



Monthly Report

October 2011

Israeli Violations in Occupied East Jerusalem

Prepared by

Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem

in cooperation with

Land Research Center

Tenth edition, fifth year

Introduction

During the month of October 2011, the West Bank and East Jerusalem saw an escalation of the violation of Palestinian rights. This increase is most likely in response to the Palestinian statehood bid at the United Nations and its acceptance as a full member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem, in cooperation with the Land Research Center (LRC), recorded **55** violations of Palestinian rights, both at the hands of the Israeli authorities and Israeli settlers during the month of October.

- **Residency rights** - **Eleven** homes were demolished, **five** demolition orders were issued and **eight** houses were raided by Israeli troops resulting in at least eight arrests.
- **Settlements and settler attacks** - The Israeli government proposed a plan to construct thousands of settlement units and nine hotels in the area between Bethlehem and Jerusalem as well as a plan to reconstruct the bridge to the Dung Gate entrance to the Old City. Israeli settlers also destroyed and vandalized gravestones in a Muslim cemetery, on which Israel seeks to erect a museum.
- **Demolitions and ploughings** - Israeli authorities demolished a Palestinian owned carwash in Hizma, and **eight** farms and agricultural lands across the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
- **Restriction of movement** - Israeli authorities continued to restrict free movement of Palestinians with checkpoints, flying checkpoints and temporary closures of areas.
- **Closure of Palestinian organizations** - **Four** organizations were issued temporary closure orders.
- **Attacks against individuals** - At least **two** Palestinians were arrested or injured by Israelis during the reporting period, including a four-year-old girl who was paralyzed when struck in the neck with a rubber bullet.
- **Other** – Other violations included Israeli authorities fining a restaurant owner for his window displays and the confiscation three tractors used to transport water to a Bedouin village.

FACTS AND FIGURES

VIOLATION	OCCURENCE
Residency rights: home demolitions; demolition orders; home raids	24
Settlements and settler attacks	3
Demolitions and ploughings	9
Restriction of movement	7
Closure of Palestinian organizations	4
Attacks against individuals	2
Other violations	4
TOTAL	55

Violations by Location (October 2011)

pictures of the buildings in order to keep track of changes. They believe more demolitions will happen soon. Four other structures were demolished on the same day.

Hilwa family: On October 25, Israeli authorities destroyed the two-bedroom home of Ahmad Hilwa in 'Anata village, displacing Ahmad, his wife and their 12 children. The contents of the home were hastily thrown out by the soldiers before the home was destroyed. Ahmad recalls that the soldiers did not have any official or written order with them. He explained to an LRC fieldworker, *"Seven months ago, an officer from the Israeli Civil Administration showed up on the farm and ordered me to stop working. He handed me a written demolition order."*

"We were given two choices: either we allow them to build a gas station on the land, along with a road leading to it, or they would demolish all the structures. I hired a lawyer, but he was told that my case was confidential[...]The land has been in my family for centuries. The only reason for the demolition is its proximity to the segregation Wall, which is 300 m away." Ahmad Hilwa, October 2011

Khan al Ahmar village: On October 31, Israeli troops and officers of the Israeli Civil Administration entered the Bedouin village of Khan al Ahmar and demolished six residences, displacing 40 people. The families and owners have inhabited this land for over 26 years, but, according to the Israeli authorities, were living on the land illegally, without a permit. Along with the residences, three barns were destroyed.

Demolition orders: five homes at risk in Silwan

On October 8, Israeli troops entered East Jerusalem and served demolition orders to at least five families in the neighbourhoods of Silwan, Wadi al Joz and 'Ein al Louza. The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem has announced its intentions to demolish Palestinian homes in these areas and replace them with a "Biblical" park.

