other ministries who request that the department carry out the projects, such as infrastructure improvements and the relocation of Migron, to name just a few examples. All these projects were approved by the government and the relevant bodies. In recent years we have carried

out projects costing hundreds of millions of shekels for the evacuees from Gush Katif." (<u>Haaretz</u> 16 June 2013)

Netanyahu: Price tag attacks cannot be compared to Hamas terror. PM 'forbidden organization' but opposes supports designation as classification as terror, claiming it would increase Israel's delegitimization and damage its international standing. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposes 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, a minister present at a meeting of the security cabinet said on Sunday. The security cabinet decided at the meeting that perpetrators of "price tag" attacks against Palestinians or their property can be declared a forbidden organization by the defense minister, similar to the charities linked to terror groups. According to the minister, who asked to remain anonymous as the meeting was classified, Netanyahu said that even if declaring price tag activists as part of a terror organization was correct from a domestic standpoint, it would be a diplomatic mistake to do so. Netanyahu explained that such a declaration would damage Israel's international standing, increase its delegitimization and encourage various groups across the world to compare price tag attacks to rocket fire or Hamas suicide attacks. Public Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonovitch voted against the decision and argued that the perpetrators of price tag attacks should be classified as members of a terrorist organization. In the end, Justice Minister Tzipi Livni voted against the decision, despite her previous position that price tag attacks should be classified as terrorism. The designation would give both the Israel Police and Shin Bet security service broader powers to collect intelligence and investigate such incidents under the Defense (Emergency) Regulations. But the move falls short of the suggestion by Livni, Aharonovitch and the Shin Bet that price tag cells be declared terror organizations. Declaring a group a terror organization requires a cabinet vote, while the defense minister can declare a group a forbidden organization on his own. It is believed Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon will not hesitate to take such action against price tag attackers. 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]." Prime Minister Netanyahu apparently did not want price tag perpetrators labeled terrorists for fear it would cause a rift with the Habayit Hayehudi party as well as Likud MKs. (<u>Haaretz</u> 17 June 2013)

- Idea of a two-state solution has reached 'dead end,' Bennett says. Economy Minister says Israel must stop trying to solve the problem and 'live with it;' calls for extending Israeli sovereignty over Area C of the West Bank. Economy Minister and Habayit Hayehudi chairman Naftali Bennett said on Monday that the idea of establishing a Palestinian state in the Land of Israel has reached a dead end, Israel Radio reported. Speaking at a Yesha Council conference in Jerusalem, Bennett said that "the biggest problem is that Israeli leaders are not ready to clearly say that the Land of Israel belongs to the people of Israel." "it's time for plan B, which is how we live with the situation," Bennett said, adding that Israel must stop looking for a solution to the problem and start living with it, and that the way to do so is to establish a separate Palestinian rule, extend Israeli sovereignty over Area C and improving the living conditions of Jewish and Palestinian residents of Judea and Samaria. He also said that Israel must "build, build, and build." Last April, during a meeting with the Norwegian foreign minister, Bennett said his political ally, Finance Minister Yair Lapid, was, like himself, "not too crazy about the two-state solution" and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Following that meeting, opposition Knesset members criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over doublespeak on the Palestinian issue. (Haaretz 17 June 2013)
- A retired Israeli military general told the Israeli Army Radio on his 100 birthday that the Israeli army destroyed and depopulated hundreds of Arab villages in order to establishment the state of Israel in 1948, and

added that "he feels good about it." "I can sleep with clear mind", Yitzhak Pondak, told the Israeli Army Radio [Galei Tzahal] last week, "otherwise the number of Arabs in Israel would have been a million more than their number now". Pondak headed Platoon #53 of the Givati Brigade, and served as Israel's ambassador in Tanzania. "Under my command, soldiers destroyed Arab villages", he said, "We did what we needed to do, otherwise the number of Arabs now would have been a million more". Responding to a question regarding lectures he gives to Israeli soldiers, Pondak said that "the Israel is still facing the same dangers it faced when it was created in 1948", and added "Should the Jews fail to fight the same way they fought back then, our state will be in real danger". He also claimed that should a war break out now, "the Jews will be able to sacrifice the same way they did in 1948", according to the retired general. "Wars unite the ranks of the Jewish people", he added, "after wars, Jews form parties and become divided". He also said that he is sorry for the death of 145 Israeli soldiers under his command throughout his years of service, and added that "should those soldiers miraculously come back to life now, and witness the current divisions in the Israeli Jewish society, they would run back to their graves". Pondak also served as the Israeli Military Commander of the Gaza Strip in the early seventies of last century. He said that the credit former Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, got for "stopping Arab terrorism in 1971 is overrated". "Sharon was harsh without a reason", he said, "Sharon once told senior military generals that he will give a bottle of Champaign to every soldier who kills an enemy fighter, and will give a soda to every soldier who captures a wounded enemy. (IMEMC 18 June 2013)

• Housing Minister: Yes, There Is a Building Freeze. Minister Uri Ariel confirms: Israelis not allowed building homes east of 1949 armistice line. There is a new ban on Israeli construction east of the 1949 armistice line, including in eastern Jerusalem, Housing Minister Uri Ariel (Bayit Yehudi) confirmed Tuesday morning in an interview with Galei Tzahal (IDF Radio). Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu ordered Ariel to freeze construction bids in Judea, Samaria and eastern Jerusalem following United States President Barack Obama's visit to Israel, according to the report. The Obama administration has been critical of all new construction projects in Israeli towns and neighborhoods east of the line. An estimated 600,000 Israeli Jews live in those areas, where they make up an increasingly large percentage of the total population. The U.S. and Europe have urged an Israeli construction freeze in order to avoid angering the Palestinian Authority, which claims all land east of the 1949 line as "Palestine." PA

Chairman Mahmoud Abbas has insisted on a full construction freeze as one of his preconditions for negotiations with Israel. A previous 10month freeze failed to lure Abbas to the negotiating table; he agreed to talk shortly before the freeze was scheduled to end, but broke off talks immediately when it was not extended. A senior political source recently told Arutz Sheva that Ariel is not allowed to issue public tenders for construction east of the armistice line without authorization from Netanyahu. "There are understandings between the two – if Ariel violates Netanyahu's orders, he'll leave the Housing Ministry," the source said. The Bayit Yehudi (Jewish Home) party does not have the power to go against Netanyahu, the source said. "The freeze is a direct order from Netanyahu which may have been issued in order to prevent conflict with the United States, but which more importantly is aimed at bringing Bayit Yehudi to leave the government so that he can bring in the hareidi parties," he explained. Ariel previously denied that there is a building freeze in Jerusalem. He has been vague on the Bayit Yehudi faction's potential response to a construction freeze. (Israel National News 18 June 2013)

- The Israeli civil administration started using registered mail to inform
  the Palestinian citizens in the West Bank of the seizure of their land
  resources. The Civil Administration informed Palestinians of Nablus
  City via registered mail. Usually, the Israeli occupation forces stormed
  villages and areas to inform citizens in decisions of confiscation or
  seizure or close methods or buying land. (Maannews 19 June 2013)
- The Local Planning and Building Committee will consider its recommendation on the construction of two additional stories on each of four buildings in the Beit Orot compound (TPS 54734), final approval of which would add a total of eight new housing units to the site. Pending results of the discussion, the plan will move to the District Committee for final decision. Beit Orot, located on the northern slope of Mount of Olives, on the edge of the Palestinian neighborhoods of Al-Sawana and Al-Tur, was the first Jewish settlement to be built in the middle of a Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem. A "hesder" yeshiva (combining study with military service), founded by former Members of Knesset Hanan Porat and Benny Elon, operates at the site. The land was purchased by American Jewish patron Irving Moskowitz in 1990. On January 4, 2010, the Local Planning and Building Committee approved a request by Moskowitz for a building permit for 24 housing units in four buildings on the yeshiva campus. Following an appeal by the Meretz party against the decision and a subsequent discussion by the Committee, the plan was

approved by the council plenary. The yeshiva has since grown into a community of approximately 125 people, including yeshiva students, their teachers and families. The Al-Tur neighborhood in which Beit Orot is located sits adjacent to several key developments Ir Amim has been monitoring in the Mount Scopus area. As noted in previous alerts, the site designated for the proposed military academy is separated from the Beit Arot settlement in Al-Tur by an open field. Construction of the academy would constitute a step toward the creation of a continuous land connection between the two. Al-Tur also abuts the planned Mount Scopus Slopes National Park, which would create a land bridge between Mount Scopus and E-1, separating East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank. Ir Amim has recently reported on an uptick in housing demolitions in Al-Tur over the last several months. (Ir- Amim 19 June 2013)

IDF commander warns of West Bank unrest if efforts to restart peace talks fail. GOC Central Command Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon says U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's efforts helped calm situation in West Bank; cautions that violence could escalate should attempts to restart negotiations fail. Failure to restart Israeli-Palestinian negotiations could stir unrest in the West Bank, the IDF's top commander in the territory warned Tuesday. GOC Central Command Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon said Tuesday that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's efforts helped calm the situation in the West Bank. Kerry has visited the region four times since taking office in February to try to revive negotiations on the terms of Palestinian statehood that broke off in 2008. Kerry is trying to bridge wide gaps between the two sides on the starting point for negotiations, and it is not clear if he has made progress. Earlier this month, Kerry called his mission the last chance for resuming negotiations. "The last couple of months of very intensive American involvement also had some positive influence on the ground," Alon told the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, a think tank. If Kerry's efforts fail, "I'm afraid we will see the escalation ... strengthen," he said in halting English. Kerry is expected to return to the region soon, but the dates have not been set. Earlier Tuesday, assailants slashed the tires of 28 cars and sprayed graffiti reading "Arabs out" on walls in Abu Ghosh, an Arab Israeli town near Jerusalem. Police said they suspected a hate crime. There have been a string of similar incidents linked to Jewish extremists in recent years. Vandals have targeted mosques, churches, dovish Israeli groups and even Israeli military bases to protest what they perceive as the Israeli government's pro-Palestinian policies. The acts are widely condemned by Israeli leaders, but arrests

have been rare. President Shimon Peres told Abu Ghosh Mayor Salim Jaber that the vandalism "is racist behavior which crosses a red line" and that he condemns "any expression of racism and vandalism." Peres' office quoted Jaber as saying the attack would not affect relations between the town and its Jewish neighbors. "We know that this is the act of a small group which seeks to destroy the good relations, but we are stronger than them," Jaber said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the vandalism in Abu Ghosh "contradicts Jewish law and the values of our people and our country." Abu Ghosh, a 20-minute drive from Jerusalem, is a popular with Jewish Israelis because of its restaurants and cultural events. (Haaretz 19 June 2013)

