

PLO NEGOTIATIONS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Israeli human rights violations within the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt): January – May 2011

JUNE 2011

STATISTICS ON ISRAELI VIOLATIONS IN THE LAST FIVE MONTH PERIOD

Month	January	February	March	April	May	Total
Killings	12	7	15	23	4	61
Injuries	46	79	95	108	228	556
Raids	644	666	686	655	714	3365
Arrests	260	260	315	191	390	1416
Home Demolitions	2	2	—	—	1	5
Attacks on Property	87	116	231	140	151	725
Home Occupations	15	4	23	12	21	75
Curfews	1	—	8	5	4	18
Flying Checkpoints	778	681	734	844	837	3874
Complete Closure of Crossing Points	141	134	146	154	149	724
Settler Violence	80	78	312	108	94	672

Source: Palestinian Monitoring Group (PMG), IRAMIM, B'tselem

1. Killings and Injuries¹

a. Killings

- In **January**, the Israeli military and settlers killed **12** Palestinians, in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Among those killed were three children and two elderly civilians.
- In **February**, the Israeli military killed **7** Palestinians, including six in the West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip. Among those killed was Palestinian attacked by Israeli settlers with sharp tools.
- In **March**, the Israeli military killed **15** Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Among those killed were four children.
- In **April**, Israeli combat aircrafts launched attacks on Khan Yunis and Rafah districts, killing **23** Palestinians.

¹ See PMG daily Report (www.nad-plo.org)

- In **May**, the Israeli military killed **4** Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Among those killed was a 16-year-old boy who from the Silwan neighborhood in East Jerusalem. Another child was killed near the border fence separating Israel from Gaza Strip.

b. Injuries

- In **January**, the Israeli military injured a total of **46** Palestinians (34 Palestinians in the West Bank and 12 in the Gaza Strip). This figure includes 10 children, a female civilian, a journalist, and a number of international peace activists.
- In **February**, the Israeli military injured a total of **79** Palestinians (34 Palestinians in the West Bank and 45 in the Gaza Strip). This figure includes 16 children, three female civilians, and a journalist.
- In **March**, the Israeli military injured a total of **95** Palestinians (44 Palestinians in the West Bank and 51 in the Gaza Strip). This figure includes 22 children, including 2 girls, journalist and 4 female civilians.
- In **April**, the Israeli military injured a total of **108** Palestinians (33 Palestinians in the West Bank and 75 in the Gaza Strip). This figure includes 14 children, 3 female civilians, including a pregnant woman, 3 elderly civilians, three medics, and 3 journalists. Also the Israeli military unleashed dogs injuring 3 Palestinians.
- In **May**, the Israeli military injured a total of **228** Palestinians (133 Palestinians in the West Bank and 95 in the Gaza Strip). This figure includes 29 children, 2 journalists, and 2 female civilians, including a woman wounded by Israeli settlers near the junction of Jit village in Qalqiliya district.

2. Arrests

- In **January**, the Israeli military arrested **260** Palestinians (255 in the West Bank and five in the Gaza Strip). The majority of arrests took place in the districts of Hebron (55), Jerusalem (37), Nablus (31), and Ramallah (27). Among those arrested were: **39** children, a civilian with mental health issues, 10 university students, five fishermen, a PLC member and nine Palestinian security officers.
- In **February**, the Israeli military arrested **260** Palestinians (259 in the West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip). The majority of arrests took place in the districts of Hebron (65), Jerusalem (37), and Ramallah (25). Among those arrested were: **45** children, three university students, and four Palestinian security officers.
- In **March**, the Israeli military arrested **315** Palestinians (312 in the West Bank and three in the Gaza Strip). The majority of arrests took place in the districts of Hebron (101), Nablus (71), Bethlehem (35), and Ramallah (30). Among those arrested were: **39** children, a female civilian, three university students, and six Palestinian security officers.
- In **April**, the Israeli military arrested **191** Palestinians in the West Bank. The majority of arrests took place in the districts of Nablus (48), Hebron (46), Ramallah (32), and Bethlehem (15).

Among those arrested were: **41** children; three female civilians; a university student; and four Palestinian security officers.

- In **May**, the Israeli military arrested **390** Palestinians, including 386 in the West Bank and four in the Gaza Strip. The majority of arrests took place in the districts of Jerusalem (74), Hebron (64), Qalqiliya (57), Bethlehem (50), and Nablus (33). Among those arrested were: **41** children; six female civilians; three university students; two PLC members; a journalist; and seven Palestinian security officers.

3. Closure

The Israeli military continues to intensify restrictions at checkpoints located at the entrances of Jerusalem, and to restrict entrance to the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in the Old City , preventing worshippers from accessing the Mosque.

The Israeli military also set up **3874 flying checkpoints** during the reporting period. These checkpoints were positioned by the Israeli military around Palestinian residential areas throughout the West Bank to disrupt civilian access and movement of goods, including agricultural produce.

a. Palestinian Prevented from Accessing their Holy Places in occupied Jerusalem during Easter

During Easter, the Israeli military denied Palestinian Christians access to Occupied Jerusalem. Although the Israeli military claimed that thousands of permits were issued to Palestinian Christians, their actual access to the city was highly restricted as a result of the closure of occupied Jerusalem during Passover Jewish celebration. During the Holy Fire Saturday celebrations, Palestinian Jerusalemite Christians and others were blocked their access by the Israeli checkpoints in and around the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the Old City of Jerusalem.

4. GAZA SIEGE

Israel continues its siege on the Gaza Strip with devastating effects on the civilian population. Israel continues to limit the flow of vital goods and merchandise from entering the Gaza Strip. For example, the Gaza strip receives an average of 2,500 tons of cooking gas per month when the demand is 6,000 tons per month.

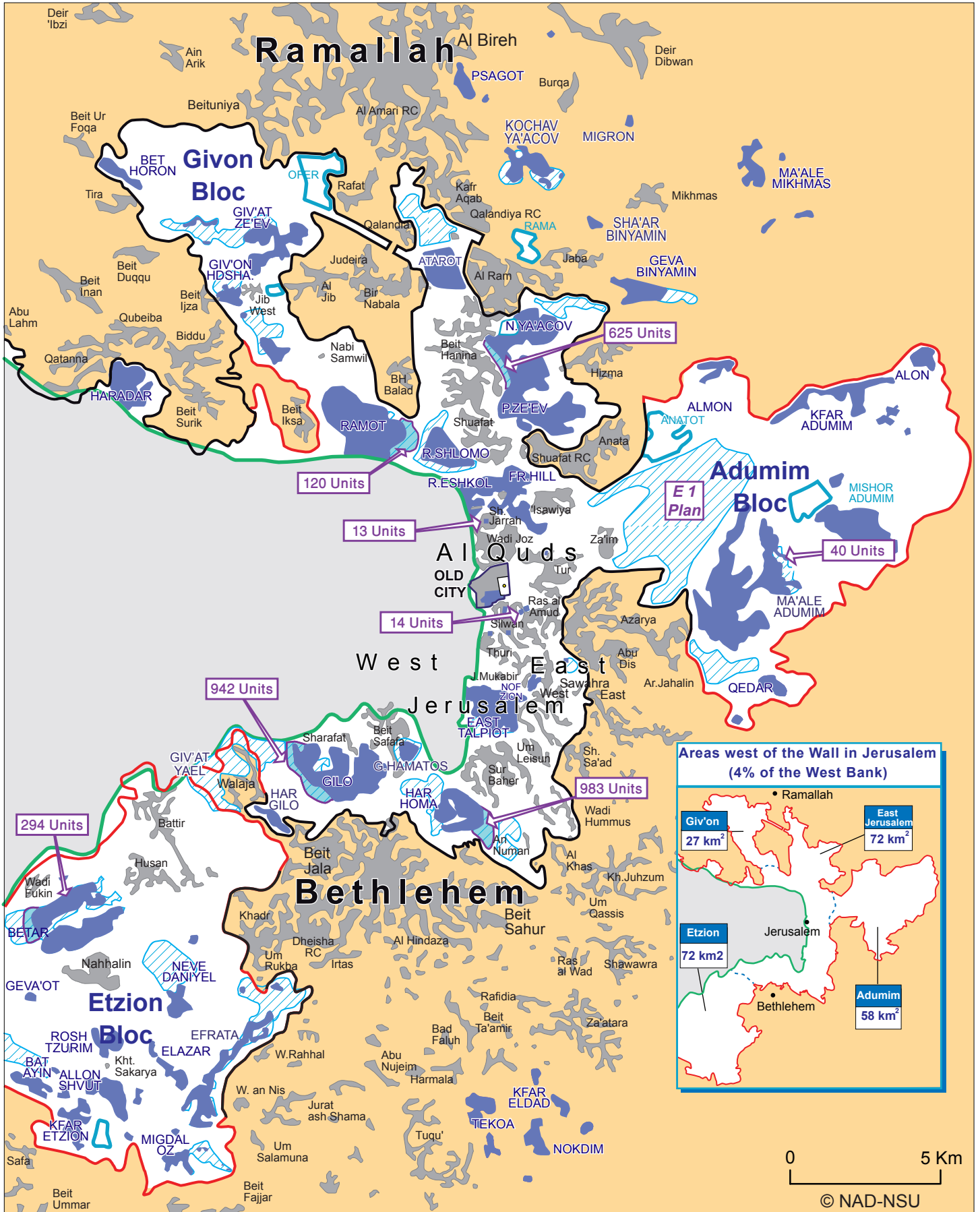
5. SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES² – (*see map*)

