

Monthly Report on Israeli Incitement March 2017 Issue

In order to facilitate an environment that is conducive for peace and security, it is important to mitigate factors that contribute to keeping both Palestinians and Israelis from achieving progress. Incitement is one of those factors.

In this respect, the Palestinian Authority has undertaken initiatives that curb and diminish incitement against Israel; By 2006, the Palestinian Ministry of Education revised textbooks to ensure the removal of incitement. Additionally, President Abbas has repeatedly called for the activation of the trilateral incitement monitoring committee that was stipulated in the Wye River Memorandum of 1998.

In an effort to urge the Israeli government to condemn and redress incitement against Palestinians¹, this report highlights major incidents of Israeli incitement in public, media, and governmental spheres that occurred in **March 2017**.

In addition, this report traces Israeli actions and policies, even if not verbal, that amount to incitement. In fact, Israeli incitement, whether from official bodies or the public, happens mostly through wrong-doing rather than bad-mouthing. Finally, incitement is a symptom and a consequence of Israel's prolonged military occupation and therefore, to eradicate incitement, it is vital to address its root cause: the occupation.

Incitements of such incidents include, but are not limited to: Razing homes and farmlands, attacks on fishermen, settler violations against neighboring towns and resources, water, land, and air, and anything that violates or undermines international law, etc.

¹ Note: This report relies on Western, Israeli, and Arabic news sources reporting directly from Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Preference is given to news stories in English, but in the event that a story is only available in Arabic, the headline of the original story is translated and posted in this report. In the event that a link becomes inactive or dysfunctional, please contact the PLO Delegation in Washington, DC, and an alternative link will be provided.

Monthly Report:

March 1st, 2017

Israel Set to Raze West Bank Village

KHAN AL AHMAR, the West Bank—Halimeh Zahayka runs a Palestinian school here built in 2009 with walls of mud and old tires. Soon she may have no building at all. Last week, the Israeli military deemed the entire village was constructed illegally, setting the stage for the school and other buildings here to be razed. A lawyer for the village said he expected an Israeli demolition order on Thursday. The ruling put this ramshackle village of 35 Bedouin families settled over half a century ago at the center of the conflict over who should govern the West Bank.

Read Article, Wall Street Journal

March 1st, 2017

Israel soldier appeals conviction in killing of Palestinian attacker

KHAN AL AHMAR, the West Bank—Halimeh Zahayka runs a Palestinian school here built in 2009 with walls of mud and old tires. Soon she may have no building at all. Last week, the Israeli military deemed the entire village was constructed illegally, setting the stage for the school and other buildings here to be razed. A lawyer for the village said he expected an Israeli demolition order on Thursday. The ruling put this ramshackle village of 35 Bedouin families settled over half a century ago at the center of the conflict over who should govern the West Bank.

Read Article, Wall Street Journal

March 1st, 2017

Israel notifies residents of impending demolitions in northern Jordan Valley

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- Three families in the village of Khirbet al-Dir in the northern Jordan Valley region of the occupied West Bank were notified on Tuesday that Israeli authorities planned to demolish nine structures in the area, including makeshift residential shacks made of plastic sheets and metal. Official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that head of the Kardala village council, Ghassan Faqha, said that Israeli forces delivered demolition notices to six structures for lacking nearly impossible to obtain Israeli-issued building permits. However, their reports said three more structures in the village were also facing imminent demolition.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 1st, 2017

30 Palestinians left homeless after Jerusalem home demolished without warning

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces demolished a building in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya on Wednesday morning without giving prior warning, leaving 30 Palestinians homeless, under the pretext that the building lacked the nearly impossible to obtain construction permits required by Israeli authorities. It was the third time the building -- a two-level apartment comprised of four units -- was destroyed over the course of a 15-year administrative battle to legalize the structure. Dozens of Israeli special forces, bulldozers, and crews from Israel's Jerusalem

municipality raided Issawiya at around 4:30 a.m. and surrounded a the building, owned by Khalid Nimr Mahmoud.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 1st, 2017

Israeli forces ransack Tulkarem print shop, confiscate equipment

TULKAREM (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces raided and ransacked a print ship in the northern occupied West Bank city of Tulkarem early Wednesday morning and confiscated equipment for unknown reasons. Owner of the Ibn Khaldoun Company for Printing, Publishing, and Trade Abd al-Rahim Badawi told Ma'an that Israeli soldiers destroyed the exterior doors of the shop when they broke in, before destroying the interior and confiscating equipment, causing him huge financial losses. Badawi said that he was shocked by the raid, especially as the print shop is fully licensed and legal and he had never received any warning that his business was suspected of wrongdoing by the Israeli army.

March 1st, 2017

Read Article, Ma'an

Elderly Palestinian shot by Israeli soldier

Israeli soldiers shot and wounded an elderly Palestinian man at a checkpoint south of Nablus in the occupied West Bank early today, the checkpoint was closed for "security reasons" later in the day. Medics from the Palestinian Red Crescent told Ma'an that Hussein Hassan Qawariq, 72, was shot by Israeli forces at the Huwwara checkpoint south of Nablus. They added that Qawariq was hit in the foot and pelvis, and evacuated by the Red Crescent to the Rafidiya hospital in Nablus.

Read Article, Press Tv

March 2nd, 2017

Israel leaves 30 Palestinians homeless

Israeli forces demolished a building in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Issawiya this morning without giving prior warning, leaving 30 Palestinians homeless, under the pretext that the building lacked the nearly impossible to obtain construction permits required. It was the third time the building – a two-level apartment comprised of four units – was destroyed over the course of a 15-year administrative battle to legalise the structure. Dozens of Israeli Special Forces, bulldozers and crews from Israel's Jerusalem municipality raided Issawiya at around 04:30 and surrounded the building, owned by Khalid Nimr Mahmoud. Witnesses said residents of the building were forced outside before they had time to remove their belongings.

Read Article, MEMO

March 2nd, 2017

Israeli forces demolish Palestinian home in Kafr Qasim without prior notice

NEGEV (Ma'an) -- Israeli bulldozers demolished an under-construction house owned by a Palestinian citizen of Israel in the central Israeli town of Kafr Qasim on Thursday morning.

Israeli police raided the home of Ramzi Bin Bari and prevented anyone from entering, while Israeli bulldozers demolished it. According to locals, the demolition was carried out because the building

lacked difficult to obtain Israeli-issued building permits. Bin Bari had recently moved to the town, locals added.

Despite attempts by residents to prevent the demolition, Israeli bulldozers continued until the house was completely destroyed.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 2nd, 2017

Israeli forces open fire on Palestinian lands and homes in Gaza Strip

GAZA (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces opened fire at Palestinian lands and homes in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday morning, while Israeli military vehicles entered the besieged territory in central Gaza. Witnesses told Ma'an that Israeli forces stationed at the borders of Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip opened fire at Palestinian land and homes. No injuries were reported during the incident. Meanwhile, four Israeli military bulldozers entered the territory of Gaza east of Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. An Israeli army spokesperson told Ma'an she would look into reports on the incidents.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 2nd, 2017

<u>Israeli soldier appeals jail sentence for killing helpless Palestinian</u>

An Israeli soldier, sentenced to 18 months in prison for shooting dead a wounded Palestinian man in the occupied West Bank last year, has filed an appeal against his manslaughter conviction and already-lenient jail term. On Wednesday, defense attorney Yoram Sheftel representing Sergeant Elor Azaria lodged the appeal to the military court. In the petition to the court, the lawyer asked that the date his client is due to arrive to serve his time, slated for March 5, be deferred until the end of legal proceedings. Earlier in the day, three other lawyers that represented Azaria from the initial stages of his arrest – Ilan Katz, Eyal Besserglick, and Carmit Shchiver – announced that they were resigning from the case.

Read Article, Press Tv

March 2nd, 2017

Israeli settler guns down Palestinian in West Bank

An Israeli settler has shot dead a Palestinian over an alleged stabbing attack in yet another instance of using lethal force against Palestinians in the occupied territories. An Israeli army spokeswoman said Wednesday's incident took place in the Teneh Omarim settlement in the southern West Bank, near the Palestinian city of al-Khalil (Hebron). She further claimed that the Palestinian "armed with a knife" broke into an Israeli settler's home and stabbed him, adding that the settler, who had suffered light wounds, shot and killed the assailant.

Read Article, Press Tv

March 2nd, 2017

Report: Israel continues to arrest Palestinian children amid escalating criticism

Israeli arrests of Palestinians lately have come under fire, especially in light of the escalating violence of the Israeli army and far right-wing government lead by Netanyahu. On Thursday overnight, 2

March 2017, at 3 AM, Israeli forces broke into Aida refugee camp south of Bethlehem, and arrested 12-year-old child, Humam Ahmad Radi, from his family home. Humam's mother, Eman Radi, told PSCC that Israeli soldiers broke into their house and demanded to take Humam with them. When she told one of the soldiers that "he is only a child," the soldier slammed her son into the wall and handcuffed him.

Read Article, PNN

March 3rd, 2017

Israel has begun dividing Al-Aqsa: Islamic organization

Israel has begun partitioning East Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque complex with a view to creating a prayer space for Jewish worshippers, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) warned Wednesday. "The placement of a glass room inside the courtyard of the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex is a first step toward the spatial division of the mosque," Ahmad al-Ruwaidhi, the OIC's representative in Palestine, said at a Wednesday press conference. The move, he asserted, "follows the imposition of a temporal division [by Israel] in the form of daily incursions [into Al-Aqsa] by Jewish settlers". What's more, the move reveals "Israel's intention to dedicate a place for Talmudic rituals inside the Al-Haram al-Sharif," al-Ruwaidhi said, using the Arabic term for the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The OIC representative also warned of the dangers posed by Israeli excavations that are reportedly being carried out under the holy site.

Read Article, World Bulletin

March 3rd, 2017

Israel demolishes Arab-Israeli's home without notice

Israeli bulldozers demolished an under-construction house owned by an Arab-Israeli in the central Israeli town of Kafr Qasim this morning. Israeli police raided the home of Ramzi Bin Bari and demolished it. According to locals, the demolition was carried out because the building lacked difficult to obtain Israeli-issued building permits. Bin Bari had recently moved to the town, locals added. Despite attempts by residents to prevent the demolition, the bulldozers continued work until the house was completely destroyed. Bin Bari told Ma'an that his case was still being discussed in court in an attempt to gain a permit for the property. He added that he had not received a demolition order and was shocked when bulldozers arrived at the house. Another Palestinian home was demolished in Kafr Qasim on Sunday, also without prior notice according to the homeowner.