Dagan: Arab peace proposal a starting point. Ex-Mossad chief: Sunni-Shi'ite rift in Arab world "creating unique opportunities for Israel to seek different alliances." Israel needs to make peace with the rest of the Arab world before the Palestinians, former Mossad head Meir Dagan said on Wednesday during a panel discussion at the Presidential Conference. Sunnis and Shi'ites are in open conflict in the Arab world and this is "creating unique opportunities for Israel to seek different alliances," he said. Dagan said Israel had common interests with much of the Sunni Arab world. Israel, he said, needed not to wait, but to seek opportunities. He mentioned the Arab Peace Initiative, first offered by the Arab League in 2002. The Arab proposal was not all great, but a starting point that Israel should take advantage of, he said. Speaking at a panel discussion moderated by Jerusalem Post Editor-in-Chief Steve Linde on "Should We Wait It Out? Israel and a Changing Middle East," Dagan said, "There are processes that are ongoing, and they don't stop. It is very hard to determine what the result will be." Dore Gold, former ambassador to the UN and president of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, agreed that Israel could find common cause with parts of the Arab world based on a similar "strategic outlook." The EU came about in part because of a common Soviet threat, and today the "common threat is Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood," Gold said. "If we are smart, we can create dialogue with Sunni countries, very quietly," he said. On the Palestinian track, Gold said a full agreement was currently impossible, especially because of the regional upheaval. Instead, he argued, Israel should pursue limited peace agreements. Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, a former president of Tel Aviv University and a past ambassador to the US who participated in peace negotiations with

Syria in the 1990s, said that "the time is not ripe for a peace agreement with the Palestinians." Taking a hit at US Secretary of State John Kerry and his efforts to restart the peace talks with a \$4 billion Palestinian economic plan, Rabinovich said, "Offering \$4b. is not the best idea in the world." He emphasized, however, that his view that an agreement is not possible now "does not mean the two-state solution is dead." It was damaging for senior Israeli political leaders to say the two-state solution was dead, and they "should not be making these statements," Rabinovich said. On the European role in peace talks, he said many European officials asked him why Israel was not interested in having them play a more active role. He responded that the latest news that Austria was pulling out its soldiers from the UN force along the Syrian border after an exchange of fire over the border in recent weeks was enough reason to be skeptical. The Arab peace proposal might not be relevant anymore because a return to the 1967 lines would also apply to Syria, Rabinovich said. In regard to Saudi Arabia, which first issued the proposal, he added, "You can't just put five lines on the table and say take it or leave it." Dagan and former US ambassador to Israel Daniel Kurtzer both expressed eagerness that Israel should create an initiative to spur peace talks with the Palestinians and the Arab world. Kurtzer said this was not a time to take "baby steps" and that an "Israeli initiative may be the smartest policy," adding that this did not mean Israel had to take "careless risks." "Why isn't this a time for a final-status agreement?" Kurtzer asked. The Arab peace proposal "represents the victory of Zionism," because in essence the Arabs are saying that Israel is here to stay, he said. Jabotinsky's "Iron Wall" had been breached, Kurtzer added. Dagan said Israel could withdraw from the Jordan Valley without risking its defensive capability. Gold countered, telling the Post that prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995, prime minister Ariel Sharon in 2001 and the IDF in 1997 all said that the Jordan Valley was vital for Israel's security. We saw what happened when Israel withdrew from the Philadelphi Corridor between Gaza and Egypt in 2005, he said, referring to the smuggling of weapons, terrorists and other materials. Withdrawing from the Jordan Valley would be like the Philadelphi withdrawal "times 30," said Gold. The Post asked Kurtzer after the conference if he envisioned any situation where peace talks would not be recommended. He responded

that we need to be creative and that even if "it does not work, at least we moved things forward." (<u>IPOST</u> 19 June 2013)

B'Tselem reiterates demand that military cease using dogs to attack civilians. Published on B'Tselem other two were attacked by dogs. It is suspected that the dogs were set on them by the soldiers. The two required immediate medical attention and were taken by military ambulance to the Barzilai Medical Center in the Israeli city of Ashkelon. The following day, they were questioned by Israel Police and released with a summons for trial at the Ofer military court. The third youth was released several hours after the incident without being questioned. Military use of dogs against civilians - background In addition to the incident described above, B'Tselem has documented ten cases over the last two years in which a total of eleven unarmed Palestinian civilians were attacked by military dogs. In five cases, dogs attacked Palestinian laborers [4] attempting to enter Israel for work; in one case, a dog attacked a Palestinian demonstrator [5]; in another case, a dog attacked a Palestinian youth [6] who was on the scene of a clash between other youths and Israeli soldiers; and in the three remaining cases, dogs attacked civilians [7], including an 88-year-old woman [8], during military activity in residential areas. As regards two cases in which B'Tselem demanded that a Military Police investigation be opened, the responses sent to B'Tselem by the MAG Corps indicate that the military is still using dogs in activities involving civilians, with the exception of crowd dispersal during demonstrations. In both of these instances, the MAG Corps addressed the ways in which the dogs were utilized, ignoring the fundamental issue of the choice to use attack dogs. Accordingly, both replies focused on operational blunders and made no reference to the policy that enables the unleashing of attack dogs on unarmed civilians. For example, regarding an incident in which a dog attacked a Palestinian demonstrator in Kafr Qadum in March 2012, the MAG Corps wrote that, after reviewing the case, it had decided not to order an investigation as "it took so long to pry the dog off the complainant's hand because stones were being thrown at the soldier who was trying to release the dog's jaws, demonstrators were kicking the dog, and the complainant was constantly moving. All this made the dog clamp down harder and bite with renewed force. This was compounded by the fact that the soldiers were not wearing gas masks, while tear gas had been fired in the area [by the soldiers]." Regarding another incident, in which a dog attacked a Palestinian woman and her son, a minor, during a military arrest mission in a home in the town of Idhna in December 2011, the MAG Corps wrote

that a Military Police investigation would not be opened as "a professional mistake was made by the force commanding the dog." These responses indicate that the military considers it legitimate to use attack dogs in such a way that may cause grave injury to unarmed civilians, whether intentionally or otherwise. Albeit, regarding these two cases, the MAG Corps informed B'Tselem that the issue of using dogs, both in "arrest missions" and "during disturbances of the peace", has recently been reviewed. Concerning the incident in which a dog was unleashed on a demonstrator, the Corps wrote that "in light of the event, lessons have been learned and new guidelines have been formed for using attack dogs during disturbances of the peace." Indeed, shortly after the said incident of March 2012, which was documented on video by a B'Tselem volunteer, the media reported [9] that the military had decided to stop using dogs to disperse demonstrations in the West Bank. However, the recent attack on the two youths, which occurred in May 2013, shows that the military is still using dogs to attack Palestinian laborers attempting to enter Israel without permits. (<u>B'Tselem</u> 20 June 2013)

Bayit Yehudi head says idea of creating a Palestinian state is over: "We have to move from solving the problem to living with the problem." Annex Area C of the West Bank now because the idea of creating a Palestinian state there is over, said Economy and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett (Bayit Yehudi) on Monday. "This our home. We are the tenants here, not occupiers. The story of establishing a Palestinian state within our country, that story is over," Bennett said at a public relations conference in Jerusalem sponsored by the Council of Jewish Communities of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. His comments were consistent with his party's platform and the position he has espoused before, during and after the national election in January that placed his party in the government's coalition. But his utterance of this statement in the midst of a renewed push by US Secretary of State John Kerry to rekindle the direct negotiations for a two-state solution, struck a political and diplomatic nerve. On Monday both Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzipi Livni who is in charge of the peace process, reaffirmed their commitment to a two-state solution, in which a portion of Area C would be given to the Palestinians. But Bennett said that such ideas, which were propagated under the 1993 Oslo Accord and the 2007 Annapolis process, no longer made any sense. "Anyone who moves around in Judea and Samaria knows that what they are saying in the corridors of Annapolis and

Oslo is detached from reality," he said. "We have to go from solving the problem, to living with the problem," Bennett said. There isn't a perfect solution to the situation, he said. He made use of a war story to draw an analogy between the presence of Palestinians in Area C and a piece of shrapnel that was lodged in his friend Yoav's buttocks. Yoav chose to live with the shrapnel after the doctor warned him that surgical removal could leave him disabled, Bennett said. Similarly, he noted, Israel could live with a Palestinian presence in Area C. "There are situations in which striving for perfection can cause more harm than good," Bennett said. The important thing now, he said, "is to build, build and build. It is important to have an Israeli presence everywhere." Israel has come to the situation, he said, where the world expects it to withdraw from Area C, because it has stopped understanding that this land belongs to the Jewish people. "The central problem is the failure of the Israeli leadership to simply state that the land of Israel belongs to the people of Israel," he said. Israel's reliance on security arguments for holding onto the West Bank and its failure to claim its historic and just right to the land is the reason that a reporter like Helen Thomas could say that Jews should return to the Europe. "That is because we do not say that the land is ours," he said. "We have to say this to ourselves on Channel 2 and on CNN, that Israel belongs to the Jews," he said. "We have to tell ourselves and the whole world that his land has belonged to us for 3,000 years. The most certain path to defeat is for Israel to forget its sense of justice. This is true historically and legally. There has never been a Palestinian state here," he said. But, he warned, this position comes with an obligation to present a future plan for Area C that includes a Palestinian presence. Area C, which covers 60 percent of the West Bank, is under Israeli military control. All settlements, with a total population of approximately 340,000 Israelis, are located in Area C. In the past Bennett has estimated that there are some 90,000 Palestinians also living in Area C. The bulk of the Palestinian West Bank population is in Areas A and B, which includes the major cities. Bennett said that the government, he said, should immediately impose full sovereignty on Area C and come up with a plan B for the Palestinians. This should include an aggressive economic program to improve life for both Palestinians and Jews in the West Bank, he said. The same money that has been spent on international conferences about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be reallocated to build better roads and industrial parks, Bennett said. Investment should be made in coexistence and peace between people, he said. He added that Palestinians should govern their own civil affairs. "Our opinion has not

been accepted," Bennett said, "but we will return to it again and again." But Deputy Foreign Minister Ze'ev Elkin (Likud) who spoke after Bennett warned the he did not believe it was a fait accompli that the idea of a Palestinian state in Area C had disappeared. This will only happen, he said, if the State of Israel changes it tactic and embarks on a public relations campaign to change international opinion. He said that while he agreed with Bennett, Europeans would disagree with 90 percent of it. Part of Israel's problem, Elkin said, is that it lacks the funds to fight such a public relations battle. The Foreign Ministry budget for public relations, he said, is NIS 9 million compared to the Palestinian Authority budget of \$200,000 million. (IPOST 20 June 2013)

