



Monthly Report

April 2012

Israeli Violations in Occupied East Jerusalem

Prepared by

Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem

in cooperation with

Land Research Center

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Introduction

During the month of April 2012, the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem, in cooperation with the Land Research Center (LRC), recorded violations of Palestinian rights, both at the hands of the Israeli authorities and Israeli settlers. These included, but were not limited to, violations of residency rights, and land confiscations for the sake of illegal Israeli settlement in East Jerusalem.

- **Residency Rights** – 10 residential structures and five barns; First Palestinian family evicted from Beit Hanina; Two families threatened with eviction and demolition.
- **Settlement and land confiscation** – Israeli military academy due for construction on Palestinian land.
- **Restriction of Movement** – Palestinian activist prohibited from entering the West Bank.
- **Aggression on religious sites** – Multiple incidents and clashes around Al Aqsa Mosque.
- **Attacks against individuals** – Four year old girl dies from injuries sustained from a stray Israeli sniper bullet.
- **Raids against Palestinian Civil Society Organizations** – Palestinian media organization raided during planned ceremony in Jerusalem.

1. Residency Rights

Home demolitions

Al Jib

On April 18, seven Israeli vehicles, four bulldozers, and two trucks entered the Sh'ib Wishah area in western Al Jib. Israeli forces demolished barns and 10 residential structures that were inhabited by 50 people, including 33 children.



Mohammad al Jahaleen told an LRC fieldworker, “after the officer in charge and his troops stepped out of their cars, before they even addressed us, the bulldozers began demolitions. The officer said, ‘From here on’ while pointing at the first shed, ‘everything will be wiped off except for one temporary tent. Until you all leave.’ The soldiers stopped us from getting to our houses to remove the contents. They also stopped us from calling

each other. They pulled out the fences around the sheds and barns and loaded them into the trucks. As a result, 300 cattle were left shelter-less.”

Mohammad Salim said that “in 2008, the Israeli Occupation Civil Administration handed us eviction orders. We responded by paying an attorney to defend our case. The eviction order was postponed several times. Each time it was postponed, the Israeli Ministry of Defence ordered us to provide specific documents, including a permit from the owner. Soon after, they demanded a lease contract signed by the owner and they asked for an ownership deed, despite knowing that we do not own the land. In the end, they demanded that we apply for construction permits. This is illogical though, since we own such primitive residences that have no proper foundation. Acquiring a permit for them would be impossible.

On November 21, 2011, the Organization and Construction Committee decided to continue with the eviction plans unless we could manage to acquire a permit within 45 days. On January 15, 2012, the respite ended. We, the residents, demanded that we be either resettled or be allowed to return to our original lands in Wad Arar in the Negev from which we were forcefully evicted in 1950.”

*Victims of the demolitions:**

Victim	Family members	Children	Residences	Barns
Salim al Jahaleen	8	6	2	1
Suleiman Odeh	9	5	2	1
Daoud al Jahaleen	6	4	1	0
Iyad al Jahaleen	2	0	1	0

Fayez Salim	14	11	2	1
Fawwaz Salim	7	5	1	2
Khalil Salim	4	2	1	1
TOTAL	50	33	10	6

*Source: LRC Field work, Israeli Human Rights Violations Monitoring Unit

Home Evictions

Al Natsheh Family – first eviction in Beit Hanina

On April 18, Israeli troops entered the Al Natsheh residences in Beit Hanina and forcefully evicted the family from their homes before immediately handing the property to illegal Israeli settlers.

A large Israeli force set up a perimeter around the homes before forcefully entering and ordering the residents to evacuate immediately under the orders of the Israeli Magistrate Court.

The family initially refused to leave the homes in which they had lived for 14 years. Suleiman al Natsheh bought the 15 dunum plot in 1935, long before the Israeli State.

The troops responded to the family's refusal by assaulting and arresting a 24 year old family member. They also attacked 18 year old, Omar and broke the hand of 16 year old Ahmad. The forces succeeded in evicting the family members and emptying the houses of their contents. They then facilitated the entrance of Israeli settlers as the Natsheh family stood outside.

Three residences were taken by the settlers: a 95 m², three bedroom residence, inhabited by 11 people (including six children); a 40 m², two bedroom residence, inhabited by three people (including one child); and a 100 m², three bedroom residence, inhabited by a six member family (including four children).

Lubna al Natsheh told an LRC worker that: "in 2001, Aryeh King [a leader of the settler movement] and Moskovitch, the Jewish multi-millionaire, visited our home. King claimed ownership of 5.5 dunums of land. He said that his grandfather bought the land in the 1930s and he told my husband that he must evacuate. Soon afterwards we were informed that King was suing us.

In 2005, the Israeli Magistrate Court ruled in his favor and ordered us to evacuate the plot of land. In 2010 my husband appealed to the Central Court, which rejected the appeal and forced



us to pay the lawyer fees for the settlers – an amount of 5,000 NIS in addition to 16,000 NIS to the Court fund.

The police serve the settlers. They have broken into our home several times, trying to force us out. The most recent raids took place on February 21, 2011 and March 27, 2012.”

Threats of Eviction and Demolition

Jamjoum and Al Maslamani Families

Two Palestinian families face expulsion from their residences based on Israeli government claims that the homes were built on “State Property”. The residence owned by Adel al Maslamani is 250 m² and inhabited by 14 people. The residence owned by Samir Jamjoum is inhabited by 10 people, including eight children.



The residences are nextdoor to a settler guard tower and water reservoir the serve the settlements of Pisgat Ze’ev and Neve Yacoub.

Adel al Maslamani said that “this residence is an Arabic, Islamic one. It was built in 1954 and was inhabited by the high commander of the Jordanian Forces in

Jerusalem. It’s located in an Arab neighborhood. I first rented the house from the Waqf authority in 1997.

