



Monthly Report

July 2011

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

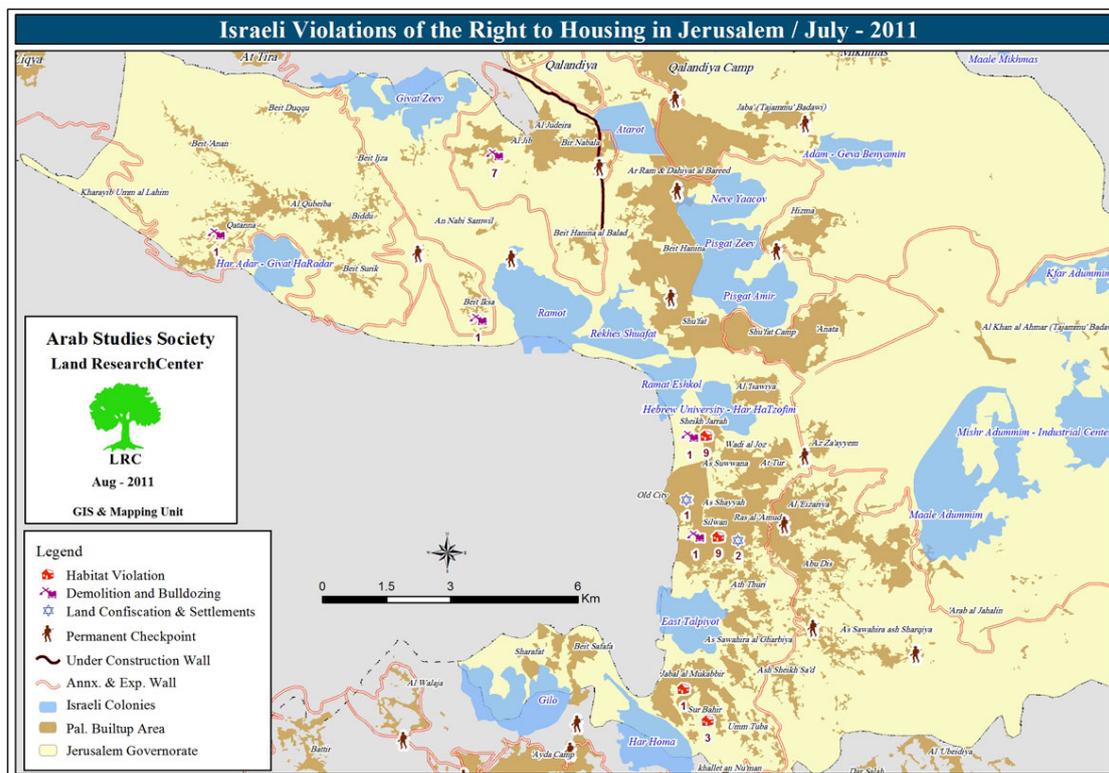
During the month of July 2011, the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem, in cooperation with the Land Research Center (LRC) recorded a number of human rights violations against Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. The groups recorded a total of **36** violations, both at the hands of the Israeli authorities and Israeli settlers.

- **Residency rights** - **Four** homes were demolished, **19** demolition orders and **one** permit related fine were issued.
- **Settlements and settler attacks** – The Israeli government planned the construction of 23 new settler units and settlers in Sheikh Jarrah released a dog on Palestinians.
- **Demolitions and plowings** – There were **seven** incidents of demolitions and plowings.
- **Restriction of movement** – Israeli authorities continued constructing the Separation Wall around Qalandiya.
- **Attacks against individuals** – One elderly Palestinian woman was almost prevented from going to the hospital while she was meant to appear in court and one 13-year-old from Silwan was beaten and arrested, taken from the street.