Israel's defense minister considering legalizing disputed West Bank outpost. Moshe Ya'alon is negotiating with settlers to legalize the Havat Gilad outpost in exchange for their voluntary withdrawal from four structures in the West Bank's Area B. Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon is negotiating with settlers to legalize the Havat Gilad outpost, in exchange for their voluntary withdrawal from four structures in Area B of the West Bank. Area B is designated under the Oslo agreements as being under Palestinian civil control and joint Israeli-Palestinian security control. Following two weeks of intense negotiations, the settlers have agreed to evacuate the four Area B structures – which are slated by the state for demolition – within eight days. In exchange for their voluntary withdrawal, Ya'alon (Likud) has agreed to examine the possibility of officially recognizing the Havat Gilad settlement, beginning with an examination of land ownership rights. This is the first time a government source has declared their intention to legalize the Havat Gilad outpost. "The possibility of legitimizing part of the disputed area is being examined, in parallel to the vacating of buildings that are clearly on Palestinian land," Ya'alon's office said. "We abide by the law and will continue to do so. Whatever is illegal will be treated as such." Settlers from Havat Gilad declined to comment. The Havat Gilad outpost has about 40 structures. It was established in 2002 by Itai Zar in memory of his brother Gilad, the Shomron security officer who was shot and killed by terrorists. Shortly after its establishment the settlement was evacuated twice, whereupon physical altercations ensued. But since then it has prospered and grown, and today it even has its own yeshiva. The legal status of the land is complex. According to Civil Administration records, the land used to be tilled by Palestinians and therefore would appear to belong to them. However, Har Vagai – a company owned by Moshe Zar, Itai

Zar's father – has filed to transfer registration of the land to its name after purchasing it. This request is still being processed by the Civil Administration, and a decision has not yet been made. In February 2012, residents of the neighboring village of Farata and Yesh Din -Volunteers for Human Rights appealed to the High Court of Justice, requesting the demolition of the four structures built on Area B land which they said belonged to the plaintiffs. (Under the Oslo Accords, the Palestinian Authority has jurisdiction over construction planning, but the Israel Defense Forces is responsible for enforcement among settlers.) The state responded to the High Court by agreeing to tear them down. Yesh Din has come out against the news of Ya'alon's negotiations with settlers. Haim Erlich, Yesh Din's director general, responded that "Defense Minister Ya'alon is currently encouraging settlers across the West Bank to continue grabbing private Palestinian land." "The legitimization of Havat Gilad will only add power to the settlers' criminal actions," Erlich said. "At a time when the state is deliberating whether to define settler violence as acts of terror or as unauthorized assembly, it is becoming an active accessory to criminal acts and the stealing of private Palestinian land." Gershon Mesika, the head of the Shomron Regional Council, and his deputy, Yossi Dagan, are members of Likud and known supporters of Ya'alon. (Haaretz 20 June 2013)

UN: Palestinian children tortured, used as shields by Israel. Committee on the Rights of the Child accuses IDF of torturing Palestinian children in custody, using others as human shields and informants. A United Nations human rights body accused Israeli forces on Thursday of mistreating Palestinian children, including by torturing those in custody and using others as human shields. Palestinian children in the Gaza and the West Bank, captured by Israel in the 1967 war, are routinely denied registration of their birth and access to health care, decent schools and clean water, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child said. "Palestinian children arrested by (Israeli) military and police are systematically subject to degrading treatment, and often to acts of torture, are interrogated in Hebrew, a language they did not understand, and sign confessions in Hebrew in order to be released," it said in a report. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said it had responded to a report by the UN children's agency UNICEF in March on ill-treatment of Palestinian minors and questioned whether the UN committee's investigation covered new ground. "If someone simply wants to magnify their political bias and political bashing of Israel not based on a new report, on work on the ground, but simply recycling old stuff,

there is no importance in that," spokesman Yigal Palmor said. The report by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child acknowledged Israel's national security concerns and noted that children on both sides of the conflict continue to be killed and wounded, but that more casualties are Palestinian. Most Palestinian children arrested are accused of having thrown stones, an offence which can carry a penalty of up to 20 years in prison, the committee said. Israeli soldiers had testified to the often arbitrary nature of the arrests, it said. The watchdog's 18 independent experts examined Israel's record of compliance with a 1990 treaty as part of its regular review of a pact signed by all nations except Somalia and the United States. An Israeli delegation attended the session. The UN committee regretted Israel's "persistent refusal" to respond to requests for information on children in the Palestinian territories and the Golan Heights since the last review in 2002. 'Disproportionate' "Hundreds of Palestinian children have been killed and thousands injured over the reporting period as a result of the state party military operations, especially in Gaza where the state party proceeded to (conduct) air and naval strikes on densely populated areas with a significant presence of children, thus disregarding the principles of proportionality and distinction," the report said. Israel battled a Palestinian uprising during part of the 10year period examined by the committee. It withdrew its troops and settlers from the Gaza Strip in 2006, but still blockades the Hamas -run enclave, from where Palestinian militants fired rockets into Israel. During the 10-year period, an estimated 7,000 Palestinian children aged 12 to 17, but some as young as nine, had been arrested, interrogated and detained, the UN report said. Many are brought in leg chains and shackles before military courts, while youths are held in solitary confinement, sometimes for months, the report said. It voiced deep concern at the "continuous use of Palestinian children as human shields and informants", saying 14 such cases had been reported between January 2010 and March 2013 alone. Israeli soldiers had used Palestinian children to enter potentially dangerous buildings before them and to stand in front of military vehicles to deter stone-throwing, it said. "Almost all those using children as human shields and informants have remained unpunished and the soldiers convicted for having forced at gunpoint a nine-year-old child to search bags suspected of containing explosives only received a suspended sentence of three months and were demoted," it said. Israel's "illegal longstanding occupation" of Palestinian territory and the Syrian Golan Heights, continued expansion of "unlawful" Jewish settlements, construction of the Wall into the West Bank, land confiscation and

destruction of homes and livelihoods "constitute severe and continuous violations of the rights of Palestinian children and their families", it said. Israel disputes the international position that its settlements in the West Bank are illegal. It says the wall it built there during the uprising stopped Palestinian suicide bombers from reaching its cities. In March, Palmor, the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman, had said that officials from the ministry and the military had cooperated with UNICEF in its work on the report, with the goal of improving the treatment of Palestinian minors in custody. "Israel will study the conclusions and will work to implement them through ongoing cooperation with UNICEF, whose work we value and respect," he said, in response to the UNICEF report. (Ynetnews 21 June 2013)

PM: Peace hinges on PA's willingness to recognize Jewish state. At Netanyahu Conference, closing Presidential speaks 'unprecedented earthquake' in Arab world, says Israel backs Kerry's peace efforts. Peres: We are a nation with a life wish. After three days of celebrations, speeches, panels and interviews, the fifth annual Israeli Presidential Conference concluded Thursday evening at the Israeli Convention Center in Jerusalem with a speech by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "We face great challenges, from Morocco to Pakistan, there is an unprecedented earthquake going on. There is a struggle in this region between medievalism and modernity. I am convinced the forces of modernity will win out," Netanyahu said. During his speech, the PM expressed doubt as to the changes portended by Iran's new leadership, urging the international community to "keep up the pressure, and keep up the demands." Addressing Wednesday's decision to export only 40% of Israel's natural gas reserves and preserve the remaining 60% for domestic use, Netanyahu said "It turns out Moses wasn't such a bad navigator after all. He came to the land of milk and honey- and gas. (...) We won't make the same mistake other countries made, we will fill up our country's coffers, for the benefit of every Israeli." At the beginning of his speech, Netanyahu was heckled by a social activist who called on the government not to export any of Israel's gas reserves. Turning his attention to the stalled peace negotiations, the Israeli premier told the conference, "We give (US Secretary of State John) Kerry all our support, because we want him to succeed. We must address the question, why are we unsuccessful in achieving peace with the Palestinians. Why have Israel's past six governments failed in promoting peace? "Ultimately," Netanyahu said, "it is the willingness of the Palestinians to accept the existence of Israel as a Jewish state that will determine

whether (progress to peace is made). This is the heart of the matter."President Shimon Peres, who took the stage after the prime minister, said: "Israel facing ongoing attempts of delegitimization. But this conference contains within it a winning strategy to face these attempts. It is a legitimizing conference that shows how involved the residents of this nation are in creating, in renewing, in inventing. We are a nation with a life wish."Israelis "pray that those who are not our friends today will be our friends tomorrow," Peres said. Jewish Agency Chairman Natan Sharansky, who spoke before Netanyahu, told those on hand: "When discussing the assimilation of Jews in the US and attempts to delegitimize the State of Israel, the answer to both issues is the same - the strengthening of ties between Israel and the Jewish Diaspora." The conference marked the 90th birthday celebrations of Peres. (Ynetnews 22 June 2013)

- Israeli settlements Council, Yesha, discovered a four-phase plan to expand Israeli settlements in the West Bank during the current year, with the direct support from the Israeli Government. The Arutz Sheva (Israel National News - Channel 7) said that the Israeli Government approved on Wednesday 19th of June 2013, a new plan to build hundreds of housing units in the southern of Hebron city in the West Bank. The site also revealed that the Israeli military Government relaunched (Israeli civil administration) a plan to build hundreds of settlement units in lands occupied by settlers to, first, close vast areas of lands in the face of Palestinians and prevent them from using it, and second, to confiscate the lands that are of high and strategic importance to the Israelis. as well as legalizing outposts that were established in the past three years, including the settlement of "sensana". The site said that the plan won the admiration and support of the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli Housing Minister and leaders of the military Government; note that the plan includes building 325 new housing units in the settlement of "sensana" alone, in addition to a similar building in Jewish settlements in the southern West Bank and hilltops. Yesha settlement Council (Yosh) said that the plan is the dream of settlements' leaders, but today has become a reality. (NBPRS 22 June 2013)
- Palestinian Lawyer, Qais Nasser, revealed that the regional Committee for planning and building in Jerusalem which is affiliated to the Israeli Interior Ministry published a new master plan to build elevators and underground passages connecting the Jewish quarter in the old city of Jerusalem with Al Buraq Square, and to build a visitors center in Al Buraq Square and a commercial area near Al Buraq Square. The plan was presented by the Israeli company "restoration and development of

the Jewish quarter in the old city of Jerusalem" who claims ownership of the land to which it applies. Mr. Qais added: " to reach Al Buraq Square from the Jewish Quarter, one uses "Ar Rab Yehuda Hleiv" stairs, but the new plan presented by the aforementioned company, will replace the stairs with two electric elevators connecting the Jewish quarter with al Buraq Square. The first elevator will be installed vertically while the second Elevator will be installed horizontally. The plan also designates a center for visitors and a commercial area the thing that requires huge underground excavations and beneath Al Buraq's Square. The excavations will be carried out under the supervision of the Israeli Antiquities Authority. (Al Wafd 22 June 2013)