Read Article, MEMO

March 3rd, 2017

Reports: Right-wing Israeli MK's settlement home likely built on private Palestinian land

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- Reports emerged from Israeli media on Thursday alleging that the settlement home of an ultra right-wing Israeli lawmaker, who had a significant role in pushing the recently passed "Regularization law," was likely built on privately owned Palestinian land in the northern occupied West Bank settlement of Qedumim, in the Qalqiliya district. The house, belonging to deputy speaker of Israel's parliament Bezalel Smotrich of the right-wing Jewish Home party, stands just on the edge of Israeli designated "state lands" in the settlement, and falls on what is likely privately owned Palestinian land, Israeli daily Haaretz reported. However, as a result of the contested outpost

Regularization bill -- which according to Haaretz was being pushed by a number of Israeli MKs, including Smotrich -- Smotrich's house will likely be retroactively legalized.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 3rd, 2017

<u>Israeli ministers to introduce bill aiming for annexation of massive Maale Adumim</u> settlement

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- Right-wing Israeli ministers are expected to introduce a formerly postponed bill to Israel's parliament, the Knesset, next week which aims to annex the illegal Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim, Israeli media reported on Thursday. The Times of Israel reported that the controversial bill would be introduced at the Ministerial Committee for Legislation on Sunday by Members of Knesset Yoav Kish (Likud) and Bezalel Smotrich (Jewish Home). Israel's ultra-right Education Minister Naftali Bennett has been keen to introduce the bill, with its introduction having reportedly been delayed until Trump's inauguration, as the new American head of state has come out as a vocal supporter of illegal Israeli settlements. However, the bill's introduction was postponed earlier this year at the request of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, following pressure from the administration of US President Donald Trump

Read Article, Ma'an

March 3rd, 2017

Journalist shot, injured as Israeli forces suppress peaceful protest near Qalqilia

QALQILIA, March 3, 2017 (WAFA) – A Palestinian journalist Friday was shot and injured in the head with a rubber-coated steel bullet as Israeli forces suppressed a peaceful anti-settlement rally in the village of Kufr Qadoom to the east of Qalqilia, according to a local activist. Coordinator of the popular resistance committee in the village, Murad Ishtawi, said Israeli soldiers fired a rubber bullet toward a journalist who works for Palestine TV, striking him in his forehead. The journalist was identified as Ahmad Shawar. The paramedic crews present at the site provided the journalist with medical treatment.

Read Article, Wafa

March 5th, 2017

Palestinian shot and killed by settler

A young Palestinian man was shot and killed by an Israeli settler in the southern occupied West Bank district of Hebron on Wednesday afternoon, the Israeli army reported. An Israeli army spokesperson told Ma'an that an "attacker armed with a knife entered a house" in the illegal settlement outpost of Havat More in the Masafer Yatta area – also known as the South Hebron Hills – and stabbed a settler, injuring him lightly. The settler then shot towards the Palestinian, the spokesperson added, killing him. The spokesperson said that they were not aware of whether the Israeli army was investigating the case.

Read Article, MEMO

March 5th, 2017

<u>Israeli forces detain Palestinian women and children</u>

Six children were among a group of Palestinians who were detained by Israeli forces yesterday while they were on their lands in the village of Azzun in the occupied northern West Bank district of Qalqiliya. Hassan Shibita, the media coordinator of the village, told Ma'an that Israeli forces had detained Samir Mahmoud Shibita, Omar Muen Hussein, six children, and a number of other Palestinians. Shibita identified four of the children as Muhammad Arif Dahbour, Thaer Safa Abed, Anas Zahran Shibita and Mustafa Yassir Shibita.

Read Article, MEMO

March 5th, 2017

Israel re-detains Palestinian who spent 12 years in Israeli jails after releasing him

JERUSALEM, March 5, 2017 (WAFA) – Israeli authorities re-detained on Sunday Palestinian prisoner Mousa Mahmoud Darwish from the village of al-Issawiya, north of Jerusalem, shortly after he was released from Naqab prison in southern Israel, after spending 12 years of detention. The committee of the families of Jerusalem detainees, said staff from the Israeli intelligence detained Darwish immediately after he was released by the Israel Prison Service outside Naqab prison.

Read Article, Wafa

March 5th, 2017

'Israelis won't rent to us, they're disconnecting us from electricity'

The Petah Tikva municipality disconnected dozens of apartments where African asylum seekers were living from electricity, the mayor doesn't like seeing black people in public, and casual racism has a common occurrence. Faisal, a refugee from Darfur, describes what it's like to live in a city where he is unwanted. The following testimony was sent to us by Faisal, an asylum seeker who came to Israel in 2008, and who now lives in the Israeli city Petah Tikva after spending two years in Holot detention center in southern Israel. His testimony comes on the heels of a new campaign of persecution by the Petah Tikva municipality against foreigners with the wrong skin color.

Read Article, 972 Mag

March 5th, 2017

Israeli bulldozers, tanks cross into Gaza, level Palestinian lands

A fleet of Israeli bulldozers and military vehicles has crossed the border fence into the besieged Gaza Strip and flattened private Palestinian lands, as the Tel Aviv regime's illegal construction activities continue in the occupied Palestinian territories. At least four Israeli armored Caterpillar D9 bulldozers, accompanied by a number of tanks, entered eastern part of the town of Fukhari in Gaza's southern governorate of Khan Yunis during the early hours of Sunday. According to local sources, the invading convoy, dispatched from Israel's Sofa military post, advanced scores of meters into the Palestinian territory along the separation fence, relying on potential support from the artillery unit being on alert inside the base.

Read Article, Press Tv

March 6th, 2017

Israel to demolish Bedouin homes in Palestinian village

Khan al-Ahmar, occupied West Bank - The Israeli military says it will demolish all homes, a school and a mosque in a community that lies in the way of planned illegal settlement expansion. The United Nations says the Israeli government is tearing down more Palestinian homes than ever before. Illegal Jewish settlements, meanwhile, continue to expand. (VIDEO)

Read Article, Al Jazeera

March 6th, 2017

Israeli Comptroller Report Reveals 2014 Gaza Massacre Was A War Of Choice

NEW YORK- Palestinians from the Gaza Strip have criticized an Israeli report on the country's 2014 military operation against the besieged coastal enclave. The report was released by Israeli state comptroller Yosef Shapira on Tuesday. "I understand from the report that Gaza was merely the setting for an Israeli war game, with no objective but to destroy and murder indiscriminately," said Basman Alashi, executive director of the El-Wafa Medical Rehabilitation and Specialized Surgery Hospital. The hospital, formerly located in the Shujaya neighborhood by the separation barrier with Israel east of Gaza City, was repeatedly shelled by Israeli forces during the 51-day offensive before it was evacuated under fire on July 17, 2014.

Read Article, Mint

March 6th, 2017

<u>Israeli settlement operations in West Bank continue</u>

As Israeli authorities plan to establish a new settlement project in the south of Jerusalem, the Israeli forces have embarked on bulldozing an agricultural land near the southern Nahalin village of Bethlehem. Ibrahim Shakarnah, the President of the Nahalin Villagers Council, has said that the Israeli bulldozers have begun demolishing the village's main highway, which has been closed some years ago, including the "Danielle" settlement as well as other neighbouring areas, in a move to establish a public resort for the settlers.

Read Article, MEMO

March 6th, 2017

Violent detention raid in East Jerusalem sparks clashes

JERUSALEM (Ma'an) -- A predawn Israeli police raid to detain five Palestinians in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya sparked clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian youth on Monday morning, according to local sources who said police violently assaulted the five Palestinians before apprehending them. Three other Palestinians were also detained in the East Jerusalem raids. Member of a follow-up committee in East Jerusalem Muhammad Abu al-Hummus said that Israeli soldiers raided Issawiya several times on Sunday and were heavily deployed at all entrances to the neighborhood.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 6th, 2017

Israeli forces open fire at Palestinian fishermen in Gaza

GAZA (Ma'an) -- Israeli naval forces opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip on Monday morning, local sources said, with no injuries reported. Palestinian sources said the fishermen were forced to sail back ashore for safety. An Israeli army spokesperson told Ma'an they were looking into reports. The Israeli army regularly opens fire on unarmed Palestinian fishermen, shepherds, and farmers along the border areas if they approach Israel's unilaterally declared "buffer zone," which lies on both the land and sea sides of Gaza. The practice has in effect destroyed much of the agricultural and fishing sector of the blockaded coastal enclave.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 6th, 2017

Israeli settlers assault, injure two Palestinians near Nablus

NABLUS, March 6, 2017 (WAFA) Israeli settlers on Monday assaulted a group of Palestinian farmers and injured two in the village of Far'ata, west to Nablus in the occupied West Bank, according to local sources. Ghassan Daghlas, who monitors settlement activities in Nablus area, said Israeli settlers assaulted Palestinian farmers and injured two of them, including an elderly woman, while working in their lands in Far'ata village. The woman was identified as Mariam Salman. Between 500,000 and 600,000 Israelis live in Jewish-only settlements across occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank in violation of international law, with recent announcements of settlement expansion provoking condemnation from the international community.

Read Article, WAFA

March 6th, 2017

<u>Israeli soldiers stand by as settlers attack civilians in West Bank village</u>

Instead of attending to protesters wounded by settlers, including an Israeli photographer pushed off a five-foot terrace, a man dressed as a medic assaults another protester. After several months during which there were no weekly protests in the village, local residents, along with Israeli and international activists, marched toward the village spring, which was taken over by Israelis from the adjacent settlement of Halamish in 2009.

