

## Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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#### Bethlehem

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing the injury of Sami Isma'il Aliyan (14 years) in his leg. (PNN 1 January 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al-Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA erected a military checkpoint in the village, stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and ID cards. The IOA detained a number of Palestinian school students. (Mawal 2 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. (NBPRS 3 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched areas in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. (RB2000 4 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinians from reaching to their land in Job Ad-Dib area, east of Bethlehem city. (Wattan 7 January 2014)
- Dozens of Palestinian students suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades in Al-Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. (Al-Quds 7 January 2014)
- Clashes 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 stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of

- suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA detained a Palestinian student. (ARN 8 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed all the entrance of Nahhalin village, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the village. (Sama News 8 January 2014)
  - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ad-Dhuheisheh refugee camp, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired dumdum bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases, and the injury of three people; identified as: Nedal Mohammad Ibrahim Abid (24 years), Mohammad Ibrahim Zawahrih (21 years) and Khalil Ahemd Al-Bana (18 years). During the clashes, the IOA arrested three Palestinians; identified as: Murad Mohammad Hassan Az-Zaghari (20 years) Ashraf Az-Zaghari (18 years) and Mohammad Nasri Abd Rabah (21 years). (Wafa 9 January 2014)
  - Israel defies World Bank, refuses to let Palestinians use landfill. Demands using site for settlements' garbage too. The Defense Ministry's Civil Administration refuses to allow the operation of a landfill funded by the World Bank and intended to serve the Palestinian population south of Jerusalem. The administration is demanding that the Palestinians agree to let the region's settlements use the site as well, but the Palestinians refuse. The Al-Minya landfill east of Bethlehem was built in the last two years with funds the World Bank gave the Palestinian Authority. It is the first modern landfill in the southern West Bank, with means of sealing the earth to prevent waste from leaking into the groundwater. Another modern landfill, also set up with international funding, is already operating in the Jenin area. Since Al-Minya is in Area C, its construction required the Civil Administration's approval. Currently the waste from the Hebron and Bethlehem communities is dumped in pirate sites that constitute serious environmental hazards. Some Palestinian communities dump the garbage in open areas and occasionally burn it to reduce its volume. Anti-settlement activist Dror Etkes said he visited the Al-Minya site this week and spoke to one of its operators, who told him the site is not operating even though its construction is completed because the Civil Administration insists on dumping the settlements' garbage in it, too. A spokesman for the the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) said the Palestinian Authority, Civil Administration and World Bank advanced the landfill for the waste of the Bethlehem and Hebron regions, as well as for the communities near Jerusalem. The spokesman said the Palestinians

renege on their agreement to operate the site as a regional landfill that would serve the Jewish settlements as well. For this reason the Civil Administration won't let the site to operate. However, the World Bank made it clear in the talks about the landfill's operation last year that the funds it gave the Palestinian Authority are intended for the Palestinian population. Traditionally, the Palestinian Authority does not cooperate in the use of infrastructure facilities with the settlements, which it sees as illegitimate. A few waste management sites, however, have served both Palestinian and Jewish communities. The Israeli Tovlan landfill in the Jordan Valley took in garbage from Nablus, a landfill near Ramallah served settlers from the area and the Carmel site in the Hebron area served Israeli communities as well. ([Haaretz](#) 9 January 2014)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Tequ village, east of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Al-Quds 10 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA stormed Refugee culture center in the camp and detained dozens of Palestinian children. (Al-Quds 10 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. (Maannews 10 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinian and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 12 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a number of Palestinians stores in Al-Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. During the operation, the IOA detained Mohammad Sobeh a Palestinian journalist, confiscated his personal camera and deleted all the photos. (Wattan 13 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Tequ and Beit Fajjar villages in Bethlehem governorate. (Quds Net 15 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, houses and vehicles, causing dozens of suffocation cases, the injury of Ahmed Amer Odeh and damaged in a number of vehicles. During the clashes, the IOA assaulted Palestinians. (Al-Quds 15 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out military orders to stop the construction in a 120 square meters under- construction house and to remove electricity network in Abu Soud area, west of Al-Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The targeted house is owned by Ali Ahmed Issa. (Raya 16 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) near Rachel tomb, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the operation, the IOA tried to storm a number of houses. (Al-Quds 17 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Tequ village, east of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (RB2000 17 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. During the operation, the IOA detained Mahmoud Zawahrih. (RB2000 17 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Neve Daniyyal settlement tried to confiscate a 10 dunums of Palestinian land in Al-Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The Israeli settlers bring tens of trees and agricultural tools, and opened agricultural water well. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli settlers. (Al-Quds 17 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned a Palestinian prisoner Sami Al-Hrimi, in As-Saf Street in Bethlehem city. (RB3000 18 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Al-Ibiyat area and Nahhalin village in Bethlehem governorate. (RB2000 18 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation bulldozers razed land in Al-Walajah village, west of Bethlehem city, to construct an Israeli road which will link between Har Gilo settlement and Jerusalem city. The road width 12 meters and in some places more than 20 meters. (NBPRS 19 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and Israeli settlers prevented two Palestinian farmers from Husan village, west of Bethlehem city, from entering their land to plant it with olive trees. The targeted land is located near Betar Illit settlement. The two farmers were identified as: Hamad Hamamrih and Hilmi Shosha. (Wafa 21 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. (Maannews 21 January 2014)

- Israeli settlers put a caravan on an agricultural land in Khallit An-Nahla area, south of Bethlehem city, in a step to establish new outpost and to link it with Efrat settlement. (RB2000 21 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched two Palestinian houses in Bethlehem city, and assaulted residents. The targeted houses are owned by: Ahed and Adel Al-Kamal. (Al-Quds 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched 8 Palestinian houses in Dar Salah village, east of Bethlehem city. The targeted houses are owned by: Mohammad Mustafah Salem, Ibrahim Hassan Salem, Mustafah Hassan Salem, Salem Ya'esh Ta'amrih, Mohammad Suliman Saleh, Akram Hassan Saleh, Muhannad Ibrahim Hamad and Ibrahim Mohammad Hamad. (Al-Quds 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a sudden checkpoint in Ad-Doha town, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA stopped Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Al-Quds 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA assaulted participants and prevented them from reaching to the area where the Segregation wall was build. (PNN 24 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) confiscated a camel owned by a Palestinian from Ar-Rashida village, east of Bethlehem city, under the claim that the camel was in a 'close military area'. The owner of the camel was identified as: Musalam Younis Rashidah. (Raya 25 January 2014)
- Final mass in West Bank town as Supreme Court due to rule on land seizure. Separation barrier in Beit Jala would leave Cremisan monastery on Israeli side, detaching it from the predominantly Christian village. Residents of the West Bank village of Beit Jala held their last weekly mass on Friday in an area that is slated for seizure for the extension of Israel's separation barrier, the Palestinian independent news service Ma'an reported. The Supreme Court is due to rule on an appeal to halt the land seizure this week. About 60 Palestinians, including representatives of the Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran churches, gathered on a hilltop in the Cremisan Valley to pray for a halt to the building of the barrier, which is set to annex the entire green area north of the largely-Christian Beit Jala. The weekly mass has been held since 2011. Rev. Ibrahim Shomali, a Catholic priest who led the mass, thanked the crowd for its support over the years and said it was now up to the Israeli court to decide on the "future of our presence in the Holy Land." Issa Kassissieh, Palestine's ambassador to the Vatican,

which owns the land threatened with confiscation, told Ma'an that the seizure was unacceptable. "The pope is coming as a peace pilgrimage to the Holy Land to build bridges and here we are seeing that a wall is being erected." Israel is constructing some of the last segments of the barrier on lands west of Bethlehem, including the Cremisan monastery area, and al-Walaja village. After a seven-year legal battle, 58 local landowners and nuns from the Salesian convent lost an appeal against the route of the separation barrier in April 2013. The ruling proposed that the convent and adjacent school remain on the Palestinian side of the wall, but the nuns would lose access to 75 percent of their land and the school would be situated in a military zone surrounded by the separation wall. The Cremisan monastery and winery would be on the Israeli side on the wall, splitting the religious community, and residents would no longer be able to participate in the annual religious event of the Holy Spirit Procession, in which local Christians walk from Cremisan to the Annunciation church in Beit Jala. After a lengthy legal battle, residents have little faith that justice will prevail through Israeli courts. ([Haaretz](#) 25 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in Al-Azza refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas grenades. (Wattan 26 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Efrat settlement escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and razed Palestinian land in Khallit An-Nahal area, south of Bethlehem city. The targeted land is owned by Ahmed Ayash. During the operation, the IOA detained five Palestinians; included two journalists. The Palestinians were identified as: Ahmed Muzhar, Abd Al-Rahman Al-Hashlmun, Hassan Brijjiya, Abada and Harith Brijjiya (13 years). (RB2000 & PNN 26 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) around Al-Azza refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (RB2000 28 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up an Iron Gate at the entrance of Nahhalin village, west of Bethlehem city. According to the flyers issued by the IOA, which informed the residents that the gate will be opened 8 hours in a day. (Maannews 28 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Maale Amos settlement escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) razed land in Kisan village, south of Bethlehem city and set up a number of mobile houses in the land. (Wafa 28 January 2014)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Tequ village, east of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA arrested Mohammad Yasem Hajahja (17 years), and transferred him to unknown location. The IOA also, erected a military checkpoint at the entrance of the village. (Al-Quds 31 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted the participants in the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city, and prevented them from reaching to the wall area. (Wafa 31 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) near Bilal Ben Rabah mosque, at the northern entrance of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. During the clashes, undercover Israeli Army kidnapped seven Palestinians. (Maannews 31 January 2014)

## Jenin

- Clashes erupted between the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and Palestinians, after the IOA stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Omar Qasem in Deir Abu Da'if village, east of Jenin city. During the clashes, the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades. (Safa 1 January 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) occupied a Palestinian house owned by Majd At-Tubasi in Al-Jabariyat neighborhood in Jenin city. (Al-Quds 1 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Hermesh settlement assaulted and injured Ahmed Nedal Abu Armilah while he was working in his land in Yabad town, west of Jenin city, and forced him to leave the land. (Al-Quds 1 January 2014).
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Rummana village, northwest of Jenin city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Safa 3 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several areas in Yabad town, west of Jenin city. During the operation, the IOA erected a military checkpoint at the eastern entrance of Yabad town. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa & Maannews 3 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Rummana village, northwest of Jenin city. The IOA fired

- teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Ayyam 5 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several areas in Yabad town, west of Jenin city. (Al-Ayyam 5 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house in Birqin village, west of Jenin city. The targeted house is owned by Hamza Sititi a Palestinian prisoner in an Israel jail. (Wafa 6 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected sudden checkpoints at the entrance of Arraba, 'Anza and Az-Zawiya villages in Jenin governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wattan 12 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Zububa village, northwest of Jenin city, and questioned residents. During the operation, the IOA erected a military checkpoint at the entrance of the village, where the IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 14 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house in Qabatyia village, south of Jenin city, and questioned the residents. The targeted house is owned by Mahmoud Tahir Abide. (Wafa 15 January 2014)
  - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Birqin village, west of Jenin city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA occupied the roofs of two houses. The targeted houses are owned by: Hatim Ash-Shaib and Hris Al-Houf. (Raya 15 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Jaba' village, south of Jenin city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (Raya 15 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in several areas in Jenin city. (Sama News 16 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers living in Hermesh settlement attacked and injured Ahmed Ghassan and Ahmed Abu Irmilah from Yabad town, west of Jenin city, while they were in land near the settlement. (Wattan 17 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded several areas in Arraba village, south of Jenin city, and took photos for a number of old buildings. During the operation, the IOA stormed and searched a gas station owned by Jamal Afif Al-Haj Hassan and a house owned by Osama Mohammad Amin Al-Haj Ahmed. (Wafa 19 January 2014)



- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in 'Anza village, south of Jenin city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 19 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and toured in At-Taibah, 'Anin, Rummana and Az-Zababida villages, in Jenin governorate. (Wafa 19 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Qabatya and Jaba' villages in Jenin governorate, and searched several areas. (PNN 20 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Misliya village, south of Jenin city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Az-Zababida village, south of Jenin city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 22 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers pumped wastewater at Palestinian houses and land in Jalbun village, east of Jenin city. (Safa 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a military checkpoint at Yabad – Jenin road. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles, and checked ID cards. During the operation, the IOA closed the road near Mevo Dotan settlement. (Wattan 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Sahel Marj Bani Ameer area, west of Jenin city, and started the searching for water wells. The operation stationed between Kafr Dar and Zububa villages. (Safa 24 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched two Palestinian houses in Qabatya village, south of Jenin city. The targeted houses are owned by Naser and Makhzoum Khazimiya. (Safa 26 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Ajja village, southwest of Jenin city. (Wafa 26 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Yabad town, west of Jenin city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA arrested three Palestinians. The arrestees were identified as: Majd Mahmoud Abu Bakir (22 years), Muhannad Ahmed Abu Bakir (15 years) and Mohammad Mujahed Yassen Abu Bakir (17 years). (Wafa 26 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Sanur, Meithalun, Siris, Al-Judeida and Anza villages in Jenin governorate. (Wafa 28 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up three military tents at a Palestinian agricultural land located between Imreiha village and Yabad town, west of Jenin city. The IOA declared the area as “close military zone” and prevented Palestinians from entering it. (Wafa 28 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented a Palestinian farmer from working in his 220 dunums of agricultural land in Jalud village, south of Nablus city. The targeted land is owned by Fawzi Ibrahim and located near the Israeli illegal outpost of Yesh Kodesh. (Safa 29 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Shami Shami in Jenin city. (Safa 30 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several Palestinian houses in Meithalun village, south of Jenin city. Two of the targeted houses are owned by: Hassan Abd Al-Ra’ouf Jarar and Taher Fawzi Qatit. During the operation, The IOA summoned Tawfiq Rif’at Rabai’a (27 years) to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police, after storming his house. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 31 January 2014)

## Jerusalem

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed As-Swana neighborhood in Jerusalem city, and removed a number of Palestinian flags raised in the Streets. (SilwanIC 1 January 2014)
- An Israeli Occupation policeman stormed a Palestinian house of mourning in Silwan town in Jerusalem city, and threatened to arrest a number of Palestinians. (SilwanIC 1 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured a Palestinian journalist Suliman Khadirm while he was at the eastern entrance of Al-Issawiya town in Jerusalem. (Al-Quds 1 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers called the Israeli Occupation Authorities to open the gate of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city, to allow them storming and visiting it. (Paltoday 1 January 2013)
- An Israeli settler hit by his vehicle a Palestinian in Wadi Hilweh neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. in the same time, an Israeli settler parking his vehicle in front a store, and prevented

- Palestinian from entering or leaving the store. (SilwanIC 1 January 2013)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) held a demonstration from Al-Wad Street to Al-Buraq wall in old city of Jerusalem and performed Talmudic rituals near Al-Qataneen and Iron Gates. The IOA forced Palestinians to close their shops. (SilwanIC 1 January 2014)
  - An Israeli plan to construct Heritage village on Palestinian land in Olive Mountain in Jerusalem city. The heritage village is a part of an Israeli plan for “Orshalem first project”. (SilwanIC 1 January 2014)
  - Jerusalem cancels debate on plan for new yeshiva building in Arab neighborhood. City had been pushing plan for Jewish learning center in East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah despite objections from its own experts and likely opposition both internationally and at home. The Jerusalem Municipal Planning and Building Committee decided Wednesday at the last minute to pull from the day's agenda deliberations on the construction of a nine-story structure for a yeshiva in the predominantly Arab East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. Ohr Somayach, a yeshiva that has operated in Jerusalem for decades and serves mostly newly religious students, recently submitted the plan to the city's local Planning and Building Committee, which initially decided to put it on the agenda despite objections from some of the city's own employees who say the plan would not serve the area's local population. The building is planned for an empty lot, most of which belongs to the Israel Lands Authority, and is located behind a neighborhood gas station. In addition to the nine stories, the new yeshiva building would also consist of three more floors underground, spanning a total of 9,615 square meters. The city was pushing the plan even though its own department for planning policy has said, “The construction of the yeshiva in this area, which is characterized by a population with different religious characteristics and is close to hotels and the light rail line, is not the optimal use [of the property].” The plan is also likely to raise serious diplomatic opposition from the United States and other countries, which object to Israeli construction beyond the Green Line, and to draw objections from local residents. Sheikh Jarrah has become a symbol of the Palestinian popular struggle in Jerusalem in recent years, and a flash point where local residents and left-wing activists have protested the entry of Jewish settlers into the neighborhood and the evictions of Palestinian families from their homes. About 10 families are now waging legal battles to overturn eviction orders against them, which were issued at the request of Jewish building and land owners, mostly

the heirs of residents of the neighborhood who lived there before 1948 and were forced out of their homes. After a drawn-out legal battle, the Supreme Court ruled against one of the families, giving it a year to leave the house. Jerusalem's local planning committee was expected during its Wednesday meeting to discuss another controversial plan for a large construction waste disposal site to be situated at the exit leading from Jerusalem toward the settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim. This plan would require the evacuation of a nearby small Bedouin encampment named Jadia-Kabua. A few dozen people live in the village, most of whom are residents of Israel. According to the plan, the disposal site would operate for 20 years and fill a large stream bed with building waste and dirt from Jerusalem and the region. After those two decades, the area will be landscaped and a park built on the site. Yosef (Pepe) Alalu, a member of the Jerusalem city council from left-wing party Meretz, responded to the plan, saying the local planning committee and Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat are doing everything to undermine the peace efforts of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who is working to reach a framework agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Alalu called the plan a "provocation" that he said violates the understanding that Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem would remain in Israel in the event of a deal, while the Arab neighborhoods would become part of the Palestinian state when it is established. Alalu also criticized the planned waste site, saying that the Palestinian neighborhoods only come to city officials' minds when they need to build a garbage dump. ([Haaretz](#) 1 January 2014)

- Legal challenges mounted against planned visitor center in East Jerusalem. Proponents say it will bring much-needed development to Arab neighborhood, while critics argue plan could hurt residents, alter city's character and ignite religious tensions. Plans for massive new visitor center in East Jerusalem have pitted local Palestinian residents and Israeli public intellectuals against a government-backed, right-wing organization. The project is spearheaded by Elad, a right wing organization that administers the City of David archaeological park outside the Old City. The group's presence in the Arab neighborhood of Silwan – and the fact it recruits Jews to live near there – has already drawn the ire of locals. The visitor center is slated for a site about 20 meters from the Old City walls and about 100 meters from the site of the Western Wall. The 16,600 square meter center will include a museum, an auditorium and an entryway to the City of David archaeological site. Jerusalem mayor, Nir Barkat, has appeared personally in front of the regional planning board to defend the project.

He says the growth in tourism to the Old City demands a new visitor center. However, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu voiced his support for Elad's plans, it became clear the center is a chip in a larger game. Netanyahu's support came in October following the release of Palestinian prisoners as an Israeli gesture in the peace process. By practice, even if not by policy, each time a prisoner release happens, Israel announces construction beyond the Green Line in the West Bank of Jerusalem area, seemingly to appease the hardliners in government. As soon as Netanyahu threw his support behind the visitor center, the planning process shifted into high gear. The complex will include an entire floor to display antiquities from the City of David digs, including some of the most ancient Jewish artifacts unearthed in Jerusalem. It will come complete with classrooms, exhibition halls, an auditorium, a gift shop, a restaurant and a 250-car garage. The structure will provide access to the ancient underground street dating the time of King Herod that runs between the City of David and the Western Wall plaza. Opponents of the plan, including architects, archaeologists, writers, academics and public figures, say that the project would alter cityscape – and character – around the iconic Old City walls. They are also wary of Elad's involvement in the project. The organization already administers the dig, though under the mandate of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. The opponents say a private entity should not be handed the reins when an archaeological site of supreme scientific importance hangs in the balance. UNESCO, the United Nations arm in charge of preserving world heritage, has joined the chorus of voices criticizing the visitor center, even though the agency's local representative developed the plans: Architect Arie Rachmimov of UNESCO's Israeli National Commission is the one who drew up the blue prints. Four legal petitions now hope to put a spoke in the wheels of the project: One headlined by Architects Haim Yacobi and David Kroyanke, novelist David Grossman, and Meron Benvenisti Jerusalem's former deputy mayor; a second by a group of archaeologists; a third by 43 Palestinians from Silwan' and lastly, Ir Amim, a left-wing non-profit. Elad is reviewing the objections and has yet to respond and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority says project will not harm the archaeological remains lying underneath. "The Israel Antiquities Authority has been digging at the site for more than eight years in order to understand and carry out archaeological research [and] to enable the building to be integrated with the antiquities," the parks authority said in a statement. "The building was planned in a manner that fully relates to archaeological finds discovered [there]. In addition, the plan for the building particularly and meticulously relates

to the Old City walls so as not to harm the landscape's sight lines and the majesty of the Old City walls. The building does not rise more than one story higher than the road separating the building and the [Old City] walls." The parks authority also said the plan does not ignore the needs of the local residents since it is a public building open to everyone, and passageways on roof of the center will facilitate traffic in and out of the area. The Jerusalem municipality said the planning board offers an avenue for public comment and criticism that will be taken into account before a decision is made. Rachmimov, the project's architect, asked to defer a response until he had studied the objections filed by the four groups, but said that the project had gotten the initial support of the local and regional planning committee and the relevant preservation committee. "Up to now, we have only heard warm words about the plan," he said. "It relates to all of the aspects of the area and has undergone all of the examinations, including the visual aspect. The plan will contribute a lot to the area." The group of public figures and academics, however, say the project would negatively affect the cityscape landscape and violate of preservation principles that have to the area around the Old City walls since the British Mandate. The planned center, they said in their petition, is just meters away from the Temple Mount, which they described as "an area at the heart of the [Arab-Israeli] conflict" and potential source of major tension. "[Silwan] is a crowded and neglected Palestinian residential area where more than 30,000 residents live. The neighborhood residents desperately need kindergartens, parks, playgrounds and other facilities," the petition says. "In the necessary balance between the desire for heritage preservation and the setting for the plan, responsiveness to the needs of the residents is necessary and not a building of immense proportions." ([Haaretz](#) 1 January 2014)

- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its court yard. (Safa 2 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ar-Ram town, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Paltoday 3 January 2014)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Anata town, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Paltoday 3 January 2014)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the entrance of Al-Eaziriya town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Paltoday 3 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its courtyard. (Wafa 5 January 2014)
- An Israeli settler attacked and injured Marah Munther Jalajl (12 years) from Wadi Hilwah neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city, while she was in her way to school. (SilwanIC 5 January 2014)
- Spate of demolition orders in Silwan creates mounting pressure on community homes, youth facilities and businesses Orders issued within days of close of public objections on the Kedem Compound plan. [This morning](#), Municipality inspectors issued 10 demolition orders in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan. Included among the ten is one of only two youth recreational facilities in the community—an 850 square meter tract with 4 barracks, including an equipment storage facility and room for 3-4 horses. Built on land belonging to the Siam family and established in 2010, the facility was previously demolished by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and most recently received a demolition order in [September 2013](#). Of the two recreational resources for youth in the neighborhood, it is the only one with room sufficient for conducting sports activities. This past summer, a successful summer camp program was operated on the site. Among other enrichment activities, the camp provided a rare opportunity for children to take trips both within and outside of the city. Given its close proximity to the City of David national park, the lot has long been sought after by area settlers and the Municipality, who share the intention of developing the space for a parking lot. In prior incarnations, the area has housed a coffee shop and a provisional community center, both built with international support. As a center of community activity, it has been under prolonged attack by local settlers. The remaining demolition orders correspond to the following properties: A demolition order concerning a roof repair in the Wadi Hilweh section, which the Municipality claims was used to enlarge an existing house. In the Bir Ayoub section of Silwan, 4 adjacent stores 100 square meters in total area, formerly used as a coffee shop and now used, respectively, for a produce stand, car parts store and a bakery . One room, 15 square meters in size, in the Bir Ayoub section. Built in 2002, the owners have already paid a 15,000 shekel fine on the property, which is used to store wood. A 6 square meter room in Al Abasiya, Silwan, built after the resident's home was demolished

several months ago. In the interim the resident, Khaled Al-Zir, lived in a cave. Three orders, one each in the Wadi Yasur, Ein Al-Louzah and Ras al-Amud sections of Silwan, additional details of which will be reported as they become available. The neighborhood of Silwan, the entrance of which is located directly across from the Dung Gate of the Old City, has long been a focus of settler activity due to its proximity to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif and the rest of the Historic Basin. In addition to sustained home takeovers initiated by settler organizations over the past thirty years, with wide ranging support from all levels of the Israeli government, Silwan is home to City of David, run by the right wing settler organization Elad. Also being promoted are two major touristic projects that threaten to altogether subvert the Palestinian character of the neighborhood and ignite a community under decades of mounting pressure from the settlement enterprise: 1) The King's Garden, a bible tourism park promoted by the Municipality that would require the demolition of up to 56 homes in the Al Bustan section of Silwan and 2) The Kedem Compound, another Elad project which would be located directly across from City of David on the site of the Givati Parking Lot. (SilwanIC & Ir Amim 5 January 2014)

- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city, toured in its courtyard and performed Talmudic rituals. (ARN 6 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its courtyard. (ARN 7 January 2014)
- Hamza Ibrahim Abu Tair was forced to demolish part of his house (50 square meters) which included a bedroom and kitchen in Um Tuba village, south of Jerusalem city, after the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem issued a military order to demolish the part of the house, under the claim that the room and kitchen were build without license. (SilwanIC 7 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (ARN 8 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers stole a number of enriched columns from Al-Wad Street in the old city of Jerusalem. (ARN 8 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) officers and students stormed and toured in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Wafa 9 January 2014)



- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired teargas grenades at a Jordanian delegation while they were toured in Al-Eaiziriya town, east of Jerusalem city. (Maannews 10 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers wrote anti-Christian slogans on the wall of An-Notre Dame center at Bab Al-Jaded area in Jerusalem city. The slogans demanded the Palestinian Christina to leave Jerusalem city. (Quds Net 10 January 2014)
- An Israeli settler sprayed chlorine at a Palestinian in Jerusalem city. (Wattan 10 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out a military order to demolish 200 square meters house and 800 square meters farm in Anata town, north Jerusalem city. The targeted house is owned by Ahmed Mohammad Hussen Hilwah. (Al-Quds 11 January 2014)
- Israeli sources revealed that the Director of "the territory land of Israel" committee Arie King, planned for building a Jewish settlement in the Kfar Aqab village, north of Jerusalem city, there will be live within the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem, but behind the wall. According to the weekly "yroshalim" published this news that preparations for the establishment of a settlement on the land district spread over an area of 22 dunums located in the north-western side of Kafr Aqab village at the entrance of Ramallah city. The targeted land adjoining the separation wall on the Palestinian side, with ability to construct more than 40 housing units. The price of each unit will be about \$ 150,000. According to the statement: there is a queue of people who desire to live in the place. (Wattan 11 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its courtyard. (Wafa 12 January 2014)
- Al-Aqsa Foundation for Wqaf and Heritage declared that the Israeli occupation Authorities has launched recently a new digging tunnels and deep within its excavations at Silwan tunnel from Ain Silwan are to the outskirts of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Foundation said that the excavations carried out at the earth's surface and depth in the Ain al-Fawqa in Silwan town, south of Al-Aqsa Mosque, where the unfolded huge rocks during excavations. The Israeli Authorities continue the construction of the biblical Centre, a project called "Beit Al-Ein" on the area up to 200 square meters, includes "a tourist center, archaeological museum and plunge pool/sanitized granted autonomous status. The project will be linked to the new tunnels and the tunnels network under Al-Aqsa Mosque. (Wattan 12 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) along with undercover Israeli Army and police dogs stormed and searched a Palestinian building owned by

- Al-Ghazali family in Ras Al-Amoud neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. (Wattan 13 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its court yard. (ARN 14 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city from Bab Al-Maghariba, and toured in its courtyard. (Safa 15 January 2014)
  - Israeli website “Wallah” declared the “Price tag” the Israeli settlers group wrote anti- Palestinian slogans on the wall of houses and streets in Jerusalem city, and put fliers against Arab and Palestinians. (PNN 15 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its courtyard. During the operation, the Israeli settlers ascended the roof of the Dome of Rock. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and settlers. (Sama News 16 January 2014)
  - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the northern entrance of Ar-Ram town, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (PNN 17 January 2014)
  - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Eaziriya town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired live and rubber bullets, and teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of two people. During the clashes, the IOA arrested three Palestinians were identified as: Ibrahim Damdoum (17 years), Mahmoud Zaki Halabi (17 years) and Abid Afanah (30 years). (Maannews 17 January 2014)
  - Instead of autistic Hostel Jerusalem - Buildings of the rightist. Elad Association is expected to get a permit to existing structures at the Peace Forest - Abu Tor, because it claims its presence is necessary for security of travelers due to the incidents that took place in the nationalist Committee for Planning and Building in Jerusalem is expected to approve soon, Elad's request for the establishment of peace forest structures. Yet even designed a hostel instead of special needs and desired structures has been built without permits. Peace Forest is the neighborhood - Abu Tor Promenade Armon. Decade ago Leah turned to Nathan - Marciano, if an autistic child and a social activist, and asked the authorities to establish a hostel Lautositim adults. She explained that there is no such institution in Jerusalem, although there is the great need. ([Haaretz](#) 17 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented the Legal Adviser to the President of the State of Palestine Mr. Hassan Al-Arouri from entering Jerusalem city, and detained him at Qalandyia terminal. (Sama News 18 January 2014)
- Ala' Mohammad Al-Jamzawi was seriously injured during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Anata town, north of Jerusalem city. (Wattan 19 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) forced Badir Salah Dahdoul to destroy a road near Al-Quds University in Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city, under the claim that the IOA will return to him his bulldozer which the IOA confiscated 20 days ago. (Maannews 19 January 2014)
- Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem along with the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out orders to demolish structure in neighborhoods in Silwan town in Jerusalem city as follow: to demolish and raze 850 square meters playground in Wadi Hilwah neighborhood, to demolish 3 garages (in total 300 square meters) owned by Nassar family in Ein Al-Louz neighborhood, and to demolish four houses (inhabited by 30 Palestinians) in Wadi Yasoul, Ein Al-Louz and Bier Ayoub neighborhoods. (SilwanIC 19 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city from Al-Maghariba and As-Salsla gates, and toured in its courtyard. (RB2000 20 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities constructed a coffee shop, a number of bathroom units, and a special park for dogs on a part of the Islamic cemetery of Ma'man Alla in Jerusalem city, which called "Dependent Park". The IOA also covered about 15 dunums of land with wood shavings. (Maannews 20 January 2014)
- For the second time in 24 hours, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Samer Al-Issawi; a Palestinian former prisoner, in Al-Issawiya town in Jerusalem city. (Wafa 21 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers led by Yahuda Glick escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city from Bab Al-Magharibah, and toured in its courtyard. (ARN 21 January 2014)
- Israeli reconciliation court ordered Khalid Az-Zeir to stop the construction on his cave in Silwan town in Jerusalem city, which inhabited by 7 family members. Note that the Israeli Occupation Authorities demolished his house on August 2013, and he was forced to live with his family in a cave. (SilwanIC 21 January 2014)
- Peace Now: 381 New Homes for Giv'at Ze'ev. Israel's government has approved plans to build 381 new homes in the Israeli settlement of

- Giv'at Ze'ev, northwest of Jerusalem city, according to a Peace Now representative. ([Israel National News](#) 21 January 2014)
- Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem staff escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed several neighborhoods in Al-Issawiya town in Jerusalem city, and took photos for a number of buildings, houses and Streets. (SilwanIC 22 January 2014)
  - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) near Al-Quds University in Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of a Palestinians. (Maanenws 22 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city, and toured in its courtyard. (RB2000 22 January 2014)
  - The Jerusalem District Committee for Planning and Construction deposited the controversial plan 13901 for a visitor's center, 'Beit HaMa'ayan' in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan. The general public now has 60 days to file objections to the plan. The planned location for the large visitors' center is over the 'Gihon' spring. The Gihon spring has been an active archaeological site since 1995. The plans for the center have been submitted by the right-wing organization El-Ad. The center is planned to cover approximately 1,203 square meters. This plan is another attempt to politicize an archaeological site in a controversial location in East Jerusalem. This plan comes just two months after the same committee deposited plan 13542, for the establishment of a large visitor's center known as the 'Kedem Center', or the Givati Parking Lot. The addition of these two visitor centers to the currently existing 'City of David' center, also managed by Elad organization, should be understood as an intentional attempt to change Silwan into a popular, lively Jewish Heritage and tourism complex, at the expense of the local population. Should these plans advance to construction, they will greatly alter the area and will likely fuel greater conflict in the area. (Peace Now 22 January 2014)
  - 1,700 housing units to be built in new settlement. The Jerusalem Municipality announced a plan to construct 1,700 new housing units in a region that will be annexed to the municipal area of the city. The Local Planning and Building Committee within the municipality will discuss the plans for the new settlement, which will be named Moradot Arnona on the 22 of January 2014. ([Ynetnews](#) 22 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers torched a tent in An-Nabi Samwill village, north of Jerusalem city. (NBPRS 26 January 2014)

- Israeli settlers hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles while they were traveling at Road No.1 in Jerusalem city, and attacked a Palestinian and stole his bicycle. (SilwanIC 26 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Pisgat Ze'ev settlement attacked and injured Yazan Hani Ramadan (18 years) and Majd Zaki Ramadan (18 years) from Beit Hanina town in Jerusalem city, while they were near the settlement. (SilwanIC 26 January 2014)
- Supreme Court upholds controversial Jerusalem road, with modifications. Beit Safafa residents argue street would cut the neighborhood in half. The Supreme Court upheld the state's right to build a controversial New Jerusalem road over the ardent protests of Beit Safafa residents, who said the road would cut the neighborhood in two. Despite the ruling, the court did make some modifications based on the Beit Safafa residents' wishes and complaints, canceling certain access roads around the main road and ordering the state to produce an updated master-plan before moving ahead with the project. The battle over the 1.8 km highway has gone on for years, with the state periodically making partial compromises toward the wishes of the residents, but never enough to gain the residents' acquiescence. Residents of Beit Safafa, the southeast Jerusalem neighborhood adjacent to Gilo, opposed the extension of the Begin Highway to the Tunnel Road that leads to Gush Etzion, because the highway cuts through the middle of their neighborhood. The state wants the highway extension to improve overall travel within the city, which it said will also pay large economic dividends. It had held the upper hand, having won approval from the Jerusalem District Court in February 2013 to continue building the road. ([IPOST](#) 26 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation bulldozers demolished two Palestinian houses (200 square meters) in Al-Shuqiriya neighborhood in Beit Hanina town in Jerusalem city. The targeted houses are owned by Idris family and inhabited by 20 Palestinians. (Al-Quds 27 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers demolished a 40 square meters house and an under construction building consist of three storey (each storey 240 square meters); the first storey is a parking, the second and third are apartments, in Abed neighborhood in Al-Issawiya town in Jerusalem city. The targeted houses and building are owned by Abd Al-Hay Dari and Hussien Khalil. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades. (SilwanIC 27 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) along with Israeli bulldozers demolished a 150 square meters house in Shufat town in Jerusalem

- city. The targeted house is owned by Idrisiya family. (Raya 27 January 2014)
- Israeli Planning and construction committee in the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem approved the plan to construct 1800 housing units in the illegal settlement of Armoun “neighborhood” in Jerusalem city. (NBPRS 28 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Issawiya town in Jerusalem city and took photos from houses, Streets and buildings. (Maannews 29 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city from Al-Maghariba gate, and toured in its court yard. The Israeli settlers tried to raise the Israeli flags inside the mosque. (Wafa 29 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers led by Aril King invaded Ash-Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem city and handed out an order signed by Aril King to evacuate a Palestinian building consist of 2 storey. During the operation, the Israeli settlers attacked Palestinians. (SilwanIC 29 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers invaded Beit Safafa town in Jerusalem city, and surrounded a Palestinian land owned by Salah Family. There are three houses and three barracks in the targeted land, which the Israeli settlers tried to seize. (Maannews 29 January 2014)
  - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Issawiya town in Jerusalem city, after the IOA stormed and searched several houses in the town. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases, also assaulted residents causing the injury of others. During the operation, the IOA arrested seven Palestinians; four of the arrestees were identified as: Mohammad Abdalla Abu Humos, Mohammad Ahmed Abu Humos, Haneen Ahmed Abu Humos and Abdalla Abd Al-Karem Abu Humos. (Wafa & SilwanIC 30 January 2014)
  - Al-Aqsa foundation for Waqf and Heritage warned that the Israeli Occupation Authorities tried to put cameras at the walls of Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city. (Al-Quds 30 January 2014)
  - Israeli Committee for planning and building hold a crucial meeting regarding the old plan for a new five-story building on a part of the Western Wall. Nowadays is being planned for construction over the archaeological area of the western wall space for offices and meeting rooms. Note that the plan was approved in 2010 by the Israeli Jerusalem municipality and the Regional Committee for planning and construction which has the support of Mayor Nir Barkat. (NBPRS 30 January 2014)

- Two Palestinians were injured and arrested after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at them while they were near an Israeli military base in Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city. (Safa 31 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired teargas grenades at Palestinians during a match in Fesal Al-Husseni Stadium in Ar-Ram town, north of Jerusalem city. Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation. (Wafa 31 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demonstrated at the old city of Jerusalem. The IOA forced Palestinians to close their stores and prevented them from leaving their houses until the settlers reached to Buraq wall. (SilwanIC 31 January 2014)
- Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem ordered Khalid Az-Zair to remove the rubble of his demolished house and to clean the area in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 31 January 2014)
- Israeli District court ordered to demolish two residential barracks (60 and 41 square meters) in Tur town in Jerusalem city during 60 days. The targeted barracks are owned by Al-Maslamani family. (SilwanIC 31 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city and toured in its courtyard. During the operation, the IOA stopped Palestinians at the entrances of the mosque and checked their ID cards. (RB2000 23 January 2014)

## Hebron

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and detained 8 Palestinians from Yatta town, south of Hebron city, after stopping them an Israeli checkpoint erected near Jericho city. The IOA also, summoned them to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police in Gush Etzion settlement bloc. The targeted Palestinians were identified as: Rateb Yousef Al-Jabour (40 years), Khadir Suliman Al-Amour (50 years), Fadel Rabee (45 years), Mahir Mohammad Abu Daiya (23 years), Mohammad Khader Suliman Al-Amour (13 years), Hani Faiz Makhmrih (27 years), Jom'a Fadel Rabee (14 years) and Mohammad Azam Rashed (35 years). (PNN 1 January 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA stormed and searched several Palestinian houses. (Maannews 1 January 2014)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Fawar refugee camp, south of Hebron city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Maannews 1 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed the northern entrance of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles, checked ID cards. (Maannews 1 January 2014)
- The Israeli Civil Administration submitted a building scheme in Al Quds Daily Newspaper for Public Review<sup>1</sup>. The Regional Plan No. (2/1764), Mandate scheme, RJ/5<sup>2</sup>, 1746 and 1764/5/98, parts of basin number 2, which is a part of Khirbet Al-Tha'la, Khallit Eiyoun At-Tawani, Khirbet Mueen and Um Ash-Shaqhan , and parts of basin number 3 which is a part of Ein Al-Jawaya area, in Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The plan determine the use of the land to construct Buildings, Public Organizations, Industrial area, a cemetery, an area for future development, open spaces, roads and public parks. (Al-Quds 1 January 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Ibrahim Al-Balase in Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. (Safa 2 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at Halhul Bridge, at the entrance of Beit Kahil town and Al-Fawar refugee camp in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 2 January 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in the southern part of Hebron city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. During the operation, the IOA detained a Palestinian woman and his son. (Raya 3 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several areas between As-Samu' and Yatta towns, south of Hebron city. The IOA erected a military checkpoint between the two towns, stopped and searched vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 3 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at Bab Az-Zawiya area in the central of Hebron city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing the injury of a Palestinian. (Wattan 3 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. The IOA fired rubber

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

<sup>2</sup> The regional plan for Jerusalem and the south of the West Bank



- bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (RB2000 3 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Beit Hadasa settlement stormed a Palestinian house owned by Mufiud Ash-Sharbati in the central of Hebron city, and chanted anti-Palestinian slogans. (Paltoday 4 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked and injured three Palestinians after storming Um Al-Khair village, east of Yatta town south of Hebron city, under the claim that the Palestinians distrusted the Israeli settlers who lives in Karmel settlement. The targeted Palestinians were identified as: Suliman, Mustafah and Sufian Al-Hathaleen, (Wattan 5 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city, and fired teargas and stun grenades at houses. (Quds Net 5 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers living in Beit Hadasa settlement attacked and hurled stones at Palestinians and stalls in Ash-Shalal Street in the central of Hebron city, causing the damage in a number of stalls. (Quds Net 5 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Authorities razed 5 dunums of agricultural land and set up a number of caravans in Tal Ramidiya neighborhood in Hebron city, in a step to expand the Israeli neighborhood of Ramat Yashi. The targeted land is owned by Abd Al-Aziz Abu Hikal. (Wafa 5 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Safa area, north of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of Mohammad Ahmed Ismail Adi (55 years). (Wafa 6 January 2014)
  - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Hebron city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 6 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers living in Susiya and Mitizipe Ya'ir settlements escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked and injured Saber Isma'il Al-Adrah (18 years) from Beir Al-Ad area, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. During the operation, the IOA arrested five Palestinians; four of the arrestees were identified as: Isma'il Al-Adrah (70 years), Khalid Mohammad Hamamdih, Saleh Ismail Al-Adrah and Musa Mohammad Al-Adrah. (Wafa & ARN 6 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a military checkpoint at the entrance of Al-Fawar refugee camp, south of Hebron city. The IOA

- stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 6 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of 15 people. (Wafa 7 January 2014)
  - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Hebron city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Sama News 8 January 2013)
  - Israeli settlers living in Avigal and Mitzipe Ya'ir outposts escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked and injured a number of Palestinian farmers in Janba village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The Israeli settlers also, razed Palestinian land owned by Hushiya family in Um Al-Aries and At-Tariya areas, east of Yatta town. (Sama News 8 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers living in Susiya settlement demolished a tent owned by Azz Ghaith in Wadi Al-Rakhama area near the settlement. (Al-Ayyam 8 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to demolish two stores and two under construction houses in Dier Samit village, west of Hebron city. The targeted stores and houses owned by: Hussen Abd Al-Rahman Al-Sharha, owned a 100 square meters store, Ibrahim Khalil Odeh Al-Hroub (owned 2 dunums store), Hssan Azmi Al-Sharha and Younis Azmi Al-Sharha. (NBPRS 8 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at the entrance of Ash-Sheiwkh, Sair, Halhul and Al-Fawar refugee camp in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinians and checked ID cards. (Sama News 8 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) uprooted a number of trees in a nature reserve in Al-Fakhit area, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted trees were planted by the Palestinian ministry of Agriculture and Food and Agriculture Organization "FAO". (Wafa 9 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several houses in Halhul town, north of Hebron city. (Wattan 9 January 2014)
  - Israeli government funding dig in Palestinian Hebron, near Jewish enclave. Critics on left blast project as cover for expansion of city's Jewish settlement; work to continue for a year, at cost of NIS 7 million. The Culture Ministry and Civil Administration are financing the construction of an archaeological park on the ancient site of Tel Rumeida, near the tiny Jewish settlement in Hebron. A joint delegation

of the Antiquities Authority and Ariel University are due to begin construction work on Sunday at the site, located in the heart of the Palestinian city. The work is expected to continue at least until the end of the year at an estimated cost of NIS 7 million. Since the 1990s no significant excavation has been carried out in Tel Rumeida, the city's historic core. In recent months the Jewish settlers approached several senior archaeologists and urged them to renew the digs. Many turned them down, until it was decided on the joint delegation, headed by archeologist Emanuel Eisenberg of the Antiquities Authority and Dr. David Ben Shlomo of Ariel University. The archaeology officer of the Defense Ministry's Civil Administration is in charge of authorizing the permit for the excavation. The six-dunam excavation site is owned by Jews, but until the second intifada the Palestinian family of Abu Haikal, who was a protected tenant, farmed the lands in the area. However, following the deterioration in the security situation, the family was banned from farming the land. The Hebron settlers see the site as the burial ground of Yishai, King David's father, and Ruth the Moabite, King David's great grandmother. Past excavations at the site revealed fortifications and findings dated to the early Bronze Age, some 3,500 years B.C.E. and up to the Ottoman rule. Findings from biblical times were also discovered. Left-wing activists see the excavation as a further expansion of the Jewish settlement in Hebron at a sensitive stage in the Israeli-Palestinian talks. "It's expanding the settlement under the guise of archaeological digs," said Yariv Oppenheimer, secretary general of Peace Now. "Under Kerry's nose the defense minister is allowing the settlers to expand and change the status quo in the most explosive spot in the West Bank." "The dig in Tel Rumeida is another case of exploiting an antiquities site for the political struggle," said archaeologist Yoni Mizrahi of Emek Shaveh, a group of left-leaning archaeologists. "Like the sites of Ir David and Sussia, now they're using Hebron's ancient site as a political means to strengthen the Israeli settlement. We cannot understand how they can dig in one of the most conflicted cities in the region and claim the dig is not political," said Mizrahi. The Antiquities Authority said, "The authority is working in cooperation with the archaeology officer. In the past, excavations have been carried out in Hebron, including at this site. As the leading professional archaeology institution, the authority is prepared for large-scale excavations, as required in this one." The Civil Administration said, "The Antiquities Authority has been carrying out rescue excavations in Tel Hebron, following the Hebron settlers' initiative to develop an archaeological park open to the public. The administration is endeavoring as a matter of routine to protect,

develop and carry out rescue digs regardless of the future of these sites and the arrangement to be carried out in the future.” ([Haaretz](#) 9 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at the entrance of Sa’ir, Halhul, Dura and Yatta town in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 11 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched a Palestinian house owned by Jubrail Al-Jebawi in Idhna town, west of Hebron city. (Wafa 12 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Shaheen family in Al-Hawouz neighborhood in Hebron city. (Wafa 12 January 2014)
- An Israeli settler hit by his vehicle Murad Araf’iya (4 years) while he was in the old city of Hebron. (NBPRS 12 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at the entrance of Al-Fawar refugee camp, Dura and Halhul towns in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 12 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured a mentally disabled Palestinian; Mohammad Khames, while he was at the entrance of Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city, and prevented the Palestinian Ambulance from reaching to him. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Maannews 13 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched two Palestinian houses in Halhul town, north of Hebron city. The targeted houses are owned by Nabil Mohammad Zama’rih and Mahmoud Zama’rih. (Wattan 13 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Beit ‘Awa village, west of Hebron city. (Wattan 13 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Maon and Avigal settlements uprooted and cut more than 50 olive trees in Ash-Shwiha area, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted trees are owed by Khadir Al-Amour. (NBPRS 13 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Abd Al-Fatah Al-Qawasmi in Hebron city. (Wattan 14 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) planted 150 dunums of Palestinian land in Khallit Abouda in Jabal Jalees and Al-Kasarah areas, east of Hebron city, with olive trees. The targeted is

land owned by Abu Irmilah and Abu Sninah families. (Wafa 14 January 2014)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) around Tariq Bin Ziyad School in Hebron city. The IOA fired live and rubber bullets, and teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 15 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases. Two of the targeted houses are owned by Bahjat and Habas Abu Sara Al-Alami. (Safa 15 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) intensified its presence at the southern entrance of Hebron city, near Beit Hagai settlement. (Maannews 15 January 2014)
- An Israeli Army assaulted a Palestinian girl identified as Asil Jaber after stopping her at an Israeli checkpoint near the Ibrahimi mosque in the old city of Hebron and threatened to kill if she cross the aforementioned checkpoint. Note that Asil Jaber was crossing the only checkpoint that the Israeli Authorities allowed Palestinian to cross, and Asil Jaber was in her way back home from the school when the Israeli Army assaulted her. (Maannews 15 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Mitzipe Ya'ir outpost uprooted 20 olive trees in land, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted land is located near the Israeli Bypass road No. 317, and owned by Hidar and Khadir Al-Amour. (Al-Ayyam 15 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to demolish all the houses, structures and water wells in Khirbet An-Nakhil, east of Sa'ir town, north of Hebron city. The orders gave the residents until the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2014 to evacuate the area. More than 50 Palestinian will be displaced. Note that Khirbet An-Nakhil located near Asfar settlement. (Maannews 15 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) announced its intention to confiscate all the lands and properties around the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron city. The IOA put fliers around the mosque threatened to confiscate the land. (RB2000 16 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire and injured a Palestinian while he was in the old city of Hebron. (ARN 17 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers along with the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) gathered at the entrance of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city, during a funeral of a Palestinian. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the

- IOA, where the IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing the injury of 6 Palestinians. (Wafa 17 January 2014)
- Armed Israeli settlers stormed and toured in Palestinian land owned by Adris, Ghaith and Al-Barad'I families in Al-Kasara and Jabal Jalees areas, east of Hebron city, and carried out provocative actions. (Wattan 17 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers living in Karmel settlement escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) planted trees in 150 dunums of Palestinian land, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted land owned by Al-Hithaleen family. During the operation, the IOA detained a number of Palestinian shepherds. (NBPRS 17 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Palestinian farmers while they were working in their land in Um Akhwis area, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city, and forced them to leave the area. The targeted land is located near the illegal Israeli settlement "Susiya". (RB2000 18 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at the entrance of Sa'ir, Halhul, Yatta and As-Samu' towns in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Raya 18 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Tal Rumidiya neighborhood in Hebron city. (Maannews 19 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers living in Havat Maon outpost escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Palestinian farmers while they were working in land in Al-Hamra area, east At-Tawani village, east of Yatta town, and carried out provocative actions. The IOA arrested Mufadi Ahmed Jubrail Rabe'I (47 years). (Wattan 19 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers living in Negohot settlement escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed the road link between Dura town and the western villages, and carried out provocative actions. (Wafa 19 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinian farmers from Um Al-Khair village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city, from reaching their land and arrested five of them. The arrestees were identified as: Hussam Suliman Al-Hathaleen (16 years) Omar Al-Hathaleen (17 years), Mleha Al-Hathaleen (58 years), Bakhita Ahmed Al-Hathaleen (38 years), and Tareq Salem Al-Hathlaeen (19 years). The IOA transferred the arrestees to the Israeli Police station in Kiryat Arba' settlement. (Al-Quds 20 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Hebron city. (PNN 20 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at a Palestinian while he was near Telem settlement, west of Hebron city. The Palestinian was seriously injured. (Maannews 20 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) along with Israeli bulldozers demolished 500 square meters commercial barracks and two residential rooms in Beit 'Awa town, west of Hebron city. The targeted structures are owned by Sufian Masalmah. During the operation, the IOA prevented journalists from taking photos for the operation. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired rubber bullets teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (PNN 20 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Arm (IOA) demolished scrap store (build on 2 dunums of land) in Deir Samit village, west of Hebron city, and destroyed all the goods inside it. The targeted structure is owned by Salamah Attalla Abu Zaniyad. (RB2000 20 January 2014).
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Ad-Dhahiriyah town, south of Hebron city. (Safa 21 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Susiya settlement stormed 30 dunums of agricultural land planted with winter crops in land east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city, and destroyed them. The targeted land is owned by Az Ghaith Ad-Da'jani. During the operation, the Israeli settlers razed land near Susiya settlement owned by Al-Halees family. (Wafa 21 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation bulldozers razed Palestinian land in Khirnet Qalqas, south of Hebron city, to establish a new Israeli road with 400 meters length and 3 meters width. The targeted land is owned by Taha family. (Wafa 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at the entrances of Yatta and As-Samu' towns in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed all the entrance of Idhna town, west of Hebron city, and prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the town. (Wafa 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Fadi Ali Abu Atwan in At-Tabaqa area in Dura town, west of Hebron and confiscated his truck. (Maannews 23 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Beit 'Awa village, west of Hebron city. The IOA fired live bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses. (Safa 24 January 2014)

- Israeli settlers living in Karmel settlement escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted three Palestinians from Um Al-Khair village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city, while they were working in land near the settlement. The Palestinians were identified as: Mliha Al-Hathaleen (58 years), Suleman Al-Hathaleen (75 years) and Bilal Al-Hathaleen (27 years). (NBPRS 24 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) surrounded Um al Khair village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city, and prevented Palestinians from Leaving or entering the village. (PNN 25 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Beit Ain settlement attacked Palestinian farmers while they were working in land in Wadi Abu Al-Rish area, north of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city, and carried out provocative actions. (PNN 25 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected military checkpoints at the entrance of Sair, Sa'ir, Halhul, Yatta and As-Samu towns and Al-Fawar refugee camp. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 25 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Beit Hadasa settlement assaulted and injured Yazan Zeidan Ash-Sharbaty (13 years) while he was at Ash-Shuhada' Street in the central of Hebron city. later on the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained for five hours Yazan Ash-Sharbaty and his father. (NBPRS 26 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected a sudden checkpoint near Al-Fawar refugee camp, south of Hebron city. (Safa 26 January 2014)
- An Israeli bus owned by settlers ran over a Palestinian; Munib Abd Al-Rahman Alqam (22 years) from Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city, while he was at the entrance of the town. Mr. Alqam was seriously injured. (Al-Quds 28 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed a Palestinian house owned by Mohammad Isma'il Suliman Al-'Amirah in Dura town, west of Hebron city. (Raya 29 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Hebron city. (Raya 29 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched a Palestinian house owned by Atef Awawdah in Deir Samit village, west of Hebron city, and detained for hours all the residents in a small room. (Safa 29 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected sudden checkpoints at the entrances of Ad-Dhahiriya, Sa'ir, Idhna and Halhul towns and Al-Fawar refugee camp in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Raya 29 January 2014)



- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed a road near the entrance of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. (Al-Quds 29 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out two military orders to demolished two houses in Idhna town, west of Hebron city. The targeted houses are owned by: Hamza Mohammad Azghair and Hijazi Ibrahim Azghair. (RB2000 30 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities prevented Rateb Al-Jabour; a Palestinian activist against the Segregation wall and settlements in Hebron, from traveling to Jordan, after stopping him at Al-Karama terminal. (ARN 31 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched the evacuation military base of Tarousa in Dura town, west of Hebron city. (Safa 31 January 2014)

## Qalqilyah

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases, and 85 years old Palestinian identified as: Said Jasir Ali was killed. (Maannews 1 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. During the operation, the IOA arrested Aqil Mahmoud Shitawi (24 years). (Al-Quds 3 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA arrested Ibrahim Ahmed Samik (21 years) and Ahmed Sabir Shatar (18 years). The IOA transferred the arrestees to unknown location. (Sama News 8 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Izbet At-Tabib village, east of Qalqilyah city and fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wattan 10 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of Tareq Mohammad Amer (17 years). (Maannews 10 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades,

- causing dozens of suffocation cases, and the injury of a Palestinian journalist; Ayman An-Nwbani. (Wafa 17 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city, and fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinian and houses. During the operation, the IOA arrested Bakir Adnan Ali (27 years) and assaulted his mother Ra'esa Ali (60 years). The IOA transferred the arrestee to unknown location. (Wattan 19 January 2014)
  - Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing the injury of a Palestinian Journalist; Ja'far Ishtiya. (Al-Quds 24 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Izbit At-Tabib village, east of Qalqilyah city, and fired teargas grenades at Palestinian houses causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Maannews 26 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) dispersed the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of Tareq Abu Khalid (22 years) and loqman Ali (19 years). (Wafa 31 January 2014)

## Tubas

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Ein Shibli, An-Nasariya and Al-Hamra areas in the northern of Jordan valley. (Safa 1 January 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a protest village in areas in Jordan valley. During the operation, the IOA arrested 8 Palestinian activists. (Wattan 1 January 2013)
- Report: Defense Ministry Rejects US Plan for Jordan Valley. Maariv reports that Defense Ministry rejects US plans for Jordan Valley, based on security needs. The Defense Ministry has rejected the US's security plan for the Jordan Valley, *Maariv* reports Wednesday. According to the daily, Jerusalem has told US officials ahead of US Secretary of State John Kerry's visit this week that the Jordan Valley security arrangement is unacceptable for Israel's security needs. This report remains unconfirmed. The US's security plan involves a slow transition from IDF patrols over the region to Palestinian Authority (PA) forces, with an international presence, according to reports. IDF

drones would also be deployed over the area, as a means of gathering information about any terrorist activity that could potentially develop there. The Israeli government has insisted that the region is of crucial importance to Israel's future, and has been critical of plans to hand over the area to the PA. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has insisted that in the event that Israel withdrew from Judea and Samaria, as per Kerry's plans, the Jordan Valley be kept under Israeli control. The US's plan is based on the 1967 "Allon Plan," which received wide acclaim at the time. The plan insists that the Jordan Valley is the key to Israel's security, even in the event of a withdrawal to 1949 Armistice Lines; however, analysts have noted that the rest of Judea and Samaria is actually more crucial to Israel's security than the Jordan Valley itself. Despite this, the Israeli government has insisted that its only "red line" would be maintaining its presence in the Valley. On Sunday, a Ministerial Cabinet approved a bill to annex the Valley on that premise. MK Ofir Akunis reiterated this stance Tuesday, stating, "the Jordan Valley is Israel's iron wall, and only the presence of the IDF and the settlers of the Valley, will guarantee the security of the citizens of Israel. Whoever cedes the Jordan Valley, will abandon Israel's security." ([Israel National News](#) 1 January 2014)

- Land of Israel Knesset Lobby Tours Jordan Valley. 15 members of the Land of Israel Knesset Lobby toured the Jordan Valley on Thursday. Minister Gideon Saar said, "For the sake of the strategic safety of Israel, we must preserve a military and civilian presence in the Jordan Valley." Coalition Chairman Yariv Levin added that the lobby stands behind PM Netanyahu in face of US pressure. ([Israel National News](#) 2 January 2014)
- The Truth Behind the Jordan Valley. *Security for Settlers, Not the State of Israel*. How many Israelis actually live in the Jordan Valley **today**? Hundreds of thousands? Tens of thousands? Actually, not so many. According to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, 6,042 Israelis live in the Jordan Valley (CBS 2012). That is about the same as filling half of a grandstand at Teddy Stadium. In the last 20 years there has been minimal growth in the number of settlers in the Jordan Valley. The average growth is about 60 people a year. Settlements, of such minor scale, have no military significance for the future of Israel. All of the talk about the string of settlements in the Jordan Valley protecting Israel's eastern border is nothing more than right wing political propaganda, disconnected from reality, whose purpose is to undermine the prospects of reaching a two-state solution. The Jordan Valley is nearly devoid of Israeli residents, rather there is a large Palestinian population. There are ten times more Palestinians, 65,000 in

the Jordan valley. Over the years, by declaring state land, firing zones and nature reserves, Israel has managed to take over 77.5% of the land. Israeli farmers living in the area enjoy large tracts of land as well as, cheap and plentiful Palestinian labor. The Jordan Valley has become an agricultural real estate asset that bears fruit for a handful of settlers, who exploit the land and water resources, which are essential resources for the local Palestinians. Despite the economic benefits, most of the Jordan Valley settlers are not proponents of the national-religious ideology and would agree to evacuate as part of a peace agreement. Some of the settlements have already been abandoned by the founding generation and were replaced by “reinforcement” groups from religious Zionism who are changing the character of settlements in the Jordan Valley; replacing supporters of the labor movement with followers of Gush Emunim. Militarily, the Jordan Valley was once considered a strategic military asset for Israel. That concept was developed around the end of the Six-Day War, known as the 'Alon Plan'. This plan was created in a context in which, Israel faced a serious existential threat from the east in the form of thousands of Iraqi soldiers and tanks who could have made their way towards the center of Israel. Forty-five years later the map of threats has changed. The threat of an invasion by armored forces from the east no longer exists, technological advances have diminished the enemy's ability to surprise and, if necessary, the IDF can reach any place in the Jordan Valley within half an hour. The area is already empty of Israeli settlers, and is already empty of infantry and armored regiments. Most of the soldiers stationed in the Jordan Valley are engaged in routine security missions along the border fence, mainly protecting the settlers and inspecting the Palestinian laborers at the checkpoints. If a political decision is made to separate into two states, the same level of security can be maintained by strict security arrangements on the border, electronic observation and the presence of international forces at the border crossings. Surely this would not require annexing the whole Jordan Valley and leaving the settlements in place. It is not the security of Israel that interests Miri Regev, Gideon Sa'ar and their friends, it is the security of all the settlements that they are after. The right-wing knows very well that there will be no peace agreement without evacuating the Jordan Valley. The right-wing's use of the Jordan valley as a political card, is a cunning, even demagoguing attempt to undermine an agreement. They too know that the Jordan Valley is almost empty and its military value in the present reality is not significant. They too know that the number of settlers in the area is small and most will agree to evacuate in exchange for an agreement. So why confuse the public with

facts and figures when you can hide behind clichés about security and settlements? The Jordan Valley, which really was a security need in the past, is slowly turning into the political security zone for the settlers of Yitzhar and Itamar, who are using it to guarantee their places on the hilltops of Judea and Samaria. (Peace Now 2 January 2013)

- MKs: Without Jordan Valley, Israel Can't Defend Itself. The Jordan Valley must remain part of Israel in the event of any negotiated settlement, declare MKs, Ministers on a tour of the area. The Jordan Valley must remain a part of Israel in the event of any negotiated settlement, Interior Minister Gideon Sa'ar said Thursday. On a visit to the area, Sa'ar said that without the Jordan Valley, there was no way Israel could defend itself. "Without the Jordan Valley, Israel will not have the strategic depth necessary to defend itself," Sa'ar said. During a visit to the area with the Knesset's Land of Israel Lobby, Sa'ar said that "an Israeli military presence in the Jordan Valley will be a requirement of Israel's defense for many generations to come." In order to have such a presence, he added, there needed to be an Israeli settlement presence as well. "Without Jewish settlement, the army has nothing to defend and no reason to be there, and without the army there will be only terror." Israel must fully embrace the Jordan Valley and make it a part of the state in order to prevent it from turning into a terror base, he said. Also on the tour was Coalition head Yariv Levin. Levin said that the Lobby was behind Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and would support him in any way to prevent U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry from pressuring him into accepting a deal with the PA that was bad for Israel. "The Jordan Valley is Israeli and will remain Israeli," Levin said. "We are here because we have right to be here. Security concerns are important but they are not the main reason for our right to this area." Echoing Sa'ar, Levin said that an Israeli civilian presence was absolutely necessary in order to ensure that the area did not turn into a nest for terrorists. "We have a clear message for the Prime Minister," he added. "We have a strong coalition that will ensure the security of the Jordan Valley. We expect him to remain strong on this issue. I am sure that we will continue to develop the Jordan Valley and help it grow." ([Israel National News](#) 2 January 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to demolish two houses and an animal barracks in Khirbet Al-Hama in the northern of Jordan valley. (ARN 9 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities notified 25 Palestinian families (about 120 Palestinians) to evacuate their houses in Khirbet Ibziq in the

northern of Jordan valley on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2014, from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., under the claim that the IOA will start military trainings in the area. (ARN 19 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished two Palestinian houses and two animal barracks in Khirbet Ibiq in the northern of Jordan valley. (Wafa 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation bulldozers demolished 20 Palestinian structures in Khirbet Yarza in the northern of Jordan valley. The targeted structures are owned by: Muthaqil Daraghma, Faiz Daraghma, Fowzi Anbusi, Khalid Daraghma, Na'em Masa'ed and Sami Daraghma. (ARN 23 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished all the structures in Khirbet Um Al-Jamal in the northern Valley, which it's about 50 structures (included residents tents and animal barracks), and displaced more than 13 Palestinian families. (Al-Quds 30 January 2014)

## Ramallah

- Abd Al-Rahman Betlou (16 years) and a Palestinian journalist were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation, after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades. (NBPRS 3 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Shilo settlement wrote anti-Palestinian slogans at the wall of houses in Sinjil village, north of Ramallah city. (Raya 9 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in An-Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of 2 Palestinian children. (Al-Quds 10 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Nilin village, northwest of Ramallah city, after the IOA attacked the weekly non-violent protest against Segregation wall and settlements in the village. The IOA fired live bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of a Palestinian. (Al-Quds 10 January 2014)
- Four Palestinians and two international activists were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA

- fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades. (Al-Quds 10 January 2014)
- Four Palestinians were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah city. (Al-Quds 10 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers living in Beit El settlement escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) hurled stones at a Palestinian vehicle owned by Mus'ab Jaber while he was traveling near the settlement. (Wattan 12 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed all the entrance of Abud village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the village. (Quds Net 12 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) erected seven military checkpoints at the entrance of several Palestinian villages in Ramallah governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wattan 13 January 2014)
  - Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained the Palestinian Prime Minister; Rami Al-Hamdalla, while he was near Turmus'ayya village, north of Ramallah city. (RB2000 14 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed a Palestinian farm in Kafr Ein village, north of Ramallah city, razed land and destroyed the main gate. The targeted farm is owned by Abu Wassil Al-Khateeb. (Al-Ayyam 15 January 2014)
  - Five Palestinians were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation, after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at participants. The injuries Palestinians were identified as: Abdalla Abu Rahma (43 years), Rashed Al-Khateeb (20 years), Eid Al-Khateeb (20 years), MohammadYaseen (21 years) and Ashraf Abu Rahma (35 years). (Maannews 17 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in An-Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 17 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Silwad village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the

