

JERUSALEM

Chronology of Main Events 2012

JANUARY:

Jan. 2: Residents and shop owners are notified of the confiscation of 13 dunums of land in the industrial zone of Wadi Al-Joz (Plan No. 2693) The order had already been signed by mayor Barkat in September 2011 but was only publicized now, when the given 60 days to object had passed.

- The WJM District Committee for Planning and Building approves a plan (No. 13900) to establish a dumping site on 500 dunums of lands located between Al-Issawiya and 'Anata.

Jan. 3: The ILA publicly distributes tenders for the construction of the first 631 of the 1,557 settlement units announced in response to the UNESCO vote in November 2011. Some 625 units are earmarked for Pisgat Ze'ev settlement (Plan No. 11647).

Jan. 4: The Israeli Housing Ministry and ILA publish three new tenders for construction of 300 housing units (out of the 500 units that the Housing Ministry had announced on 18 Dec. 2011), incl. 47 for Pisgat Ze'ev and 247 in Har Homa.

Jan. 5: Israeli forces announce the confiscation of over 1,100 dunums of land belonging to Qatanna, Biddu, Beit Duqqu, Beit Surik, Qatanna, Qubeiba, Beit Ijza, An-Nabi Samuel and Beit Iksa villages, on the pretext of "security reasons" and to prevent "terrorist attacks". In fact, the confiscation orders, which were issued on 8 December 2011, target land for the rerouting of the separation barrier.

Jan. 6: In Al-Izzariyya, Israeli forces demolish industrial structures, incl. a stone factory belonging to Samir Taqatqa, barracks owned by Mohammad Ayadd and Majed Abu Ghalia and a 100 m² car park, and confiscate materials, incl. stones worth some 60,000 NIS.

Jan. 8: *Al-Quds* reports that Israeli authorities have started to carry out new excavations in Silwan search for a historic underground wall. Moreover, some 50 fake graves were placed in the neighborhood in an attempt to seize about 20 dunums of Palestinian lands there.

Jan. 10: Israeli forces level some 70 dunums of land in southeastern Al-Issawiya in what is believed to be preparations for the building of a controversial national park in the area.

- *Al-Quds* reports that Israeli authorities have closed the only road leading to Khan Al-Ahmar elementary school and warned the Bedouin residents of the area not to try reaching it.

Jan. 11: The WJM begins confiscation of 740 dunums of Palestinian lands between At-Tur and Al-Issawiya, earmarked for establishing a national park, with bulldozing without prior notice some 80 dunums belonging to the 'Abed, Dirbas, Abu Riala and Abu Al-Hames families..

- Khadija Kayed Abdel Razek receives a military order to demolish her house in the Bir Ayoub area of Silwan.

Jan. 13: The WJM hands a military order to the Siyam family to demolish a store and a room added to their house in the Bir Ayoub area of Silwan.

Jan. 14: Israeli forces demolish two animal barns owned by members of the Debish family in Sur Baher.

Jan. 15: *Al-Ayyam* reports that the WJM has issued a decision to confiscate 117 dunums of Shu'fat and Beit Hanina lands for "public purposes", i.e., building Bypass Road No. 21.

Jan. 16: The WJM District Committee publishes plans for building of 204 new housing units in the French Hill settlement. According to the Baka'a Center for Planning and Building the plan, prepared by the Hebrew University, targets four existing student units in the area to be replaced by six settler buildings.

- In Sur Baher, Israeli forces level a 50-m²-shack, a 200-m²-plot belonging to the family of Ali Dabash on the pretext of lacking the construction permit.

Jan. 19: *Al-Quds* reports that Israeli forces erected random roadblocks in Silwan and issued tickets to Palestinian drivers while WJM officials handed out 10 demolition orders to residents for lacking proper building permits.

Jan. 21: The Jerusalem District Committee approves the construction of 32 new settlement units in addition of commercial facilities and offices in Ras Al-Amud (Town Plan No. 12259).