- On January 9th, Israeli bulldozers began demolishing of the Shepherd hotel in Sheikh Jarrah. The hotel was built before 1967 and has a political and cultural significance to Palestinians.
- On January 17th, the Israeli authorities approved the construction of **32** housing units in the Pizgat Zeeve settlement, north east of Jerusalem.
- On February 7th, the planning committee of the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality approved the construction of **13** new settlement units in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem. These new units will leads to the eviction of several Palestinian families.
- On February 11th, the planning committee of the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality approved the construction of **14** units in Ma'ale David settlement located in Ras al Amud neighborhood in East Jerusalem
- On February 14th, the planning committee of the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality approved the construction of **120** new settlement units in Ramot settlement North of Jerusalem.
- On March 12th, the Israeli government announced its decision to approve the construction of **400** settlement units in the following settlements:
 - 200 units in Modi'in Ilit;
 - 100 units in Ariel;
 - 40 units in Ma'ale Adumim;
 - 50 units in Kfar Eldad.
- On April 4th, the Israeli authorities approved the construction of **1242** housing units to be built on 270 dunums in the Gilo settlement, west of Bethlehem. A total of **942** units in the first stage, and **300** in a later stage -- as well as commercial space and public buildings. ⁽³⁾
- On April 28th, the Israeli ministry of defense approved the marketing and construction of a commercial center in Efrata settlement south of Bethlehem.
- On May 19th, the Israeli authorities approved the construction of **625** units in the Pizgat Zeeve settlement north east of Jerusalem and **983** units in Har Houma settlement, south east of Jerusalem.
- On May 20th, the Israel's Defense Ministry approved the construction of **294** units in the settlement of Beitar Illit, south west of Bethlehem.
- On May 25th, the Israeli authorities inaugurated the expansion of Ma'ale Zeetem settlement in Ras Amud in the occupied East Jerusalem. Several high Israeli officials attended the

² <http://peacenow.org.il/eng/>

³ <http://www.ir-amim.org.il/eng/>

ISRAELI WALL AND SETTLEMENTS AROUND OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM (JUNE 2011)



- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 1967 Boundary ("Green Line") | Israeli settlement built-up area | Israeli military base |
| Palestinian city, town, village or neighborhood | Planned settlement expansion | The Wall - completed or under construction |
| Palestinian territory west / east of the Wall | Approved settlement expansion | - planned |

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inauguration, including Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin, Interior Minister Eli Yishai, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barakat, Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar, Environmental Protection Minister Gilad Erdan, and Information Minister Daniel Hershkovitz.

- Ongoing construction is taking place in several settlement outposts in the West Bank. (15 Units in Kiryat Netafim in Tulkharem District, 24 Units in Halamish, 20 Units and 40 units in Shilo, north of Ramallah).

6. INCITEMENT

- Israeli officials are calling for the annexation of certain areas in the West Bank in response to the intention of Palestinians to go to the United Nations. The Israeli Minister for National Infrastructures, Uzi Landau, was quoted in the media as calling for imposing Israeli sovereignty over all Area C if Palestinians insist on going to the UN in September. Minister Landau said: “ I’m going to suggest to my government to extend our sovereignty over the Jordan Valley and over the highly populated blocs we have in Judea and Samaria, just to start with.”
- Yuval Steinitz, Israel's Finance Minister, refused to transfer 300 million shekels (\$88.7 million) in tax revenue that Israel collected on behalf of the PA as a result of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement.
- An estimated 40,000 Israeli settlers stormed the Palestinian neighborhoods of Sheikh Jarrah, Silwan, Mount of Olives and the Old City of Jerusalem to celebrate, what they consider, as the unification of the City. Palestinian residents of occupied East Jerusalem were subjected to extreme provocations by the settlers, including acts of violence and racist slogans (“Death to Arabs”). In one instance, the settlers, protected by Israeli police, walked through Muslim Quarter of the Old City at 4am shouting “Muhammad is dead.”

7. PALESTINIAN HERITAGE

- Israeli authorities continue to undermine Palestinian heritage in West Jerusalem, including through their excavations at the Islamic Cemetery of Mamillah. The Israeli plans are designed to lay the foundation of what so called “Museum of Tolerance” and to change the landscape of the area without taking into consideration either the religious significance or the fact that part of the land is a refugee property.
- In January, the Israeli antiquities authority announced the completion of a new tunnel underneath the Old City walls, near the Aqsa Compound. The operation of the tunnel digging has been with the cooperation of “El’ad Foundation” settler group. Upon completion the Israeli tunnel will sneak and undermine the foundation of Palestinian homes in Silwan neighborhood.
- The Israeli antiquities authority intensified the excavation works in Damascus Gate (Bab al-Amud) of the Old City of Jerusalem. The excavation is taking place in the area between Damascus Gate and the Sultan Suleiman Street near Herod's Gate.

8. EAST JERUSALEM INSTITUTIONS

The closure of Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem continues. These institutions have been closed by Israel since August 9, 2001. Also, the Israeli authorities issued an extension to the closing order of the Nidal Community Development Centre in the Old City of Jerusalem for a period of another year (until the end of 2011).