Read Article, 972 Press

March 7th, 2017

<u>Israeli forces detain Palestinians, shut down workshop in predawn raids</u>

HEBRON (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces conducted raids in multiple areas across the occupied West Bank before dawn on Tuesday, detaining at least eight Palestinians and shutting down a workshop that the Israeli army said was used to manufacture weapons. Israeli soldiers stormed the southern occupied West Bank city of Hebron, and ransacked approximately 20 houses belonging to Palestinians who have previously been imprisoned by Israel. Locals identified a number of former prisoners whose houses were raided as Fayiz Misk, Shadi Uweiwi, Mahmoud Yusri Uweiwi, Yahya Ismail Qawasmi, Raed Natsha, Rasmi Dufish, Hashim Abu Turki, Yaqoub Zaarir, Hisham Hmeidan Sharabati, Thaer Ziyad Fakhouri, Bilal Salhab, Anas Zghayyar, and Fadi Shawar.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 7th, 2017

Video: Israeli forces simulate Palestinian home demolitions, clashes for training

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Read Article, Ma'an

March 8th, 2017

Israel sets up checkpoints around Bethlehem

Israeli forces erected several military checkpoints at the entrances of the occupied West Bank district of Bethlehem yesterday evening. Israeli forces closed the Container checkpoint in northeastern Bethlehem, stopping Palestinian vehicles leaving the district and searched vehicles and passengers, causing heavy traffic to develop. Israeli forces also set up a military checkpoint at the Hilweh tomb area in the village of Dar Salah at the eastern entrance of Beit Sahour and searched all vehicles entering the Bethlehem district.

Read Article, MEMO

March 8th, 2017

Israel to demolish 42 Palestinian homes in Hebron

Israeli occupation authorities started to demolish Palestinian homes and other facilities in the Palestinian village of Khan Al-Ahmar in the outskirts of the occupied West Bank city of Hebron yesterday, Arab48.com reported. A couple of days earlier Israeli occupation authorities distributed demolition orders to 30 Palestinian facilities in the village, including the only school, water wells, solar panels, barracks and barns. Anti-settlement activist Rateb Al-Jabour said the Israeli occupation forces put the orders on the ground near each facility and took pictures, giving their owners threes to evacuate.

Read Article, MEMO

March 8th, 2017

<u>Israel holding 65 female Palestinian prisoners, rights group says</u>

The Israeli regime is holding 65 Palestinian women, including 12 minors, "under dire conditions" in its jails, a rights group says. The Palestinian Prisoners Society (PPS) said in a statement on Tuesday, the eve of the International Women's Day, that the female prisoners were being held in HaSharon and Damon jails, whose prison cells are unbearably cold in winter and hot in summer. The rights group said the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) imposes restrictions on the provision of clothes, bed sheets and shoes. Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said in a statement on Tuesday, "Palestinian women continue to suffer severe psychological, physical, and emotional abuse and endure grave acts of oppression, violence, and hardship at the

hands of Israel and its unbridled violations." Ashrawi said some 15,000 Palestinian women and girls have been imprisoned by Israel since 1967.

Read Article, Press Tv

March 9th, 2017

<u>Israeli settlers uproot olive trees, spray pesticides on Palestinian crops near Hebron</u>

HEBRON (Ma'an) -- Israeli settlers from the illegal settlement of Maon east of the village of Yatta in the southern occupied West Bank uprooted tens of olive tree saplings and sprayed poisonous pesticides on Palestinian crops on Thursday. Coordinator of the popular committee against the Israeli wall and settlements in the southern West Bank Ratib al-Jbour told Ma'an that Israeli settlers raided agricultural lands belonging to Fadel Jibril Moussa Rabiaa and his brothers in the village of al-Tawana near Yatta. The settlers reportedly cut the wires on the fence surrounding the lands, uprooted tens of olive trees, and sprayed pesticides in the area.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 9th, 2017

Israeli Lawmakers Advance Bill to Curb Loudspeakers in Muslim Call to Prayer

A bill that would regulate the traditional use of loudspeakers for the Muslim call to prayer passed its first legislative hurdle in Israel's Parliament on Wednesday, provoking frustration and anger among some Arab lawmakers. One version of the bill would prohibit places of worship from using loudspeakers between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., while another would ban any broadcast over such speakers regardless of the time of day if it is deemed "unreasonably loud," the BBC reported. The first daily prayer is traditionally performed before sunrise.

Read Article, Times

March 10th, 2017

Israel demolishes Bedouin village of Al-Arageeb for 110th time

Israeli forces demolished the Bedouin village of Al-Araqeeb in the Negev region of southern Israel for the 110th time this morning. Israeli bulldozers, escorted by Israeli police, raided the village, which is "unrecognised" by Israeli authorities, in the morning and started the demolition, while Israeli police closed all entrances leading to the village. "No matter how many times they demolish and destroy our village, they will not break our spirits," local committee member Aziz Sayyah told Ma'an during the previous demolition raid. "Al-Araqeeb is ours and we are here to stay."

Read Article, MEMO

March 10th, 2017

Report: Israeli government funding illegal projects on private Palestinian land

Israeli government funds Zionist body that has seized private Palestinian lands in the occupied West Bank in recent years and established settlements on them, in direct contravention of the law, Israel's Haaretz newspaper revealed yesterday. "Every year, the government allocates millions of dollars for the division which ends up in the end in favour of the settlements." According to the paper, in addition to the huge budgets, the division has enjoyed considerable weight with respect to forming the settlement policy in the occupied West Bank.

March 10th, 2017

<u>Israel seals off W. Bank, Gaza for Jewish holiday</u>

The Israeli authorities on Thursday evening geared up to seal off the occupied West Bank and the blockaded Gaza Strip in advance of the upcoming Jewish holiday of Purim. "Coinciding with Purim... and based on the decision of Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman, it was decided to impose a closure on the Palestinian territories," Yoav Mordechai, coordinator of Israeli government activities in the occupied territories, said in a statement. The closure, he said, would remain in effect from midnight Thursday until midnight Sunday. Purim is celebrated every year on the 14th of the Hebrew month of Adar, which generally falls in late winter or early spring.

Read Article, MEMO

March 10th, 2017

Israeli police ambush, assault, and detain relatives of freed Palestinian prisoner

Moussa Darwish was set to be released from Ktziot prison in the Negev region on Sunday after completing a 12-year sentence, but was ambushed by Israeli intelligence officers who were waiting for him outside the prison, and immediately redetained him. Israeli forces prevented a group of family and friends from approaching Darwish, after they had traveled from Issawiya in East Jerusalem to welcome Darwish. They were notified that Darwish had been taken to Israel's Russian Compound detention center back in West Jerusalem for interrogation. After several hours, Israeli forces again released Darwish. However, Darwish's friends and relatives – Ahmad Darwish, 52, Ibrahim Darwish, 42, Mansour Darwish, 28, Muhammad Ubeid, 25, and Saeb Dirbas, 23 – said that upon their return to Jerusalem, their three vehicles were "ambushed" by Israeli forces who had set up a flying checkpoint at the entrance to the city. They claimed to have been pulled from their vehicles, violently assaulted, and detained by Israeli forces at a checkpoint in occupied East Jerusalem.

Read Article, MEMO

March 10th, 2017

Israel arrests female Palestinian MP on women's day

Israeli occupation forces arrested a female Palestinian PM in overnight raids carried out in the occupied West Bank yesterday. In a statement, the Hamas-backed Change and Reform Party said: "Large numbers of Israeli troops raided the home of MP Samira Halayka in the town of Al-Shyookh near the West Bank city of Hebron." Palestinian lawmakers are currently being held in Israeli custody There are reports that Al-Halayka was handcuffed and blindfolded by the soldiers before the Israeli Army seized her laptop and mobile phone and dragged her to an unknown location.

Read Article, MEMO

March 10th, 2017

<u>Israeli army shells several sites in southern Gaza</u>

GAZA CITY (Ma'an) -- The Israeli army shelled several sites in the southern Gaza Strip Friday at dawn, in what locals suspected was in retaliation for rocket shells that were fired towards Israel from Gaza late Thursday evening. Israeli forces shelled at least three at sites in the southern besieged coastal

enclave Friday, including eastern al-Qarara, eastern Khan Yunis and Deir al-Balah. No injuries were reported. Israeli forces also fired flares in the area around the same time as the shelling. Israeli news sites reported late Thursday night that a locally made rocket was fired towards the Kissufim Israeli military site in southern Israel from eastern Khan Yunis. Read Article, Ma'an

March 10th, 2017

Israeli forces injure Palestinian minor in Ramallah district village weekly march

RAMALLAH, March 10, 2017 (WAFA) – Israeli forces Friday shot and injured a Palestinian minor during the weekly march in Nilin village, west of Ramallah, said locals. Forces suppressed Palestinian protestors as they marched against Israeli settlement construction, land expropriation and the segregation wall. Protestors held Palestinian flags and shouted slogans demanding the destruction of the separation wall, halting settlement construction and ending 50-year Israeli occupation. Read Article, Wa'fa

March 12th, 2017

Israeli plan aims to accelerate demolition of Arab homes

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered the preparation of an amendment of an already existing law targeting the Arab existence in Israel in order to accelerate the demolition of their homes, an Israeli rights group revealed earlier this week. The Mossawa Centre, an advocacy centre for Arab citizens in Israel, said in a statement that "the Kaminitz bill, which will increase home demolitions and further criminalise unauthorised housing and construction, is expected to pass its final reading in the Knesset before March 20, 2017." The advocacy centre said that this measure was ordered by Netanyahu's office, noting that "the bill entered its second reading in the Knesset Interior and Environment Committee on 30 January and it is expected to pass on March 16."

Read Article, MEMO

March 12th, 2017

<u>Israel plans to severely restrict Arab home construction</u>

On the orders of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli parliament is debating whether to make a law restricting Arab residence in Israel even more stringent. According to Israeli rights group Mossawa Center, which advocates the rights of the Arabs in Israel, the Kaminitz Bill aims to accelerate the demolition of Palestinian homes. The motion, which also criminalizes "unauthorized" housing and construction by Palestinians, is expected to pass its final reading in the Knesset next week, the group said.

Read Article, Press Tv

March 12th, 2017

Hebron parade features tributes to Israeli soldier convicted of killing

Israeli settlers celebrating a Jewish holiday in the occupied West Bank on Sunday paid tribute to a soldier who shot dead a wounded Palestinian assailant, with some even dressing up as him. A parade in the city of Hebron for Purim, which sees participants dress up, began at the spot where the shooting which deeply divided Israeli society occurred on the same holiday last year. The parade traditionally

begins there, but this year it took on particular significance - a prominent far-right lawyer dressed up as the soldier, Sergeant Elor Azaria, who has been convicted of manslaughter.