Jan. 22: *Al-Ayyam* reports that following a petition by the Jerusalem Center for Legal Assistance and Human Rights, an Israeli court has issued an injunction to freeze construction of the national park planned on 740 dunums of At-Tur and Al-Issawiya lands, awaiting a response from the WJM and environmental authority by February 2012.

Jan. 23: The Israeli army raids the ICRC building in Sheikh Jarrah and arrests Hamas PLC members Mohammad Totah and Khalil Abu Arafah.

Jan. 24: Near Anata, Israeli army bulldozers demolish a 100-m² house owned by Imad Omar Al-Lahalia and his 20-members family under the pretext of lacking proper permits. The family had received the demolition order six days earlier. This is the second time (after 1996) their house is demolished.

- Israeli forces storm Wa'r Al-Beik area in 'Anata and demolish without prior notification 7 residential barracks owned by the Jahalin and Shawamreh Bedouin families under the pretext of lacking building permits. At least 39 persons are displaced.

Jan. 26: Israeli authorities hand out new military orders to demolish houses and commercial structures in Silwan.

Jan. 30: In Beit Hanina, Israeli forces demolish a caravan home inhabited by Mohammad Samara's and his 7-member family.

- Israeli forces partially demolish a house belonging to the Hassouna family in Shu'fat, home to 8 people, on the pretext of having no permit. This is the second demolition for the family, who lost another house in 2007.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1: Akram Al-Abbasi is forced to demolish his aluminum workshop in Silwan's Wadi Hilweh area for being unlicensed.

- Israeli authorities hand a number of Palestinian families in Silwan military orders to demolish their 10 houses under the pretext of lacking building permits.

Feb. 4: *Al-Ayyam* reports about the WJM intending to build a commercial center and parking lot on 4.53 dunums of land owned by the Armenian Monastery in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Feb. 7: As part of the 'price tag' policy, extremist Jews spray "Death to Christians" and "Price Tag" in Hebrew on the walls of the Monastery of the Cross.

- Israeli bulldozers raze 20 dunums of lands owned by Al-Sayad and Abu Sinan families in the Khamat Al 'Ein area near Al-Issawiya and At-Tur to make way for the planned national park. In addition, three caves, a cement fence and some access roads are razed. The Gayth, Sha'lan and Ad-Daiya families of At-Tur appeal for help to open one of those roads leading to their homes and for which there is no alternative.

- *Al-Quds* reports that the Jerusalem District Court has issued a restraining order against the WJM, the Israeli Nature Preservation Authority and the National Parks Authority, to prevent them from carrying out any works or close roads in the lands between At-Tur and Al-Issawiya which are targeted for a national park (Plan No. 11092).

Feb. 8: Israeli settlers write anti-Arab and anti-Christian slogans at the walls of the Jewish-Arab Hand-in-Hand School in Beit Safafa/Pat.

- *Al-Quds* reports that the Foundation for Waqf and Heritage Committee has revealed an Israeli plan

to expand the Jewish Quarter in the Old City with lands belonging to the Armenian Monastery near Al-Buraq Wall. The plan comprises residential compounds, hotels, shopping malls, public facilities, an underground parking lot and an underground tunnel.

Feb. 9: Israeli forces demolish a residence and a shack belonging to Izz Eddin Abu Nijmeh and his 12-member family in the Wadi Ad-Dam area in Beit Hanina.

Feb. 10: Israeli forces demolish the home of the Shweiki family in Al-Khaliyla near Al-Jib and raze the surrounding land, uprooting trees and confiscating irrigation pipes.