Settlers: Extend Israel environment laws to W. Bank. Leaders urge Knesset to apply environmental laws to Area C of West Bank, claiming legislative vacuum currently exists. Settler officials called on parliamentarians on Sunday to apply new environmental laws to West Bank settlements in Area C, presently outside the scope of that legislation. "Our hands are tied when it comes to enforcement if this change is not made," said Yitzhak Meyer, director-general of Samaria's environmental protection association. He explained that his association and the one for the Binyamin Region were the enforcement arms of the local authorities in the West Bank. A legislative vacuum exists in West Bank settlements when it comes to the environment, he said. Old environmental regulations seen as applicable to settlements there have been erased and replaced by tougher laws that do not cover Area C, under Israeli civil and military control. As a result, in recent years it has become impossible to force factories in West Bank industrial parks and settlements to comply with environmental restrictions, Meyer said. He added that although former environmental protection minister Gilad Erdan had taken the issue seriously, Israeli officials for the most part ignored complaints. The issue is complicated by diplomatic concerns. Attempts to apply Israeli law to Area C are often seen as a backhanded way of annexing that region of the West Bank. On Sunday, the heads of the Samaria and Binyamina environment protection association wrote a four-page letter on the topic, which they sent to the media, the Civil Administration of Judea and Samaria, the Environmental Protection Ministry and the Justice Ministry. Meyer explained that this drive had nothing to do with diplomatic concerns and was purely an enforcement issue. He added that the request was only to apply the laws to West Bank settlements and industrial parks. The failure to apply such legislation to the municipalities of Judea and Samaria infringes upon the welfare of those living there and creates an atmosphere of environmental

lawlessness, the letter's authors explained. "Largely, the nonapplication of Israeli environmental law enables developers, private businesses and other bodies to find in Judea and Samaria options for establishing a pollution haven," they wrote. The Civil Administration of Judea and Samaria said it needed more time to respond to the letter. Environmental Protection Minister Amir Peretz (Hatnua) and his ministry took a middle- of-the-road position that spoke to the need for environmental protection, but did not advocate for full application of the environmental laws. "We act according to the conception that environmental pollution knows no borders and that environmental protection should be systemic, and from a desire to improve the quality of life of all the population," Peretz said in a statement. "Nevertheless, the legal authority that governs in the Judea and Samaria region is the legal advisor in Judea and Samaria," the statement continued. "It is important to remember that the victims of environmental pollution in the Judea and Samaria region include the entire population, and this also includes the Palestinians." In their letter to the media, the environmental protection associations cited eight examples of problematic areas that have arisen in the last five years due to new legislation. These include: the Local Authorities Law (Environmental Enforcement - Authorities of Inspectors), the Non-Iodizing Radiation Law, the Clean Air Law, the Packaging Law, the Asbestos Law, the Electronic Waste Law, the Environmental Protection Law (Powers of Inspection and Enforcement) and the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Law. The only one of these eight to even have been presented in draft form for application in Judea and Samaria is the notion of bringing in "green police" to the Israeli settlements through the Environmental Protection Law, which the writers said they hope will begin to take place within a few months. The failure to implement the Local Authorities Law (Environmental Enforcement -Authorities of Inspectors) has meant that although some municipalities in the West Bank have trained environmental inspectors, such specialists still have no enforcement authority in the region, the authors said. This has led to issues regarding the ability of contractors from Israel proper to enter the settlement areas in order to empty their building waste. Meanwhile, the lack of legislation also enables residents to dump raw sewage on the ground and thereby contaminate the aquifers without punishment, in a hydrologic ally sensitive region, the letter explained. Without the equivalent of the Non-Iodizing Radiation Law in place, businesses are setting up facilities that emit radiation without proper regulation. Meanwhile, the lack of legislation similar or identical to the Clean Air Law means that air quality hazards

are prominent throughout the West Bank, and that wasteburning sites and industrial plants can release emissions without permits that would be required in Israel proper, the authors said. The absence of a law like the Packaging Law means that local authorities are not required to determine arrangements for collection of packaging, and residents do not have the opportunity to participate in the Environmental Protection Ministry's program for waste separation at the source. Similar issues plague Judea and Samaria residents due to the fact that they need not abide by the Electronic Waste Law, the authors added. A lack of a law similar to the Asbestos Law indicates that there are no rules determining the use of asbestos, nor regarding the proper dismantling of asbestos - rules that are "critical to the preservation of public health," according to the letter. Lastly, by not employing the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register Law in Judea and Samaria, the government is freeing businesses that operate in the region from providing transparent data on emissions that they release to the environment in the region. Without the requirement of such mandatory data registry, a "distorted picture" of the pollution situation of the area emerges, the authors stressed. (<u>IPOST</u> 17 June 2013)

IDF turns Palestinian land into security trail. Access to agricultural fields belonging to villagers from Awarta, Rujayb, limited by military's Central Command; Land converted into security trail around Itamar. IDF: Balance between individual rights, security. Palestinian territory which was illegally seized by residents of the Itamar settlement was recently "converted" into a security trail by the IDF. An aerial view of the area makes it clear that the military area (marked in red) corresponds nearly entirely to a security trail which settlement residents illegally took over ten years ago. Since then it has been defined as an area forbidden to Palestinians. Two months ago, Central Command Major General Nitzan Alon signed an order for seizure of the land adjacent to the settlement, for security purposes, covering an area of 63 dunam around the settlement. The land belongs to residents of the villages Awarta and Rujayb, and now the owners cannot enter their agricultural fields without prior coordination with military officials. The order allows Palestinians access to a small area to which they have not been allowed entry so far, but because land that was taken borders a large part of the security path - this actually legitimizes the seizure of these private lands. Since the 2011 murders of the Fogel family in Itamar by Awarta residents, the IDF has changed the security layout of the settlement, and the seizure of the lands was

part of this re-evaluation. The military said the selected route looks for a balance between security needs and rights of the individuals, and stressed that its purpose was the building of a security fence and path around the settlement, aimed at improving its protection. According to the army, the move does not change the status of the land between the fence and the settlement. "You cannot punish the entire village and label them murderers because of the actions of two," said Samir Abdat, a resident of Awarta who owned some of the agricultural land which was seized. He discounted the possibility that he could currently access his land, even after coordination with the military, noting that in the last three years he has not entered the area, partly because clashes with settlement residents led to the removal of the Palestinians. The rights organization B'tselem commented, "Instead of enforcing the law on settlers who illegally entered the trail, authorities cooperate and facilitate the robbery after-the-fact. The army must find a way to protect the settlers of Itamar in a way that will not critically harm the livelihood of the owners of the Palestinian land." (Ynetnews 18 June 2013)

Court: No Law against Jewish Prayer on Temple Mount. A court ordered the release of a Jewish youth who had been arrested on charges of praying on the Temple Mount, saying no crime was committed. A Jerusalem court ordered the release of a Jewish youth who had been arrested on charges of praying on the Temple Mount. The youth was also cleared of charges that he attacked an Arab during his visit to the Mount. The youth was ordered to stay away from the Temple Mount for 15 days. However, the court rejected a request by police that the youth be prohibited from entering the Old City altogether for 60 days. The court said that although Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount was a thorny political issue that required deep study, it was certainly not a crime - and preventing Jews from praying there was a restriction of their freedom to worship, guaranteed in Israel's Declaration of Independence and the Knesset's Basic Laws. A similar ruling regarding Jewish prayer on the Mount was made several months ago. The youth was represented by the Honenu rights organization. Attorneys for Honenu said that the youth had attempted to enter the area of the Temple Mount on Friday afternoon through the "Cotton Gate" in order to pray. During his prayers, an Arab youth began kicking him. The Jewish man said he kicked the Arab back, and was promptly arrested. Despite the late hour, police took their time before bringing the youth to court, forcing him to remain in lockup for the entire Shabbat. On Saturday night police hauled him before a judge, and the court, after hearing the youth's story, castigated police

for the way they handled the case, releasing the youth. In a followup hearing Sunday morning, the court rejected a police request to keep the youth out of the Old City. The court pointed out that in a recent riot by Arab women on the Mount, police did not request that they be keep off the Mount or out of the Old City for 60 days – or any days. Itamar Ben-Gvir, the attorney representing the youth on behald of Honenu, said that the decision was "a very important one, and I hope police will study it carefully and internalize it. The right to pray in this country is not just for Women of the Wall, but also for Jews who would like to see the Temple rebuilt. The upshot of this decision is that it is not a crime to pray on the Temple Mount, and police attempts to stop prayers is what is against the law." (Israel National News 23 June 2013)

- Liberman: Israel should conduct 'thorough cleaning' in Gaza. In interview with Israel Radio hours after Palestinians fired rockets at western Negev, former foreign minister says the government must consider reoccupying the Gaza Strip. Israel should seriously consider the reoccupation of the Gaza Strip in response to Palestinian rocket fire on the western Negev, former foreign minister Avigdor Liberman told Israel Radio on Monday. Liberman, who currently heads the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said that if Israel were to allow the status quo to persist, Hamas would amass a fleet of aircraft and missiles that would threaten populous coastal towns like Tel Aviv and Netanya. "Hamas has no intention of reconciling with a Jewish presence in Israel," the chairman of the Yisrael Beytenu party said. "So we need to return to the Gaza Strip and conduct a thorough cleaning."When asked if his position was supported by the prime minister and defense minister, Liberman said he did not know. Liberman's remarks came hours after the Israel Air Force struck targets in Gaza in retaliation for Palestinian rocket fire that hit Israeli towns near the frontier. Four rockets were fired towards the Bnei Shimon council area and Netivot. The Iron Dome rocket defense system intercepted two rockets fired towards the Ashkelon Regional Council. No injuries or damage were reported in the attacks. As a result of the rocket fire, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon also ordered the closing of the Kerem Shalom and Erez border crossings between Israel and Gaza for the transport of commercial goods. (<u>IPOST</u> 24 June 2013)
- New report by HaMoked: Center for the Defense of the Individual exposing the destructive bureaucratic mechanism which governs the daily lives of Palestinians under the permit regime inside the "seam zone" Ever since 2003, the Israeli military has been implementing a permit regime in the areas of the West Bank

trapped between the separation wall and the Green Line, which Israel designates the "seam zone". Every Palestinian who lives in or wishes to enter these areas must first obtain a military-issued permit for that purpose. The permit regime applies to Palestinians only - Israelis and tourists do not require any permit to enter or stay in the "seam zone" The permit regime violates various human rights of OPT residents from both sides of the separation wall. First and foremost, it constitutes a violation of the right to freedom of movement, and in particular, the right to travel freely within one's country; this violation leads to the violation of other human rights: the rights to family life, health, and education, the rights to property and a livelihood, and the rights to culture and community-living, all accompanied by a severe violation of the rights to equality and dignity. It is a creeping dispossession of West-Bank lands under the cover of a bureaucracy which operates pursuant to military law with the approval of the Israeli Supreme Court; nonetheless, this dispossession contradicts many tenets of Israeli and international law. (Hamoked 24 June 2013)