Read Article, MEE

March 12th, 2017

<u>Israeli settlers uproot, steal olive trees near Nablus</u>

NABLUS, March 12, 2017 (WAFA) – Illegal Israeli settlers stole on Sunday olive trees from a Palestinian-owned land in the village of al-Sawiya, south of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, according to local sources. Ghassan Daghlas, a local official who monitors settlements activity in the northern West Bank, told WAFA that settlers from the Rahalim settlement, which is illegally built on the lands of the villages al-Sawiya and Yatma, stole nearly 140 olive trees from the area. The lands were the olive trees were uprooted and stolen belong to Palestinians Haitham Kafineh and Suheil Suleiman.

Read Article, WAFA

March 12th, 2017

<u>Israeli forces detain 21 Palestinians in West Bank raids</u>

JERUSALEM, March 13, 2017 (WAFA) – Israeli forces Monday detained a total of 21 Palestinians, including a child, during multiple predawn raids across the West Bank, said Palestine Prisoner's Society. Israeli police detained at least 11 Palestinians, including a 15-year-old child, during multiple raids across East Jerusalem district. Among the detainees was Mahmoud Mattar, whose son, Ibrahim, 25, was killed by Israeli troops after allegedly attempting to stab soldiers in the vicinity of the Lions' Gate (Bad al-Asbat). Meanwhile, similar raids were carried out in al-Jiftlik village, north of Jercho city in the Jordan Valley, where four Palestinians were detained from their family homes.

Read Article, WAFA

March 12th, 2017

Committee: 7 critically ill Palestinians medically neglected in Israeli prison

RAMALLAH (Ma'an) -- The Palestinian Committee of Prisoners' Affairs has expressed concern over the health of seven critically ill Palestinian prisoners held in Israel's Ashkelon prison, warning of a continuous deterioration of their conditions due to "deliberate medical negligence" by Israeli prison authorities. The committee said in a statement on Monday that the medical conditions of the seven prisoners was worsening every day. According to the statement, Othman Abu Khurj has been suffering from liver and kidney issues; Ramzi Barash from heart and ear issues; Nahed al-Aqra from severe pains after having both of his legs amputated; Said Musallam from heart issues after undergoing two cardiac catheterization surgeries over the course of nine months; Muhammad Barash from a leg amputation, blindness, and deafness; while two prisoners, Ibrahim Abu Mustafa and Fadil al-Karki, have been suffering from serious psychological issues.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 12th, 2017

Israel Extends Closure on West Bank and Gaza by 24 Hours

Israel on Saturday extended the closure imposed on the West Bank and Gaza over the Purim holiday weekend. The Israel Defense Forces said that the decision to extend the closure by a day, until Monday night, was taken by the political leadership. The IDF didn't specify a reason for the extension. The decision was taken following a situation assessment made by defense agencies over the course of the weekend. As part of the closure, which began on Thursday night, all the crossings to the West Bank and Gaza were closed to Palestinians, with the exception of humanitarian cases, medical and otherwise, with the approval of the IDF's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories.

Read Article, Haaretz

March 13th, 2017

Israeli authorities demolish East Jerusalem building under construction

JERUSALEM (Ma'an) -- Israeli authorities demolished a building under construction in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya on Tuesday morning, a local popular committee told Ma'an. Local committee member Muhammad Abu al-Hummus told Ma'an that a large number of Israeli security forces stormed Issawiya to protect bulldozers and a Jerusalem municipality crew carrying out the demolition. The bulldozers then tore down a two-story, 250-square-meter building under construction owned by Majdi Mustafa. Mustafa said he had only recently started to build the structure, and had not yet obtained a construction permit from the Jerusalem municipality for it. Read Article, Ma'an

March 13th, 2017

Israeli forces detain Palestinian journalist at Ramallah-area checkpoint

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces early Monday evening detained a veteran Palestinian Jerusalemite journalist at a Ramallah-area military checkpoint in the central occupied West Bank, his son told Ma'an, though reports from Palestinian news agencies later Monday evening reported that journalist Muhammad Abd al-Rabbu was released from Israeli custody. Wissam Abd al-Rabbu said Israeli forces stationed at the Beit El checkpoint-- also referred to as DCO -- in eastern Ramallah stopped his father Muhammad Abd al-Rabbu, examined his identity card, and then took him into custody and seized his private car.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 13th, 2017

<u>Palestinian teen detained in Hebron as group claims Israeli forces tried to plant knife on scene</u>

HEBRON (Ma'an) -- A Palestinian teenager was detained at gunpoint by Israeli forces in the southern occupied West Bank city of Hebron on Saturday, with local activists claiming that the detention could have taken a deadly turn if the encounter had not been filmed. Muhammad Munif Yousif Qazzaz, a 15-year-old resident of the Hebron-area village Dura, was detained while passing through the Israeli checkpoint to enter al-Shuhada Street in Hebron's Old City early on Saturday evening. Zeidan al-Sharabati, an activist with the group Human Rights Defenders, was on the scene at the time and started filming the events.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 14th, 2017

<u>Israeli forces detain 18 Palestinians in predawn raids</u>

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces carried out several predawn raids across the occupied territory on Tuesday, detaining at least 18 Palestinians, including at least three minors. Israeli forces carry out detention raids across the occupied Palestinian territory on a near-nightly basis, with the UN recording an average of 95 weekly raids in the West Bank in 2016, and 73 weekly raids on average thus far in 2017. According to prisoners' rights group Addameer, 6,500 Palestinians were held in Israeli prisons as of January, 53 of whom were women and 300 of them minors.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 14th, 2017

Israeli forces seize mobile home in Nablus

NABLUS, March 14, 2017 (WAFA) – Israeli forces Tuesday seized a mobile home belonging to a Palestinian in the village of Furush Beit Dajan, east of Nablus, in the northern West Bank, said a local official. Ghassan Daghlas, a local official who monitors settlement activities in the northern West Bank, told WAFA, Israeli forces stormed the village of Furush Beit Dajan and seized a mobile home, without any prior notice. The mobile home, which was ready for inhabitation, belongs to local Tawfiq Abd al-Rahim Mohammad.

Read Article, WAFA

March 14th, 2017

Israeli bulldozers demolish a Palestinian house in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, March 14, 2017 (WAFA) – Bulldozers of the Israeli municipality of West Jerusalem Tuesday demolished a Palestinian-owned building under construction in the town of al-Issawiya, northeast of Jerusalem, according to WAFA correspondent. Israeli bulldozers, backed by Israeli forces and police, cordoned off the house before proceeding to demolish a 3-storey building under the pretext of being built without an Israeli-issued permit. The demolished house belongs to Majdi Mustafa. Read Article, WAFA

March 14th, 2017

Israeli Army Destroys Equipment at Palestinian Printing Firm During Raid

The army raided a printing company in the West Bank city of Tul Karm two weeks ago, destroying computers, servers and other equipment that the owners say did not produce material meant to incite Palestinians against Israelis. The Israel Defense Forces, however, says it has evidence that the printed material aimed to do just that. According to the owners, the soldiers destroyed equipment worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, and it's not clear why they simply did not impound it. The owners deny rumors they have printed posters for Hamas.

Read Article, WAFA

March 15th, 2017

<u>Israel destroys another Palestinian building in East Jerusalem</u>

(Pictures)

Read Article, MEMO

March 15th, 2017

<u>Jewish settlers set up agriculture facility in West Bank village</u>

Israeli Jewish settlers have established an agriculture facility on land belonging to the residents of Al-Mughier village to the north of the West Bank city of Ramallah, Quds Press reported local Palestinians sources saying yesterday. The chairman of the village council of Al-Mughier, Faraj Al-Na'san, said that the settlers took control of the land by force and erected an agriculture building of about 150 square metres in size. The building is now used as a barn for goats.

Read Article, MEMO

March 15th, 2017

42 Jewish settlers break into al-Aqsa Mosque

JERUSALEM, March 15, 2017 (WAFA) – A group of 42 Israeli Jewish settlers on Wednesday forced their way into al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, under the protection of Israeli police, local sources said. The settlers, divided in groups, provocatively toured around the holy site, while Muslim worshippers chanted religious slogans to protest the settlers' entry. According to a statistic released by Islamic Waqf department, 14,806 Israeli Jewish settlers' incursions into al-Aqsa mosque occurred in 2016 only.

Read Article, WAFA

March 15th, 2017

Israeli bulldozers level lands in eastern Gaza under military protection

GAZA CITY (Ma'an) -- Several Israeli military vehicles and bulldozers crossed the border fence into the besieged Gaza Strip early Wednesday morning and leveled lands, witnesses told Ma'an, with no gunfire being reported. Witnesses said that bulldozers leveled lands in the central Gaza Strip town of Juhr al-Dik under military protection as Israeli military drones hovered overhead. An Israeli army spokesperson said they were looking into reports.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 15th, 2017

Israeli forces raid home of slain Palestinian in Jabal al-Mukabbir

JERUSALEM (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces stormed occupied East Jerusalem's Jabal al-Mukabbir neighborhood Tuesday afternoon and broke into the home of Fadi al-Qunbar, who was shot dead by Israeli forces in January after he drove a truck into a group of Israeli soldiers in an illegal Israeli settlement, killing four of them. The Israeli Supreme Court later ruled in favor of punitively demolishing his house, despite the fact that al-Qunbar's relatives have repeatedly denied having advanced knowledge of any plans to carry out an attack. Al-Qunbar's wife and four children -- the oldest being six years old and the youngest an infant -- still live in the house and would be left homeless by the demolition.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 15th, 2017

Violent Israeli raid in Duheisha refugee camp leaves 5 Palestinians injured

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- Five Palestinians were injured after Israeli forces opened live fire at locals during a predawn detention raid Wednesday in Duheisha refugee camp near Bethlehem in the southern occupied West Bank. Locals told Ma'an that fierce clashes broke out between local youth and Israeli troops who raided the camp around dawn to detain one young Palestinian man from his home, identified as former prisoner Murad Zghari. Three young men were injured during the clashes, identified by locals as Ahmad al-Jiwi, Muath Abu Nasser, and Muhammad Faris Fararja.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 16th, 2017

Settlers attack Nablus area school with gunfire

NABLUS, March 16, 2017 (WAFA) – Israeli settlers on Thursday opened gunfire towards a Palestinian secondary school in the village of Burin, south of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, according to local sources. Ghassan Daghlas, who monitors settlement activities in the area, told WAFA that a group of Israeli settlers opened gunfire towards the school to intimidate the students. There were no reports of injuries, however. The settlers also took pictures of the school before they left the scene.

Read Article, WAFA

March 16th, 2017

MEDIA: Netanyahu to continue East Jerusalem Construction

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Israeli media is quoting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as saying that he has no plans to limit Jewish construction in East Jerusalem. The Haaretz newspaper reported that Netanyahu made the comments to Israeli reporters during a visit to Beijing Tuesday.

Read Article, AP

March 16th, 2017

Activists: Soldiers tried to plant a knife on Palestinian teen in Hebron

Israeli soldiers tried to plant a knife on a 15-year-old Palestinian teen in occupied Hebron, footage released by local activists appears to show. The reports have been called "false manipulations and an attempt to distort the truth" by the Israeli army. The footage showed Israeli soldiers approaching the checkpoint with a knife in his hand, before another soldier leads 15-year-old Muhammad Qazzaz away.

Read Article, MEMO

March 16th, 2017

<u>Israeli forces demolish Palestinian home in Silwan</u>

Israeli forces demolished a Palestinian home in the Silwan neighbourhood of occupied East Jerusalem on yesterday afternoon without prior notice, under the pretext that it was built without Israeli-issued construction permits. Witnesses told Ma'an that forces stormed the area under heavy military and police protection and demolished a two-room home built of bricks and roofed with tin sheets owned by Muhammad Abu Salih.

Read Article, MEMO

March 16th, 2017

Israeli airstrikes hit two areas in Gaza, damaging electricity infrastructure

GAZA (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces conducted two airstrikes in the besieged Gaza Strip late Wednesday night, damaging the coastal enclave's already tenuous electricity infrastructure. The Israeli army said in a statement that in response to a projectile being fired from Gaza and landing in an open area in southern Israel, causing no injuries, Israeli air forces had "targeted two Hamas terror organization positions in the northern Gaza Strip." Local sources reported that two Israeli missiles hit a training post of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades -- the Hamas movement's military wing -- west of Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, sparking a fire.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 17th, 2017

<u>Israeli settlers assault Palestinian driver in south Jerusalem</u>

Two Jewish settlers yesterday assaulted a Palestinian driver while he was working in occupied Jerusalem. The Jerusalemite driver Fadi Abed, 42, told Quds Press that he was on his way back home to the village of Beit Safafa, in south Jerusalem, when two extremist settlers stopped him for a ride.

Read Article, MEMO

March 17th, 2017

<u>Jewish settlers attack Palestinian school near Nablus</u>

A group of Jewish settlers have attacked a high school and its students in the village of Burin near Nablus in the occupied West Bank, Quds Press has reported. The attack resulted in a confrontation between the illegal settlers and local Palestinian citizens. Palestinian activist Bella Eid told Quds Press that a group of settlers from the Israeli settlement of Yitzhar, built on Palestinian land to the south of Nablus, threw stones at the school and fired shots in the direction of students. No injuries were reported. Soldiers from the Israeli army then tried to arrest a number of students, claiming that they had attacked the settlers and thrown stones at settlers' cars using the bypass around the village. Read Article, MEMO

March 17th, 2017

Israeli settlers uproot grape seedlings on Palestinian land near Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- Israeli settlers on Thursday uprooted dozens of grape seedlings and destroyed part of a grape arbor in the town of al-Khader in the southern occupied West Bank district of Bethlehem. Coordinator of a local popular resistance committee Ahmad Salah told Ma'an that Israeli settlers uprooted 90 grape seedlings belonging to Nader Salah Abd al-Salam and destroyed part of his grape arbor in the Khilet al-Fahm area that is surrounded by the illegal Israeli Eliazar and Daniel settlements.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 17th, 2017

<u>Israel to give its highest honor to settler leader</u>

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Israel is awarding its highest honor to the founder of a Jewish settler group that the Obama administration had condemned for stoking Israeli-Palestinian tensions. Israel's pro-settler

education minister, Naftali Bennett, announced Thursday that Elad Foundation founder David "David'le" Beeri is being awarded the Israel Prize for lifetime achievement.

Read Article, AP

March 17th, 2017

Clashes after funeral for slain Palestinian teen leave 8 injured by Israeli fire

HEBRON (Ma'an) -- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli forces following a funeral procession held Saturday for 16-year-old Murad Yousif Abu Ghazi in al-Arrub refugee camp north of Hebron in the southern occupied West Bank, which was attended by hundreds of mourners and came a day after the boy was shot dead by Israeli forces. Sources from the Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance service told Ma'an that eight young men were hit with rubber-coated steel bullets during clashes with Israeli troops that erupted after the funeral.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 19th, 2017

IOF shoots and kills 16-year old Palestinian

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) opened fire at two Palestinian children, one of which were killed, at the Aroub refugee camp Friday evening. Two Palestinian minors were shot by the IOF after supposedly trying to throw Molotov cocktails.

Read Article, PNN

March 19th, 2017

Israel demolishes Bedouin home, 6 homeless

Israeli forces demolished a Palestinian home in the Bedouin village of Umm Batin in the Negev desert in southern Israel yesterday morning, locals told Ma'an. According to locals, Israeli police raided Umm Batin and escorted bulldozers into the village, demolishing a wooden house belonging to Faris Abu Kaf.

Read Article, MEMO

March 19th, 2017

Israeli power line feeding southern Gaza Strip damaged

GAZA (Ma'an) -- Gaza's power company said in a statement on Monday that the Israeli power line feeding the southern region of the besieged coastal enclave was damaged. Israeli power line 9 powers the Khan Yunis and Rafah districts with 12 megawatt of electricity, according to the statement, which noted that the power company was in contact with Israel to repair the power line. Even at full capacity, Egyptian and Israeli electricity grids, together with Gaza's sole power plant, fail to cover the Gaza Strip's energy needs, as the usual electricity schedule alternates eight hours of power followed by eight hours without.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 19th, 2017

Israel prosecutes 2 Palestinians, including journalist for alleged 'Facebook incitement'

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- Israeli authorities prosecuted two Palestinians for alleged "Facebook incitement," on Sunday, amid an ongoing crackdown by Israel on Palestinian freedom of expression and social media activity. Israeli authorities issued a list of charges against Jerusalemite journalist Muhammad Batroukh, which included alleged incitement on Facebook, and extended his detention until Tuesday, Jerusalem-based organization Wadi Hilweh Information Center quoted lawyer Muhammad Mahmoud as saying.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 19th, 2017

Israeli forces detain 18 Palestinians for being in WhatsApp group

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces have detained 18 Palestinians from occupied East Jerusalem and West Bank for being in a WhatsApp group with a Palestinian who was killed by Israeli forces on Monday after allegedly carrying out a stabbing attack. Israeli police spokeswoman Luba al-Samri said in a statement on Sunday that the detained were all members of a group called "Road to heaven" on the messaging application, which she said was used to share religious messages.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 20th, 2017

131 settlers storm Al-Aqsa mosque yards, Sunday

Around 131 of extremist Israeli settlers, on Sunday morning, stormed the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque from the Magharba gate, heavily guarded by special police forces. According to IMEMC, some of the settlers began performing Talmudic rituals, while Palestinian worshippers in the place confronted settlers and forces, in an attempt to get them to leave.

Read Article, PNN

March 20th, 2017

Marathon in occupied Jerusalem is 'serving Israeli goals'

The Israeli occupation municipal authorities in Jerusalem organised on Friday an international marathon that seeks to serve the purposes of the occupation, Quds Press reported. About 30,000 runners from 60 countries around the world took part in what was called the International Jerusalem Marathon. During the marathon, Israeli police closed the streets in the middle and south of Jerusalem and deployed hundreds of its staff in East Jerusalem and near the Al-Aqsa Mosque where Israeli flags were raised.

Read Article, MEMO

March 21th, 2017

Palestinian cartographer uses map against Israel closures

JERUSALEM (AP) -- A prominent Palestinian cartographer says he used a tool of his trade - a map - to explain to Israeli authorities they shouldn't have closed his office on the outskirts of Jerusalem last week. Israel issued a six-month closure order on grounds that Khalil Tufagji operated illegally from Jerusalem for the Palestinian self-rule government. Tufagji said Tuesday that he showed officers questioning him that his office is in the West Bank, meters from the municipal boundaries Israel drew in 1967 after capturing and annexing east Jerusalem.

March 21th, 2017

Israeli settler hits elderly Palestinian woman with car in northern West Bank

NABLUS (Ma'an) -- An Israeli vehicle hit and injured an elderly Palestinian woman on Monday evening in the northern occupied West Bank. Ghassan Daghlas, a Palestinian official who monitors settlement activity in the northern West Bank, told Ma'an that Hilweh Abu Ras, 70, was hit by an Israeli settler driving near the village of al-Sawiya in the Nablus district. Abu Ras was evacuated to al-Najah hospital in Nablus, where doctors said she sustained moderate to serious wounds.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 21th, 2017

IOF Raids, Searches Charity Committee, lawyer's office, shop in Hebron

HEBRON, March 21, 2017 (WAFA) – Israeli occupation forces Tuesday raided the Zakat and Charity Committee of Yatta, a lawyer's office, and a traditional shop to the south of the southern West Bank district of Hebron, according to a local official. Head of Yatta Zakat Committee, 'Eid Bhais, told WAFA a number of Israeli military patrols stormed the town of Yatta, breaking into and thoroughly searching the headquarters of the Zakat Committee, which addresses the needy persons and orphans, after breaking down its main front door.

Read Article, WAFA

March 21th, 2017

UPDATE: IOF detain 17 Palestinians, including woman, in West Bank

RAMALLAH, March 21, 2017 (WAFA) – Israeli occupation forces detained on Tuesday 17 Palestinians, including a woman and member of the Palestine Legislative Council, during raids across the West Bank, according to the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS). In Hebron district, south of the West Bank, IOF detained a woman identified as Tamara Zain and her son, Mukhles Najjar, 16 years old, from the town of Yatta.