- operation, the IOA arrested a Palestinian and transferred him to unknown location. (Al-Ayyam 18 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Maale Levona settlement uprooted more than 800 olive and almond seedlings in Ar-Rashid area in Sinjil village, north of Ramallah city. The targeted seedlings funded by the International Red Cross. (Maannews & NBPRS 22 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) dispersed the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of two people were identified as: Nimir Atta (19 years) and Wael Birnat (35 years). (Al-Quds 24 January 2014)
  - 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 teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds 24 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Silwad village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Ayyam 24 January 2014)
  - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Deir Abu Mesh'al village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades. During the clashes, the IOA erected a military checkpoint at the northern entrance of the village, where the IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles. (Safa 26 January 2014)
  - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the southern entrance of Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades. (PNN 26 January 2014)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stopped and detained the Palestinian Prime Minister; Dr. Rami Al-Hamdala, at the entrance of Ramallah city. (RB2000 28 January 2014)
  - The Israeli Civil Administration submitted a building scheme in Al Quds Daily Newspaper for Public Review<sup>3</sup>. The Regional Plan No. (1570/38/11), Mandate scheme, R/6, pool No. 9 parts of basin number in Leghrous area in Nilin village, west of Ramallah city. The plan

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<sup>3</sup> It is the last step before approving the building scheme, after which, building permits and tenders may be issued



indicates a modification of the use of agricultural land to residential area. (Al-Quds 1 January 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained for hours the Mayor of Ramallah and Al-Beirh; Dr. Lila Ghanam, after stopping her at the road link between Ramallah and Nablus cities. (Al-Quds 29 January 2014)
- Mohammad Mahmoud Mubark (22 years) from Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah city, was killed after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at him while he was near Ein Siniya village, north of Ramallah city. (Maannews 29 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched a Palestinian house in Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah city, and confiscated a laptop. The targeted house owned by the father of Mohammad Mubarik, which the IOA killed him on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2014, while he was near Ein Siniya village. (RB2000 30 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) near the Israeli Jail of Ofar in Ramallah governorate. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades. (PNN 30 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Safa 31 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Nilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Safa 31 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in An-Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of an International journalist. (Wafa 31 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired live bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of 16 people. (Maannews 31 January 2014)

## Jericho

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished four houses and four barracks in Wadi Karzaliyah area in Al-Jiftlik village, north of Jericho city. The targeted houses and barracks are owned by: Fathi Tariq, Omar Tariq, Zahi Bani Minyah, Atiya Bani Minyah and Zuhir Bani Minyah. (Wafa 8 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished a 120 square meters barracks in Al-'Auja village, north of Jericho city. (Wafa 8 January 2014)
- Israeli authorities demolish Palestinian shepherding community in Jordan Valley. Palestinian community of [Khirbet 'Ein Karzaliyah](#) [2] in the northern [Jordan Valley](#) [3]. They then proceeded to demolish all of the community's buildings, thereby rendering homeless the entire population – three families comprised of 10 adults and 15 minors. The residents have been left with no shelter for themselves or their livestock in the harsh winter weather conditions. The Israeli military also demolished the only water-pipe available to the residents. B'Tselem Director Jessica Montell addressed the demolitions in Khirbet 'Ein Karzaliyah earlier today, saying "Israel has once again forgotten that control entails responsibility. The Jordan Valley cannot be addressed as a merely theoretical issue, discussing its future while completely disregarding the fate of its residents. At the moment, the authorities must set aside their political ambitions and consider the fate of 25 individuals, who do not know how they'll get through the night and how their flocks, their only source of income and livelihood, will fare." The past few weeks have seen an ongoing public debate in Israel regarding the future of the Jordan Valley, even including the introduction of a bill proposing its annexation to Israel. The domestic Israeli debates as well as the diplomatic debates are being conducted in complete detachment from the reality on the ground in the Jordan Valley, which is home to thousands of Palestinians. These Palestinian residents live in difficult conditions, subject to harassment and continuous threats from Israeli authorities. The current legal status of the Jordan Valley is that of an occupied territory. Israel, as the occupying power, is responsible for the fate of the residents of the Jordan Valley and is obligated to assure their wellbeing. This obligation includes ensuring that residents are afforded the opportunity to build homes for themselves and to make a living. The demolition of the residential compound in Khirbet 'Ein Karzaliyah this morning – against the law and without offering the residents any viable alternative – runs contrary to Israel's obligations and is in blatant violation of the rules of International Humanitarian Law that Israel has undertaken to uphold. The Civil Administration determined that the buildings must be demolished, citing the argument that the community is located in a closed military zone used as a firing zone. The expulsion of residents of an occupied territory from their homes for the purpose of military training by the occupying power is unlawful. International Humanitarian Law stipulates that such

expulsion is permissible only in the case of imperative military needs or to safeguard the local population. ([B'Tselem](#) 8 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) seized 6 tent distrusted by the International Red Cross to the Palestinians in Karziya area in Al-Jiftlik village, north of Jericho city. Note that the IOA demolished a number of houses in the aforementioned area two days ago. (Wattan 13 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest near Al-Jiftlik village, north of Jericho city, and near an Israeli bypass road No. 90. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the operation, the IOA arrested three activists. (Wafa 18 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) demolished four houses and an animal barracks in Al-Masfah area in Al-Jiftlik village, north of Jericho city. The targeted houses and barracks are owned by: Ali, Ala', Raid, Laith and Mohammad Ali Ka'abnih. (Raya & Maannews 29 January 2014)

## Salfit

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house in Kifl Haris village, north of Salfit city. The targeted house is owned by the Mayor of the village Issam Abu Yacoub. The IOA informed Mr. Yacoub that the IOA will close the main entrance of the village. (Maannews 9 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation bulldozers razed land in Izbit Kaid and Abu Basal area around Ariel settlement, north of Salfit city to construct a number of new factories. (NBPRS 12 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers torched the main entrance of Ali Bin Abi Taleb mosque in Deir Istiya village, north of Salfit city. (Raya 15 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Kafal Haris village, north of Salfit city, visited a number of Islamic places and performed Talmudic rituals. (NBPRS 17 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Ariel settlement took five cows owned by Palestinians from Bruqin village, west of Salfit city. (Sama News 21 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) uprooted 1000 of olive trees in Wadi Qana area, north of Salfit city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (RB2000 23 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed the gate of Kafal Haris village, north of Salfit city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 24 January 2014)

- Israeli settlers living in Ariel settlement re-pumped wastewater at Palestinian land at the northern part of Salfit city, causing the damaged in natural areas and parks. (Maannews 29 January 2014)

## Tulkarem

- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed 40 dunums of Palestinian land planted with olive trees in area located between Shofa and Kafa villages, south of Tulkarm city, and cut a number of them. (Sama News 8 January 2014)
- The Israeli Civil Administration submitted a building scheme in Al Quds Daily Newspaper for Public Review<sup>4</sup>. The Regional Plan No. (1241/36/13), Mandate scheme, S-15, pool No. 1 parts of basin number 15 in Khirbet Ras 'Atiya in Kafr Thulth village in Tulkarm governorate. The plan indicates a modification of the use of agricultural land to educational buildings. (Al-Quds 30 January 2013)
- The Israeli Civil Administration submitted a building scheme in Al Quds Daily Newspaper for Public Review<sup>5</sup>. The Regional Plan No. (1254/41/13), Mandate scheme, S-15, pool No. 6 parts of basin number 597 in Khirbet Ras At-Tirah in Kafr Thulth village in Tulkarm governorate. The plan indicates a modification of the use of agricultural land to educational buildings and public roads. (Al-Quds 30 January 2013)

## Nablus

- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Joseph tomb in the eastern part of Nablus city, and performed Talmudic rituals. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds 2 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to demolish 6 Palestinian houses in the eastern part of Rujeib village, east of Nablus city. The targeted houses are owned by: Mohammad Moen Said, Mujahed Sabri Dwikat, Mahmoud Sabri, Ridah Dahir Halabe, Ahmed Radi Halabe and Ibrahim Shahada. (Al-Quds 2 January 2014)

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<sup>4</sup> It is the last step before approving the building scheme, after which, building permits and tenders may be issued

<sup>5</sup> It is the last step before approving the building scheme, after which, building permits and tenders may be issued

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Urif village, south of Nablus city and fired teargas grenades at Palestinian houses. (Wattan 5 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities prevented the Palestinian Agricultural Relief committees (PARC) from constructing an agricultural road in Khirbet At-Tawel in Aqraba village, southeast of Nablus city. The targeted road length 1.5 kilometers and will benefit more than 100 Palestinian farmers. (Quds Net 6 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed a Palestinian school in Urif village, destroyed a water tank and carried out provocative actions. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 6 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers invaded Awarta village, south of Nablus city and performed Talmudic rituals. (Wafa 6 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to demolish two Palestinian houses in Khirbet At-Tawel in Aqraba village, southeast of Nablus city. The targeted houses are owned by: Baha Ma'rouf Abd Al-Ghani and Firas Mohammad Khadir. (Wafa 6 January 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a number of Palestinian houses in several areas in Nablus city. During the operation, the IOA confiscated a number of laptops, mobiles and vehicles. (Wattan 7 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Qusra village, south of Nablus city and uprooted a number of olive trees. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Wafa & ARN 7 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers attacked Jalud village, south of Nablus city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers. (Wafa 7 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Shilo and Eli settlements carried out provocative actions at the main road of Qaryut village, south of Nablus city. (Al-Quds 7 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers torched two Palestinian vehicles and wrote anti Palestinian slogans in Madama village, south of Nablus city. The targeted vehicles are owned by Sameh Al-Qat and Rami Nassir. (Sama News 8 January 2013)
- Video: Military accompanies settler attack, 'Urif, Monday. B'Tselem: Military appears to have served as security entourage for Hilltop

Youth. On the morning of Monday 6 January 2014, a group of masked settlers, coming from the direction of the settlement of Yitzhar, arrived at the village of 'Urif, near Nablus. They reached the eastern outskirts of the village, going to the construction site of a water reservoir being built with USAID funding. The settlers smashed the electricity meter and threw stones at the home of the Safadi family, adjacent to the construction site. They also threw stones at the school, located about 100 meters away. The settlers were accompanied by soldiers as well as by at least one armed settler equipped with a two-way radio, who is apparently one of the settlement's security guards. Usama Safadi, a local villager, filmed the incident and gave the footage to B'Tselem. The footage he shot shows settlers throwing stones, while soldiers stand beside them. The soldiers took no measures to arrest the settlers, to remove them from the area, or at the very least to put an end to the stone-throwing. Several students at the school threw stones back at the settlers and the soldiers fired teargas at the students. At that point, the teachers called the students into the school building to keep them away from the confrontation. The incident lasted approximately 50 minutes, at which point the settlers left, heading in the direction of the settlement of Yitzhar. The footage of the settlers as they head up the hill shows them passing several vehicles parked on the slope: two military jeeps, a white jeep and a pickup truck, probably belonging to the settlement's security personnel. Two of the settlers who took part in the assault are seen heading over to the security vehicle and one of them is then seen taking a jacket from the back of the pickup truck. Even at this point, there appears to be no attempt by the military to arrest the assailants, or even to learn their identity. Later, five soldiers are seen heading up from the village in the direction of the settlement. The filmed record of the incident indicates that the soldiers acted with disregard to their duty to protect the Palestinians: they did not put an end to the violent acts they witnessed, responding only when Palestinians threw stones back at the settlers. The soldiers also do not seem to have made any attempt to identify the masked individuals or detain them until the police arrived on the scene, so they could be charged appropriately. To the best of B'Tselem's knowledge, the soldiers did not provide the police with their own accounts of the incident. The filmed record indicates that the military, which is required to defend Palestinians in the West Bank, in actual fact served as a security entourage for violent settlers. During the incident, the military backed the settlers in their assault on Palestinians and their property. In light of the footage it received, B'Tselem plans to apply to the relevant authorities, demanding that an investigation of the

incident be launched immediately. The investigation must examine the conduct of the soldiers and officers on-site during the incident, of the assailants and of the settlement's security personnel. B'Tselem also plans to demand that all security forces serving on the ground be informed of their duty to protect the local Palestinian population and their property against such attacks. ([B'Tselem](#) 8 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Urif village, south of Nablus city, and tried to arrest a number of Palestinian students while they were in Urif High School. As a result, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (Wafa 12 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Qusra village, southeast of Nablus city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Wattan 13 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several – Palestinian houses in Jalud village, south of Nablus city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (Wattan 13 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Qaryut village, south of Nablus city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Wattan 13 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers hurled stones at a vehicle belonging to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. The incident occurred near al-Sawiya village, south of Nablus city, as a group of seven ministry staff members were returning to Ramallah. The vehicle's windows were smashed and several passengers suffered light injuries from broken glass. (Raya 15 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Bracha settlement attacked Palestinians in Burin village, south of Nablus city, while they were working in their land. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and settlers. (Al-Quds 15 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) along with bulldozers razed 60 dunums of Palestinian land in Jalud village, south of Nablus city. The targeted land is owned by Rashed Al-Haj Mohammad. (Wafa 15 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Joseph tomb in Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus city and performed Talmudic rituals. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fire teargas and stun grenades. (NBPRS 17 January 2014)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Nablus city, after the IOA stormed several areas in Nablus city. (RB2000 18 January 2014)

- Israeli settlers attacked the eastern part of Beit Furik village, east of Nablus city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and settlers. Later on, the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed the village and fired teargas grenades at Palestinian houses. (NBPRS 21 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers destroyed punctured the tires of 8 Palestinian vehicles and destroyed their windows in Qabalan village, south of Nablus city, and wrote anti Palestinian slogans on the wall of a house. (Wafa 21 January 2014)
- Akram Ghassan Salah (12 years) was serious injured after a bomb, dropped by Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) during training, exploded in his hands, in Aqraba village, southeast of Nablus city. (Wafa & IMEMC 22 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Itamar settlement escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked Palestinian houses in Beit Furik village, east of Nablus city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli settlers. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injueru of two people. (Raya 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation bulldozers demolished an agricultural structure in Ein Ad-Dwa area in Aqraba village, southeast of Nablus city. The targeted structure is owned by Yasir Qasous. (Safa 22 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Itamar settlement attacked Palestinian houses in Beit Furik village, southeast of Nablus city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and settlers. (Al-Quds 24 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Eli settlement wrote anti-Palestinian slogans on trees in Qaryut village, south of Nablus city. (NBPRS 25 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinians from Jalud village, south of Nablus city, from working in their land, which located near Yesh Kodesh outpost. (Wafa 26 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Itamar settlement escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded the southeast part of Beit Furik village, east of Nablus city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli settlers, where the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases, and the injured of others. (Raya & RB2000 27 January 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement uprooted 25 olive trees in Ash-Sha'ra area in Madama village, south of Nablus city. The targeted trees are owned by Anwar Abd Al-Latif Nassar. (Raya 29 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several Palestinian houses in Ein Shibli village, east of Nablus city, during military training hold by the IOA in the village. The IOA questioned the residents and checked ID cards. (Wattan 30 January 2014)



- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Joseph tomb in the eastern part of Nablus city and performed Talmudic rituals. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of Zainab Al-Maghribi (65 years) and Adnan Al-Amouri (13 years). (Al-Quds 30 January 2014)

## Gaza

- Israeli Occupation warplanes launched several missiles at Palestinian lands, south of Al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central of Gaza strip. (Safa 3 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Warplanes launched several missiles at land in Al-Kaf area, east of Beit Hanun town, north of Gaza strip. (Safa 3 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation warplanes launched missiles at a Palestinian factory in Ash-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza city. (Safa 3 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian houses and land Khaza'a and Al-Foukhari towns in Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. (Wattan 3 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing at Rafah and Beit Lahiya shores in Gaza strip. (Wattan 3 January 2014)
- Adnan Abu Khatir (17 years) was killed and four others were injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at them while they were at the eastern part of Jabaliya town, north of Gaza strip. (Wattan & Al-Quds 3 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian houses and land, east of Rafah city, south of the Gaza strip. (Quds Net 7 January 2014)
- Mohammad Salamah Al-Ajala (32 years) was killed and two others were injured after the Israeli Occupation warplanes launched a missile at a Palestinian house in Ash-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza city. (Wafa 8 January 2014)
- Two Palestinians were injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) launched a missile at a motorcycle, east of Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. (Wafa 9 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) staged few meters into Palestinian land in Maan area, east of Al-Khaza town, east of Khan Younis city, and opened fire at houses and land. (Wafa 9 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at a Palestinian while he was near the border fence, east of Gaza city. (Wattan 12 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire and injured a Palestinian (20 years) while he was near the border fence, east of Jabaliya town, north of Gaza strip. (Wattan 12 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation warplanes launched several missiles at areas, east of Al-Burij refugee camp in the central of Gaza strip, causing the injury of a Palestinian child (3 years). (Panorama FM & Safa 13 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation warplanes launched missiles at Al-Birka area in Deir Al-Balah city in the central of Gaza strip. (Safa 13 January 2014).
- Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing at Gaza shore. (Sama News 13 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation jeeps and bulldozers staged few meters into the northern part of Beit Lahiya town in Gaza strip, and opened fire at Palestinian land and houses. (Al-Quds 14 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing at As-Sudaniya shore in Gaza strip. (Maannews 14 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation jeeps and bulldozers staged few meters into Abssan area, east of Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip, and razed Palestinian land. (Maannews 15 January 2014)
- Four children and a woman were injured in Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip. Several strikes hit areas in the west and east of Gaza City, with all of the injured suffering shrapnel wounds. (Maannews 16 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fired at a Palestinian fishing boat while it was sailing at As-Sudaniya shore, northwest of Gaza strip. (Wattan 17 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) launched two missiles at an agricultural land, east of Johor Ad-Dik area, southeast of Gaza city. (Wattan 17 January 2014)
- Five Palestinians were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest near the border fence, east of Gaza city. The IOA fired live bullets, teargas and stun grenades. Two of the injuries Palestinians were identified as: Hamad Ashour (21 years), Majed Abu Salmiya (25 years) (Al-Quds 17 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian farmers while they were working in land, east of Abbsan area, east of Khan Younis city in Gaza strip. (Quds Net 18 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation jeeps and bulldozers staged few meters into the eastern part of Jabaliya town, north of Gaza strip, and razed Palestinian land. (Paltoday 18 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation warplanes launched two missiles at an area in Bani Suheila town, east of Khan Younis city, causing damaged in a number of Palestinian houses. (Wattan 19 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation warplanes launched three missiles at an area in An-Nuseirat refugee camp and launched several missiles at an agricultural land in Ash-Shuja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza city. (Wattan 19 January 2014)
- Three Palestinians were injured after the Israeli Occupation warplanes launched a missile at a motorcycle in As-Saftawi area, north of Gaza city. (Wattan 19 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing at As-Sudaniya shore, northwest of Gaza city. (Wafa 19 January 2014)
- Two Palestinians; Ahmed Mohammad Az-Za'aneen (21 years) and Mohammad Yousif Az-Za'aneen (23 years) were killed after an Israeli Occupation warplane launched a missile at their vehicle in the northern part of Beit Hanoun town, north of the Gaza strip. (Wafa 22 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian lands and houses, east of Abbsan and Al-Qarara villages and Al-Faraheen neighborhood, southeast of Khan Younis city, north of Gaza strip. (Wattan 24 January 2014)
- Bilal Samir Awiday (20 years) was killed and others were injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at a group of Palestinians while they were in area east of Jabaliya town, south of Gaza strip. (Maannews 24 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian land, east of Al-Qarara village, northeast of Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. (PNN 25 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing at Gaza shore. (Maannews 25 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian houses, east of Al-Fakhariya area, in Khan Younis city, north of Gaza strip. (ARN 26 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers staged for 50 meters into the eastern part of Beit Hanun town, north of Gaza strip, and razed land. (Safa 27 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire and seriously injured a Palestinian (34 years), while he was at Abu Al-Ajeen area, east of Deir Al-Balah city in Gaza strip. (Al-Quds 27 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and bulldozers staged few meters into the eastern part of Abbsan town, east of Khan Younis city, south of

Gaza strip, opened fire at houses and razed lands. (Al-Quds 28 January 2014)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian farmers while they were near the border fence in Al-Khaza'a town, east of Khan Younis city south of Gaza strip. (PNN 30 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinians while they were at the eastern part of Jabaliya town, north of Gaza strip, causing the injury of four Palestinians. (Wafa 31 January 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire and injured a Palestinian (27 years) while he was at the eastern part of Beit Lahiya town, north of Gaza strip. (Maannews 31 January 2014)

## Others

- Netanyahu puts settlement construction plans on hold until after Kerry visit. A senior official in Jerusalem says the prime minister asked the housing minister to delay publication of tenders for new West Bank homes; 'nobody wants to stick a finger in Kerry's eye,' he says. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asked Housing Minister Uri Ariel to delay publication of tenders for the construction of 1,400 new housing units in West Bank settlements and East Jerusalem until after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's visit, senior Israeli officials said Wednesday. Kerry will arrive in Israel on Thursday for a series of meetings with Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in order to continue efforts at drafting the "framework agreement" for peace talks, which the U.S. hopes to present by the end of the month. The secretary of state will stay in the region until Sunday, at least, and is likely to extend his visit by a few extra days. Netanyahu announced last week that he planned to publish the new tenders after the third stage of the Palestinian prisoner release, which was carried out on Monday night. Tenders for construction were published after each of the first two stages of the prisoner release. Although the number of units and location of construction were leaked unofficially to the public, the actual contracting tenders have not yet been published on the Housing Ministry website or in the media. A senior official in Jerusalem said that Netanyahu and Ariel have an understanding that the tenders will be published after Kerry's visit: "Nobody has an intention of sticking a finger in Kerry's eye," said the official. "On this matter, there is full coordination between the prime minister and the housing minister." Earlier Wednesday, the Jerusalem Municipal Planning and Building Committee decided at the last minute to pull from the day's agenda deliberations on the construction of a nine-story

structure for a yeshiva in the predominantly Arab [East Jerusalem](#) neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. This move also seems intended to avoid raising U.S. ire over settlement construction. Ohr Somayach, a yeshiva that has operated in Jerusalem for decades and serves mostly newly religious students, recently submitted the plan to the city's local Planning and Building Committee, which initially decided to put it on the agenda despite objections from some of the city's own employees who say the plan would not serve the area's local population. The building is planned for an empty lot, most of which belongs to the Israel Lands Authority, and is located behind a neighborhood gas station. In addition to the nine stories, the new yeshiva building would also consist of three more floors underground, spanning a total of 9,615 square meters. ([Haaretz](#) 1 January 2014)