- The Supreme Court hearing on the Begin Highway extension in Beit Safafa will be held on Wednesday, June 26. The Court will consider final arguments against the construction of a 6-11 lane highway to be routed through the center of this residential neighborhood. Ir Amim has reported extensively on the dangerous implications of this project—both its humanitarian consequences for the residents of Beit Safafa and its broad political implications for Jerusalem and the viability of a two state solution. The highway exemplifies the use of infrastructure to realize the vision of a Greater Jerusalem by expediting and solidifying connections between the city and adjacent Gush Etzion, Ma'ale Adumim/E-1 and Givat Ze'ev settlement blocs. Further, the project highlights inherent biases within Israeli policy making related to building and construction. Unlike other segments of the Begin Highway, the section of the road planned to run through Beit Safafa is the only piece for which the Municipality has not submitted a detailed plan nor provided residents an opportunity for objections. Because this is the final opportunity to exert international pressure against the highway, we strongly encourage your attendance at the Supreme Court hearing. Establishing a public presence has been demonstrated to influence final outcomes. (<u>Ir-Amim</u> 25 June 2013)
- the District Planning and Building Committee considered objections against the proposed Emek Rafaim metropolitan park, 1,200 dunams of which would be located beyond the Green Line and designated as a national park, with the result that all private al-Wallajeh land between the Green Line and the separation barrier encircling the village of al-

Wallajeh in East Jerusalem would be under the authority of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. See southwestern perimeter of attached map. Most of today's objections, submitted primarily by Attorney Ghiat Nasser on behalf of al-Wallajeh residents, focused on the impact of designating private land as national park land, which severely curtails owners' ability to control and access their own resources. Discussion of objections was originally scheduled before the Committee for the Completion of plans, a change in planning process protocol that can only be made if it can be demonstrated that the District Committee caused a delay in the approval process -for instance, via failure to act within a specified time period. In this case, since court proceedings caused the delay, there was no apparent rationale for making the change in venue. In response to a letter submitted by Ir Amim on May 26 claiming no viable justification for the change, responsibility for the hearing was returned to the District Committee. Though it did not submit a formal objection, Ir Amim made the case at today's hearing that there is an internal contradiction between the authorities' emphasis on the preservation of historical agricultural land and the fact that the separation barrier will block villagers' access to their lands. Further, increased tourism poses a grave threat to traditional agricultural land, which is much more vulnerable to human foot traffic than developed land. The Committee's decision is expected in the next several weeks. (Ir-Amim 25 June 2013)

Report: Israel to Freeze Building, Return to Negotiations. Maariv reports Netanyahu agreed to free some terror prisoners, while PA will give up preconditions for negotiations. Israel will free some terrorist prisoners as part of a U.S.-brokered agreement that will make it possible for Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) to resume negotiations for a peace deal, reports Maariv. According to the report, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has agreed to perform a "goodwill gesture" and release an unspecified number of terror prisoners who have been in jail since before the signing of the Oslo Accords, by the time the Muslim Ramadan month starts on July 7. In addition, according to Maariv, "the possibility that Netanyahu will pass a formal decision in the Cabinet freezing construction [for Jews] outside of the settlement blocs in Judea and Samaria is becoming more and more probable." PA head Mahmoud Abbas, for his part, will give up his preconditions for resuming negotiations with Israel. He has been insisting that such talks be based on the 1949 Armistice lines and that borders for a PA state are sketched in advance of the negotiations. Western diplomatic sources told the newspaper that these are "decisive days in the American effort to bring about a resumption of

- negotiations." They added that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry convinced each side to the conflict to make concessions that could be presented as achievements by the other side. (<u>Israel National News</u> 25 June 2013)
- Knesset approves the first reading of the bill to legalize Bedouin settlement in the Negev, Arab MKs tear up the bill. The Knesset approved on Monday evening the first reading of the bill that will legalize pirate Bedouin settlement in the Negev, but not before a heated debate during which the Arab MKs got up to the podium and tore up the bill. The plan, which was proposed by former Minister Benny Begin just before the last elections, will add more Bedouin settlements to the list of those that will receive official recognition, and increase the amount of land that will be handed over to Bedouin as part of an agreement. Begin, who met with about 600 Bedouins and with representatives of various leftist organizations that advocate in the Bedouins' favor, recommended allowing the Bedouin to receive ownership of about 180,000 dunums of land (45,000 acres) that is registered in the name of the State of Israel. In addition, they will be eligible for 62.5% of land that they claim is their own, but for which they have no proof of ownership. Instead of receiving financial compensation for land claimed by the state, they can be compensated with alternative land, according to Begin's offer. The first reading of the bill on Monday passed by a majority of 43 MKs who voted in favor and 40 who voted against, but it was preceded by a heated discussion during which the Arab Knesset members, who are opposed to the plan, took the podium one by one and condemned it. Some of them went as far as tearing up the bill and were subsequently removed from the plenum. MK Ahmed Tibi was not satisfied with the symbolic act of tearing up the proposal and also poured a glass of water on the torn paper. The Arabs object to the part of the plan that calls for Bedouins who have no proof of ownership to be forced to leave their homes and be given alternative land. They view this as a "transfer" of Arabs. "We have no respect for this law," Tibi called. "You've gone too far. This law is a mark of Cain on the forehead of the Knesset, and the shame is on the forehead of every one of you who supports this bill. What would you do if there was a plan to drive you out of your homes? Any reasonable person cries out, protests, expresses outrage, he is angry. He responds to the aggression." MK Mohammad Barakeh (Hadash) claimed that the law in question is a stain in the history of Israel. "All the pretty words are not worth a penny. This is transferring of 40 thousand people. They are going to be uprooted from their homes and their communities destroyed without them being told where they are

taken. You call this regulation? This is displacement. This is racism. The Knesset is turning into a racist legislative machine, day after day, year after year. This law belongs in the garbage." In response, Culture and Sport Minister Limor Livnat (Likud) stood up and called Barakeh "insolent." Barakeh responded by saying, "Shut up", and Livnat said, "Do not talk to me like that." Some members of the coalition were absent from Monday's discussion because they too oppose the plan, which basically legalizes the Bedouin land grab in the Negev and offers them far-reaching concessions. The plan was described by opponents in the pro-Jewish settlement NGO Regavim as "an historic mistake." The NGO noted that former Minister Begin only met with representatives of the Bedouin before submitting recommendations. Meanwhile, Knesset Speaker MK Yuli Edelstein (Likud), who led the heated debate in the plenum, announced that he plans to file a complaint against the Arab MKs who tore up the law. MK Dov Khenin (Hadash) responded by saying, "You said Barakeh violated the provisions of the Knesset, but it is actually this law that violates the provisions of the Knesset. It degrades the Knesset." (Israel National News 25 June 2013)

Yesh Atid bill: Israel should be Jewish by law. MK Ruth Calderon submits bill giving Declaration of Independence status of basic law thus formally establishing State of Israel's Jewish character. Yesh Atid 's Ruth Calderon has submitted a bill giving the Declaration of Independence the legal status of a basic law, formally establishing <u>Israel</u> as a Jewish state. The bill was proposed as part of joint efforts with the <u>Habayit Hayehudi</u> party on a new "nation state" bill. This is the first time the Knesset has been asked to enact into law Israel's Jewish character. In the explanation to the bill titled "Basic Law: The Declaration of Independence," Calderon states that "in the absence of a constitution, the Declaration of Independence is a legal document which establishes very important basic principles concerning the State's identity. For years, courts have looked to this document when deciding on various issues and that is why we are proposing to give the Declaration of Independence which represents the state's creed, the status of a basic law." The bill aims to formally establish that the State of Israel is the state of the Jewish people. However, MK Calderon stressed that the term Jewish state does not refer the Jewish religion but to the Jewish people and culture. The State of Israel is committed to safeguarding the rights of all of its citizens, regardless of race, religion or sex, it was emphasized. "The Declaration of Independence explicitly states that Israel is envisaged as a Jewish state that is also committed to

equal rights." It was further stated, "The Declaration of Independence is a balanced, Jewish and democratic document based on the principles of justice and equality which are no less relevant today than they were at the time of its drafting. If we do not set the principles by which we want to live, they will be set for us. "Calderon is also set to propose the "nation state bill" together with Habayit Hayehudi's Ayelet Shaked. Knesset Member Mohammad Barakeh (Hadash) slammed the bill and said, "We don't need laws that are designed to establish the hegemony of the majority, but need to protect the minority when racism rages. The Knesset has become a racist legislation machine." (Ynetnews 26 June 2013)

Israel bans east Jerusalem puppet festival. Internal security minister orders temporary closure of El-Hakawati Theater on grounds that its alleged sponsorship by Palestinian Authority is illegal. Theater director condemns decision as 'disgraceful'. Israeli authorities have ordered the temporary closure of an east Jerusalem theater, preventing it from hosting a children's puppet festival, according to the police and the venue's director. El-Hakawati Theater displayed signs on its windows, saying it was closed from June 22 to 30, after receiving an order issued by Internal Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonovitch on the grounds that its alleged sponsorship by the Palestinian Authority was illegal. "Aharonovitch decided on Friday to close the Hakawati Theater for a week because its activities were being organized under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority," police spokesman Luba Samri told AFP. Theater director Mohammed Halayiqa condemned the decision as "disgraceful", saying the PA had no involvement in the International Puppet Festival which was funded by donations from abroad and aimed at children. "Israeli security services summoned me on Thursday and Friday to ask about the source of the funding," he told AFP. "Their sources, they said, had told them it was being funded by the PA, and I was handed an order to close the theater for that week, preventing the festival from going ahead." Halayiqa said staff had gone to great efforts to decorate the theater especially for children, and had stressed to Israeli security services that the festival had no political ties whatsoever. It was the first time El-Hakawati Theater had been closed for this length of time since it opened nearly 20 years ago, Halayiqa said, adding that he would appeal against the decision. A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Public Security told AFP, "The theater was closed since it operated under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority, without a permit as required by law. An announcement to this effect was given to the theater director. "The

Public Security Ministry is not opposed to artistic and cultural activities for east Jerusalem children, as long as they are conducted according to law," she said. (Ynetnews 26 June 2013)