FACTS AND FIGURES

VIOLATION	OCCURENCE
Residency rights: home demolitions; demolition orders; penalties and fines	24
Settlements and settler attacks	2
Demolitions and plowings	7
Restriction of movement	1
Attacks against individuals	2
TOTAL	36

Violations by Location (July 2011)



1. RESIDENCY RIGHTS

Home demolitions: four families forced to demolish their own homes

Sur Baher: On July 11, the Israeli Municipal Court ordered the demolition of three homes in Sur Baher to clear way for the construction of a road. The homes are inhabited by the families of Ramadan Dabash, Iyad Dabash and Raed Dabash, with a total of 25 people, including 18 children.

One of the owners commented that “the Municipality doesn’t care that our home has been here since 1990, it only matters that the home is on the projected route of the road. In 2009 we had to demolish part of the home for the same road route. It appears this wasn’t enough for the Municipality. The court decided that they must demolish 90 square meters, leaving three families homeless.”

Abu Sakran family: On July 5, Issa abu Sakran received a demolition order for a small brick room he recently built on the edge of his home. He had built the room, next to a 20 year old room in his home, with the intention of making them a residence for his son. One day after the order was issued, an inspector arrived and ordered the family to destroy both rooms, ignoring the fact that one was 20 years old. On July 18 the family was forced to destroy both rooms.

“Our wish was to help our son get married. [On July 6] the Municipality inspector appeared and threatened us. He said that if we did not demolish the rooms than the municipality would, at our expense. The Municipality had already demolished a wall and room of our home in 2004, without a permit to do so. This time they gave us a respite until July 18. But on that day, I was forced to demolish the rooms, killing my son’s hope of getting married.” (Issa abu Sakran, July 2011)

Demolition orders

At Tawil family: On July 18, the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem issued a demolition order to Widad at Tawil for the home in which she’s resided for nine years. In addition to the demolition order, Widad was give a 35,000 NIS penalty.

Widad lives in the residence with eight family members, including her five children and her newly married son and daughter in-law.

Husein abu Sneinah building: On July 20 property owner, Husein abu Sneinah received a demolition order for his three-storey building. The building is currently inhabited by 16 people, including seven children. The main reason for the demolition order appears to be the building’s close proximity to the illegal settlement of Beit Yonatan.

Khadija Abdul Raziq residence: This month, an inspection team from the municipality arrived in the Beer Ayyub area of Silwan and began to take pictures and measurements of Khadija Abdul Raziq’s

residence. When they asked inspectors as to the reasons behind such actions, the family was told that they should ask the municipality. When they did so, the family was informed that their home did not have the proper permits. Soon afterwards they received a demolition order.

The home is inhabited by ten people, including five children.

Silwan/Al Bustan: The East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan is a primary target of the Israeli government. Because of its strategic location, it is especially vulnerable to home demolitions, demolition treats, seizures, raids, arrests and fines. Such actions are part of the Israeli government's plan of ethnic cleansing; to rid Jerusalem of its Palestinian population and Judaize the city.

On July 9, the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem decided to demolish, within two months, 16 residences, currently inhabited by 30 Palestinian families (over 200 people). This took place following its rejection of the Alternative Organizational Plan suggested by Silwan residents. The Israeli plan in the area includes the demolition of over 100 Palestinian residents, built over 77 dunums of land.

Penalties and Fines

Over the month of July, the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem ordered Fakhri abu Diab, a member the Silwan Solidarity Campaign, to pay 74,000 NIS over a period of ten years for "illegal" building. He rejected the fine and filed an objection.

Fakhri explained the fine and his objection to an LRC fieldworker. The Municipality claims that my building is illegal. In fact, it is part of a colonial plan for Al Bustan. How can they demand that I pay penalties to aid an illegal plan? The Municipality claims that the house was built in the year 2000. Even if that were true, then I should be asked to pay any more than 20,000 NIS in property taxes. Additionally, the Municipality doesn't provide my neighborhood with any services, with the exception of an ineffective garbage collection system, which exists only because the garbage could become inconvenient for Jewish residents of the area."

The LRC views the unusually high penalty imposed on Fakhri for his home as punishment for his resistance to Municipality orders and rulings.

2. SETTLEMENTS AND SETTLER ATTACKS

Approved construction of 23 settler units in Ras al Amoud:

The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem approved the construction of 23 settler units in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Ras al Amoud. This construction is called plan 12259. The units would be added to the illegal settlement called Ma'ale David.

Settlers attack nine Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah:

On July 1, Israeli settlers unleashed a dog on Raed Diab, who was attacked while standing in front of his home with his six-year-old daughter. The dog also hurt the girl, leaving her with bruises. As Raed

attempted to push the dog away, the settlers attacked him in order to “protect the dog.” Israeli guards in the area also attacked, using tear gas.

In total, nine Palestinians were injured during the incident, one of whom was taken to the hospital for treatment. The settlers responsible for the attack are currently living in the captured home of the Al Kurd family in Sheikh Jarrah.

3. DEMOLITIONS AND PLOUGHINGS

Sheikh Jarrah solidarity tent removed

On July 7, Israeli forces removed the solidarity tent in front of the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Sheikh Jarrah. The tent was erected to show support for the members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) under threat of expulsion from Jerusalem and of losing their residency status for showing loyalty to a government other than Israel’s.

Demolition of wall

On July 10, the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem demolished a wall surrounding Arwa Jalajell’s land.

Al Khalayla neighborhood

Al Khalayla neighborhood was originally a part of Jib village, but was isolated three years ago by the Separation Wall. Today, the neighborhood has become a prison and only those with specific ID numbers are allowed to pass through the one gate serving as entrance and exit. The neighborhood has no school or medical center and residents are prohibited from building any type of structure. Furthermore, over 30 houses in the area are threatened with demolition orders.

On Monday, July 11, Israel began a destruction campaign in Al Khalayla, lasting from 6:30 am to 2:30 pm and affecting the following locations:

1. **Grocery store:** Bulldozers destroyed a 90 square meter grocery store belonging to Ismael abu Rabah. Ismael told an LRC fieldwork, “They issued a warning three weeks earlier. When they came, they destroyed the shop with all of its contents still inside. Any goods I salvaged were destroyed by the summer heat. The losses are incredible.”
2. **Paved lands and wall:** Bulldozers entered the property of Hamada al Lala, plowing paved lands and destroying his wall surrounding part of the land. This occurred despite the fact that Hamada had official permits from Israel.
3. **Carpentry shop:** Bulldozers demolished a carpentry shop that was built in 2000. It is owned by Mohammad Asmar and is 50 meters from the wall. Mohammad estimated approximately 160,000 NIS in losses.

Olive trees in Qutna

On July 28, Israeli Border Police set fire to olive trees in southern Qutna and prevented the owners from reaching the fields to stop the flames. The fire resulted in the burning of 80 olive trees.



Olive tree burning in Qutna (July 2011).

Uprooting olive trees

On July 21, Israeli authorities uprooted over 81 100-year-old olive trees and moved them to an unknown destination. The trees belonged to the Habababa family.

4. RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT

During July, Israeli authorities furthered construction of the wall surrounding Qalandiya.

5. VIOLATIONS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS

Samira al Ruweidi

Samira al Ruweidi and her family, like 85 other families in Silwan, are facing expulsion from their home. Samira's court date was set for July 9 but, due to severe illness, Samira was unable to stand before a judge on the set date. Despite this, the judge demanded her presence. Samira fainted in the courtroom, but the judge decided that in order for the case to continue she had to remain present.

At one point, her husband began to take her from the courtroom, when the judge shouted, “Bring her back in. She’s faking. Arabs do that all the time.” Nevertheless, her family removed her from the courtroom and she was admitted to the hospital and underwent emergency open-heart surgery.

Samira was fined 25,000 NIS for being absent during the case and for faking sickness.

13-year-old arrested

Ahmad Syam (13) was arrested from in front of his father’s grocery shop by Israeli Border Patrol Guards after being beaten by police and Israeli settlers. He was beaten more at the police station during interrogation. On July 2 he was put under house arrest for a week in Sur Baher, although his family home is in Silwan.