- Danon Warns: Referendum Idea is Dangerous. Dep. Defense Minister says nationalists are wrong to rely on the promise that no land will be ceded without a referendum. Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon (Likud) has begun a campaign to dissuade the nationalist camp from relying on a national referendum to prevent a peace deal involving irresponsible cession of land. According to Danon, new elections should be held to stop a peace deal, not a referendum. **A bill** was passed in July requiring a national referendum on any final status agreement with the Palestinian Authority (PA), amid ongoing peace talks. Danon told *Arutz Sheva* that "a national referendum is a means for allowing the government to advance discussion on core problematic issues while preserving the government and the coalition." "In this way a referendum gives an alibi to wide sections of the Likud and the coalition, to rely on a referendum to determine their positions and activities against such issues," asserted Danon. The Deputy Minister claimed the democratic nature of a national referendum is being mistakenly portrayed, and called instead for elections. "A process as important as the peace deal was not brought up before the elections and didn't appear on party platforms," remarked Danon, "and therefore holding new elections to let the public make its voice and trust known, in accordance with party platforms, is totally justified." "There's an attempt here to put faith in something that sounds democratic but in actuality allows withdrawal from essential portions of the land of Israel," argued Danon. "Knesset elections are the true referendum ." Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, the chairman of Danon's Likud party, has declared time and again that any peace deal will **need to pass** a national referendum. "We must look on the one side at those who advance the deal, like Netanyahu, and supporters of conciliatory positions who agree to referendums, and on the other side

those who oppose the deal and are for the referendum. One of the two sides is mistaken," asserted Danon. When asked how he explains the fact that there are those in the nationalist camp who support a referendum, Danon remarked: "Elements in the Right don't understand that a referendum, when the nationalist camp is in power, doesn't serve the nationalist camp, but could be an extra security valve in case the nationalist camp is not in power." On Monday, Danon spoke at a Likud party meeting, where he opposed **US plans** and their entailed Israeli withdrawals. "The Jordan Valley is a part of the state of Israel, and whoever thinks otherwise apparently is in **the wrong party**," declared Danon. ([Israel National News](#) 1 January 2013)

- **B'Tselem reviews 2013: 5-year high in number of Palestinian fatalities in West Bank.** Three times as many people were killed in the West Bank in 2013 as were in 2012. This calculation is based on data compiled by Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem. In contrast to the situation from 2003 to 2012 when most Palestinian fatalities occurred in the Gaza Strip, in 2013 the majority of Palestinian fatalities occurred in the West Bank. According to the data for the past year, Israeli security forces killed 27 Palestinians in the West Bank in 21 separate incidents and nine Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in seven incidents. The incidents that resulted in fatalities in the West Bank include the following instances: In nine incidents, Israeli security forces entered Palestinian communities for the purpose of what the military calls arrest operations: In four of these incidents, soldiers fired shots when stones were thrown at them; another four incidents involved exchanges of fire; regarding the last incident the Israeli military maintains that there were exchanges of fire, but B'Tselem has been unable to verify this information. In three incidents, soldiers fired while lying in wait to capture stone-throwers. In four incidents, soldiers discharged lethal gunfire when Palestinians were throwing stones. Five incidents occurred under other kinds of conditions: one man was shot when he tried to enter Israel without carrying a legal entry permit; one woman passerby was shot by the military who argued that a Molotov cocktail had been lobbed in the area; one man was shot when he broke into a military base with a tractor; and one man was shot after allegedly assaulting a Border Police officer. Of the Gaza residents killed: four were taking part in the hostilities when they were killed; three were not; regarding one, it is unknown whether or not he was taking part in the hostilities; and one was killed in a targeted assassination. In addition, two Palestinians were killed in Israel this year, one a resident of the West Bank and the other of the Gaza Strip. In contrast, in 2012, Israeli security forces killed 8

Palestinians in the West Bank and 246 in the Gaza Strip (including 167 during Operation Pillar of Defense), of whom 104 who were not taking part in the hostilities. Palestinians killed three Israeli civilians this year, two in the West Bank and one near the Gaza perimeter fence. In 2012, four Israeli civilians in Israel were killed by Palestinians who launched rockets and shells from the Gaza Strip, whereas no Israeli civilians were killed by Palestinians in the West Bank. In 2013 Palestinians also killed three Israeli security forces personnel, in Israel and in the West Bank. The same figure as in 2012. Two years and eight months have passed since the new investigative policy of the MAG Corps went into effect. In that time 35 Palestinians [2] were killed by soldiers in 28 separate incidents. The Military Police Investigation Unit (MPIU) launched an investigation of 23 of the fatalities which occurred in 19 incidents. To date, the MAG Corps has made a decision regarding only five of all incidents: In one case a decision was made not to launch an investigation. In three cases the investigative file was closed without adopting any measures against the individuals involved: In one case B'Tselem appealed the decision [3] to close the file and in another [4] B'Tselem is currently waiting to receive the material in the investigation file. In another incident a soldier was indicted and then convicted [5] by plea bargain based on his admission. The MAG Corps has yet to tender its decision regarding 21 cases: Eleven cases are still under investigation or awaiting additional investigative material. In four cases the MPIU investigation was completed. The file was sent to the MAG Corps and is awaiting its decision on the matter. In six cases the MAG Corps has yet to decide whether to launch an investigation. Regarding five of these cases, the MAG Corps justified its position in that the person or persons killed do not meet the definition of "a civilian uninvolved in fighting". In the sixth case [6], B'Tselem was informed that a "limited investigation" – the meaning of which is unknown to B'Tselem – was launched. Regarding two other cases, B'Tselem does not know the investigation status. Upon publication of the statistics, B'Tselem Director Jessica Montell said, "The sharp rise in fatalities in the West Bank only serves to intensify concern about lack of accountability. Admittedly, MPIU investigations are now launched almost automatically, yet the essence of the investigative mechanism remains unchanged. It is slow and cumbersome and decisions are made only years after an incident takes place. Such a mechanism, in which practically no one is held accountable for the killing of Palestinians, does not serve as a deterrent and indicates disregard for human life." ([B'Tselem](#) 1 January 2013)

- Deputy foreign minister: 1967 borders are Auschwitz borders. Zeev Elkin adds: Likud must reject any proposal to withdraw from the West Bank; MKs hold dedication ceremony for new neighborhood in Jordan Valley settlement. Deputy Foreign Minister Zeev Elkin said Thursday that “the 1967 borders are Auschwitz borders” and therefore Likud has to reject any proposal to withdraw from the West Bank. Elkin, of the Likud party himself, spoke during a morning tour of settlements in the Jordan Valley attended by parliamentarians and ministers that are members the Land of Israel lobby. The tour, in which Interior Minister Gideon Sa’ar (Likud) participated, took place a few hours before U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry landed in Israel. Kerry is expected to meet Thursday evening with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss the “framework agreement” for peace that the United States is interested in presenting to Israel and the Palestinians by the end of January. “The Jordan Valley must be under Israeli sovereignty forever,” said Elkin at a dedication ceremony for a new neighborhood in the settlement of Gitit in the Jordan Valley. “Now of all times, in a government headed by Likud, in a settlement built by Likud, we can say loud and clear: You will remain here forever and there will be Israeli sovereignty here.” Elkin added: “To all those who are now making proposals for Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, there is only one reply, which was already given in 1969 by then- foreign minister Abba Eban: The 1967 borders are Auschwitz borders! The only reply that Likud government should give to such proposals is: No! It’s right to talk to our neighbors, but it’s illogical for them to ask us to give up the security of Israel’s inhabitants and Israel’s vital interests. Anyone who gives up the Jordan Valley will turn Kfar Sava into Sderot.” ([Israel National News](#) & [Haaretz](#) 2 January 2014)
- Border Town Mayor: Help Judea and Samaria, Too. The mayor of Kiryat Shmona welcomes government development, but says: don’t prefer us to Judea, Samaria. The mayor of Kiryat Shmona in northern Israel welcomes development in the region, but is asking that the government not give preference to the area if it means depriving those elsewhere. Mayor Nissim Malka told Arutz Sheva that the cities in northern Israel have benefited significantly from government projects over the past several years. “I believe in looking at facts, not just words. But it must be admitted that many things have been done in northern Israel that we wouldn’t have imagined five years ago,” he said. “Faster highways have been opened, like the four-lane road from Amiad Junction to Kiryat Shmona... Once it took three and a half hours to travel to Tel Aviv, today, two hours,” he related. However, he said, despite his appreciation, he rejects calls by some ministers to



focus on developing the Negev and Galilee, in Israel's south and north, in place of developing communities in Judea and Samaria (Shomron). "I support them giving to every population in the state of Israel, wherever they live," Malka declared. "I respect those who live in Judea and Samaria, good for them." "Everyone needs to receive [government development], including those in Judea and Samaria, and of course those in the north as well," he stated. Regarding plans for the future, Malka expressed strong support for calls to extend the train line north to his city. "Of course if the train comes here, we can bring more people. It would also make it worthwhile for industry to come here, and for young families who work in the Krayot [north of Haifa] or in Tel Aviv," he said. The initiative to build a university in Tel Chai is important as well, he said. "I assume that all this will take a lot more time. But things are taking the right direction," he concluded. ([Israel National News](#) 2 January 2013)

- MKs: Without Jordan Valley, Israel Can't Defend Itself. The Jordan Valley must remain part of Israel in the event of any negotiated settlement, declare MKs, Ministers on a tour of the area. The Jordan Valley must remain a part of Israel in the event of any negotiated settlement, Interior Minister Gideon Sa'ar said Thursday. On a visit to the area, Sa'ar said that without the Jordan Valley, there was no way Israel could defend itself. "Without the Jordan Valley, Israel will not have the strategic depth necessary to defend itself," Sa'ar said. During a visit to the area with the Knesset's Land of Israel Lobby, Sa'ar said that "an Israeli military presence in the Jordan Valley will be a requirement of Israel's defense for many generations to come." In order to have such a presence, he added, there needed to be an Israeli settlement presence as well. "Without Jewish settlement, the army has nothing to defend and no reason to be there, and without the army there will be only terror." Israel must fully embrace the Jordan Valley and make it a part of the state in order to prevent it from turning into a terror base, he said. Also on the tour was Coalition head Yariv Levin. Levin said that the Lobby was behind Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and would support him in any way to prevent U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry from pressuring him into accepting a deal with the PA that was bad for Israel. "The Jordan Valley is Israeli and will remain Israeli," Levin said. "We are here because we have right to be here. Security concerns are important but they are not the main reason for our right to this area." Echoing Sa'ar, Levin said that an Israeli civilian presence was absolutely necessary in order to ensure that the area did not turn into a nest for terrorists. "We have a clear message for the Prime Minister," he added. "We have a strong

coalition that will ensure the security of the Jordan Valley. We expect him to remain strong on this issue. I am sure that we will continue to develop the Jordan Valley and help it grow.” ([Israel National News](#) 3 January 2013)

- Akunis: Coalition in Danger from Kerry Deal. Deputy Minister warns coalition govt. faces significant changes due to US pressure on Jordan Valley withdrawal. Deputy Minister Ofir Akunis (Likud-Beytenu) warned Friday that significant changes may be looming in the coalition government's future, due to US Secretary of State John Kerry's peace deal that would have Israel **completely withdraw** from the Jordan Valley over the course of 10 years. Akunis, who is close to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and has recently **emphasized the importance** of the Jordan Valley, claimed US pressure could break apart the coalition, reports *Yisrael Hayom*. "The main problem threatening coalition unity is Kerry," claimed Akunis. "The problem is only growing amid a one-sided agreement, which harms the coalition's existence in its current formation, even after concessions Israel would make." Were the coalition to break apart, Shas Chairman MK Aryeh Deri has said just this Thursday that his party would not step in as a "**safety net**" to form a new coalition, enabling territorial withdrawals. Meanwhile a Rabbinical Congress for Peace delegation met Knesset ministers Wednesday, urging them to **threaten resignation** and a collapse of the coalition to thwart Israeli concessions. Akunis reports that Kerry's proposed deal "expresses an assertive American position." His comments come as Kerry is set to launch a January diplomatic "**offensive**" to force Israeli concessions. "For whatever reason (US President) Barack Obama and Kerry don't understand that precisely things done under the strongest American pressure, such as releasing murderers and ceding the (Jordan) Valley, leads to the exact opposite results of what was expected by the State Department," declared Akunis. Akunis stressed that there is a wide Israeli consensus concerning the strategic necessity of maintaining a Jordan Valley presence. Despite this, "the Americans are doing the exact opposite and hitting the most sensitive points of the Israeli public," warned Akunis. "It's a lack of understanding regarding Israeli society, and as I said, it puts the current coalition formation in danger." Meanwhile on Thursday, the Knesset's Land of Israel Lobby held a **tour of the Jordan Valley**, stressing their commitment to the region. "Without the Jordan Valley, Israel will not have the strategic depth necessary to defend itself," said Interior Minister Gideon Sa'ar during the tour, adding "an Israeli military presence in the Jordan Valley will be a requirement of Israel's defense for many generations to come." "Without Jewish

settlement, the army has nothing to defend and no reason to be there, and without the army there will be only terror," warned Sa'ar. Coalition head Yariv Levin also took part in the tour, pledging the coalition's support of Netanyahu in opposing US pressure. "We have a strong coalition that will ensure the security of the Jordan Valley," said Levin. "We expect (Netanyahu) to remain strong on this issue. I am sure that we will continue to develop the Jordan Valley and help it grow." ([Israel National News](#) 3 January 2013)

- No deal in sight, but Kerry remains optimistic. After weekend of "very intensive" talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says, "We're not there yet, but we're making progress"
  - Sen. John McCain: Netanyahu has "serious concerns" about parts of Kerry's proposals. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry continued his efforts over the weekend to achieve a "framework agreement" between Israel and the Palestinians. While such an agreement has yet to be reached, Kerry remains optimistic. "We're not there yet, but we are making progress," Kerry said in Ramallah on Saturday ahead of a meeting with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. "We are beginning to flesh out the toughest hurdles yet to be overcome." Kerry met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem twice over the weekend. On Friday, Kerry also met with Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman. On Sunday morning, Kerry departed Israel for Jordan and Saudi Arabia, where he was to brief leaders on the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. Kerry was expected to return to Israel on Sunday night for further meetings. "This has been a productive couple of days," Kerry told reporters on Sunday before his plane took off from Israel. "We have had very positive -- but I have to say very serious, very intensive -- conversations." Kerry said all the major issues in the conflict -- borders, security, the fate of Palestinian refugees and the status of Jerusalem -- were being discussed. "The path is becoming clearer," Kerry said. "The puzzle is becoming more defined. And it is becoming much more apparent to everybody what the remaining tough choices are. But I cannot tell you when, particularly, the last pieces may decide to fall into place or may fall on the floor and leave the puzzle unfinished." In a joint press conference with chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat on Saturday in Ramallah, Kerry said, "I am confident that the talks we've had in the last two days have already fleshed out and even resolved certain kinds of issues and presented new opportunities for others. That's the name of this game. It's a tough process, step by step, day by day." Netanyahu met this weekend in Jerusalem with visiting American senators John McCain,

Lindsey Graham and John Barrasso. The senators also met with President Shimon Peres. McCain said Netanyahu had "serious concerns" about parts of Kerry's proposals on the peace negotiations. McCain said he shared Netanyahu's concerns about whether some aspects of Kerry's proposals were enforceable and viable options that would not jeopardize Israel's security. Meanwhile, Palestinian officials are not particularly optimistic about peace negotiations. Palestinian officials told Israel Hayom that "Abbas is inclined toward not accepting the framework agreement presented by Kerry." Erekat said the gaps between the Palestinians and Israel were "only widening" and he repeated the claim that "Israel plans to assassinate Abbas." An anonymous Palestinian official said Kerry asked Abbas over the weekend to recognize Israel as the Jewish homeland, The Associated Press reported. The official said Abbas opposes the idea out of concerns it would hurt the right of return of Palestinian refugees to what is now Israel, but that talks are continuing. At a cultural event on Saturday, Strategic Affairs Minister Yuval Steinitz said that, at the next cabinet meeting, he would "present new and disturbing findings regarding the level of [Palestinian] incitement. Abbas wants a state, but without mutual recognition." ([Israel Hayom](#) 5 January 2014)

- Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman Will Only Support Land Swaps. Israel's Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said that he supports the idea of an agreement with the Palestinians, but stressed that it will include an exchange of territory in the Wadi Ara and noted that the future border will be more or less on Route 6. "No one has any illusions, the road is hard and long," he stressed. "It is important to think not just about the signing of the agreement, but what happens the next day." "No one has any illusions" said Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman regarding the negotiations with the Palestinians. In his latest speech, he expressed his appreciation for the efforts of US Secretary of State Kerry in the negotiation process but stressed that he would not support any proposal that does not include land swaps. "I'm not hiding that I led and run quite a few contacts and discussions with officials on the other side as well as those close to the Abu Mazen and those against him," he said . "I can say clearly that no one has any illusions. The road is hard and long, and it is good that at least everyone knows that the road is difficult. It is important to think not just about the signing of the agreement, but what happens the next day, (and) how the relationship will be between an independent Palestinian state and Israeli Arabs who define themselves as Palestinians." He clarified that the right of return will not be included in

the agreement for “a single Palestinian.” “Without an exchange of territory and populations I will not support it. I passed the message on to everyone. This is the basic condition.” He explained that this will not be a “transfer.” Lieberman elaborated that “it's not like disengagement in the case of an exchange of territory. No one is being expelled. It is merely the boundary moving towards what is now more or less the Highway 6.” As for relations with the U.S., he made it clear that we must not only think about how we could be helped by the U.S. but how little Israel could help Washington DC. **“We will make decisions independently regarding Iran.”** “Regarding the Geneva Accord, we will closely monitor the implementation of the agreement and wait but ultimately the responsibility of the citizens of Israel rests on the government of Israel and we will make all decisions independently in accordance with the conclusions and findings that we derive” from various entities and intelligence sources, he stressed. “Even now while we are sitting in this meeting and talking, the centrifuges continue to turn and enrich in uranium,” he said. “All the stories they want to develop and enrich uranium for peaceful purposes---it's like somebody saying that ‘I need a commando knife with a blade that has a length of 30 cm to smear jam on bread.’ Lieberman also stated that even an ignorant person knows what the Iranians are really striving to do. ([Jerusalem online](#) 5 January 2014)

- Peace Now: Despite Kerry's Visit- 272 Units Promoted in the Settlements. Regardless of the claims that the new housing units would be delayed until after US Secretary of State Kerry's visit, Peace Now has just revealed 272 housing units were approved for validation yesterday (5/1/14). The plans are for 250 units in the settlement of Ofra and 22 units in the settlement Karnei Shomron. These plans were published for validation online by the Civil Administration's Subcommittee for Settlements. Both settlements are isolated, located deep in the West Bank and under no circumstance will remain under Israeli sovereignty within a two-state solution peace agreement. Peace Now: *“With Kerry still in the region, preparing to present a framework agreement, Prime Minister Netanyahu’s government has once again exemplified its obsession with building in the settlements. A government that is seeking a two state solution would not further entrench the conflict by building in the settlements, and especially in settlements that have no chance to remain under Israeli sovereignty.”* The plan for Ofra (plan 221/6) intends to allow new construction, as well as, retroactively authorizes already completed illegal construction. Of the 250 housing units within the new plan, 197 housing units are new units, 53 units have already

been established without permits. Ofra is located deep in the West Bank, just east of Ramallah and adjacent to the Palestinian villages of Silwad and Ein Yabrud. The plan for Karnei Shomron (plan 117/13), known as the "entrance neighborhood" is for 22 new housing units. The settlement is built more than 12 kilometers east of the Green Line and from the Palestinian city of Qalqilyia. It is in the north of the West Bank, adjacent to Palestinian village Kafr Laquif. We expect their publication in the local newspapers in the next few days, after which 15 days from then the plans will be approved. This is the final stage of the planning process and construction could begin shortly. ([Peace Now](#) 6 January 2014)

- Netanyahu: Israel will not evacuate Hebron, Beit El as part of peace deal. PM says he opposes evacuating areas which lie outside the main settlement blocs but which are 'important to the Jewish people.' Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his Likud Knesset faction on Monday that he opposes evacuating settlements like Hebron and Beit El, which are outside the major settlement blocs but are "important to the Jewish people," MKs present at the meeting said. He also said he has "no solution" for how to prevent Israel from becoming a bi-national state while also ensuring that a Palestinian state won't become a base for Iran or Al-Qaida. According to three MKs who attended Monday's faction meeting at the Knesset, Netanyahu raised the Israeli-Palestinian issue at his own initiative. He began by teasing MK Tzipi Hotovely – who routinely asks him at every such meeting about the negotiations now being conducted under the auspices of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry – for not having raised the issue yet. He then launched into a survey of Kerry's effort to broker a framework agreement for Israeli-Palestinian peace. During this survey, he sent conflicting messages that made it clear how much pressure he is under and how much he is agonizing over what response to give the Americans. "Kerry is trying to formulate an American paper that will reflect the American position," Netanyahu said, as quoted by two MKs present at the meeting. "Both sides will be able to comment on it, but not necessarily by consenting. Yet even this paper is hard to achieve right now." Netanyahu stressed that he has not discussed evacuating settlements during the talks. Asked "So what's left to talk about?" by MK Moshe Feiglin, Netanyahu replied, "There's a lot of territory that isn't settled." "We won't concede the places others conceded in the past," the prime minister added, citing Hebron and Beit El as examples of places that are outside the settlement blocs but are nevertheless important to the Jewish people. Netanyahu stressed at

some length that the main problem in the Middle East isn't the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood. Leaders of several Arab states agree with him on this point, he added. After temporarily turning the floor over to Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon, who gave a monologue of his own making the same point, Netanyahu took the floor again to say that the conflict is about the Palestinians' unwillingness to recognize Israel as a Jewish state. But even if the Palestinians were to accede to this demand, he added, the conflict wouldn't end. "Even if there is some minimal commitment to recognize the Jewish state, there's still no guarantee that the incitement against us would change," Netanyahu said. "We saw what happened when we closed our eyes and evacuated settlements. We need a foothold in the territory, plus security arrangements that will ensure that the territory won't be handed over to hostile elements." At this point, Netanyahu suddenly switched to presenting the other side of the coin. "The reason why we're willing to reach this agreement isn't because we're denying our history, but because there are two million Palestinians and the question is what we do with them," he said. "There's a problem that the Palestinians are there, and I have no intention of removing them. It's impractical and inappropriate. I don't want a binational state, and I don't want them as either citizens or subjects. On the other hand, I don't want another Iranian state or Al-Qaida state. Currently, we have no solution." During the meeting, Netanyahu was asked about the possibility that an agreement with the Palestinians could include an exchange of populations and territory – something Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman has advocated repeatedly, most recently just this week. "That's the foreign minister's position, but not the American position," Netanyahu replied. ([Haaretz](#) 6 January 2014)