CBS study projects 11.4 million Israelis in 2035. Estimates show that after slightly narrowing, demographic balance between Jews, Arabs will stabilize within next few decades. The nation's population is on track to reach 11.4 million by 2035, with 4.7 million babies expected to be born in the next two-and-a-half decades, the Central Bureau of Statistics said on Tuesday. CBS published its projections on ethnic and religious demographics, overall fertility rate, life expectancy, and age demographics. The intermediate projection estimates that after slightly narrowing, the demographic balance between Jews and Arabs will stabilize within the next few decades. The Jewish population is expected to grow to 8.3 million, or 73 percent of the total in 2035; the Arab population is expected to grow to 2.6 million, or 23%; with members of other groups comprising 500,000, or 4% of the population. The CBS projects the Muslim population will grow to 2.3 million, growing at a higher rate than the Druse and Christian minorities. However, the Druse population is expected to outstrip the Arab Christian population within the next few decades. CBS projects a Druse population of 185,000 in 2035, and an Arab Christian population of 152,000. In addition, the CBS estimates that the overall fertility rate, which measures the number of children born to the average woman, is expected to decline modestly from 2.94 at present to 2.75 in 2035. The rate for Jews is projected to increase from 2.99 to 3.04, while the rate for Muslims is projected to decline from 3.37 to 2.71. Arab Christian and Druse fertility is projected to hold roughly steady. Despite the decline in the total fertility rate, Israel is likely to remain exceptionally fertile. Citing UN estimates, the CBS estimates that the 2035 total fertility rate will hold steady above the developed world's average of 1.82, and will outstrip all neighboring Arab states - the most fertile of which, Jordan, has a projected 2035 figure of 2.41. As a result of declining fertility, Israel's annual population growth rate by 2035 is projected to decline to 1.4% from the current rate of 1.9%. However, the sharper decline in immigration means that 94% of growth between 2010 and 2035 will be the result of natural increase, as opposed to 89% for the years 2006 to 2010. Moreover, CBS projections suggest that Israel's already high life expectancy is set to increase across all sectors by 2035. In 22 years, the average Jewish female born in Israel may expect to live 89.5 years, as opposed to 86.3 for Arab females, 84.8 for Jewish males, and 81.6 for Arab males. And while the CBS expects that 4.7 million Israelis will be

born between 2010 and 2035, the rise in life expectancy across all sectors means that the Israel of 2035 will be a demographically older country than today. The CBS estimates that by 2035, there will be 1.7 million Israelis aged 65 years and older, or 14.6% percent of the population. Israel is set to remain young by comparison to the rest of the developed world, a quarter of whose population will be 65 and older by 2035. (JPOST 26 June 2013)

Israeli blasts UNESCO resolution censuring activities in Jerusalem. Israel is irate at UNESCO for having adopted a Palestinian-sponsored resolution that denounces Israel's activities in Jerusalem's Old City. The resolution was presented to the 37th World Heritage Convention in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on Sunday, where it passed with a narrow majority of 8:3 with 10 abstentions. According to Shimon Samuels, director of international relations at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Estonia, Germany and Switzerland voted against the resolution, while Algeria, Iraq, Malaysia, and Qatar. Senegal, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates voted in its favor. Cambodia, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Serbia and Thailand abstained. The resolution also accused Israel of failing to disclose crucial information on the state of the various sites in the Old City to the World Heritage Committee. Israel canceled a U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization fact-finding mission to the city, which was planned for May, saying that the Palestinian Authority had politicized the issue despite agreeing not to. "This is a dark day for UNESCO," a statement by the Foreign Ministry said on Sunday. "Exactly as Israel had warned in the past, the Palestinians are exploiting their admission to UNESCO as a member state in order to hijack the agenda and drag this important U.N. agency into the abyss of politicized manipulation." UNESCO accepted the Palestinian Authority as a full-fledge member in October 2011. Israel suspended its ties with the U.N. body following the vote and the United States suspended the funding lent to it. At \$60 million a year, the U.S. provides about 22% of UNESCO's annual budget. The Jordaniandrafted resolution, which was a last-minute addition to the agenda, came as a surprise to those present, and has reinforced Israel's concerns that the Palestinians will use Israeli excavation and construction in Jerusalem as political rhetoric. The meeting, which focused on promoting tourism in Cambodia, was supposed to see the Palestinians defer five pending anti-Israel resolutions concerning Al-Aqsa mosque, the Mughrabi Gate Bridge, Bethlehem, Hebron and Gaza. The Palestinians had agreed to postpone their motions following

an agreement signed with Jordan in March, cementing Jordan's custodianship of the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem. Though the Jordanian Waqf, which administers the Temple Mount compound, already manages Jerusalem's Islamic holy sites in coordination with Israel, the agreement reinforces Jordan's power in the city in a manner which may restrict Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem. The agreement stressed Jordan's right to maintain the holy sites and its recognition of "the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people is expressed in realizing the State of Palestine." Former Jordanian Communications Minister Sami al-Maayta stated that the agreement was intended to limit the Judaization of Jerusalem. Israel's refusal to allow the UNESCO mission into the Old City prompted UNESCO's Arab members to hijack the meeting and push for an official censure against Israel, over its continued developments in the city, including the construction of a visitors' center, the installation of an elevator near the Western Wall and what the Palestinian claim are excavations that are damaging Muslim sites on Temple Mount. "It is still premature to talk of a confederation, given the official and resolute Jordanian position that it is necessary first of all to establish an independent Palestinian state," Palestinian Liberation Organization Central Committee member Abbas Zaki told the Washington-based Middle East Media Research Institute. The reverberations of the fight over the hotly contested religious site made it all the way to Saudi Arabia, who is custodian of the holy Muslim sites. (<u>Israel Hayom</u> 27 June 2013)

Likud minister: Netanyahu ready to compromise; withdraw from over 90% of West Bank if security concerns met. Minister says security remains Netanyahu's main concern, but the PM knows that for a peace agreement, 'he will have to evacuate more than a few settlements'. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would be willing to withdraw from most of the West Bank and evacuate numerous settlements as part of an agreement with the Palestinians, as long as his security demands were satisfied, a senior cabinet minister from Netanyahu's Likud party told Haaretz on Wednesday. The senior minister, who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue, said Netanyahu knows very well that if negotiations with the Palestinians resume under U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's auspices, he will have to hold serious discussions on the borders of a Palestinian state. "Netanyahu understands that for a peace agreement, it will be necessary to withdraw from more than 90 percent of the West Bank and evacuate more than a few settlements," he said. "He knows this is one of the things that will be discussed." The minister said the issue of

security arrangements is Netanyahu's main concern, and this will be his main demand in the negotiations. If his security demands are met, he is prepared to make significant territorial concessions, the minister added. Inter alia, Netanyahu wants the future Palestinian state to be demilitarized, and he also wants the Israel Defense Forces to be able to maintain a long-term presence along the Jordan River, even if Israel cedes sovereignty there. Another Israeli source who is familiar with the discussions Netanyahu has been holding on the Palestinian issue said much the same thing as the senior minister. "Netanyahu doesn't have a map of the borders of the future Palestinian state," this source said. "But all of his considerations on this issue stem from practical issues, not from ideology. His two key principles are maintaining the settlement blocs as part of Israel and a military presence in the Jordan Valley, without Israeli sovereignty there." The senior minister said that Netanyahu very much wants to resume talks with the Palestinians, but the premier isn't convinced that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is equally eager. "He's not certain there's a partner," the minister said. He also said Netanyahu believes the talks will have to continue for at least a year, and that he's interested in serious negotiations, not the kind that will blow up after a few weeks. "At first, everyone will take extreme, hard-line positions," he said. "But Netanyahu thinks these positions will start to coalesce once both sides begin to see the entire package." Despite appearances to the contrary, the minister continued, Netanyahu would be able to mobilize broadbased political support for a deal with the Palestinians, even within Likud. "If he leads it, they'll go with him," he said. "Even those who today present themselves as right-wing." He said Netanyahu won't have any political problem in terms of maintaining his government, since he can either form a coalition with the Labor Party or get it to support him from outside. "Netanyahu understands the situation," the minister said. "You hear this in what he says, and also in how he says it. He believes that an agreement on two states for two peoples would be good for the country." (<u>Haaretz</u> 27 June 2013)

• Israel Police creates unit to fight 'price tag' attacks - but only in West Bank. Prime Minister Netanyahu ordered police to establish centralized unit 18 months ago with goal of creating intelligence database and cracking down on extremist attacks across country - but plan has already gotten off to rocky start. The Israel Police have established a new unit dedicated to investigating attacks carried out by right-wing Jewish extremists against Palestinian, army and left-wing targets across Israel, but the plan is already off to a rocky start. The

original plan was for the unit to operate as a department within the West Bank's Central Police Unit, as that is the region where most of these "price tag" attacks – 80 percent - are perpetrated. The centralized unit would then be charged with carrying out investigations of similar incidents across the country - an arrangement similar to the one used to fight organized crime. Roughly 10 to 15 percent of price tag attacks are reported in the Jerusalem district and a few percent more have been recorded elsewhere in Israel. But the decision to base the unit in one district angered the commanders of the other districts, as it meant that their officers would in effect be subordinate to the centralized West Bank unit in each of these investigations. Following a stormy debate on the matter Maj. Gen. Yoav Segalovich (head of police investigations) decided last week that the unit would operate only in the West Bank. It was agreed however, that the West Bank unit would put the intelligence it gathered at the service of other districts. In response, the Israel Police stated, "in regard to your inquiry, the purpose of the Central Police Unit in the Shay district is enforcement of these laws in the district, and during events directly linked to the district. This purpose has not changed since the squad was created. In general, and regardless of your inquiry, the operational aspects of various units are constantly being examined and considered." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the establishment of this unit 18 months ago, as a spearhead against the spiraling phenomenon of rightwing attacks. The goal was to create an in-depth intelligence database from the investigations, to make it easier to pin down the suspects in the attacks. The "price tag" crimes unit was allocated 80 positions, a respectable number in terms of major departments. So far, approximately 30 police officers have been hired, and the rest are expected by the year's end. Chief Superintendent Udi Levy, a veteran officer of the West Bank's detective unit, will head the department. (Haaretz 26 June 2013)

• Israel weighs demolition of flagship EU sustainability project in West Bank village of Susya. Civil Administration issues stop work orders for tents and solar panels, many of which were established with European Union help for humanitarian purposes. Israel's Civil Administration in the West Bank on Thursday raided a Palestinian village in the south Hebron Hills and distributed stop work orders for tents, hothouses, a water well and a solar panel – many of which were set up with the help of the European Union for humanitarian purposes. The significance of the stop work orders is that the Civil Administration's supervision committee will convene to discuss the legality of the project. If the

committee decides that the projects are illegal, it has the power to issue demolition orders. The committee is due to convene next week. The Palestinian village of Susya is located between an ancient site and an Israeli settlement, both of which carry the same name. Some 300 Palestinians live in the village, in a cluster of tin shacks and tents. The Civil Administration, Israel's governing body in the territory, has signaled in recent years that it plans to evacuate the area altogether. Two insectors arrived on the site on Thursday morning, accompanied by four Border Police officers, and handed out 40 notices ordering all work to be halted. In addition to the tents, hothouses and water wells all used by the residents - the inspectors ordered the demolition of a solar panel and an emergency tent for impoverished residents provided by the European Union. France's Vice Consul happened to be touring the site when the demolition orders were distributed. The incident passed without clashes, though resident Nasser Nawaja said he would refuse any evacuation orders and would rather die than leave his home. Israeli authorities are currently preparing the legal paperwork for a potential demolition of the village. The inspectors did not stop at any of the Jewish outposts nearby. Meanwhile, Israeli settlers constructed two new unauthorized houses in the Mitzpeh Avigayil outpost. (<u>Haaretz</u> 27 June 2013)

State looks to authorize 40 new homes in Nokdim. Deputy FM Elkin says timing of plans for West Bank settlement homes not linked to US Secretary of State Kerry's visit. The state wants to authorize a 40-home project in the West Bank settlement of Nokdim, the State Attorney's Office told the High Court of Justice this week. The Higher Planning Council for Judea and Samaria accepted the plans for deposit in January and intends to publish them in the near future, it added. News of the pending authorizations was first published by Army Radio on Thursday, hours before Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was due to meet with US Secretary of State John Kerry to discuss possibilities for resuming peace talks. The Palestinians have refused to negotiate directly with Israel until it halts West Bank settlement activity and Jewish building in east Jerusalem. Israel has refused to accede to that request. Kerry is looking to break the impasse. Nokdim is located in the Gush Etzion region, but in an area that is outside the boundaries of the West Bank security barrier. Israel believes that Gush Etzion will be within its borders in any final-status agreement with the Palestinians. Deputy Foreign Minister Ze'ev Elkin told Army Radio that news of the plans broke as a result of the project's legal situation and had nothing to do with Kerry's visit. Legal matters cannot be dependent on the diplomatic agenda or visits from foreign dignitaries, Elkin said, adding

that Netanyahu's last government established a policy to authorize Jewish West Bank construction when possible, particularly if it was on state land. According to Gush Etzion Regional Council head Davidi Perl, work on 14 homes already began on the site in Nokdim two years ago, even though final authorization had not been issued. The court on Thursday issued an injunction against further construction of the homes in response to a petition filed by attorney Ghiath Nasser on behalf of the adjacent Palestinian village of Jinata, which sought a injunction against the project. The homes are being constructed illegally, Nasser said, adding that the state had a responsibility to notify the village of the project so that they could file an objection. Perl noted that if the council approves the plans, the 14 homes would be retroactively authorized. A spokesman for Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said that the 40-home project was on state land. He added that former defense minister Ehud Barak had given initial approvals to the project. The Higher Planning Court for Judea and Samaria must now deposit the plans, after which there will be a 60-day comment period for objections to be filed. The Gush Etzion Regional Council reacted angrily to the court's decision to issue a temporary injunction against the 14 homes. It charged that the court acquiesced to a baseless petition against a project on state land located within Nokdim's municipal boundaries. (<u>IPOST</u> 28 June 2013)

The District Planning and Building Committee conveyed a copy of its recent decision on the new Zeitim interchange plan (TPS 14049) to Ir Amim. According to this official document, the plan has been approved. Tenders may now be issued, pending requisite publishing As previously reported, the interchange will be of the decision. located adjacent to the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Al-Tur, connecting the northernmost portion of the Eastern Ring Road to the Mount Scopus Tunnel Road (commonly known as the "fast road" toward the center of Jerusalem) and creating continuous passage into the city for settlers coming from northeast of the city. On the attached map, the interchange would be located just west of fork in road between Mount Scopus Tunnel Road and Road #1 leading to Ma'ale Adumim, above the circled work on separation barrier. The section of the Eastern Ring Road in question is also known as the "Apartheid Road" due to the separation barrier like divide in its center and its dual function. Once opened, Palestinians would be routed south from Ramallah, away from roads traveling through the Ma'ale Adumim/E-1 settlement bloc. (On the map, the separation barrier is marked in red, and runs adjacent to Road #1. The Apartheid Road--marked on soon to

be re-issued map--will run parallel and to the east of the separation barrier.) The logic of the road, designed under the administration of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, was that diversion of Palestinian traffic from E-1 would remove remaining roadblocks to Israeli construction. Construction on the northernmost portion of the Eastern Ring Road was completed several years though the road has not yet been opened to traffic due to declared security considerations. Recently, new road signs with directions to the road have appeared in the area. The approval of the interchange, which links the road to the Mount Scopus Tunnel Road, strongly signals intention to green light opening of the road. These developments raise larger regional concerns: the diversion of Palestinian traffic away from the E-1 land parcel, coupled with resumption of the separation barrier near Ma'ale Adumim, serve as clear case examples of infrastructure building being used to connect the E-1 bloc to Israel and disconnect Palestinians from the area. This strategy is a potent means of consolidating control over the land without the need to build housing stock; in other words, the use of roads and the separation barrier create facts on the grounds which are, in them, a menace to a two state solution. Moreover, such developments are particularly troubling during the government's stated commitment to restraint on settlement building during ongoing US efforts to revive negotiations. Such a commitment must include any infrastructure developments that serve the goal of creating contiguity of land in the West Bank with Israel while breaking the land contiguity required for the establishment of a future Palestinian state. Ir Amim also previously reported projected impacts on the neighborhood of A-Tur, conveying concerns from the local council of A-Tur that the interchange would block realization of a master plan to enable building in the Khalt El-Ein section of the neighborhood. As clarified in the District Committee hearing on June 6, the interchange will not block the Khalt El-Ein plan. However, the Jerusalem Municipality continues to support the Nature and Parks Authority's Plan for the Mount Scopus Slopes National Park, which would also block the Khalt El-Ein plan. (Ir Amim 28 June 2013)

• The Supreme Court ruled that the conduct of the work of the civil administration, settlement expansion has made it possible for these comments, into a nature reserve. The court petition filed by residents of Beit Aryeh settlement two months ago. The community began to build new villas neighborhood by the company to develop the area, inside the nature reserve Nahal Shilo. This River emerges from the Samaria region Shilo, squirming in the mountains until the river washed away. The nature reserve was approved in 1983 by the military commander.

15 years ago began the settlement expansion plan in advance a lion. It was the first time in 2000, but because it is not carried out, were introduced in amendments and adjustments, and approved again in 2012, when led by the civil administration, Brig. Gen. Motti was already supposed to be these comments soon for approved programs, IDF spokesperson. Bordering the natural reserve doesn't match the actual and approved its border row of houses within the sanctuary the judges decided Miriam Naor, Uzi Fogelman and Daphne Barak-Erez delete the petition because the petitioner received requirements. However, judge Barak-Erez criticized the conduct of extraordinary Moti these comments. "The obvious thing is open," she wrote, "the results of the test conducted by the nature reserves these comments are troubling. Both prima facie the proper conduct and teach about the central importance to planning. Please ensure any way that will be adopted to prevent such mistakes repeated procedures and attention to the importance of this development and will be tested in the renowned while maintaining natural values ". Barak-Erez also took the State expenses on 15 thousand shekels. Adv. Avinoam Magen, petitioners, said in response: "the default and inhibit the appointment of respondent 4 - head of the civil administration - the role of the IDF spokesperson, to test things. The Court said that if the petition would have caused irreparable damage to the nature reserve ". (Haaretz 28 June 2013)

Ariel: Populate the Rachel's Tomb Compound. Housing Minister Uri Ariel called, Thursday night, for the population of the compound surrounding the gravesite of the biblical matriarch Rachel, between southern Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Speaking in the Judean Jewish community of Kfar Etzion at the launching of a biography of Rabbi Hanan Porat, written by Hagai Huberman, the Habayit Hayehudi (Jewish Home-New National Religious Party) lawmaker said, "We have not gone where we should at Rachel's Tomb but we are making an effort to strengthen the yeshiva and literally create a community, as Hanan Porat tried to do many times, and the effort has not yet succeeded." Regarding the easing of restrictions on Jews on the Temple Mount, Ariel said, "We haven't arrived on the Temple Mount and there's a long way to go." Employing a Hebrew play on the words for "compromise" and "defrosting", he continued, "There's a need for compromise and I'm heating up the iceberg." He promised to build a memorial to Rabbi Porat in Kfar Etzion so that "Everyone who comes here or to the region can enter and learn about the personality of Hanan." (<u>Israel National News</u> 28 June 2013)

- Gov't Approves Jerusalem Light Rail Extension to Ein Kerem. The government has approved \$1.1 billion (NIS 4 billion) to extend Jerusalem's Light Rail system to Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center. The government has approved an allocation of \$1.1 billion (NIS 4 billion) to extend Jerusalem's Light Rail system to Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center. The funding will come from the Transportation Ministry budget. The project will nearly double the current range of the light rail system, more than 13.6 miles (22 kilometers), which extends from the northern neighborhood of Neve Yaakov to Mt. Herzl in the capital's center. It is expected that the extension of the route to Jerusalem's southwestern region will increase ridership on the light rail to approximately a quarter million passengers per day. Earlier this year, the municipality announced plans to extend the light rail from the Kiryat Moshe station to the Har Nof neighborhood as well. Some residents along the proposed construction route have expressed concern to Arutz Sheva about noise and access problems that come along with any construction project. But others mentioned they were worried about the electromagnetic field emitted by the power supply, "just a short distance from our living rooms and kitchens." (Israel National News 29 June 2013)
- Rabbi Ya'akov Meidan, head of the Har Etzion Hesder Yeshiva, said Wednesday that Shabak officials had encouraged him to bring Jews to the Temple Mount. A report on Israel Radio Thursday said that Rabbi Meidan had made the comments at an event Wednesday at the Begin Heritage Center, with officials encouraging the visits in order to strengthen the Jewish presence on the Mount. Rabbi Meidan said that top Shabak officials had told him that they realized that without an ongoing and strong Jewish presence on the Mount, Israel was liable to "lose" it, eventually finding Jews banned from entering altogether as Arabs, emboldened by Israel's refusal to embrace the site, would take steps to keep Jews off the Mount. They also said they realized that Jews were hesitant to go up to the Mount, because of the difficult circumstances they faced there, Rabbi Meidan said. Currently, Jews are allowed to go up to the Temple Mount, but only in small groups. They are followed around by a Muslim cleric, who checks to see if their lips are moving, as in prayer. If Jews are "caught" praying, they are ejected from the Mount, by an Israeli police officer. Often Jews are held for hours by police, and in some cases police have charged Jews for "inciting riots" and "creating public disorder" for not complying with the no-prayer demand. At the event, retired High Court President Dalia Dorner said that Jews should be allowed to pray on the Temple Mount. The Court, she said, had nothing to say on this matter, and that

the matter was up to the Knesset. The Court had nothing to say about it, said Dorner, in the same way as "it has nothing to say about blowing up the nuclear reactor in Iraq." Rabbi David Stav, a candidate for the position of Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi, said that it was the responsibility of the government to ensure a Jewish presence on the Mount, and to allow freedom of religion for Jews at the site. The government also had a responsibility, he said, to ensure that "the Arab enemies of Israels do not destroy the Jewish heritage of the site" by dismantling archaeological finds. (Israel National News 29 June 2013)

