



Monthly Report

August 2011

Israeli Violations in Occupied East Jerusalem

Prepared by

Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem

in cooperation with

Land Research Center

Eighth edition, fifth year

Introduction

During the month of August 2011, East Jerusalem saw an escalation of violations of Palestinian rights. This increase is most likely due to August being the Holy Month of Ramadan. Israeli authorities have blocked all entrances to the Old City, rendering Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and even many in Jerusalem, from being able to reach the mosque.

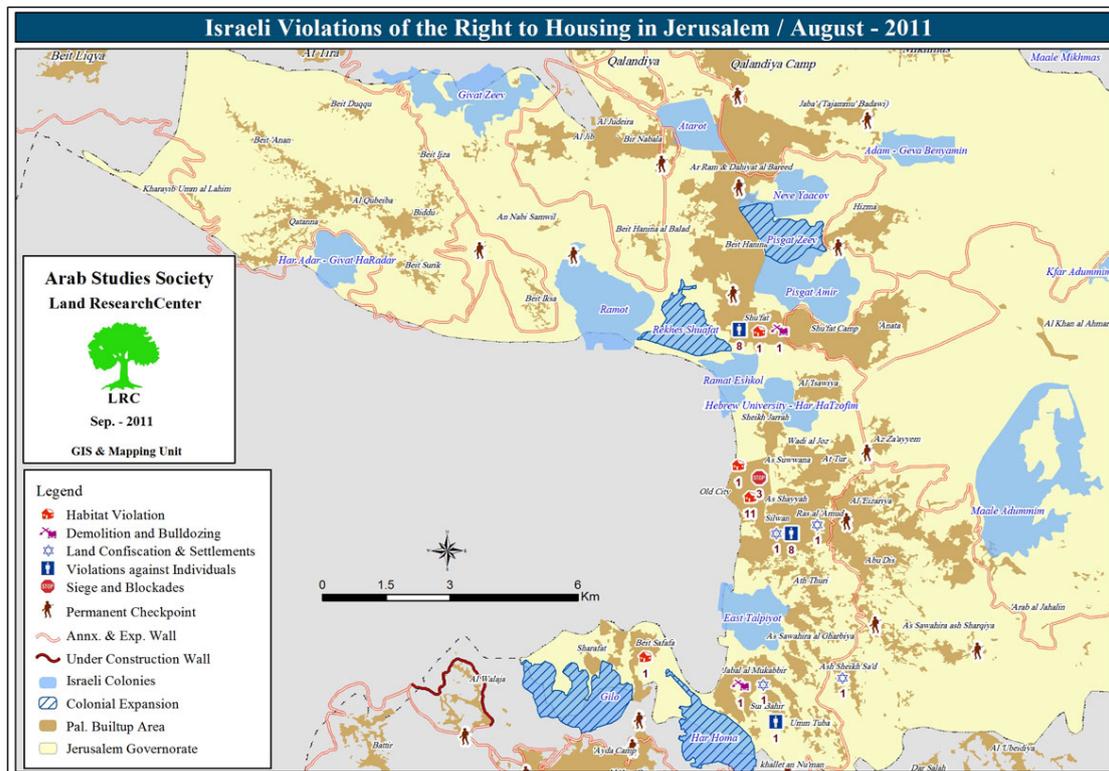
The Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem, in cooperation with the Land Research Center (LRC), recorded **28** violations of Palestinian rights, both at the hands of the Israeli authorities and Israeli settlers during the month of August.

- **Residency rights** – **One** home was demolished, **four** demolition orders were issued and **two** homes were raided by Israeli troops.
- **Settlements and settler attacks** – **Five** settler and settlement violations occurred.
- **Restriction of movement** - Israeli authorities continued to restrict free movement of Palestinians.
- **Attacks against individuals** – There were **eleven** incidents of violations, such as arrest and deportation, against individuals.
- **Other** – Israeli authorities prevented fire fighters from reaching Palestinian lands that were set aflame.

FACTS AND FIGURES

VIOLATION	OCCURENCE
Residency rights: home demolitions; demolition orders; home raids	8
Settlements and settler attacks	5
Restriction of movement	3
Attacks against individuals	11
Other violations	1
TOTAL	28

Violations by Location (August 2011)



1. RESIDENCY RIGHTS

Home demolitions: Al Rajabi family home destroyed

On August 10 the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem demolished the Al Rajabi family dwelling. Bulldozers razed the residence, under protection of the Israeli Police, while the family was absent from the home.

Majed al Rajabi said of the demolition: "The property is registered in accordance with Israeli laws. I purchased it seven years ago...Two weeks ago an inspector showed up and inspected our property. He came again two days ago and served us a demolition order to be carried out within 72 hours.

42 hours later they committed their crime. We were away on Wednesday, and while we were gone Israeli bulldozers and troops broke into our property. Our neighbourhoods informed us that the Israelis were there. They demolished the home from within. They even destroyed the veranda that I had built. We came back to find nothing but broken walls. My family is living in misery."

"I don't know what the Municipality wants. Two years ago they demolished our residence in Wadi ad Damm in Beit Hanina, and now this?" Majed al Rajabi, August 2011

Demolition orders: Four homes issued demolitions

During the month of August, four homes – home to seven families - received demolition orders. The families have resided in these homes for over 40 years. The property was originally owned by Mohammad abu Mayyala and Shihda Shabana. But today the government the Hatomim Shtaym settler organization claim ownership and the families pay them the rent.

The residents originally received eviction orders three years ago and were sent the order again this month, claiming that the families have not paid rent. The residents insist that they have, but that the society has often refused to accept the payment. They say that they will not be evicted.

Raids

Fakhouri family: At 6:30 am on August 19 Israeli troops forced entry in the Fakhouri family residence in Bab Hutta. Ahmad Fakhouri were shocked to see 10 soldiers surrounding him when he awoke. When he told them to leave his home the soldiers beat him, breaking his arm and injuring his head.

The family reports that the soldiers also beat other members of the family. Two of the sons were shot with rubber bullets.

At no point did the soldiers present a search warrant.

Khdeir family: On August 24, Israeli soldiers forced entry into the home of Naser abu Khdeir. Naser is a well-known Palestinian politician currently being detained at Ofer prison. The soldiers claimed to have an arrest warrant for Anan, Naser's 14-year-old son.

The officer in charge asked Anan's mother to accompany her son for interrogation. When she went to retrieve her car keys, she saw female soldiers beating her daughters, Asala and Somoud.

Asala, a law student at Birzeit University said, "One of the female soldiers beat my younger sister, Somoud, with a bat and another soldier pulled her hair. I shouted at them and pushed them away, but the soldier pulled my hair and slapped me. After they arrested us, they forced me to sit on the floor while they kicked me. I saw them beat my sister in the next room."

The girls were released two days later on a 5,000 NIS bail and sentenced to five days under house arrest.

Penalties and fines

During the past month, the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem imposed a 100,000 NIS fine on Hasan al 'Atiq for building without the proper permit.

A family member told an LRC fieldworker that Hasan and his family have resided in the Bab Hutta home since 1967. The residence is now home to 20 people.

The same home was subject to severe fines and a demolition order five years ago. The fine was paid in full and the demolition order was never carried out.

2. SETTLEMENTS AND SETTLER ATTACKS

Har Homa

On August 3 the Israeli Organization and Construction Committee approved a plan to add 930 settler units to Har Homa settlement.

4,300 new settler units approved for Jerusalem

According to Israeli news outlets, on August 10, Israeli Minister of Interior, Eli Yishai, approved a plan for the construction of 4,300 new settler units in Jerusalem.

The plan calls for 1,600 units in Ramat Shlomo, 2,000 units in Givat Ha-Matos and 700 units to Pisgat Ze'ev.

2020 "Master Plan"

The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem has begun construction of 130 new settler units in Har Gilo, a settlement built on part of the Palestinian neighbourhood, Beit Safafa.

The 130 units are part of the 2020 "Master Plan", which will see the construction of 20,000 additional settler units by the end of 2020.

At Tawq Road

The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem plans to confiscate 102 dunums of land in Wadi Qaddum and Ras al Amoud and an additional 34 dunums in Al Salaa, as part of the implementation of Plan 2688. The plan involves multiple stages of construction: an East-West road with extensions going through Sur Baher, Lifta and connecting Pisgat Ze'ev settlement to Beit Hanina.

The section of road stretching between Sur Baher and Al Z'yim – passing through several Palestinian towns – has not yet been constructed. This strip of road will be 11.5 km long and will building three tunnels, five bridges and confiscating 1,237 dunums of private Palestinian property.

Jerusalem Light Rail

The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem is currently constructing a light rail that will serve as a by-pass and will connect the settlements of and around Jerusalem. The construction of the light rail has meant further land confiscation from Palestinians and the destruction and pollution of their villages.

The light rail will particularly affect the economy of Shu'fat, a town inhabited by 30,000 people and considered to be the northern entrance to Jerusalem.

3. RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT

Separation Wall: During the month of August, Israeli bulldozers razed areas of Al Walaja village to continue building along the path of the Separation Wall. Locals who protested, including Shireen al Araj, Mustapha al Atrash and Mazin Qumsiyeh were arrested.

Al Qattanin Market: Israeli Police ordered the closure of all shops and booths between 5:00 pm and 12:00 am on August 8. Officials said the order was to ensure the security of a group of settlers who would be celebrating a holiday in the area.

Religious practices: Israeli forces prevented thousands of Muslims from attending prayers in al Aqsa mosque during the holy month of Ramadan. They prevented people from attending Friday prayers and from spending the holy night of Al Qadr.

4. VIOLATIONS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS

Arresting children

The Israeli Police arrested seven children for allegedly impeding the light rail project by throwing rocks. On August 26, the Israeli Central Court released six of the children on bails ranging from 1,500 – 3,000 NIS and sentencing them to house arrests ranging from 5 – 30 days. The children arrested were

1. **Mousa abu Khdeir (18)** arrested since August 22.
2. **Mohammad Mousa (16)** paid 3,000 NIS bail and under house arrest for 30 days.
3. **Rami abu Khdeir (16)** paid 2,500 NIS bail and under house arrest for 30 days.

4. **Yahya abu Khdeir (16)** paid 2,500 NIS bail and under house arrest for 30 days.
5. **Abed Thib (16)** paid 2,500 NIS bail and under house arrest for 30 days.
6. **Abdul Rahman Khalil (17)** paid 2,500 NIS bail and under house arrest for 30 days.
7. **Anan abu Khdeir (14)** paid 1,500 NIS bail and under house arrest for give days.
8. **Shadi abu Khdeir (16)** In custody for one day before being put under house arrest for five days.

Israeli Border Guards Kill Amin Dabash

On August 16, an Israeli vehicle ran over Amin Dabash near Sur Baher. Amin left his home at 9:00 pm on foot. At approximately 9:20 pm a car, with an Israeli Police license plate, ran him over while driving 120 km/hour according to Police investigations.

Amin's uncle stated, "The car threw Amin 140 meters, causing multiple fractures in his right leg, which was hanging just by a bit of flesh and skin. His right shoulder and the right side of his face were also severely damaged. He was dead before he arrived at the hospital. I sincerely believe that the driver, a Border Police Officer, meant to hit Amin. He could have avoided doing so in such a wide, empty and well-lit street....There is no justification that I can accept!"

Targeting children in Silwan

The Israeli Police arrested a number of children while they played in Silwan, bringing them to the Police Station and violently interrogating them before releasing them.

The Israeli patrol stopped the children – who were between seven and eight years old – took them to Wadi al Rababa and forced them to wait in the hot sun before interrogating them. The children were made to sign statements written in Hebrew, despite being unable to understand what was written.

Deportation: Mohammad Salah

On August 1, after five days of detention, Israeli authorities temporarily exiled Mohammad Salah from his home in Beit Safafa, separating him from his 10 member family.

The order will last for 90 days. Mohammad was charged with "disturbing settlers." The Salah family has been under attack from nearby settlers with the most recent attack against his wife and daughter.

5. OTHER VIOLATIONS

Jabal al Mukabbir

On August 14, when flames erupted in Wadi Yasoul forest, Israeli soldiers obstructed fire trucks and locals from entering the area to stop the path of the fire, allowing it to burn down many trees and destroy lands.