- Bennett: No to '67 Lines,' No to Splitting Jerusalem. Bennett slams veiled references to splitting Jerusalem, warns the world, 'We're not your experiment.' The term "1967 lines" has been used regarding talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, in reference to the PA claim of ownership to all land that was under Jordanian control between 1949 and 1967. The words have been used to conceal the true weight of the concessions being demanded, Minister of Economy Naftali Bennett (Jewish Home) warned Tuesday, in a speech at the Institute for National Security Studies. "Friends, the games are over. We won't play with words anymore: the '67 lines' means splitting Jerusalem, and giving up the Mount of Olives – where Menachem Begin, Rabbi Kook, and Eliezer Ben-Yehuda are buried – and giving up the Kotel, the Temple Mount and the Old City," he declared. "How

will history remember a leader who agrees to give up Jerusalem? How will it remember the first leader in Jewish history who dares to do that? And what's more, to do it voluntarily?" Bennett asked. "Is the prayer of Jews worldwide, 'In Your mercy, return to Your city, Jerusalem' a party slogan, which can be changed overnight?" he demanded. A concession like that may win Israel temporary goodwill from the international community, Bennett said, but it would come at a high price: "another round of attacks and terrorism, which we would come into weaker than before, and with no moral right to defend ourselves after having declared that what is ours – is not ours," he warned. "These are the decisions that take real leadership," he continued. "That we will never agree to give up Jerusalem, a united city under Israeli sovereignty, and only Israeli. We will not accept a terrorist Palestinian state, we will not accept an agreement based on the 67 lines. "We will not exchange territory as if we were doing cut-and-paste on some Word document on the computer. We will not agree to a border along Highway 6, meaning rockets on Highway 4. "We will not stay in a government that endangers our children's future and divides our capital due to international pressure. We won't sit in a government that makes the easy, and dangerous, decision," he declared. Regarding international pressure on Israel, Bennett said, "We didn't come here in order to be the world's experiment... We will make decisions about ourselves by ourselves, for the simple reason that only we will pay the price... Are those who pressure us today going to be killed in our place tomorrow?" Israel should not fear standing up to international pressure argued Bennett, saying "We've had great leaders in Israel who knew how to say 'no.' We survived." ([Israel National News](#) 7 January 2014)

- Bill to Tie PM's Hands in Talks on Jerusalem, Refugees. MK Miri Regev (Likud-Beytenu) proposes that negotiations on core issues will only be carried out with Knesset approval. MK Miri Regev (Likud-Beytenu) plans to submit a bill that would throw a spanner in the works of any future negotiations on the future of Jerusalem, and on letting "Palestinian refugees" into Israel as part of a peace deal. According to *Yediot Aharonot*, Regev will formally submit the law on Sunday, to the Ministerial Committee on Legislation, whose role it is to decide what bills will enjoy the Coalition's support in the Knesset plenum. The bill would forbid the prime minister from carrying out diplomatic negotiations on the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, or on the so-called "refugee issue," unless the Knesset gives him permission to do so ahead of time. "Negotiations on these issues, which begin without Knesset approval, will not be binding," the bill states. "In such a case,



its results will not be binding on any governmental body, nor will it or its results have any validity vis-a-vis the state of Israel, the government of Israel, or other governmental authorities of the state of Israel." The bill is based on a similar one that was prepared by Communications Minister Gilad Erdan in the previous Knesset, but was never presented to the plenum. "The aim is to bring about a situation in which no diplomatic negotiations are carried out regarding extreme concessions that undermine the state of Israel's Jewish identity and widen the rift within Israeli society, unless the negotiations are approved by a majority of the members of the Knesset," Regev explained. "Such an act would be unacceptable, anti-democratic, and according to this bill, illegal as well – so that if negotiations are carried out without the Knesset's approval, they will not have any validity." This is not the first move by Regev to counter what many Israelis see as attempts by the US to force a deal on the Jewish state that would circumvent the Knesset. Just last week, the cabinet approved a bill tabled by Regev calling for **the annexation of the Jordan Valley** region in eastern Samaria. The move would preclude US pressure to give up the area, which the government has maintained is crucial to protecting Israel's eastern border, and drew harsh criticism from politicians on the Left, including President Shimon Peres and Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, who promised to appeal the law and prevent its implementation. ([Israel National News](#) 7 January 2014)

- Knesset rejects 'Two-State Solution Bill'. Initiative by Labor MK aimed to only allow land in W. Bank, Gaza to be annexed as part of peace deal leading to 2 states. The Knesset in a preliminary vote Wednesday rejected the so-called "[two-state solution bill](#)," which would prohibit the government from unilaterally annexing land. The bill, proposed by MK Hilik Bar (Labor), would have allowed only land in the West Bank or Gaza to be annexed as part of a peace treaty leading to two states. "You are reaching a moment of truth, in which you have to look in the mirror of history and realize that we need to separate from the Palestinians," opposition leader Isaac Herzog (Labor) said to the coalition. "If you don't take this opportunity now, history will judge you, because we will become an isolated, binational state." Herzog called for coalition MKs to "overcome narrow political interests and don't make promises you know you can't keep. If you don't face the historic challenge, we will replace you and do it ourselves," he added. Despite Herzog's warnings, the bill was voted down with 44 opposed, including MKs from Hatnua and Yesh Atid, and 25 in favor. Bar focused on criticizing Economy Minister Naftali Bennett, who gave [a](#)

[hawkish speech on Tuesday](#). “Brother, stop fantasizing,” Bar said. “The bizarre things you said endanger the future of our children. You act like you own Zionism and nationalism...but you are destroying Zionism.” Deputy Minister for Liaison with the Knesset Ofir Akunis responded to Bar’s proposal, saying that the government is in the middle of negotiations and will bring whatever agreement it reaches to the Knesset for approval. However, Akunis added, the legislature cannot decide the guidelines for talks with the PLO. “Why do you have such passion to give away parts of our homeland?” Akunis asked Bar. ([IPOST](#) 8 January 2014)

- Peace Now: Demolish Esh Kodesh. Leftist organization Peace Now demands that Israel destroy the village of Esh Kodesh in response to Tuesday's violence in Kusra. The leftist organization Peace Now demanded on Wednesday that the Binyamin region village of Esh Kodesh be destroyed in response to [Tuesday’s violent incident](#) in the Arab village of Kusra. The demand was made in a Facebook post by the heads of the organization which was directed at Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon, Central Command head Nitzan Alon and Civil Administration head David Menachem. “We demand that all the buildings in the outpost be demolished, as they were built without permits and in light of the ongoing criminal activity coming from Esh Kodesh,” said the Peace Now post. “The outpost is the focal point of serious criminal activity and as such, in addition to being illegal, it also causes harm to humans and property, and thus a becomes a heavy burden on the security system,” said the organization. Tuesday’s incident took place when dozens of Jewish men were abducted and beaten in a mob attack in Kusra. The men, who were unarmed, were set upon by an Arab mob, chased down, tied up and beaten senseless. The IDF subsequently arrived and convinced local Arab leaders to order the Jewish men released, but then proceeded to arrest the victims. The unrest was fanned after border police destroyed Jewish vineyards using the ["Disruptive Use Order,"](#) allowing the seizure of Jewish land even when no Arab claims the land. Jewish residents reported being [ambushed by the Arab mob](#) later in the day while they were walking between Esh Kodesh and Givat Hayovel in protest of the destruction. Peace Now’s demand that the Jewish residents be punished by having their homes demolished should come as no surprise, since the head of the organization, Yariv Oppenheimer, has already [expressed his esteem](#) for the Arab mob, saying it deserves praise for not killing the Jews. “Good job to the residents of the village of Kusra, who kept alive the ‘price tag’ activists who came to bring

judgment on them,” Oppenheimer wrote in a post to Facebook, repeating as fact the attackers’ claims that the Jewish men had planned to vandalize Arab property in a “price tag” revenge attack for the destruction of Jewish vineyards. “If the situation were reversed, and Palestinians had entered a settlement to hurt Jews, it would have ended in a lynch and in deaths,” he claimed. “Under the claim of ‘self defense.’” ([Israel National News](#) 9 January 2014)

- How to get around building regulations in a West Bank outpost. Daughter of the local council chairman comes to the aid of a family who’s house was slated for demolition. Last week, workers brought sheets of drywall into the northern West Bank outpost of Havat Yair; in two or three months, they will be interior walls. Next will come the gardeners to plant grass. Then the outpost will have another house all ready for its prestigious occupant: the daughter Samaria Regional Council chairman Gershon Mesika, mayor of the area’s settlements. The complicated, behind-the-scenes process through which Batya Masika bought the house is the story of the ongoing failure of law enforcement in the West Bank and the active complicity of Israel’s Civil Administration in this failure. Havat Yair was established in 1999 near the settlement of Yakir, on land that belonged to the nearby Palestinian village of Isstiya before Israel conquered the West Bank in 1967. The outpost survived several attempts to evacuate it and eventually became permanent. The Housing Ministry invested one million shekels (\$285,000) in it, despite the lack of construction permits. Having diligently marketed itself as a bourgeois community, Havat Yair is now highly sought after, with a long waiting list for housing. It even has a café and bed-and-breakfasts. In 2009, following years of political pressure, the Civil Administration took the first step toward legalizing the outpost – examining the ownership of the land to see if it was state land that could be formally transferred to the settlers. In the area around Havat Yair, as in 66 percent of the West Bank, the Jordanians – who occupied the area from 1948-67 – never finished registering all the land. Thus, the Civil Administration’s review was based on aerial photographs. Places where the photos showed signs of Palestinian cultivation were classified as private Palestinian land, based on Ottoman law (still valid in the West Bank,) in terms of which a person acquires ownership of land after working it for 10 years. Most of Havat Yair was classified as state land. But four enclaves were defined as private Palestinian land. In February 2011, the Netanyahu government announced a new policy on illegal construction in the territories. Anything built on privately owned land would be demolished (a

commitment never actually carried out,) but anything built on state land would be legalized. This, for the settlers, was the best of all possible worlds. Instead of investing in building permits, they could just build as they pleased, with no fear of demolition, since the prime minister had promised it would all be legalized. Building permits could not be issued for Havat Yair, since even though the Civil Administration had finished assigning ownership of the land, the outpost still lacked an approved plan. Therefore, according to a source in Havat Yair, the Samaria Regional Council instead supplied consulting services, in the form of an architect who met with residents and showed them which lots they could build on. As a result, the outpost has experienced a building boom. A recent visit revealed five buildings under construction, on top of the 20 others built over the last two years. One family (whose name Haaretz knows but is withholding) began building on a lot the architect had identified as state land. Last summer, however, Civil Administration inspectors issued a demolition order, saying it was private Palestinian land. The family complained to Mesika that the regional council had misled them, and their house was about to be demolished as a result. Mesika promised to convince the administration that it had erred, and that the lot was really state land. He subsequently told the family he had shown the inspectors that the trees in their photographs were pines – i.e., natural growth – rather than cultivated olive trees, and that they had agreed. The Civil Administration denies this, but nevertheless hasn't demolished the house. Nor have many other houses built on private Palestinian land in recent years been demolished, thanks to political pressure. Mesika assured the family this would continue to be the case, even promising to compensate them out of his own pocket if he was wrong. But the family wasn't reassured, noting that under the priority list given to the High Court of Justice by Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon recently, their house would be near the front of the line for demolition. It was new construction on privately-owned land. Finally, therefore, Mesika's daughter Batya agreed to buy the house. Last week, she paid the family 350,000 shekels for the work done to date and hired a contractor to complete the construction. "This shows what a great mayor we have, how he looked out for a family in distress," one resident told Haaretz. The Samaria Regional Council said it "has not and does not issue building permits for Havat Yair," nor does it offer "recommendations or instructions on where to build there. The council chairman did not buy a house there." Batya Mesika said, "I make my purchases myself and it's none of your business." The Civil Administration said it knew about the house, and that its inspection

department was dealing with it, “including by issuing a demolition order for the building in early December. All claims about a conversation with the [regional] council chairman on this matter are erroneous and baseless.” ([Haaretz](#) 9 January 2014)

- 801 Judea Samaria Housing Units, 600 in Jerusalem. Government announces tenders marketing land for construction in Judea Samaria communities, Jerusalem's Ramat Shlomo neighborhood. The Israel Land Authority and Ministry of Construction and Housing announced Friday morning the publication of tenders marketing land in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria for construction. The planned property set aside for construction in Judea and Samaria includes a total of 801 new housing units. A detailed list of the plans reveals 227 housing units are planned for Efrat, 78 units in Alfei Menashe, 86 in Karnei Shomron, 40 in Ariel, 75 in Adam, 24 in Beitar Illit, 102 in [Emanuel](#), and 169 in Elkana. Meanwhile in Jerusalem, 600 units are planned for the neighborhood of Ramat Shlomo in the eastern part of the city. Plans for **1,500 homes** in the neighborhood were similarly announced in late October, eliciting the sharp criticism of the Palestinian Authority (PA) that accused Israel of “trying to **wreck peace talks**.” The government announcement included the re-marketing of land plots in Jerusalem that were marketed in the past but did not have offers recorded on them. These plots include 182 housing units in Pisgat Ze'ev, 294 in Ramot, and 56 in Neve Yaakov. Altogether the re-marketed land accounts for 532 units. The announcement comes as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told senior officials he will **not sign any framework** agreement including the division of Jerusalem, according to reports Friday. Just in late December reports indicated that Netanyahu was planning a **construction freeze** in Judea and Samaria. ([Israel National News](#) & [Jerusalem Online](#) 10 January 2014)
- Israel excavates site in flashpoint West Bank city. Israel Antiquities Authority plan excavation in West Bank city of Hebron, intend to develop archeological park. Critics say dig aimed to legitimize Jewish settlement in 'occupied West Bank'. [Israel](#) is excavating an archaeological site in the flashpoint [West Bank](#) city of Hebron, officials said Thursday, in move critics say aims to legitimize Jewish settlement in Palestinian territory. The excavations began on January 5 during US Secretary of State John Kerry's 10th visit to the region to push Israel and the Palestinians towards an elusive peace deal. The site is at Tel Rumeida, in the heart of Hebron's historic old city, a spokesperson for

Israel's Antiquities Authority (IAA) told AFP. "The Israel Antiquities Authority is implementing a salvage excavation... to develop an archaeological park in (Tel Rumeida) and prepare the ancient site for visits by the public," an IAA statement said. "The excavation will be conducted in plots... which are owned by Jews. The total area to be excavated will be approximately six dunams (1.5 acres)," the statement said. "The excavation will not disrupt the lives of the local (Palestinian) residents and will allow them to go about their daily routine," it added. But critics have said the dig is a deliberate political move in a highly sensitive area, aimed at legitimizing Jewish settlement of the occupied West Bank. "Any excavation in a politically-charged area is automatically a political move," archaeologist Yonathan Mizrachi told AFP. "In Tel Rumeida, excavating the land is a very sophisticated way of legitimizing the takeover of land by settlers. By saying that they're carrying out an archaeological excavation, settler groups can say it's not a political act," he said. "If settlers built homes on land that used to be owned by Palestinians, they would continue to be viewed by much of the Israeli public as a group of extremists. But through creating archaeological sites, settlers can bring in tourists, representing themselves as people who are protecting the place." The flashpoint city of Hebron, home to nearly 200,000 Palestinians, also comprises some 80 settler homes in the centre of town housing about 700 Jews who live under Israeli army protection. Mizrachi said the area was cultivated by Palestinians even after Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967, but that during the second Palestinian uprising in the early 2000s, they were barred from farming in the area. The site is believed to house the tomb of the Jewish King David's father Yishai and great-grandmother Ruth. The excavations began as Kerry was about to leave the region, having shuttled back and forth in four days of meetings between Israeli and Palestinian leaders, in an effort to push forward a faltering peace process. Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the borders of a future Palestinian state is a key sticking point in the negotiations. ([Ynetnews](#) 10 January 2014)

- Bennett: Land Swaps Are Not Our Heritage. During a march with 5,000 youths, Economy Minister slams talk of giving up land to keep 'settlement blocs.' Economy Minister and Jewish Home Chairman Naftali Bennett took part in a 13 kilometer (8 mile) march in Judea on Thursday night together with 5,000 youths. At the event, Bennett slammed the concept of land swaps, saying it opposes the heritage "of possessing the land and fighting for it." The march commemorated the "Lamed Hey (Convoy of 35)" a group of Hagana and Palmach fighters

who were ambushed and killed by Arabs as they tried to resupply blockaded kibbutzim in Gush Etzion during the establishment of the country. Bennett participated in various events, including carrying a stretcher and even singing songs while playing the guitar, as he praised the youth. "They tell us sometimes that the young generation is spoiled," Bennett told the youths. "What I saw tonight is that we have a strong Zionist generation that can march at night in 5 degree (41 degrees fahrenheit) cold without complaining." "In the government there are pressures and we need to know that the people of Israel is strong," remarked Bennett. "I will let the Prime Minister know that tonight I saw a strong generation. We love you and every meter and step that you take in the land of Israel makes the land of Israel ours." Bennett criticized the idea of land swaps, which Labor Chairman Yitzchak Herzog recently promoted, through which Israel would give up parts of the land in order to maintain "settlement blocs," a term Bennett strongly contested. "We are here in in Gush Etzion, it's one of the 'blocs,'" noted Bennett. "If we want to stay in Gush Etzion, they say we have to make land swaps. ...Why should we have to give something in exchange for Gush Etzion? Did it belong to anyone previously? In order for me to stay in my home, my land, I need to compensate someone else?" "We are ready to exchange peace with peace, neighborliness with neighborliness," stated Bennett. "Here in Gush Etzion is a great place to talk about good neighborliness between Jews and Arabs." However, the Economy Minister verbally pledged his opposition to exchanges of other sorts. "All these recent ideas about a Palestinian state, about a withdrawal from portions of the homeland, and talk of distinctions between blocs and isolated communities, on the expulsion of Jews or talks based on the '67 lines - they are the complete opposite of the heritage of the 'Lamed Hey,'" argued Bennett. "(The talk of withdrawals) is not acceptable to us, and never will be." The MK spoke against freezes on construction as well, noting "the only freeze that I'm willing to have is the cold that we're feeling in this wonderful place for the last several hours." ([Israel National News](#) 10 January 2014)

- Netanyahu Opposes Framework Dividing Jerusalem. Reports indicate Netanyahu has told senior officials he won't sign any framework agreement dividing up the capital of Israel. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu announced to senior officials in his government that he won't agree to any division of Jerusalem in framework agreements. Sources previously revealed that US Secretary of State John Kerry's proposals would **divide the capital** under international management. Netanyahu has claimed he won't sign any document which in any way allows the establishment of a Palestinian Authority (PA) capital in

Jerusalem, no matter the price to peace talks, according to *Haaretz* reports Friday morning. On Thursday, sources in Jewish Home reported that Chairman Naftali Bennett was ready to **quit the coalition** if a framework of Israeli withdrawals was adopted. Kerry's interim plans reportedly would have Jerusalem follow the model of the Vatican, whereby the Old City and the Temple Mount would be a sort of autonomous region under joint international management, including Israeli and PA representatives. Reports by a senior PA official on Monday further clarified that Kerry's plan would divide part of Jerusalem to the PA, while **Jordan would have jurisdiction** on holy sites in the Jewish capital. In contrast to Netanyahu's firm language, Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman recently told the British news source *The Telegraph* that Israel should accept Kerry's offer. Liberman called the framework deal "the best proposal we can get and we really appreciate the efforts of Secretary of State John Kerry. He has really put a lot of energy into the issue." "With or without a comprehensive solution, Israelis and Palestinians will continue to live together in neighborliness," claimed Liberman. "There are many problems, but it's very important that the recent ongoing conversations continue." ([Israel National News](#) 10 January 2014)

- 'Honor Sharon with New Settlement'. MK Yogeve: Honor Sharon's long legacy of defense and settlement with new Jewish communities. Israel should honor deceased former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon by building new settlements in his memory, MK Moti Yogeve (Jewish Home) said Sunday. Speaking to *Arutz Sheva*, Yogeve recalled Sharon's long legacy as a military hero and political leader. "He was like a giant tree that gave protection. For his whole life, he protected the people and the state of Israel." He noted Sharon's participation in fighting at Latrun, when Israeli forces pushed through toward Jerusalem during the War of Independence, and his command of Unit 101, which defended border towns from terrorist attacks. Sharon went on to play major roles in all of Israel's wars, from 1956 to the terror war of the 2000s, and during his second term as Prime Minister, created and carried out the Disengagement plan, which saw thousands of Israeli families expelled from Gaza and northern Samaria as part of a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from both regions. The years that followed saw Gaza terrorists seize power and fire rockets at southern Israel, including the Sharon family farm, Yogeve added. "It pains me that toward the end of his active life, as prime minister, he caused heartbreak to so many, to thousands of [Gush Katif] residents and to hundreds of thousands, millions, of Israeli citizens who saw the destruction... and the heartbreak until today, because a solution was



not found for every settler,” Yogev said, echoing Sharon’s promise in 2005 to resettle each uprooted Israeli citizen. The heartbreak “could be what toppled this giant tree,” he added, in an apparent reference to Sharon’s health woes following the Disengagement, which culminated in a massive stroke that left him comatose until his death. Now, he continued, Israel should honor Sharon’s legacy through construction. “To build new communities in Judea and Samaria bearing his name,” he declared. The new communities should have official government backing, he added. Yogev urged the government “not to give in to those who are trying to play up the last part of his life,” but rather, “to focus on Arik Sharon, the man who built, who worked for Aliyah [immigration] and for settlement.” “The memory of the good he did will be preserved,” Yogev concluded. ([Israel National News](#) 12 January 2014)

- Central region commander in the Israeli army, general Nitzan Alon issued a military order prevented Palestinians from appealing decisions over the confiscation of their property by the military courts in the West Bank, and the Palestinian will only allow to raise their petitions against the confiscation order to the Supreme Court of Justice. The Israeli military orders applied in the West Bank, allowing the military leader to confiscate property belonging to Palestinians suspected to commit offences, whether criminal or security. (Sama News 14 January 2014)
- Minister Ariel: We’ll Build, Even if the Americans Don’t Approve. Israeli construction in Judea and Samaria will continue even if the Americans don’t like it, declares Housing Minister. Housing Minister Uri Ariel (Jewish Home) said Monday that Israeli construction in Judea and Samaria will continue, even if the Americans don’t like it. Speaking to *Kol Yisrael* radio, Ariel said that the publication of the latest tenders for new homes were coordinated with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and that he approved of them. “Even if the United States does not approve of the construction, it will continue,” he added. “The United States is our greatest ally, but they also sometimes take actions we do not approve of.” Last week, the Israel Land Authority and Ministry of Construction and Housing announced the publication of tenders marketing land in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria for construction. The planned property set aside for construction in Judea and Samaria includes a total of 801 new housing units. The announcement was condemned by the Palestinian Authority (PA), whose spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said the decision to build new homes “reflects Israel’s insistence on sabotaging U.S. efforts to reach peace based on the two-state formula.” These tenders are ones that

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had planned to publish parallel to Israel's recent release of 26 terrorist prisoners from Israeli jails as a "gesture" to the PA. Netanyahu later agreed to postpone the announcement until after Kerry concluded his latest visit to the region. The PA has repeatedly slammed Israel's planned construction in Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem, despite the fact that it was informed in advance that Israel will continue to build as talks continue. The areas in which Israel plans to build are areas that even the PA has previously accepted will be part of Israel in a future deal. On Monday, German's Foreign Minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, used his visit to Israel for Ariel Sharon's funeral to warn Israel against continuing its building in Judea and Samaria. He said Germany expected the Palestinians "to do their part" but warned Israel that its presence in Judea and Samaria, and ongoing building efforts there, are damaging the direct talks which began in July. "It is clear that the continued building of settlements really hurts the process," Steinmeier claimed. Kerry has in the past said that Israeli announcements of new construction were expected and said that they should not affect the resumption of peace talks. At the same time Kerry has declared that the United States has "always considered the settlements to be illegitimate." ([Israel National News](#) 14 January 2014)

- Bennett likens Abbas to Arafat, calls for annexation of most of West Bank. Economy minister tells Israel Radio that US security proposals for Jordan Valley "unrealistic"; Likud MK Hanegbi says PA refusing to move talks forward. Economy Minister Naftali Bennett denounced Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday as "no different than [his predecessor] Yasser Arafat," and that Israel would be better off annexing large swaths of the West Bank in order to safeguard its security needs. In an interview with Israel Radio, Bennett assailed Abbas for "calling for a million martyrs to march on Jerusalem" as well as the Palestinian leader's insistence that Israel accept the right of return of refugees who fled their homes in 1948. The minister, who heads the pro-settler Bayit Yehudi party, also criticized American bridging proposals regarding the future of the Jordan Valley. According to Bennett, the suggestion that unmanned aerial vehicles, sensors, and sophisticated electronic surveillance equipment along Israel's eastern border could adequately replace a physical IDF presence there to make way for a Palestinian state was "an unrealistic idea." In his interview with Israel Radio, Bennett reiterated his call for the annexation of Area C (the areas in the West Bank under Israeli civilian and military control) as well as other swaths of Judea and Samaria. The Palestinians, Bennett told Israel Radio, could maintain

autonomous rule in Areas A and B, but without any defense or security rights accorded to world governments. Likud MK Tzachi Hanegbi, a key ally of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, told Israel Radio on Tuesday that the Palestinians were opposed to American efforts to draw up a draft paper detailing the progress made in the negotiations on the so-called “core issues” and which would serve as a basis for the continuation of talks. Hanegbi told Israel Radio that he views Abbas’ entrenchment in the oft-stated positions regarding Jerusalem, the right of return, and recognition of Israel as a Jewish state paints him as “refusing to make peace.” Abbas on Saturday reaffirmed his refusal to recognize Israel as a Jewish state. He also stressed that the Palestinians would not accept any solution that did not include east Jerusalem as the capital of [a Palestinian state](#). “We don’t love death, but we welcome martyrdom if it happens,” Abbas declared. “We will march to Jerusalem in the millions, as free people and heroes.” Referring to Israeli demands to recognize Israel as a Jewish state, Abbas said, “This is a story that we have heard only in the last two years. We won’t recognize and accept the Jewishness of Israel. We have many excuses and reasons that prevent us from doing so.” Abbas was speaking during a meeting in his office with dozens of east Jerusalem residents. Israel’s problem is that the Palestinians know more than the Israelis about history and geography, he said. “We talk about what we know,” he said. “We won’t accept the Jewishness of Israel. We are asking for the 1967 borders.” Labor MK Eitan Cabel, meanwhile, said that while the Arab League and the Palestinians were “not exactly lovers of Zion,” Israel “ought to ask itself what is in its best interests.” The lawmaker told Israel Radio that it appeared the government and the Palestinians were less preoccupied with making progress in talks and more concerned with deflecting blame to the other side once the negotiations are deemed a failure. ([IPOST](#) 14 January 2014)

- Ya'alon: Kerry should win his Nobel and leave us alone. Defense Minister says in private that US security plan 'not worth the paper it's written on', insists Kerry 'cannot teach me anything about the conflict with the Palestinians'. While the United States is pushing hard for a final agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, Defense Minister [Moshe Ya'alon](#) has expressed his great skepticism of these efforts, both in private conversations in Israel and in the US. In particular, Ya'alon has harsh words to say about Secretary of State John Kerry. "Abu Mazen (Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas) is alive and well thanks to us," Ya'alon said. "The moment we leave Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) he is finished. In reality, there have been no

negotiations between us and the Palestinians for all these months – but rather between us and the Americans. The only thing that can 'save us' is for John Kerry to win a Nobel Prize and leave us in peace." Ya'alon, who was IDF chief of staff from 2002-2005, at the height of the second intifada, also has little regard for the US-devised security provisions for a post-peace region. "The American security plan presented to us is not worth the paper it's written on," Ya'alon said. "It contains no peace and no security. Only our continued presence in Judea and Samaria and the River Jordan will endure that Ben-Gurion Airport and Netanya don't become targets for rockets from every direction. American Secretary of State John Kerry, who turned up here determined and acting out of misplaced obsession and messianic fervor, cannot teach me anything about the conflict with the Palestinians." Ya'alon, who sits beside Netanyahu during the talks with Kerry, has during the months of negotiations become a bitter and tough enemy of the American team. "I'm a tough nut to crack," he claims. "There are no actual negotiations with the Palestinians. The Americans are holding negotiations with us and in parallel with the Palestinians. So far, we are the only side to have given anything – the release of murderers – and the Palestinians have given nothing." In talks with the Americans, Ya'alon has argued that Abbas is not a partner for a final arrangement due to his intransigence. The independent Egyptian newspaper Al-Masry-al-Youm quoted sources in the Arab League as saying that Kerry asked the League's foreign ministers in a meeting in Paris on Sunday to show some flexibility, and push the Palestinians for some concessions so that the Obama administration could press Israel for similar accommodations. Kerry expressed the concern that if his initiative failed, it could mean a major setback to the peace process as a whole. During the three-hour meeting, the sources said, Palestinian foreign minister Riad al-Maliki responded aggressively to Kerry's request, in particular to the ongoing Israeli demand for the Palestinians to recognize Israel as a Jewish state. Al-Masry said that the Arabs rejected Kerry's appeal, offering blanket support for the Palestinian stance. ([Ynetnews](#) 14 January 2014)

- Palestinians barred from appealing property confiscation in Israeli military court. They can still appeal through the Supreme Court, but the process is cumbersome and costly. Palestinians have been prohibited from challenging military court decisions to confiscate their property, under a new injunction signed last month by the head of the Israeli military's Central Command. Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon's order came on December 25 following a recommendation by the military

prosecution. Judicial review of West Bank confiscations is now in the hands of the Supreme Court, which the military says is consistent with long-standing government policy. Under Israeli security legislation governing the West Bank, the military commander or anyone he authorizes can confiscate property or money implicated in illegal activity. The property or money goes to the regional treasury and is appropriated for public use. While the law allows the military and police to impound funds believed to belong to terror groups, it's also used to confiscate vehicles that illegally transport laborers into Israel as well the equipment used by thieves. Until now, Palestinians could appeal confiscations in Israel's West Bank military courts. The authority of the military courts to consider such appeals was anchored in a 2010 decision by the Ofer Military Appeals Court, which ordered the return of a pneumatic drill to a Palestinian after police had taken it. Col. Aharon Mishnayot presided over the court that made the decision but Col. Netanel Beniso, who is the current appeals court president, dissented. Beniso wrote a minority opinion saying the Central Command chief should establish a separate channel for appealing confiscations. Under the advice of the military prosecution, Alon decided to block appeals, effectively overruling the military court. Despite Alon's injunction, Palestinians have an avenue for appeal in the Supreme Court, but it's a cumbersome process. For one, Palestinian lawyers are permitted to represent clients at the military court but they cannot submit appeals to the Supreme Court, which means an Israeli lawyer must be hired at a high cost. On top of that, there is a fee to appeal to the Supreme Court, whereas the military courts are free. Whether Palestinians have the legal right to appeal confiscation in military court, and not just in the Supreme court is disputed. The Israel Defenses Forces said Alon's injunction brings the appeal process in line with Israeli law, which gives the Supreme Court authority to review any terror-related property confiscation in the West Bank and in Israel. But legal experts told Haaretz the law also affords Palestinians the right to appeal in military courts as long as they file within three days. Mishnayot, the military judge, told Haaretz he still stands behind his 2010 ruling. "In a situation of a military government, in which the military commander serves both as the legislative branch and the executive branch, the judicial branch must be strengthened to strike a balance of powers," he said. "I'm not convinced [the new order] goes in that direction, but legislative branch has the right to his say. Perhaps the issue will reach the Supreme Court so it can comment." Zahava Gal-On, head of the left-wing Meretz party, called on Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein to intervene and reverse the military order. "The

injunction erases all trace of due process and contradicts the rule of law," she said. "The injunction makes the arbitrary power of the occupation absolute, and it is therefore thoroughly corrupt and corrupting." ([Haaretz](#) 15 January 2014)

- Jerusalem Councilman Urges Muslims: 'Leave Israel'. Nationalist Aryeh King distributes thousands of fliers to Muslim residents of the capital, explains Torah directives. **Aryeh King**, Jerusalem Councilman of the **United Jerusalem** faction, has begun a new campaign distributing thousands of fliers to Arab residents of Jerusalem, urging them to leave Israel. "You have many large countries that you can live in. Understand that we returned to Israel to fulfill what is written in the Torah," reads the flier. "It isn't easy for millions of people to abandon their homes without any monetary help. Therefore we propose that you negotiate with the state of Israel to receive economic aid to move and live elsewhere." King is the Chairperson of the Jerusalem Municipality's Environment Committee, as well as its Emergency and Security Committee. He is also the director and founder of the **Israel Land Fund**, and ran as number 4 on the list of candidates for **Otzmah Leyisrael** in the last Knesset elections. The flier includes the following message, in Arabic: A call to all Muslims living in the land of Israel. We want to explain to you in this letter the words of the Torah regarding non-Jewish residents in the land of Israel. Firstly, we say every person was born from the same G-d and every believing person should be treated with respect; therefore the Jewish religion isn't racist but humane. As believing Jews we returned to Israel to fulfill the Torah; in the Torah it is written that the land of Israel is meant for (the Patriarchs) Avraham, Yitzhak, Yaakov and their grandchildren, and no one else. All agree that we are the great grandchildren of the ancient people of Israel...In the Torah it is also written that the land of Israel, this small land, belongs to the Jewish people alone and it is forbidden for others to live here in a permanent manner. According to the Torah, the Jewish people were exiled from their land and remained in exile two thousand years. Now that the Jewish people have returned to the land of Israel, the time has come for them to fulfill this divine commandment. Therefore we demand that you leave the land of Israel. We say this from a religious perspective, in order to ensure peace in the land of Israel. We are explaining things written in the Torah as well as the Koran, and we reason that when you understand that we don't hate you or want to make war on Islam, you'll understand our desire to fulfill the commandment as is written in the Koran: there is no G-d but Allah. The Jerusalem municipality said in response that it "doesn't recognize, isn't connected with or hold

responsibility for private letters of elected officials written on their opinion alone, and we encourage contacting them directly to receive a statement. It is unnecessary to note that the official positions of the municipality on every issue are decided in an organized process and certified by the city council." ([Israel National News](#) 15 January 2014)

- Israeli Deputy Defense Minister: "Soon we will have to say things not to the liking of the United States". After Israeli Defense Minister Ya'alon was quoted as referring to US Secretary of State John Kerry as "messianic and obsessive," before proceeding to apologize that the US got offended, Israeli Deputy Defense stated that this may be only the beginning of a conflict with Washington, DC. MK Miri Regev sent a letter to Ya'alon expressing support for his remarks. Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon related this morning to Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon's quote criticizing US Secretary of State John Kerry as "messianic and obsessive:" "I am not in a position to judge Kerry or Ya'alon, but on the essential issues, we have a dispute with the United States and we need to state this," Danon told Israel's Channel 2 News. "Maybe soon we will have to say things not to the liking of the United States." Danon stressed that Israel will not return to the 1967 armistice lines or concede on the Jordan Valley: "These statements are made considering every aspect. In my opinion, there is a flood of conflicts and we shouldn't blur them. The decision to apologize is that of Israel's Defense Minister and I don't want to enter into his considerations." A Knesset member from Ya'alon's and Danon's party, Miri Regev, decisively supported Ya'alon's remarks this morning: "I desire to strengthen your brave and correct remarks related to the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations with an emphasis on the guarantees of US Secretary of State John Kerry," Regev wrote to Ya'alon, in a letter that was also forwarded to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "For sure, at this moment, the poisoned arrows have collapsed. I choose to tell you that your action is a warning sign." Yesterday, Israel's Defense Minister stated that he didn't mean to hurt Kerry's feelings and cause a diplomatic storm. "Israel and the United States partake in efforts to advance the peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, led by US Secretary of State John Kerry. We appreciate Kerry's many efforts towards this end," Ya'alon's office stated. "The Israeli Defense Minister didn't mean to hurt the US Secretary of State and he is sorry that the US Secretary of State was hurt by the words attributed to the minister." However, an American official stated that the US is not satisfied with the apology. The US demanded that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will make a

public announcement on this issue. According to the American official, the White House expects that Netanyahu will express disagreement with what Ya'alon stated against Kerry and against Ya'alon's lack of confidence in the talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians. ([Jerusalem Online](#) 16 January 2014)

- Emergency Conference to Discuss Imminent Kerry Plan. Land of Israel activists will hold a special emergency convention on Sunday to discuss Secretary of State John Kerry's upcoming 'framework'. With U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry set to present his "framework" for a deal between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the coming days, Land of Israel activists will hold a special emergency convention on Sunday. The event will take place at Ulpanat Ofra and will discuss alternatives to the Kerry plan, which the government of Israel seems ready to accept, even though details are still sketchy. What is known about the plan, say activists, is that it entails significant Israeli withdrawals from Judea and Samaria, and/or relinquishing of territory inside the 1948 armistice lines in exchange for the so-called "settlement blocs" in Judea and Samaria. But there are other options – specifically, the extension of Israeli sovereignty to the entire Land of Israel, say the activists. The theme of Sunday's convention will be "A single state between the Jordan and the Mediterranean – the State of Israel." Participating in the event will be leaders and activists of various parties, including Jewish Home and the Likud. In addition, the event will be attended by numerous activist groups, including Women in Green, Kommemiyut, Regavim, Im Tirzu, the Judea and Samaria Council, and others. A report in *Maariv* Thursday said that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had told Kerry that Israel needed to hold onto the area around Beit El, because the sites in the region had played a major role in Jewish history. Shilo, for example, was the home of the temporary Sanctuary (*mishkan*) before the building of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, Nabi Samuel is the burial place of the Prophet Samuel, and Beit El itself was the site of the famous dream of the Biblical Jacob, in which he saw angels ascending and descending from heaven. The Beit El "bloc" would be one of four Israel insists on retaining in a final-status settlement. In order to retain the blocs, Israel has agreed to surrender land inside the 1948 armistice lines. The *Maariv* report said that Netanyahu has nixed the idea of a "centimeter for centimeter" land swap, as the PA has demanded. At least part of the swap would come in the form of cash, or in the value of the land, cities, and industrial base that Israel would be surrendering to make the plan



work. The report said that PA negotiators have rejected both demands out of hand. ([Israel National News](#) 16 January 2014)

- Settler leaders vow to rebuild West Bank settlement of Homesh. Homesh was evacuated under the 2005 disengagement; settler leader says state must allow forthwith return of residents. Under military guard, settler leaders on Wednesday morning visited the site of the former Homesh settlement in Samaria in the northern West Bank, which the IDF demolished in 2005, and signed a charter vowing to rebuild it. “We didn’t understand what happened then [in 2005], and we do not understand today why the government does not restore this place,” said Avi Ro’eh who heads the Council of Jewish Communities of Judea and Samaria. As he spoke, he stood by the Homesh’s water tower, which with its bright orange paint, has become an iconic symbol of the settlers’ battle to return to the site, situated high on a mountaintop near Nablus with board sweeping views of the surrounding terrain. Three other settlements in northern Samaria, Sa-Nur, Ganim and Kadim were also evacuated in 2005 during the Disengagement. But attention has focused on Homesh, against which a stiff legal battle has also been waged by Palestinians from the nearby village of Burka, who want to farm the site, and appealed to the High Court of Justice, with the help of the non-governmental organization Yesh Din. As a result of that case, in June the state canceled the 1978 military land seizure order under which land that originally belonged to Palestinians was eventually transformed into a Jewish community. In September the Attorney General’s office ruled that the area was no longer closed to Palestinians. The IDF at the time clarified that the site would remain closed to Israelis. The sites of the other three settlements are closed military zones, and neither Palestinians or Israelis are allowed there. In October, a group of Palestinians with the help of Yesh Din, returned to the site with much fan fare and press attention. But on Wednesday, the site looked as it always had, since the 2005, disengagement. The orange water tower still has a large painted menorah and the words Homesh. The settlement’s paved roads, which are now cracked and full of potholes, still wind through the hilltop. There are still some cement staircases that go nowhere and house foundations. Nestled among its trees is a tent, where a number of young Jewish men sit every day and study. As settler leaders made their way to the site, a former resident described its strategic value as well as the biblical roots of the areas. Ro’eh noted that before he became defense minister, Likud politician Moshe Ya’alon had visited the area and spoken of the necessity of restoring Jewish settlement there. There is state land on the hilltop, and an arrangement could be

made to legally re-establish the settlement, he said. Dani Dayan, the former council head and now its chief foreign envoy, said, “the failure of the so called disengagement is today completely clear. To rewind the process and go back to establish again the communities in Gush Katif is impossible these days. But to do it here in Homesh, northern Samaria, what it takes is just a decision by the Israeli government, that decision should be taken immediately. “There is no explanation at all as to why to keep these places without Jewish inhabitants, why not let the people who were expelled from here to return immediately,” said Dayan. But Yesh Din spokeswoman Reut Mor said her organization has asked the Attorney General’s office to order the area to be completely cleared of all traces of the Homesh settlement. The roads, the housing foundations and the water tower need to be removed, she said, so that the Palestinians can begin to farm. ([IPOST](#) 16 January 2014)

- Netanyahu demands Israel retain fourth settlement bloc in peace deal. PM suggests buying some of the land from Palestinians. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has demanded that Israel retain a fourth settlement bloc in addition to three it has already demanded in negotiations with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who has been working to hammer out a framework peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. The settlement bloc in question is in the vicinity of Beit El, adjacent to Ramallah in the central West Bank. Israel has already laid claim to three other settlement blocs – Ariel, Gush Etzion and Ma'aleh Adumim. Settlement blocs refer to areas in the West Bank where the majority of Jewish communities are located. Palestinians fiercely oppose the latest Israeli request, according to an Israeli source who has been briefed by the Americans. Netanyahu wants to annex the four blocs but, according to the Israeli source, at this stage opposes compensating the Palestinians with a land swap of equal size and quality. The prime minister did, however, raise the possibility of buying some of the land on which the settlement blocs rest from the Palestinians and compensating them for other parts with land that is in Israel proper. In recent weeks, Netanyahu has made several public remarks about Beit El remaining under Israeli sovereignty as part of a peace agreement with the Palestinians. At a Likud faction meeting last week, for example, Netanyahu said, "We will not forgo places that others have relinquished in the past." He also said that Hebron and Beit El are not part of settlement blocs, but "they are important to the Jewish people," and will not be evacuated. In a recent cabinet meeting, Netanyahu also said, "We are not foreigners in Jerusalem, we are not foreigners in Beit El, we are not foreigners in Hebron. He added, "We

want to reach an agreement, but that agreement cannot erase the state of Israel's rights or the rights of the Jewish people." Netanyahu's latest demand was first revealed Thursday on Army Radio. ([Haaretz](#) 16 January 2014)

- Lapid: We need to get rid of the Palestinians. Finance minister tackles numerous pressing issues in Tel Aviv event, says settlements should be funded until evacuated; rabbis should not meddle in issues unrelated to halacha, 'his brother' Bennett was demoted to 'cousin'. In what state is the relationship between [Yesh Atid](#) chairman and Habayit Bayehudi chairman, why are the settlements still funded by the State and what will be their future – Finance Minister [Yair Lapid](#) addressed all of these pressing questions Friday morning at a Tel Aviv panel event. When Lapid was asked about the issue of women's recruitment to the army and his past remarks noting that he would act to dismiss the chief rabbis for going against female [IDF](#) recruitment, he said: "I am not the minister responsible for (the chief rabbis), Naftali Bennett is." The interviewer then comically noted: "Our brother"; yet Lapid cynically replied: "He has been demoted to cousin," and stressed he believes Bennett should act on this matter. We are in an unprecedented struggle on the matter of equality of burden, and I don't think it is right for the rabbis to say they forbid women from serving in the army. This cannot be and we will act against it, unless they retract their remarks."Lapid was asked about his opinion regarding the offshore bank account held by Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) in the island of Jersey, and responded: "Since the State comptroller said he would look into the matter, it is improper for the finance minister to address this issue beforehand." In regards to the affair involving Rabbi Pinto and senior police officers, Lapid provided an interesting commentary: "On an economic level, I want to draw the attention to the fact that the three Israeli tycoons that were notorious for consulting with rabbis are Moti Zisser, Nochi Dankner and Ilan Ben Dov. What is common to all three, apart from consulting with rabbis, is that their empires fell apart." Lapid added: "It saddens me to see Judaism turn into a combination of charms and interference in matters unrelated to them. If I have a rabbi, it's Rabbi Shai Piron. If you'd ask him what's the most rabbinical thing he ever did, it'd be adopting a disabled child, because that's what a true rabbi does. He doesn't sit with all sorts of high-ranked officers or tycoons and advises them on matters unrelated to Judaism or halacha." These mixes are not good." Lapid stressed that he is not very familiar with the details of the affair but was hopeful that "the senior police officials did nothing wrong. I don't think it only stains the police, but

the chief rabbinate as well. The mixing of these two areas is unfit." 'Get rid of Palestinians' Lapid was later asked about the political negotiation and the document that will soon be brought to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by US Secretary of State John Kerry. "There will be an outline to the framework agreement which will be discussed in the negotiations," Lapid said. "It doesn't mean you agree to anything, it doesn't mean we think Jerusalem should be divided. It only means that these subjects are under debate as well and we don't need to be the ones who are insubordinate." "We say – peace is not the issue, we need to get rid of the Palestinians. It threatens us, it chokes us. Ultimately the State of [Israel](#) cannot continue on while unnaturally absorbing four million Palestinians. Eventually they will tell us, 'if you don't want to give us a country of our own, let us vote.' And then, if we let them vote, it will be the end of the Jewish state. If we won't let them – it will be the end of a democratic Israel, and I won't allow that to happen." Lapid added: "We will have to pay a price for this breakup. The price now only means they will open up a series of issues within the negotiations, and then we will explain to what we agree and to what we disagree." The finance minister showed his support of PM Netanyahu: "I'm in the coalition because this is where things get done. And Yesh Atid bolsters the negotiations and supports the prime minister because he is running them correctly. It is not going to be easy, and every time we're asked why we don't resign from the government, I'll say – to keep it going, not for it to end." Despite the political vision he presented, Lapid explained that until the settlements are evacuated, they must be properly funded: "Most of the budget for the Settlements Division is transferred to the Galilee and the Negev. And no new settlements are being established. The agreement requires the evacuation of 80,000-90,000 settlers. It is not only going to change the country, it's going to change you and me. It will be the biggest Israeli drama since the State's establishment, in terms of what it does to us. It's going to be a drama that will tear us from the inside, but until that happens, there are people, good Israeli citizens, who live there, and I think it is perfectly fine to transfer money to continue their lives." When asked about the remarks made by Defense Minister [Moshe Ya'alon](#) about Kerry, he said: "It is indecent. Give credit to the defense minister that he thought he was talking in a private conversation, but even in such conversation he shouldn't speak this way, and I am glad he apologized because that was the right thing to have done." ([Ynetnews](#) 17 January 2014)

- Palestinians aim to win back right to appeal property confiscations in military court. Palestinians could appeal confiscations in West Bank military courts until last month, when the Israeli army changed its stance. Adalah, an advocacy group for Arab minority rights, wants to overturn the military order barring [West Bank](#) Palestinians from appealing the confiscation of their property in a military court. The order was signed on December 25 by the head of the military's Central Command, Maj. Gen. Nitzan Alon. The order "is designed to harm the Palestinians and restrict their rights, without any legitimate justification," Adalah wrote to the attorney general, defense minister and Alon. If the order is not revoked, the group will appeal to the [Supreme Court](#), Adalah said. The military commander in the West Bank is authorized to confiscate property or money implicated in illegal or security-related activity. This clause lets the military and police seize funds believed to belong to terror groups. The authorities can also confiscate vehicles used to illegally transport laborers and equipment into Israel. Until December 25, Palestinians could appeal confiscations in West Bank military courts, which were authorized to consider such issues based on a 2010 decision by the Military Court of Appeals. In that decision, the court ordered the return of a pneumatic drill to a Palestinian after the police had confiscated it. Adalah wrote that the order issued last month infringes on property rights and violates international human rights and international humanitarian law. It said the order also violates Israeli administrative law and international law, which have been recognized in the occupied territories by several Supreme Court decisions. These principles have also been recognized by the International Court of Justice in The Hague, in its advisory opinion on the separation barrier, Adalah said. ([Haaretz](#) 17 January 2014)
- Despite ban, illegal settlement outposts getting millions in state funds. Mateh Binyamin Regional Council in the West Bank has disbursed \$15 million to several unauthorized outposts even though such actions are prohibited, Haaretz has learned. The Mateh Binyamin Regional Council in the West Bank has disbursed 51 million shekels (\$14.6 million) over a five-year period to several unauthorized settlement outposts both within and beyond its jurisdiction, even though such actions are expressly prohibited, Haaretz has learned. Like all the local councils in the West Bank, Mateh Binyamin operates at a deficit and receives tens of millions of shekels each year from the national government. That means it is in practice using state money to help maintain the outposts. In 2012, for example, the council received 80

million shekels from the Interior Ministry to cover its deficit and 158 million shekels from various government agencies for welfare, education, infrastructure and the like. The council reported 121 million shekels in revenues for the year. It allocated 13 million shekels for public infrastructure in the outposts, 500,000 shekels for “preserving state lands” and 2 million shekels to the Yesha Council of settlements. The Mateh Binyamin Regional Council, founded in 1979, has jurisdiction over the Jewish settlements surrounding Ramallah and their approximately 50,000 inhabitants. Several unauthorized outposts are also in its jurisdiction, including Adei Ad, Amona, Bnei Adam, Esh Kodesh, Haresha and Hayovel. But the council also allocates funds to outposts beyond its borders, for reasons that aren’t clear. The regional councils were once an important conduit for the funds used to build many outposts. But after the publication of the Talia Sasson report of 2005, clarifying the scope of the unauthorized outposts, then-Attorney General Menachem Mazuz prohibited any government agency, from the Housing and Construction Ministry to the local governments, from funding unauthorized construction. But under a line item called “young communities” in its annual budgets from 2008-2012 (figures for 2013 are not yet available), the Mateh Binyamin Regional Council distributed a total of 51 million shekels to outposts. ([Haaretz](#) 19 January 2014)

- Bennett says his goal is to 'torpedo' any agreement with the Palestinians. Bayit Yehudi leader says alliance with the Right in Likud would make it impossible for PM to make concessions to the Palestinians. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will not have enough support to pass concessions to the Palestinians in the Knesset, according to a plan hatched by Bayit Yehudi leader Naftali Bennett. Bennett intends to draft the support of enough MKs to block Netanyahu from adopting any of the proposals that are [expected to be presented later this month by US Secretary of State John Kerry](#). He is obtaining the support of MKs in Likud Beytenu to prevent Netanyahu from replacing Bayit Yehudi in the coalition with Labor and Kadima. “An alliance with the Right in Likud is an important mutual interest,” Bennett revealed in closed conversations. “The goal is to torpedo any agreement and prevent deterioration to pre-1967 lines.” While no MKs have signed any written commitment, Bennett is confident he will receive enough support from Likud Beytenu MKs to reject any possible agreement with the Palestinians by making it clear to Netanyahu that he would be left without a government. ([IPOST](#) 20 January 2014)

- Jewish Home chairman “Naftali Bennett” asked the Israeli government to start the construction in E1 area immediately, according to report published by Israel National News; *“ Bennett: Start Building in E1 Now. Speaking Monday, Jewish Home chairman Naftali Bennett said that Israel needed to get moving on building homes in the E1 corridor. Speaking Monday, Jewish Home chairman Naftali Bennett said that Israel needed to get moving on building homes in the E1 corridor, also known as Mevasseret Adumim. Bennett was speaking in advance of a mass march, in which protesters would demand that homes be built in the area. The E1 corridor is located between Jerusalem and Maale Adumim, and construction there would essentially join the suburb with the city, creating a solid band of Jewish residency between French Hill and other peripheral areas of Jerusalem, and Maale Adumim. It is for this reason the Palestinian Authority is especially opposed to the project, and has threatened violence if construction goes on. The government of Binyamin Netanyahu has said in principle that it favors construction, but in practice has done nothing to advance building there, hindering the advancement of construction and development plans there. “Whoever says ‘if I forget the Jerusalem, let my right hand wither,’” the famous Biblical passage, said Bennett, “cannot forget E1 either. Anyone who does not see E1 as united with Kotel, as the Mamila section is united with the Kotel, does not understand this region at all,” he said. Those who refuse to move forward on construction there, said Bennett, “do not understand the challenges the Palestinians have placed before us. We do not need permission from the world to build in our capital city.” The march, which will take place in about three weeks, will seek to increase pressure on the government to push forward building plans for the area. The march is being organized by a wide array of groups, including the Judea and Samaria Council, Beitar, Matot Arim, Kommemiyut, the Maale Adumim municipality, and many others.”* ([Israel National News](#) 21 January 2014)
- A report issued by Israeli newspaper of Haaretz declared that the Israeli Economy Minister Naftali Bennett said that Palestinian state will destroy Israeli economy. Israel need not fear boycotts, having survived them before, economy minister tells Habayit Hayehudi Knesset faction. The creation of a Palestinian state would destroy the Israeli economy, causing infinitely more problems than an [economic boycott](#) would, said Economy Minister Naftali Bennett on Monday, responding to the threat of sanctions if Israel fails to reach an agreement with the Palestinians. Addressing his Habayit Hayehudi Knesset faction, Bennett called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to stand up to pressure to reach an agreement that would lead to a Palestinian state.

Bennett complained that a media campaign had begun in recent days asserting that if Israel does not agree to a Palestinian state and divide Jerusalem, it would face heightened economic pressure. “I declare here and now that the truth is just the opposite,” said Bennett. “A Palestinian state will wreck Israel’s economy.” Concerns about boycotts and divestments increased this week after reports that three leading European pension funds were [weighing selling their shares](#) in Israeli banks out of concern they were helping to finance settlement construction in the West Bank. Two weeks earlier, the Dutch pension fund PGGM [divested its shares](#) in Israel’s five biggest banks for that reason. But Bennett said the boycott threat paled when compared to the security problems a Palestinian state in the West Bank would create for Israel. “You see this large mountain called Judea and Samaria?” he said, pointing to a relief map of Israel. “This large mountain controls the entire region of Tel Aviv, Azrieli [Towers] and Herzliya Pituah, the entire business center of Israel,” he said. “Every day a missile will fall on another street in Herzliya Pituah. Ask yourselves how the Israeli economy will look if just once a year a plane about to land at Ben-Gurion [International] Airport falls out of the sky. It will decimate the Israeli economy.” Bennett pointed out that with the exception of the years in which the world economy was in a crisis, the Israeli economy has grown ever since the Israel Defense Forces reasserted control over Palestinian cities in the West Bank through Operation Defensive Shield. The 2002 military operation occurred at the height of the second intifada following a spate of Palestinian terror attacks in Israel. “I know exactly what it’s like to lose a tender because you are Israeli,” he said. “I know exactly what it is like when your customers in Canada, the United States or London are afraid to come to Israel so they won’t buy your products .... No one will tell me that the Israeli economy will flourish in the kind of situation we will have on our hands if, heaven forbid, a Palestinian state is established in the heart of our land.” The economy minister said Israelis should take a page from history and not fear economic boycotts. “Even before the establishment of the state the first economic boycott began in 1945, the great Arab boycott,” he said. “Afterward in ‘48 there was a round of global boycotts. Later, after ‘67 another round and after ‘73 another round, but Israel continued on and prospered.” ([Haaretz](#) 22 January 2014)

- Israel advances plans for 642 new settler homes. The new plan comes to light as Israeli delegation in Washington to discuss peace process with Kerry. Israel this week advanced plans for 642 new settler homes in the West Bank as an Israeli delegation was in Washington to discuss the peace process with US Secretary of State John Kerry. The



Palestinians have insisted that continued settlement activity is destroying the peace process and the US has repeatedly said that it is not helpful. But Washington State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki ducked questions from reporters about the new settlement plans. “Our position on settlements is clear and well known,” she said. Israel has maintained that there is no relationship between settlement building and the peace process. ([IPOST 23](#) January 2014)

- Peace now organization declared that the Israeli government approved the construction of 261 housing units in the Israeli settlement in West Bank. According to statement published by “Peace Now” confirmed that the Israeli Ministry of Interior issued plans to construct 256 housing units in Neve Brat settlement and 5 housing units in Ariel settlement. (Maannews 23 January 2014)
- Kerry: Israel's Security Must be Ensured in Peace Deal. Kerry: Peace would involve ending the "occupation" but should also ensure that West Bank do not become another Gaza. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Friday that it is “long past time” for Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) to reach a peace deal, but stressed that Israel’s security must be ensured in such a deal. Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Kerry stressed that Israel cannot make peace with the PA so long as it fears that the Palestinian state will become another Gaza. “The Palestinians need to know that at the end of the day, their territory is going to be free of Israeli troops; that occupation ends,” Kerry said, according to the *Washington Post*. “But the Israelis, rightfully, will not withdraw unless they know that the West Bank will not become a new Gaza Nobody can blame any leader of Israel for being concerned about that reality,” he added. Kerry made clear that, in his view, the end of the Israeli-Arab conflict would involve “a phased but complete withdrawal of Israeli forces” from Judea and Samaria. He also noted that the goal is also “mutual recognition of the nation-state of the Palestinian people and the nation-state of the Jewish people.” Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu **has stressed** that peace is contingent upon the PA recognizing Israel as a Jewish state. The PA has already formally **refused to do so**. Kerry said in his speech that if a peace agreement is reached, both sides would see major economic boosts from an explosion of tourism to the area, according to a report in *Voice of America*. The Secretary of State added that "today's status quo will not last forever," and that failure will only embolden extremists. Earlier, Kerry met with Netanyahu on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. A senior State Department official told *Voice of America* that meeting focused on the need to

address all "core issues." Speaking to reporters after the meeting, **Netanyahu stressed** that he will not evict any Israeli communities in the Jordan Valley as part of a future agreement. The PA insists on full control of the Jordan Valley – along with all other land that was under Jordanian control from 1948 to 1967. Israeli experts have warned that the area is **strategically critical** and that, if Israel withdrew from it, terrorist organizations could easily fire rockets at Tel Aviv and the Ben Gurion Airport. In his speech Friday, Kerry also challenged Iran to make good on Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's more open stance to the world. Rouhani, who addressed the Davos forum Thursday, denied that his country has any intention to build a nuclear weapon. "While the message is welcome, the words themselves are meaningless unless actions are taken to give them meaning," Kerry said, according to the *Washington Post*. "If you are serious about a peaceful program, it's not that hard to prove that your program is peaceful," he added. He also pushed back against the accusation, voiced prominently at Davos by Sen. John McCain and Saudi Prince Turki al-Faisal, that the United States is retreating from its responsibilities in the Middle East. McCain has in the past referred to Kerry as "a human wrecking ball" and earlier this week **blasted Obama and Kerry** over their policy in Syria. "This misperception appears to be based on the simplistic assumption," Kerry said, "that the only tool of our influence is our military, and that if we don't have a huge troop presence or aren't brandishing an immediate threat of force, we are somehow absent from the arena." ([Israel National News](#) 24 January 2014)

- Netanyahu: I will not uproot a single Israeli. Speaking at Davos conference, PM stresses commitment to the Jordan Valley; Kerry: If talks fail, Israel's democratic future at stake. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a press conference in Davos on Friday and said that he does not intend on uprooting any Israeli citizen. Netanyahu's statement came as a response to a question about his commitment to the Jordan Valley. "I do not intend to evacuate any settlements or uproot a single Israeli," he said. The press conference followed a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State in which the two leaders discussed the peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Netanyahu stressed that Kerry is not trying to bring the two sides to sign a framework agreement but solely to put forth ideas for a path toward progress in the negotiations. He also rejected the warnings against an economic boycott on Israel due to settlement construction. "I actually see great interest on the part of international companies to invest in Israel," he said. Later on Friday, Kerry spoke before the conference and devoted a

large part of his speech to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Kerry warned that if peace talks fail, both Israelis and Palestinians will be harmed. "If talks fail, for Israel, the demographic dynamic will make it impossible to preserve its future as a democratic Jewish state," Kerry said. "Today's status quo cannot last forever." Kerry also said that the Palestinians are risking losing their last chance for an independent state. Kerry outlined several U.S. principles for solving the core issues: an independent state for the Palestinians wherever they may be; security arrangements for Israel that leave it more secure; a full, phased and final withdrawal of the Israeli army, a just and agreed solution to the Palestinian refugee problem; an end to the conflict and all claims; and mutual recognition of the nation-state of the Palestinian people and the nation-state of the Jewish people. He emphasized that peace with the Palestinians "will make Israel strong." He spoke about the security plan the U.S. government arranged for the border between the West Bank and Jordan. ([Haaretz](#) 24 January 2014)

- Israeli Minister of Housing and Construction, Uri Ariel, of the "Jewish Home" fundamentalist party, a senior member of Israel's settler-led government, has called for the "rebuilding" of what he calls the "Third Temple", to replace al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Al Ray Palestinian News Agency has reported. "The first Temple was destroyed in 586 BCE, the second Temple in 70 CE, and ever since the Jews have been mourning its loss," he claims. "Now that Israel has once again become a Jewish sovereign state, there have been occasional calls to rebuild the Temple," he added. (IMEMC 25 January 2014)
- Israeli official: Palestine should allow settlers. Day after Netanyahu rejects plan to uproot settlement communities, unnamed source in his offices says there is no reason any future Palestinian state will 'be ethnically cleansed' of Jews. An official in the prime minister's office says [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) believes Jewish settlers should have the option of staying in a future Palestinian state. More than 500,000 settlers live in areas the Palestinians hope will be part of their state. The working assumption is that most will be annexed into settlement blocs that will remain in Israel, with the remainder evacuated. But experts believe roughly 100,000 settlers live outside of these blocs, and their fate under any final peace deal is unclear. The Israeli official said Netanyahu believes there is no reason to uproot them against their will."The prime minister believes that in peace, just as Israel has an Arab minority, there is no logical reason why the Palestinian state could not contain a Jewish minority and that Jews living in West Bank

would be given the option to stay," he said. ([Ynetnews](#) 26 January 2014)

- Lapid, Livni clash over benefits for settlements. Ministers argue during Knesset meeting intended to approve tax breaks for outlying communities. Sources in PMO slam PA for saying no settlers can stay in 'Palestine'. Bennett on Netanyahu's plan for settlers: 'Never' PM would let all settlers remain in West Bank, official says. Finance Minister Yair Lapid and Justice Minister Tzipi Livni went head to head during the weekly cabinet meeting Sunday over approval of planned tax benefits for small communities that would also include settlements in the Jordan Valley. Get The Times of Israel's Daily Edition by email and never miss our top stories Free Sign up! The tax breaks were part of a national plan aimed at prioritizing some 300 communities in outlying areas of Israel. However, the parameters were drawn based on geographical boundaries that include 35 settlements in the Jordan Valley. Livni, who heads the Hatnua faction, sought, and won, a delay on approval of the national plan until a debate had taken place on the inclusion of these settlements, expressing concern for a possible international backlash against support for West Bank communities. "We [would be] encouraging an influx to settlements, and this decision, at this time, will influence our world standing and the peace negotiations," argued Livni, who heads Israel's negotiation team in peace talks with the Palestinians. "We are talking about equal opportunity criteria," Lapid replied. Lapid, the leader of the Yesh Atid party, insisted that the plan was for the benefit of Israel's citizens regardless of where they lived, and said there was no reason for delaying approval. Beneficiaries of the plan will include some 100 Arab communities inside Israel. The cabinet agreed to delay authorization of the plan until next week. The Jordan Valley is a key element of peace negotiations and one of its thorniest sticking points. Israel insists on maintaining a military presence along the border with Jordan as well as controlling border crossings, while the Palestinians are adamant that there will be no IDF units inside a future Palestinian state. ([Time of Israel](#) 26 January 2014)

## Monthly Violations Statistics – January 2014

Governorate	Land Confiscated (Dunnuns)	Lands Threatened of Confiscation (Dunnuns)	Uprooted Trees/ Burnt trees	Demolished Houses	Demolished structures	Houses threatened of Demolition	Israeli settlers violence
Bethlehem	10	0	0	0	1	1	5
Jerusalem	0	0	0	7	0	22	27
Jenin	0	220	0	0	0	0	3
Tulkarm	0	40	0	0	0	0	1
Ramallah	0	0	800	0	0	0	4
Nablus	0	60	25	0	2	8	17
Salfit	0	0	1000	0	0	0	4
Jericho	0	0	0	13	1	0	0
Gaza	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qalqilyah	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hebron	0	280	70	3	2	13	20
Tubas	0	0	0	72	2	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1895</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>81</b>