Raids: Eight people arrested from their homes

Israeli troops raided at least eight houses across East Jerusalem and the West Bank, arresting as many people. Those arrested were:

1. **Amjad abu Asab:** (October 7) Amjad is the head of the Prisoners' Parents Committee, and was arrested from his home in As Suwwana.
2. **Kifah Sarhan:** (October 22) Kifah is the head of the Social Department of the Jerusalem Institute for Development and was arrested following a raid on his Jerusalem home. Kifah says that the contents of the house were disturbed and that a significant sum of money was taken as "evidence."
3. **Fadi abu Lafi:** (October 23) Fadi was arrested from his home in Attur.
4. **Uday Khweis:** (October 23) Uday was arrested from his home in Attur.
5. **Mutaz Zayed:** (October 26) Mutaz was arrested during a raid on several residences in Beit Ikka.
6. **Munzer Mazid:** (October 26) Munzer was arrested during a raid on several residences in Beit Ikka.

7. **Muhammad al Qaq:** (October 29) Muhammad was arrested from his home in Silwan during a night time raid.
8. **Abdul Karim Shyoukhi:** (October 29) 14-year-old Abdul was arrested from his home during a night time raid.

2. SETTLEMENTS AND SETTLER ATTACKS

Settlement and hotel construction between Bethlehem and Jerusalem

The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem proposed a construction project between the cities of Bethlehem and Jerusalem. According to Khalil Tufakji, a map expert from Orient House, the first phase of the plan calls for the erection of 2,600 settlement units and the second phase for 4,000 more units. The plan also includes the construction of nine hotels. These would be located five to ten minutes from downtown Bethlehem and could prove damaging to the city's economy, which is largely dependent on tourism.

Dung Gate Bridge to be rebuilt

The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem recently announced that the bridge leading to the Dung Gate entrance to the Old City is in danger of collapsing. Shlomo Eshkol, head engineer for the Municipality, recommended completely reconstructing the bridge. Many believe that the true purpose behind this move is to continue the Israeli policy of restructuring and Judaizing the Old City.

Muslim cemetery in Jerusalem vandalized

On October 12, Israeli settlers broke into Ma'man Allah cemetery, set fire to cypress trees, destroyed 25 gravestone and wrote violent and racist messages in Russian on many headstones. The cemetery is in a vulnerable location, as Israeli authorities intend to use the land to build a museum.

3. DEMOLITIONS AND PLOUGHINGS

Carwash in Hizma demolished

Mohammad al Khateeb's garage in Hizma, used as a carwash, was demolished by the Israeli authorities on October 27. The states reason for the demolition was that Mohammad did not have a permit. Mohammad says that he received the initial demolition order three months earlier, but was shocked to see it executed so rapidly. The garages contents were destroyed during the demolition. The army blocked the road leading to the carwash to prevent any protest. When Mohammad's sister, Dalal, attempted to interfere by locking herself in the garage, she was pulled out and beaten by the soldiers. Before leaving, Mohammad was told that patrols would be monitoring the location to ensure that he does not attempt to rebuild.

Farms demolished and agricultural lands plowed

Al Ka'abna village: Israeli forces entered the village of al Ka'abna on October 25. As well as demolishing three homes, the forces also destroyed four agricultural structures, all with the livestock still inside.

Hilwa family: On October 25, Israeli forces demolished and ploughed the land and farm of Ahmad Hilwa. Forces simultaneously destroyed his family home. The demolition, at which 100 soldiers were present, killed all of Ahmad's chickens, uprooted 15 trees and destroyed six beehives.

Khan al Ahmar village: Three barns, along with six residences, were demolished in the village of Khan al Ahmar on October 31.

4. RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT

There are many permanent checkpoints and road blocks across the West Bank and East Jerusalem. These are often used to seal off areas and conduct arrests. It is not uncommon for Palestinians who are stopped to face physical and verbal abuse from Israeli soldiers. Additionally, Israeli authorities often erect "flying checkpoints" at random locations and times, making it even more difficult for Palestinians to move freely. **Seven** incidences of arrests, beatings and flying checkpoints were recording during the month of October.

1. **October 4:** A flying checkpoint was erected at the entrance to 'Anata village. Israeli soldiers arrested Yusuf Elayan from this checkpoint.
2. **October 7:** Mohammad Suleiman, of Hebron, was beaten by Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint.
3. **October 11:** Israeli soldiers at the "Container" checkpoint, between Bethlehem and Ramallah, arrested Basil Faqih, of Dura.
4. **October 21:** Israeli soldiers temporarily sealed the entrance to the village of Beit Iksa.
5. **October 25:** Israeli soldiers blocked a road in Hizma during the demolition of a carwash.
6. **October 29:** Israeli soldiers temporarily sealed the entrance to Qutna.
7. **October 29:** Bilal Abdul Karim, of Jenin, was arrested by Israeli soldiers from the "Container" checkpoint, between Bethlehem and Ramallah.

5. CLOSURE OF PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS

Between 1967 and 2000, 35 Palestinian civil society organizations have been banned and 40 more have been shut down since 2000.

"The existence of Palestinian organizations in Jerusalem is a reflection of the Palestinian people's existence. The Palestinians are not trying to impose themselves. They are not trying to change facts on the ground...in fact, it is [the Israelis] who are trying to change the facts on the ground and create a new order..." (Faisal al Huseini, Chairman of the Arab Studies Society, 1994)

The Jerusalem Institute for Development

On October 25, Israeli police officers raided the two Dahiyat al Bareed branches of the Jerusalem Institute for Development, claiming the organization holds affiliations with Hamas. The police simultaneously arrested the Head of the Social Department, Kifah Sarha, from his home. They also confiscated computers, cameras and office files. Both branches were given one-month closure orders.

The Jerusalem Institute for Development is a non-governmental organization that serves the poor and provides educational services to youth.

The Shuaa Women's Society

Israeli police raided the office of the Shuaa Women's Society in Shu'fat, claiming that it was associated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). The office was issued a one-month closure order.

Dr. Nofouth al Maslamani, the director of the Society recounted that, *"an Israeli intelligence office called and informed us of the closure order. He threatened to arrest whoever remained at the office. They put the closure order on the door. The order had no registration number and the appendix referenced another organization, under a different name. We have every right to be active in this city as a civil society organization. This is a right granted to us by international laws and conventions."*

Additional closures

Israeli authorities also ordered the closures of the Sa'ed Institution, located in Kafr 'Aqab, and Work Without Borders. The Sa'ed Institution provides educational services to students. Work Without Borders helps people find job opportunities through the internet.

6. VIOLATIONS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS

Violent and random arrest in Silwan

Silwan resident, Khaled az Zeer, was arrested by Israeli authorities on October 1. Witnesses say that the arrest was extremely violent. Khaled was tear gassed and beaten before being taken to a nearby police station, where he was accused of attacking the soldiers who arrested him. Khaled was released when his lawyer presented a video that discredited the soldiers' claims and supported Khaled's statement that the arrest was random and intentionally provocative.

4-year-old is paralyzed in 'Anata

On October 21, Aseel Ara'ra (4) was playing with other children near her home in 'Anata village when she was hit in the neck by a rubber bullet. Her mother recalls, *"some children came running towards me screaming, 'Aseel fell and she is bleeding!' We took her to the medical center in town and then to Al Maqased Hospital in Jerusalem. There, the doctors found out that she had been struck in the neck by a bullet."* Dr. Mohammad abu Taqa stated that the rubber bullet hit Aseel's spinal cord, leaving her paralyzed from the neck down and blocking her left lung. He does not believe there is any chance of her condition improving.

7. OTHER VIOLATIONS

Restaurant owner is fined for posters

On October 17, the Jerusalem Municipality issued heavy fines to Azzam Maraga, the owner of the Abu al 'Izz Erdogan Restaurant in Jerusalem. Azzam was told he did not hold the required permits to display posters of the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in the restaurant's windows.

Three tractors confiscated outside Hizma

The Bedoin village of an Nawaj'a reported that Israeli authorities confiscated three tractors during the month of October. These tractors were used by the village to bring water from Hizma. The Israeli authorities stated that this action was carried out because the tractors ran through a "military zone." Israel does not recognize the village of an Nawaj'a and considers the entire area a military zone. The village now faces an extreme water shortage. According to the leader of the village, 36 structures have received military demolition orders over the past four years.