Read Article, WAFA

March 21th, 2017

<u>Israeli authorities renew order to confiscate Palestinian lands in Qalqiliya</u>

Israeli authorities have renewed a military order for the confiscation of Palestinian lands in the villages of Jayyus and Falamya in the northern occupied West Bank district of Qalqiliya, according to Maan News. Jayyus Mayor Ghassan Harami told Wafa that local Palestinian farmers received the order Monday morning, noting that a similar order was issued four years ago for the same land, which he estimated to represent 169 dunams (41.76 acres).

Read Article, WAFA

March 21th, 2017

Israel delivers demolition, stop-work orders to Palestinian family in Beit Ummar

HEBRON (Ma'an) -- Israeli authorities delivered demolition and stop-work orders to a Palestinian family in the southern occupied West Bank on Sunday evening. Muhammad Abd al-Nasser Jumaa, a

resident of the Hebron-district village of Beit Ummar, told Ma'an that Israeli forces delivered two warrants to his father -- a demolition order for a 200-square-meter house under construction in the area of Beit Zaata, and a stop-work notice for a 100-square-meter home also under construction in the area. Jumaa said that his father had filed a complaint in an Israeli court against the demolition order three months ago, adding that eight relatives were currently living in a shack made of tin sheets and had been planning on moving into the two buildings once they were completed.

March 22th, 2017

Read Article, WAFA

<u>Jerusalem students in limbo after Israel school closure</u>

Sur Baher, occupied East Jerusalem - Perched on a stool in his mother's shop, Mohammad Jadallah recited the homemade study plans he has used since his school was closed down by the Israeli Ministry of Education. "I study science and maths. English is my favourite subject," said the 10-year-old fourth-grader, spelling out his name and grade on a loose sheet of paper.

Read Article, Al Jazeera

March 22th, 2017

Palestinian teen killed by Israeli fire in Gaza

A Palestinian teen has been killed and two other men wounded by Israeli fire in southern Gaza, according to health officials. Gaza Health Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra said 18-year-old Yousef Abu Athira was killed before dawn on Wednesday by Israeli artillery fire east of Rafah. He said two others sustained shrapnel wounds and were taken to Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah. The Israeli army, which had been carrying out training exercises near the border overnight, said it detected three people near the security fence separating Gaza and Israel and fired at them, according to a military spokeswoman.

Read Article, Al Jazeera

March 22th, 2017

MEDIA: Netanyahu to continue East Jerusalem construction

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Israeli media is quoting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as saying that he has no plans to limit Jewish construction in East Jerusalem. The Haaretz newspaper reported that Netanyahu made the comments to Israeli reporters during a visit to Beijing Tuesday. It quoting him as acknowledging "difference of opinion" with the U.S. government on the issue and that he was "ready to discuss" limiting settlement construction in the West Bank and coming up with an "agreed-upon formula."

Read Article, AP

March 22th, 2017

IOF prevent Palestinian owners from entering the evicted Amona outpost

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have prevented Palestinian owners of the lands on which the evicted Amona settlement outpost was established, while allowing settlers to enter it without any restrictions. The Amona outpost was evicted in February on Israeli court order, after Palestinian owners plead against the illegal confiscation of their lands and construction of the outpost. The Israeli army has

recently erected a checkpoint in the area, while Israeli "border guards" should prevent Israelis from going uphill. However, the guards do not prevent Israelis, but only prevent Palestinians from entering the lands.

Read Article, PNN

March 22th, 2017

One killed, two injured in Israeli strikes on Gaza

A Palestinian youth was killed and two others injured in Israeli strikes on Rafah city, southern Gaza strip Wednesday at dawn. The victim, identified as Yousef Sha'ban (18), was killed after Israeli Forces fired artillery shells towards Rafah, according to spokesman of the Ministry of Health, Ashraf al-Qudra, on Facebook.

Read Article, PNN

March 22th, 2017

Israeli artillery fire kills Palestinian teenager in Gaza

A Palestinian teenager has been killed and two others injured after the Israeli military fired artillery shells into the blockaded Gaza Strip, local officials say. Achraf al-Qodra, the spokesman for the Ministry of Health in Gaza, said the artillery shells hit a gathering of Palestinian youths in Nahdha neighborhood to the east of Rafah City in southern Gaza before dawn. "Youssef Abou Azra, 18, was killed and two other Palestinians were injured by artillery fire by the occupier (Israel)," said the Palestinian official.

Read Article, Press TV

March 22th, 2017

<u>Israeli military vehicles cross Gaza border to raze agricultural lands</u>

KHAN YOUNIS, March 22, 2017 (WAFA) – A number of Israeli military vehicles breached the Gaza borders bear Khan Younis, south of Gaza Strip, and razed agricultural land, according to WAFA correspondent. He said six military vehicles, including three bulldozers and three tanks, breached the border and went 150 meters inside Qarara agricultural lands while Israeli surveillance drones flew over the area. The bulldozers levelled the land while the drone and tanks provided them with protection.

Read Article, Wafa

March 22th, 2017

Israeli army detains 11 Palestinians in West Bank raids

RAMALLAH, March 22, 2017 (WAFA) – Israeli occupation forces detained 11 Palestinians during overnight and early Wednesday raids in the occupied West Bank, said the Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) in a statement. It said soldiers detained six Palestinians from the Ramallah district including two children aged 11 and 12 years old from Beitunia, west of Ramallah. Forces also detained three from Bethlehem, one from Tulkarm and one from Jericho.

Read Article, Wafa

March 23th, 2017

Video of Israeli policeman hitting Palestinian driver draws anger

Israeli police are investigating after a video emerged showing an Israeli policeman beating up a Palestinian lorry driver. In the footage, which has been widely shared on social media, the policeman headbutts, slaps and kicks the driver as they quarrel beside the lorry. The incident happened at Wadi Joz, an Arab area in occupied East Jerusalem. Police said the officer involved had shown "severe and unusual behaviour" and had been placed on forced leave. The video, which was recorded by a Palestinian resident of East Jerusalem, has been passed to the police investigation unit. Read Article, BBC

March 23th, 2017

<u>Israeli cop assaults and humiliates Palestinian labourer</u>

(Video) Footage has emerged of an Israeli policeman assaulting a Palestinian labourer in Jerusalem this morning. The cop is seen headbutting and kneeing the Palestinian truck driver in the groin, and then assaulting another Palestinian who came to the labourer's aid.

Read Article, MEMO

March 23th, 2017

Netanyahu will not freeze settlements in occupied Jerusalem

Benjamin Netanyahu has said that his government will not freeze settlements in occupied Jerusalem, Israeli media reported on Wednesday. He said, The issue of halting building projects in the Israeli neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem is not part of the [current] negotiations with the US administration Netanyahu made his comments during his tour to China, where he told journalists on Tuesday that talks between the Israelis and the Americans about settlements started the day before. However, he noted, they ended without "any breakthrough or progress," although they will resume soon. The Israeli leader also said that the main aim of the Israeli delegation to Washington is to reach an agreement for a new settlement for those settlers who were evacuated last month from Amona outpost in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Amona was illegal, even under Israeli law; all Israeli settlements are illegal under international law. According to Haaretz, Netanyahu said that he had not "retreated" from his promise to build a brand new West Bank settlement for the Amona evacuees.

Read Article, MEMO

March 23th, 2017

Israeli tank shelling kills youth, wounds 2 others in Gaza

Israeli tank shelling killed one Palestinian youth and wounded two others in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah late last night, Palestinian security sources said. Spokesman of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, Ashraf Al-Qidra named the dead youth on his Facebook page as 18-year-old Yousif Abu-Athra. He also said that one of the two youths who were wounded suffered serious injuries while other was mildly wounded. They are being treated at the Abu-Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah. According to security sources, the Israeli tank shelling targeted a group of Palestinian youths in a playground to the east of Al-Nahda neighbourhood in Rafah.

Read Article, MEMO

March 23th, 2017

Israeli forces raid Tulkarem print shops, confiscate equipment

TULKAREM (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces raided and sacked two Palestinian print shops in the northern occupied West Bank city of Tulkarem at dawn on Thursday and confiscated equipment. Ali Abu Saleh, the owner of the two print shops, told Ma'an that large numbers of Israeli troops raided his home in the Shweika neighborhood and demanded that he let them access his stores. Abu Saleh said that Israeli soldiers searched his shop in the Shweika area, where they confiscated equipment, printed materials, and destroyed security camera footage. Israeli forces also raided Abu Saleh's other print shop in central Tulkarem, breaking the front door and also confiscating equipment and materials. Read Article, Ma'an

March 23th, 2017

Israeli naval forces detain 2 Palestinian fishermen off Gaza coast

GAZA (Ma'an) -- Israeli naval forces detained two Palestinian fishermen off the coast of the besieged Gaza Strip on Thursday morning, Palestinian security forces said. Gaza naval police said in statement that Israeli forces detained Khader al-Saadi and Rajab Abu Mayala, both residents of the al-Shati refugee camp, while they were sailing three nautical miles from the shore of Gaza City. Gaza police added that Israeli forces also confiscated the fishermen's boats and equipment. An Israeli army spokesperson told Ma'an that they were looking into the reports. The Israeli army regularly opens fire on unarmed Palestinian fishermen, shepherds, and farmers along the border areas if they approach Israel's unilaterally declared "buffer zone," which lies on both the land and sea sides of Gaza. Read Article, Ma'an

March 23th, 2017

<u>Israeli Supreme Court once again rules not to release slain Palestinians' bodies</u>

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- The Israeli Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled not to release the bodies of Palestinians still held in Israeli morgues to their families for burial, shortly after a rally organized by relatives of the slain Palestinians was violently suppressed by Israeli forces in Bethlehem. The court also a rejected a petition by Israel's general prosecution that requested that the four Palestinians, who died while carrying out attacks on Israelis, be buried in Israel's "cemetery of numbers," a series of mass graves comprised of marked and unmarked plots of mostly Palestinians killed by Israeli forces over the past 60 years. In January, Israel's security cabinet said that the bodies of Palestinians allegedly affiliated to the Hamas movement would not be returned to their families, as Israel considers the bodies to be a bargaining chip that could be used in a future exchange deal with Hamas, the de facto ruling party of the besieged Gaza Strip, where the bodies of two Israeli soldiers are believed to be held. Read Article, Ma'an

March 23th, 2017

Gaza boy dies after failing to get Israeli permit to leave Strip for treatment, says WHO

JERUSALEM, March 23, 2017 (WAFA) - Ahmed Shbair, a 17-year-old Gaza boy with a congenital heart condition, died in Gaza on January 14 following his inability to obtain an Israel permit to travel for urgent surgery in Israel where he had been receiving care, a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday. It said in its monthly report on referral of Gaza patients for treatment outside the besieged Gaza Strip, WHO said Shbair's family had applied four times for a permit since

November 3 and both he and his mother were interrogated by Israeli security services as a condition of the request. Two requests were denied and his third request went unanswered.