Govt. May Seek Alternative to Demolition in Amona. Senior officials tour Amona in what may indicate an attempt to avoid demolition in the latest Israeli-PA land dispute. Senior government and military officials in Judea and Samaria (Shomron) toured the town of Amona on Sunday morning in an apparent attempt to find an alternative to demolition, the Walla news site has reported. Palestinian Authority Arabs have claimed ownership of the land on which the Israeli town was built, leading to fears that the town will be demolished, as Migron and the Ulpana neighborhood of Beit El recently were following similar land disputes. The government is expected to submit its stance to the Supreme Court on Sunday regarding the dispute. The State Attorney's Office previously asked for a one-week delay in preparing its response. Brigadier-General Eitan Dangot, the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, reportedly took part in Sunday's tour, as did IDF Civil Administration head Moti Almoz, General (res.) Gilad Altman, the advisor to Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon on Settlement issues, and Defense Ministry legal advisor Ahaz Ben-Ari. As part of the tour, officials reportedly considered the option of creating a new access road to the town. The current main road goes through land that has been claimed as private Arab property. Amona residents say they purchased 70 percent of the land their town is built on from local Arabs. Homes built on the purchased land should not be destroyed, they argue. Residents of the town reported that on Friday they were visited by Minister of Economy and Trade Naftali Bennett and MK Ayelet Shaked of the Bayit Yehudi (Jewish Home) party. In February 2006, the Israel Police were ordered to demolish nine homes in Amona. Hundreds of protesters showed up to oppose the demolition. Over 200 were injured, some seriously, in clashes that opened a renewed public debate on the issue of police violence. (Israel National News 30 June 2013)

Peres: 2 states – the rest is nonsense. After Kerry leaves region without deal to restart peace talks, Israeli president says disagreements with Palestinians can be resolved 'in relatively short period of time' "Progress that should not be underestimated" was achieved during US Secretary of State John Kerry's recent visit to the region, President Shimon Peres said Sunday evening. "There is no alternative other than two states for two peoples; the rest is old wives' tales," Peres said at the inauguration of a science museum in Beersheba. You cannot run a country that is home to two nations. This would mean the continuation of the fight rather than the beginning of peace." Speaking on the same day Kerry ended a shuttle diplomacy mission without an agreement on resuming Israeli-Palestinian peace talks but said gaps had been narrowed and he would return to the region soon, President Peres claimed Israel has no other choice but to sign a peace agreement with the Palestinians and advance the two-state paradigm. "I believe we do not have a choice. Tomorrow we will wake up without knowing which Egypt we will find. We have no control over time, and time will not wait for us," Peres said during the ceremony. "I believe the disagreements that remain in the negotiations with the Palestinians are resolvable, and I believe that for the good of Israel, for the good of the Jewish people, for the good of our neighbors and for the good of peace, we should move forward vigorously and reach an agreement with the Palestinians. The problems can be solved in a relatively short period of time." Peres urged the sides to try and reach an agreement that would restart the peace negotiations in Kerry's absence. "He (Kerry) left for Asia, but he left a team (of aides) behind. The issue has not been settled, but we can reach a solution that would guarantee peace and security (for Israel)," the president opined. Prior to his departure, Kerry told reporters at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport: "I'm pleased to tell you that we have made real progress on this trip. And I believe that with a little more work, the start of final status negotiations could be within reach. We started out with very wide gaps, and we have narrowed those considerably." Israeli officials confirmed Sunday evening that progress was in fact made in the talks aimed toward reviving the peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. "The gaps aren't that big and there is progress," the official said. Kerry's aides were expected to meet with chief Israeli negotiator Tzipi Livni and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's personal envoy Yitzhak Molcho to update them on the secretary of state's meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. (Ynetnews 30 June 2013)

Minister: Netanyahu against settlement freeze. Official says Kerry's return to Israel for another meeting with PM indicates 'positive development,' but senior minister says Netanyahu refuses to accept Palestinian preconditions of halt to West Bank construction, prisoners' release. Danon: No justification for releasing terrorists. US Secretary John Kerry and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel's chief negotiator Tzipi Livni met in Jerusalem late Saturday night in an attempt to reach an agreement that would pave the way for a meeting between the Israeli premier and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. However, it appears the road to such a summit is full of obstacles. An Israeli official who is familiar with the details of the talks told Ynet, "Kerry's return to Israel this evening indicates that something is moving, apparently in a positive direction. He would not have returned otherwise. His main goal at this point is to arrange a meeting between Netanyahu and Abbas." Kerry met with Abbas in Amman, Jordan earlier on Saturday before returning to Jerusalem for another round of talks with Netanyahu and other top Israeli officials. Kerry will make a final statement Sunday afternoon, before leaving Israel. He was originally expected to hold a press conference Sunday morning but this was postponed in wake of a last-minute effort to restart peace negotiations. Officials in Jerusalem said the Palestinians are insisting that Netanyahu declare of construction freeze in the West Bank settlements, but the Israeli premier is against accepting the request, also due to opposition from members of his cabinet to such a move. Israeli is currently not expanding settlements in the territories, and the US has assured the Palestinians it would not do so in the near future. However, Abbas is not relying on the American commitment and is demanding that Netanyahu issue a statement. During a recent conversation with a senior minister, the PM said he has no intention of announcing a settlement freeze. "He ruled it out, and his only goal is to resume negotiations without preconditions," the minister said. The Palestinians are also demanding that Israel agree to release prisoners, including some with blood on their hands, as well recognize the 1967 borders as a baseline for negotiations. A senior Israeli official said the government would agree to release prisoners, but not as a condition for resuming negotiations. In addition, Israel will not agree to release all the prisoners the Palestinians are demanding, he said. Kerry's visit and the latest round of talks did not leave much of an impression on the right wing of the ruling Likud party and on members of Habayit Hayehudi. They object to the demands laid out by the Palestinian as preconditions for negotiations, specifically the claim for releasing prisoners. "The prime minister's stance calling for negotiations with no

preconditions is accepted by most Likud party members," said Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon, "there is no justification, of course, for releasing terrorists." Knesset Member Nissan Slomiansky (Habayit Hayehudi) said that "the Palestinians need the negotiations more than we do. Setting preconditions to begin negotiations, including releasing prisoners, is a refusal to make progress towards peace." According to him, "agreeing to preconditions will only set the Palestinians in their tough positions and will prevent any future progress." Fellow party member Ayelet Shaked noted that "the prime minister has repeatedly promised he would not go into negotiations with preconditions and I believe him. If the Palestinians are indeed interested in serious talks, and not in a dirty game aimed at tattle telling to the 'kindergarten teacher' in September, meaning the UN, they should sit and talk. No preconditions were required from (Ariel) Sharon, (Ehud) Barak or (Ehud) Olmert, and there is no reason the situation should change now." MK Miri Regev (Likud) said that "we should not release terrorist prisoners as a prerequisite for negotiations. We should negotiate with no preconditions; the prisoners belong in jail as determined by the Fellow party member MK Gila Gamliel added that "the court." demands are ridiculous. The prime minister made clear that Israel will not allow prerequisites and I have no doubt that most Knesset members, even those who see themselves at the center of the political map, would support the prime minister in this. The absurd demand of the Palestinians reveals their intention and clarifies, as always, that there is no partner for negotiation on the other side." (Ynetnews 30 June 2013)

• How many Palestinians actually live in the West Bank? New research from right-wing group says Palestinians exaggerate population by 1 million, argues time and demographics are on Israel's side. However, Israeli authorities say the number stands at 2.5 million. In May 2012, the <u>Palestinian</u> population of the <u>West Bank</u> stood at 2,657,029, according to a Civil Administration document obtained by Haaretz. In addition, the document points out, there has been a 29 percent rise in the Palestinian population since the year 2000. However, over the past few years, a fierce battle has taken place over the number of Palestinians living in the territories. The American-Israel Demographic Research Group has been trying for eight years to prove that the Palestinians have managed, with great sophistication, to inflate their true population by 1 million people, and that the real figure currently stands at about 1.5 million people. The group's claims are not

corroborated by demographic experts in Israel and around the world, but Israeli right-wing activists and politicians have adopted them, including Economy Minister and Habayit Hayehudi chairman Naftali Bennett, MK Tzipi Hotovely (Likud) and former defense minister and foreign minister Moshe Arens. Right-wing activists say that if there are only 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank, there is no "threat" to Israel's demography - referring to the state's desire to maintain a Jewish majority - and no need to launch negotiations over a Palestinian state. Instead, they say, it's time to talk about annexing Palestinian territories and their residents to Israel. Hotovely says that in the long term Israel can naturalize all West Bank Palestinians and still remain a Jewish state, and Bennett's views are similar. "There are 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and 400,000 settlers, and nobody's going anywhere," Bennett recently said in an interview with the Washington Post. The American-Israel Demographic Research Group is led by former diplomat Yoram Ettinger. The team responsible for the data includes Los Angeles businessman Bennett Zimmerman, historian Roberta Seid and physicist Michael L. Wise. The group published its first paper in 2005 in what was seen as a move to block the Gaza pullout by disputing the accepted demographic figures. The paper contests the Palestinian Authority's censuses of both 1997 and 2007. These censuses were the only ones held in the West Bank and Gaza since 1967 and were supervised by the Norwegian government. Based on these studies and figures from the Palestinians, the Israel Defense Forces, the United Nations and the Shin Bet security service, the Palestinian population in the West Bank is usually estimated at between 2.6 million and 2.7 million. But according to the American-Israeli group these numbers are distorted. First, the group says these numbers include 300,000 Arab residents of East Jerusalem, which Israel counts as Israeli Arabs. Second, the group says Palestinian demographers include people who left the West Bank many years ago. Third, it says figures for population growth don't jibe. "These are not necessarily lies," Ettinger said. "But the Palestinians count differently. The problem isn't them; the problem is with those who accept their data without checking. For example, in the matter of the births there's a very imprecise fact there, to say the least." The group points to the decline in the Arab birthrate throughout the Middle East. According to Ettinger, the birthrate of Jewish women in Israel is higher now than that of women in neighboring countries. "What this group is doing borders on crime, it's a macro deception," said Prof. Arnon Soffer, a geography professor and a severe critic of the American-Israel Demographic Research Group. A 2004 meeting between Soffer and

then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was considered a milestone in Sharon's decision to embark on the Gaza disengagement. (<u>Haaretz</u> 30 June 2013)

#### Monthly Violations Statistics – June 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	10	75	210		1	7	4
Jerusalem	5	70		3		38	24
Jenin				3	1		
Tulkarm							
Ramallah	14			2			1
Nablus	432.4		1445			16	22
Salfit	23						1
Jericho				4	5		
Gaza							
Qalqilyah							4
Hebron	52		170	2		45	9
Tubas					7		1
Total	536.4	145	1825	14	14	106	66

#### Note:

- Israeli orders to evacuate 8 Palestinian families from Beit Hanina town in Jerusalem city.
- Israeli orders to evacuate and demolish all houses in Khirbet An-Nabi area in Yatta town.
- A lot of lands were torched during clashes with the IOA.