In 2001, an officer from the Israel Land Authority showed up on our doorstep and ordered us to leave the house. He said it was built on state property and said that the plot was confiscated on the grounds of a Jordanian law that gave the state the right to confiscate lands for public use.

The Islamic Waqf, the owner, intended to defend the property but decided it would be impossible to change the mind of the Israelis. I, however, did not surrender. I decided to defend the case at my own expense, no matter what.

In 2008, the Israeli Land Authority sent us an eviction order for he house and land. We pleaded to the Jordanian Government, the incumbent of the Islamic Waqf, the Palestinian president’s office, and a number of religious figures, in an attempt to gain support for our cause.

A number of committees were formed to aid us but we are still waiting for the Israeli response. We know that a hearing session was held in the Magistrate court on March 30.”

Al Maslamani continued, saying: “The Israelis have tried to terrorize us and to scare us away. In 2008, Israeli intelligence officers showed up in civilian clothing and private cars and tried to

kidnap my son, Nidal. When they failed, they brutally attacked the family. Two of them restrained Nidal and a third spit into his mouth. It was a disgusting scene and was before tens of people. They arrested him and my other son, Badr. Badr was imprisoned for a month and Nadr for 18 months.

It is our right to remain here...I would rather die here than leave.”

Joulani family

The Israeli authorities also issued an eviction order to Mohammad al Joulani for his 70 m² residence, built in 1998. The residence is home to a six member family, including four children. The Israeli authorities fined him in excess of 60,000 NIS and set April 22 as the date for a hearing session.

2. Settlement and Land Confiscation

Military Academy on Al Masharef Mountain:

On April 6, the Israeli authorities approved a plan to construct a military academy on Al Masharef Mountain. The mountain is adjacent to the neighborhoods of Wadi al Joz and Al Suwana, and overlooks Al Aqsa Mosque. The academy would confiscate 14 dunums of property belonging to the Islamic Waqf.

The project is supervised by the Jerusalem Development Center, which is also in charge of the construction of the biblical gardens around the city.

This development reflects Israel’s policy of the Judaization of Jerusalem. Other developments include the biblical gardens and the replacement of Hebrew for Arabic street names.

Palestinians do not receive compensation for confiscated lands from the Israeli government.

3. RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT

Abdul Latig Gayth Prevented from Entering West Bank

Abdul Latif Gayth, an activist working with Addameer prisoner rights organization, was called in to talk with Jerusalem police and was given an order from Israeli authorities prohibiting him from entering the West Bank. He was not given any reasons for the order. He received a similar order six months earlier.

Such restriction on movement of citizens of the oPt is in breach of Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states: “1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. 2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.”

4. AGGRESSION ON RELIGIOUS SITES

Movement to Demolish Al Aqsa Mosque

On April 22, Israeli settlers that are part of the “coalition of movements for the reconstruction of the temple” participated in the “doors march,” which passes through to gates of Al Aqsa. The group marched through the Old City towards Al Aqsa Mosque in the early evening. The demonstrators called for the acceleration of the construction on the Jewish temple and demolition of Al Aqsa.

Restricted from Entering Mosque

Israeli authorities prohibited Ikrima Sabri, the chairman of the Higher Islamic Association and Imam of Al Aqsa Mosque, from entering the Mosque for a period of two months. April is the third time that he has received such a ban.

Sabri said that such bans are illegal and emphasized that military control does not give Israelis rights or powers within a mosque. He also said: “This order is the result of provocation from various settler groups who try to defile the holiness of the Mosque, which is for Muslims only.”

The Israeli decision to ban Sabri is a breach of his right to freedom of religious practice.

Israeli settlers break into Al Aqsa Courtyard

At 8:30am on April 8, a group of Israeli settlers broke into Al Aqsa courtyard. They performed religious rituals, songs, and dances while under the protection of the Israeli police.

Mohammad Husein, the Mufti of Palestine and one of the Imams of the Mosque, warned of the serious and provocative nature of these actions and of calls for the construction of the Jewish temple in place of Al Aqsa.

5. ATTACKS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS

Four year old killed

On April 2, four year old Aseel Ara’ra died in the hospital. Aseel was shot with a bullet from an Israeli sniper while she played in the street with other children. The bullet hit her spinal cord, paralyzing her.

It is believed that she was hit by a stray bullet. The Israeli military often has clashes in the area, firing without regard for the safety of nearby civilians.



6. RAIDS OF PALESTINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Israeli Police and Intelligence officers broke into the offices of Hona al Quds Community Media, in the Old City neighborhood of Al Khalidiyya, preventing a planned ceremony from taking place. The officers arrested Adel Rwaished and Muhannad Izheman. The men were interrogated and then released.

Dr. Jameel Nseba, of the organization, told an LRC fieldworker, “The Israeli Police broke into the offices, confiscated documents, prevented anyone from coming near, and ordered the immediate evacuation of the staff. Then they handed us an order that said: ‘The Minister of Internal security, and Knesset Member Yizhaq Ahronovich, order, in accordance with the midgge agreement in regard to the Wes t Bank and Gaza (limited activities 1994), and after being informed on April 2, 2012 that a conference shall take place in Al Khalidiyya in regards to wire and wireless communication in Al Khalidiyya which is sponsored by the Palestinian Authority and based on my power according to Article B3 of the law, I order the prohibition of the conference in Jerusalem or any other part of Israel. I order the owners of the venue and the organizers to immediately cease.’”

Recently, Israeli officials have increased the number of raids and closures of Palestinian community based organizations. Such actions serve to further isolate Jerusalem from the rest of the oPt.