Read Article, WAFA

March 23th, 2017

<u>Israeli fire kills Palestinian near Gaza Strip border fence</u>

Israeli fire killed a Palestinian man and wounded two others in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday near Israel's border fence with the Hamas-run enclave, hospital officials said. The Israeli military said its forces "detected three suspects near the security fence and fired towards them, identifying one hit" in the pre-dawn incident. The dead man was named by hospital officials as Yousef Abu Athira, 18, who was later buried in Rafah, southern Gaza. No Palestinian militant group claimed the men as members, a sign, local residents said, that the three may have been trying to cross into Israel under the cover of darkness to seek work. Ashraf al-Qidra, a spokesman for the Gaza health ministry, said Athira was killed before dawn by Israeli artillery fire east of Rafah. He said two others suffered shrapnel wounds and were taken to Abu Yousef al-Najjar hospital in Rafah.

Read Article, MEE

March 24th, 2017

Three Israeli Soldiers Indicted on Charges of Beating Arrested Palestinian

Three soldiers were indicted in military court Thursday on suspicions of beating a Palestinian after he had been arrested last October. Military prosecutors asked that the three be detained until the end of the proceedings against them; the judge will decide Sunday. Last week the three soldiers, from the 50th battalion of the Nahal infantry brigade, were ordered to be kept in detention until the indictment was issued. The soldiers' military lawyers protested that the investigation progressed very slowly, saying it was the Palestinian who attacked the soldiers. Immediately after the incident, the military said the Palestinian had tried to attack the soldiers and even hit their commander in the eye. But the Military Police have since received testimony from another soldier in the battalion, which led to the indictment.

Read Article, Haaretz

March 24th, 2017

<u>Israel shuts down Arab primary school in East Jerusalem</u>

Sur Baher, occupied East Jerusalem - Perched on a stool in his mother's shop, Mohammad Jadallah recited the homemade study plans he has used since his school was closed down by the Israeli Ministry of Education. "I study science and maths. English is my favourite subject," said the 10-year-old fourth-grader, spelling out his name and grade on a loose sheet of paper. The closure of al-Nukhba school in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sur Baher has left the parents of the 230 children it served in a predicament.

Read Article, Al Jazeera

March 24th, 2017

Israeli occupation forces kill another Palestinian in West Bank

Israeli occupation forces shot dead a Palestinian youth and wounded three others on Thursday in the occupied West Bank, a Palestinian health official said. The Israeli army said they had attacked a settlement with petrol bombs. "Mohammed Hattab, 17, was killed by Israeli forces during clashes that occurred at the entrance of Al-Jalazone refugee camp north of the West Bank city of Ramallah," the Palestinian Health Ministry said in a statement. "Another three Palestinians were seriously injured in the clashes," it added. An Israeli army spokeswoman said three assailants got out of a car and threw petrol bombs towards the settlement of Beit El, near Ramallah when troops opened fire and confirmed hitting the men. She said the car then fled the scene.

Read Article, MEMO

March 24th, 2017

IOF kill Palestinian minor, injure three others in Ramallah shooting

A 17-year-old Palestinian boy named Mohammad al-Hattab was killed and three others were seriously injured, in the head and chest, after Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) opened their gunfire at them at the entrance of al-Jalazon refugee camp near Ramallah, Thursday evening. The Palestinian health ministry revealed, in a brief statement, that the injured young men were transferred to hospital operation rooms. Local source said that the wounded are 18-19 years old and that the IOF soldiers deliberately targeted them. The Israeli army claimed, in a statement, that the shooting targeted a group of Palestinians who threw Molotov cocktails at Beit El settlement.

Read Article, PNN

March 24th, 2017

Israeli Occupation Forces kidnap several youths across the West Bank and Jerusalem

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) kidnap multiple Palestinian youths before dawn on Thursday, during massive sweeps spreading over the West Bank and Jerusalem. Over 20 military jeeps drove into the city of Qalqilya and suppress Palestinian protesters with teargas. This resulted in outbreaks of violent clashes between Palestinian youth and Israeli soldiers. Seven youths were kidnapped from Qalqilya, some of which houses were raided and relatives attacked. Furthermore, two Palestinians were kidnapped in Tulkarem, one in Bethlehem and finally a 14-year-old Palestinian minor was kidnapped in the occupied Jerusalem.

Read Article, PNN

March 24th, 2017

1 Palestinian teen killed, 3 critically injured after Israeli forces open fire on vehicle

RAMALLAH (Ma'an) -- A Palestinian youth was killed and three others were critically injured Thursday evening after Israeli forces opened fire on a Palestinian vehicle near the al-Jalazun refugee camp north of Ramallah city in the central occupied West Bank. Ambulances of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society transferred the four youths, all residents of al-Jalazun, to the Ramallah Government Hospital, where one was pronounced dead. Ma'an previously reported based on statements by medical officials at the hospital that a second teen succumbed to his wounds, though the ministry later clarified that while three were still undergoing surgery, only one teen had been pronounced dead. The Palestinian Ministry of Health identified the slain Palestinians as 17-year-old Muhammad Mahmoud Ibrahim al-Hattab, who was shot in the chest and shoulder.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 24th, 2017

<u>Israel prevents Palestinians from accessing their land to make settlers 'comfortable'</u>

SALFIT (Ma'an) -- Israeli forces on Friday prevented Palestinians from accessing areas around the Wadi Qana valley west of the village of Deir Istiya in the central occupied West Bank district of Salfit, in order to create a "comfortable atmosphere" for Israeli settlers in the area. Member of the Deir Istiya municipality Nathmi Salman told Ma'an that Israeli authorities had closed the entrance of Wadi Qana, preventing Palestinians from entering the area from 8 a.m to 3 p.m on Friday to provide a "comfortable atmosphere" for Israeli settlers from the nearby Karnei Shomron settlement who organized an annual "spring march" in the area. According to Salman, Israeli forces had put up signs in Hebrew reading "no entry" late Thursday and informed farmers that the area was closed by Israeli forces on Friday. Salman said that Israeli settlers arrived in the area early Friday with power generators and "entertainment equipment." An Israeli army spokesperson said they were looking into reports.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 24th, 2017

Israel's occupation army detains 14 Palestinians in West Bank

RAMALLAH, March 23, 2017 (WAFA) – Israel's occupation forces detained at least 14 Palestinians, including lawmaker Ibrahim Dahbour, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council from Jenin, during early Thursday raids at their West Bank homes, according to the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS). The detainees also included 16-year-old Bassam Qunbar from Jabal al-Mukaber in East Jerusalem, along with another East Jerusalem resident. Soldiers also arrested Yousef Shalabi, a journalist, from his family home in the town of Attil, north of Tulkarm. Meanwhile, the occupation army arrested seven Palestinians from Qalqilia district, in addition to one each from the districts of Tulkarm, Nablus, and Bethlehem.

Read Article, Wafa

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Read Article, Wafa

March 25th, 2017

<u>Israel has ignored resolution to stop settlements in Palestinian territories, UN says</u>

Israel has ignored a demand by the UN Security Council to stop building settlements in the Palestinian West Bank, the UN has warned. In the first report on the implementation of a UN resolution, which called on Israel "to cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory including east Jerusalem", the UN Middle East envoy Nickolay Mladenov said that "no such steps had been taken". The resolution did not impose any sanctions on Israel but it enshrined a global disapproval of the settlements. It was adopted by the Security Council in December with 14 votes in favour and a US abstention.

Read Article, Independent

March 26th, 2017

Israel orders Palestinian families in Jordan Valley to evacuate homes for military drills

Israeli forces notified several Palestinian families in the northern Jordan Valley region of the occupied West Bank on Sunday that they would have to evacuate their homes on Wednesday to make way for Israeli military training exercises, official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. Aref Daraghmeh, who monitors settlement activities and Israeli violations, told Wafa that Israeli forces ordered more than 10 Palestinian families in the Ras al-Ahmar area northeast of Tubas to leave their homes starting at 5 pm Wednesday until 5 am on Thursday. Meanwhile, Israeli media reported on Sunday that the Israeli army had announced that military drills were set to take place in several areas of the occupied West Bank this week between Sunday and Thursday. An Israeli army spokesperson told Ma'an News Agency they were looking into reports.

Read Article, MEMO

March 27th, 2017

Israeli forces order Palestinian families to evacuate homes in occupied Jerusalem

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) forced on Sunday nine Palestinian families to temporarily evacuate their homes in the northern Al-Aghwar area in the eastern side of occupied West Bank, Palestinian news agency Wafa reported today. The occupation authorities claimed the orders came following plans by the Israeli army to start military drills in the Jordan Valley region. Moataz Basharat, a senior official who monitors Israeli settlement activities, told Wafa on Sunday that the Israeli Civil Administration notified nine Palestinian families in the Ras Al-Ahmar area northeast of Tubas to evacuate their homes staring Wednesday until end of Thursday, in preparation for military exercises that are scheduled take place in the area. The Israeli forces have announced earlier that a series of military drills would take place in several areas of the occupied West Bank starting from Sunday to Thursday this week. Basharat added that the families, who were handed notices from the occupation authorities, include 43 persons, majority of whom are women and children.

Read Article, MEMO

March 27th, 2017

Israeli forces order Palestinian families to evacuate homes in occupied Jerusalem

Israeli forces arrested at least 18 Palestinians during raids across the occupied West Bank in overnight raids, the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS) said on Monday. Israeli forces reportedly arrested six Palestinian from Bethlehem area, four from Tulkarm, three from Ramallah, two from Jerusalem and

one each from Jenin, Hebron, and Qalqilia. The detainees included a woman, identified as Tahani Jaber from Hebron, and a journalist from Qalqilia, identified as Ayoub Hassan.

Read Article, WAFA

March 27th, 2017

<u>Israeli police detain Aqsa guards for stopping Israeli from stealing stone</u>

Israeli police detained four guards of the Muslim holy site, Al-Aqsa Mosque, in Jerusalem after they stopped a Jewish archaeologist from stealing an ancient mosque stone. Police first detained three guards when they attempted to block the theft of the stone and shoved the director of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Omar Kiswani, when he tried to intervene on behalf of the employees. A fourth guard was later detained for the same reason. All four were taken into custody. Fanatic Jews claim Al-Aqsa Mosque compound is the site of the old Jewish temples. Muslim fear the Jewish fanatics want to destroy the mosque to build a temple on its ruins. Al-Aqsa Mosque is under Jordanian custody and its staff, including the guards, are Jordanian government employees.

Read Article, WAFA

March 27th, 2017

2 Palestinians injured during clashes with Israeli forces in West Bank

At least two Palestinians have sustained injuries after Israeli military forces opened fire to disperse a group of young Palestinian protesters in the central part of the occupied West Bank. Local sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the clashes erupted on Monday morning at Atarah military checkpoint north of Ramallah, located 10 kilometers north of Jerusalem al-Quds, where Israeli forces fired rubber-coated steel bullets to break up the demonstration. Two young Palestinian men suffered gunshot wounds during the skirmishes, and had to be transferred to Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah to receive treatment. Earlier, the Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) reported that Israeli troopers had detained at least 18 Palestinians in a series of raids carried out across the West Bank. Read Article, Press Tv

March 28th, 2017

Extremist settlers vandalize Spanish consulate in Jerusalem

Extremist Israeli settlers on Monday afternoon have sprayed racist slogans on the walls of the Spanish consulate in Jerusalem, according to local sources in the city. Sources said that the ultra-orthodox Jewish "Pay the Price" groups have vandalized the walls of the consulate located in East Jerusalem. Settlers also partially damaged and vandalized some of the cars parked outside the building. Read Article, PNN

March 28th, 2017

<u>Israeli President rejects pardon request by former PM</u>

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin rejected on Monday a request filed by the former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who was convicted in various corruption charges in February 2016, Israel's Haaretz reported today. Rivilin's decision came two weeks after the Israeli Justice Minister, Ayelet Shaked, requested the release of the ex-premier, despite the fact that many of her ministry's officials had recommended against the request. According to Haaretz, Rivlin said that the president's authority is

not a tool to appeal legal cases and so it would not accept a pardon request that would immediately release a prisoner from jail.

Read Article, MEMO

March 28th, 2017

Israeli authorities demolish 2 buildings in East Jerusalem's Issawiya

Israeli authorities demolished two buildings under construction in the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya on Tuesday morning, local sources told Ma'an. Issawiya follow-up committee member Muhammad Abu al-Hummus told Ma'an that Israeli forces were heavily deployed in the neighborhood as bulldozers demolished a house belonging to Ahmad Abu al-Hummus. The construction of the building was almost complete, and the Abu al-Hummus family had been preparing to move into the new home shortly, they said. Israeli bulldozers then demolished another building under construction in the area belonging to the Muheisin family. The Muheisins, according to Abu al-Hummus, started building the home a year ago but stopped construction after building the ground floor, upon receiving a demolition warrant from the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 28th, 2017

10 Al-Aqsa guards detained after altercation with Israeli archaeologist

Israeli forces detained 10 security guards of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem on Monday, after they prevented an Israeli archaeologist from trying to remove an old stone from the religious compound. The altercation occurred on Monday morning after the guards intervened as the Israeli archaeologist, escorted by an Israeli police officer, entered the Al-Aqsa compound and tried to take a stone from an underground section below the al-Qibli mosque in the compound. The archaeologist was removed from the area, which is closed to the public, but later tried to re-enter via the underground Marwani prayer hall, when the security guards once again rejected him.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 28th, 2017

Israel detains 13 Palestinians in West Bank raids, including girl, minors

Israeli forces detained 13 Palestinians during overnight raids across the West Bank, including a girl and several minors, the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS) said on Tuesday. In the north of the West Bank, soldiers arrested a girl identified as Sojoud Rihan, along with three other men in their early 20s from the Nablus district. Soldiers also arrested a minor from Tubas along with another man, in addition to three people from the Ramallah district, two of them 16 years old and the third 18. In Hebron, in the south of the West Bank, soldiers detained four people, including two 16-year-old minors. Read Article, Wafa

March 28th, 2017

Israeli forces open fire at agricultural lands in Gaza

Israeli occupation forces on Tuesday opened gunfire at Palestinian agricultural lands near Khan Younis, south of Gaza Strip, local sources said. There were no reports of casualties, however. The Israeli army regularly opens fire on Palestinians along the border areas, which Israeli has unilaterally declared as a buffer zone. According to a report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the occupied Palestinian territories, Israeli forces opened warning or direct fire at Palestinians present in, or approaching the Israeli-imposed Access Restricted Areas (ARA) on land and sea in Gaza, on at least 52 occasions between January 24 and February 6.

Read Article, Wafa

March 28th, 2017

Israeli police detain six more guards at Jerusalem's al-Aqsa

Israeli police detained on Tuesday six Islamic Awqaf guards at al-Aqsa Mosque compound in in Jerusalem. WAFA correspondent said that Israeli police raided the houses of the four guards and detained them. On Monday, Israeli police detained four guards after they stopped a Jewish archaeologist from stealing an ancient mosque stone. Director of of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Omar Kiswani, was also detained when he tried to intervene on behalf of the guards as they attempted to prevent the theft.

Read Article, Wafa

March 29th, 2017

Israeli forces raid Palestinian cartoonist's workshop

Israeli forces on Monday raided the workshop of a Palestinian cartoonist in the occupied West Bank, destroying his artwork and equipment, according to the artist. Ossama Nazzal said around 30 soldiers had raided his workshop in the village of Kafr Ni'mah west of Ramallah and confiscated at least 15 pieces of artwork, including a portrait of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "In half an hour, the Israeli army destroyed my private archive that dated back to 1988," Nazzal told Anadolu Agency. According to Nazzal, he had not been at home at the time, but had received a call from his brother about the dawn raid, during which soldiers had confined members of his family to a single room of the house.

Read Article, World Bulletin

March 29th, 2017

<u>Police Making Unreasonable Demands of Anti-occupation March in Jerusalem, Organizers Say</u>

Organizers of a peace march planned for Saturday night in the center of Jerusalem said the Israel Police is making unreasonable demands for the approval of the march. The organizers said they expect some 2,500 people to attend the march. Over the past few days, the police informed the organizers that they must meet a number of conditions in order to receive a permit, which the organizers claim are impossible to meet. These include a requirement that the marchers keep to the sidewalks without walking on the streets or disrupting traffic. The march is being organized by Standing Together, in cooperation with left-wing parties and organizations including Peace Now, Meretz, Breaking the Silence, Combatants for Peace and others. The march is supposed to be the first in a series of events marking the 50th anniversary of the occupation.

Read Article, Haaretz

March 29th, 2017

Israeli military break into Palestinian high school, terrorize students

An Israeli army unit Wednesday broke into Burin secondary school, south of Nablus in the north of the West Bank, to arrest a student and ended up terrorizing the students, the school principal, Ibrahim Omran, said to WAFA. He said heavily armed soldiers broke into the school during the fourth period, when the students were in their classrooms, claiming they were after a student who had thrown rocks at them. Omran contacted the Palestinian coordinating office with Israel and asked for their immediate intervention to get the Israeli soldiers out of the school before a disaster occurs. Read Article, Wafa

March 29th, 2017

Israeli interrogators attempt to strangle Palestinian prisoner

Israeli interrogators assaulted an 18-year-old Palestinian prisoner during interrogation, the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS) said in a statement on Wednesday. PPS said that Israeli interrogators attempted to strangle Muhammad Ahed al-Khadour while interrogating him in the Russian compound detention center in Jerusalem. Al-Khadour, from the village of Biddu in the occupied West Bank district of Jerusalem, has been detained since March 22. An Israeli court extended his detention until March 30.

Read Article, Ma'an

March 29th, 2017

Israeli forces demolish 2 Palestinian homes in Jabal al-Mukabbir

Israeli bulldozers demolished two Palestinian homes in Jabal al-Mukabbir in occupied East Jerusalem on Wednesday morning without prior notice, over the pretext that the structures lacked licenses re quired by Israel's Jerusalem municipality. The two houses belong to brothers Islam and Imam al-Abbasi. Their two families, comprised of a total of 14 people -- including 10 children -- were displaced as result of the demolition. Witnesses told Ma'an that municipality crews and vehicles escorted by dozens of Israeli police raided the al-Salaa neighborhood of Jabal al-Mukabbir, before evacuating the al-Abbasis from their homes and proceeding to raze the buildings to the ground. Islam and Imam's father, Moussa al-Abbasi, told Ma'an that the houses were built in 2014 and measured 160 square meters.

Read Article, Ma'an

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Read Article, Ma'an

March 30th, 2017

<u>Video: Undercover Israeli soldiers kidnap Palestinian man in Bethlehem</u>

Armed Israeli special forces, AKA Israeli soldiers dressed as Palestinians, on Wednesday afternoon have kidnapped a Palestinian man at gunpoint, assaulted his brother in downtown Bethlehem. The special force, accompanied by a number of military vehicles, stormed the Maslakh street in Bethlehem, arrested Firas Nawawra, 34, and severely assaulted his brother Hasan, who was transferred to hospital after sustaining several injuries and bruises.

Read Article, Haaretz

March 30th, 2017

Palestinians mark Land Day with protest marches; Israelis respond with force

Palestinians marked Land Day on Thursday with protest marches in some West Bank cities, but Israeli forces dispersed the marches with force, according to officials. In Bethlehem in the south of the West Bank, protesters marched from Beit Jala to the Cremisan valley where Israel has seized hundreds of dunums of Palestinian land near the monastery to build its segregation wall. When the march reached the Israeli army checkpoint at the Cremisan, soldiers fired tear gas canisters and stun grenades at them causing many to suffer from gas inhalation. Some of the protesters were able to climb the four-meter high fence in the area and placed Palestinian flags on it.

Read Article, Wafa