Feb. 12: The WJM District Planning and Construction Committee has approved a new visitors' center ("Mercaz Kedem") above the Givati parking lot to serve the 'City of David' national park in Silwan. As part of this decision, a complex consisting of a playground, a community center and a café is razed by INPA officials. The planned center, promoted by El 'Ad and supported by mayor Barkat, will include an area where visitors can view recently discovered archeological findings, a parking lot, exhibition space, classrooms, and an observation deck. Silwan residents and their supporters oppose the plan as further Judaization of their village

Feb. 13: Israeli forces demolish Ahmad Al-Baghdadi's 85-m² residence in Suwaneh. In the same neighborhood, the WJM confiscates lands belonging to Samir Farouj, claiming it is needed as part of a 'national park' planned there.

- In Wadi Hilweh, Silwan, Israeli forces destroy a 800-m² playground and a nearby cultural café.

Feb. 20: Extremist Jews write offensive slogans on the walls of the Baptist Church in Jerusalem and flatten the tires of cars parked nearby as part of the 'price tag' policy.

Feb. 21: Following calls by Palestinians to gather at Al-Aqsa Mosque to foil plans by Jewish settlers' groups to pray there Israeli police prevents Palestinians under 40 years of age to enter the Old City and the Mosque.

- Mohammad Ahmad 'Amera from Sur Baher is handed a demolition order and a NIS 15,000 fine for his 160 m² house, home to 10 people, for lacking building permits.

Feb. 23: *Ma'ariv* reveals that the WJM Local Planning Committee has approved, a day earlier, the registration of the lands of Atarot Airport as 'urban lands,' in order to transfer them from the National Ports Authority to the responsibility of the WJM. The Minister of Transportation must still approve the transfer of the land, but as soon as his approval is granted the official planning process of an industrial area for Jerusalem may begin.

Feb. 24: After the Friday noon prayer, Israeli forces enter Al-Aqsa compound and fire tear and sound grenades, causing confusion amongst the large crowds and triggering clashes with Palestinians.

- *Yediot Aharonot* reports that Israeli PM Netanyahu has ordered the Interior Ministry to halt construction of new homes in East Jerusalem, particularly in the settlements of Gilo and Pisgat Zeev, to avoid conflict in an upcoming visit to the White House.

Feb. 27: Israeli forces demolish two houses owned by Musa and Ahmad Salim Al-Ka'abna under the pretext of building without permits in Jab'a village.

Feb. 29: WJM mayor Nir Barkat and Israeli Minister of Transport and Road Safety, Israel Katz, announce the implementation of a 5-year plan for the development of the infrastructure and transportation in East Jerusalem. Some NIS 50 million will annually be invested to renovate old roads and infrastructure as well as build new ones. The plan includes about 30 multi-lane roads (8 of them in Beit Hanina, 2 in Wadi Al-Joz, 8 in Ras Al-Amud, At-Tur and Silwan, 7 in Beit Safafa, Sharafat and Dahara, 7 in Sur Baher, Um Tuba, Jabal Mukabber and Arab Sawahreh, and 2 in Isawwiya. In addition over NIS 200 million will be invested in building roads to improve access to the Arab neighborhoods and which will be a transportation alternative to road no. 1. There will also be an investment of 20 million NIS to improve the security of the roads and sidewalks in the various Arab neighborhoods. Security improvements will include the building of sidewalks, safety barriers, parking spots and speed bumps etc.

MARCH

March 3: Israeli authorities hand a military order (No. 35/07/T, first issued on October 9, 2007) to Al-Izzariyya Local Council for the confiscation of 386.3 dunums of lands belonging to Al-Izzariyya, Abu Dis and At-Tur to construct a 4.6 km section of a planned road, running through Abu Dis and Al-Izzariyya to At-Tur and Az-Za'im before passing through an underground tunnel to Anata and Hizma. Another order (No. 19/07/T, first issued on October 4, 2007) confiscates a total of 1,128.8 dunums from Abu Dis, Arab Al-Sawahreh, An-Nabi Musa and Al-Khan Al-Ahmar for building another section of the road, which will start in Al-Sawahreh Al-Sharqiya and encircle the Ma'ale Adumim settlement bloc from the east.

March 13: The WJM forces the Farrah family to demolish their residence in Beit Hanina under threats of imposing further fines.

March 27: Israeli forces raid the Natsheh family house in the Ashqariyya neighborhood in Beit Hanina.

March 29: Settler leader Aryeh King states on Twitter: "History! The Israel Land Fund went in today into the first Jewish home in Beit Hanina, East Jerusalem. The land zoned for 56 Apartments!" Adding later: "History! If you want to participate in building Yerushalaim, you can save to yourself Apartment in Nof Shmuel (B.Hanina)" – along with a picture of a Palestinian home the settlers have taken over and where they plan to establish Nof Shmuel settlement.

March 30: Press reports indicate that WJM Mayor Barkat is planning to expedite the Kidmat Zion settlement enclave in Abu Dis (Town Plan 7659), where he intend to built 200 new homes.

APRIL

April 2: Israel's High Court of Justice denies a petition submitted by Muna Hussein, one of the granddaughters of the late Grand Mufti Haj Amin Al-Husseini against the sale of the Shepherd Hotel compound and its becoming a new settlement.

April 4: As part of Town Plan 7509, the ILA and the Ministry of Construction publish four tenders for 72 housing units and one tender for four commercial buildings in Har Homa B. In addition, they publish two tenders for a total of 800 units in Har Homa C (as part of Town Plan 10310).

April 16: During the following week, three consecutive days of hearings are held to consider the 15 objections by an external investigator regarding planned developments in Givat Hamatos A (Town Plan 14295).

April 18: The Jerusalem Municipal Planning Committee approves a plan to construct an 8-story "IDF War College" on 32 dunums of land on the southern part of the Mt. Scopus ridge between the Mormon University Campus and the Augusta Victoria Hospital (Town Plan 51870). The project is now pending final approval of the Regional Planning Committee.

- Israeli troops forcefully evict the Natsheh family from their house in the Ashqariyya neighborhood of Beit Hanina, where they had lived for 14 years, and hand it over to Israeli settlers led by Aryeh King, who claim ownership.

- Israeli authorities hand Mohammad Al-Joulani an eviction order for his house in Beit Hanina, which was built in 1998 and where he lives with his wife and 4 children.

April 19: A plan for Givat Hamatos D, which provides for the construction of 1,100 hotel rooms and a public building, is deposited for public review (Town Plan 5834 D).

MAY

May 7: Israeli officials issue an eviction order to the home of Fatima Salamieh in Sheikh Jarrah.

May 9: Israeli authorities demolish without prior warning an under-construction house belonging to Walid Sadeq Idkedek in the Al-Mouroha area of Beit Hanina.

May 20: *Ha'aretz* quotes from a new ACRI report titled "Policies of Neglect in East Jerusalem" according to which 78% of Palestinians in Jerusalem - and 84% of Palestinian children - live under the poverty line. Main reasons given are unemployment (50% of men and 85% of women), neglect of the educational system, the separation barrier, and lack of physical and economic infrastructure.

May 21: Israeli forces demolish a house under construction belonging to Samih Idris in At-Tur on the pretext that it was being built without a permit.

JUNE

June 11: The Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee approves a construction project in Silwan funded by the municipality and the national government and being carried out in conjunction with the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. It includes the Beit Hama'ayan, overlooking Gihon Spring and a large tourist center with an observation deck above the spring and the archaeological remains. As part of the project, the Committee granted El 'Ad the right to designate a section of the ancient Gihon Spring (used by Haredi men as kind of a ritual bath) as an "immersion pit."

June 12: Israeli authorities destroy a complex of sheep barns as well as 20 tons of barley in the Salaa neighborhood of Jabal Al-Mukabber, belonging to Aziz Jamil Jaabis, and charges the family a NIS 50,000 demolition fee. The animal shelters were the only source of income for five households.

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER