

## Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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### Report on the Israeli Colonization Activities in the West Bank & the Gaza Strip

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#### Bethlehem

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA assaulted and injured Palestinians. (ARN 2 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured Mahmoud Musa Ahmed Brijyah (21 years) from Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city, while he was crossing Al-Container checkpoint. (RB2000 2 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities prevented a number of Palestinians from crossing Gilo 300 checkpoint, north of Bethlehem city. (Maannews 4 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched a Palestinian Super Market in Dar Salah village, east of Bethlehem city. The targeted super Market is owned by Midhat Isma'il Mubarak. (Wafa 4 August 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired teargas grenades at Palestinians around Al Khader Stadium in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. (Wafa 5 August 2013)
- The Israeli settlers sized one dunums of Palestinian land in Khalit Al – Fahem area in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city, and planted it with a number of Olive seedlings. The targeted land is owned by Ibrahim Odeh Salah. (Al-Quds Net 8 August 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired teargas and stun grenades at

Palestinians in At-Tall area in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. (Wafa 9 August 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA assaulted participants and arrested two others. (Al-Quds Net & Raya 9 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes the IOA arrested Adel Bajees Sobeh (17 years) (ARN 10 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Mohammad Khalid Ash-Sheikh in Marah Rabah village, south of Bethlehem city. (Raya 12 August 2013)
- A number of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation as clashes erupted between the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and Palestinians of Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. During the clashes, the IOA fired Gas bombs at Palestinians in Al Tal and Al Baraka areas in the old city of Al Khader village. (Wafa 14 August 2013).
- The Israeli Occupation forces dispersed demonstrators who set up a protest tent near Gush Etzion settlement bloc, southwest of Bethlehem city. The group of anti-wall and settlement activists set up the tent and the Israeli forces suppressed the demonstration with tear gas, injuring two minors identified as Obada Barjiya, who suffered a chest wound, and Harith Barjiya, whose head was wounded. They also injured activist Bilal Jado. Israeli forces detained journalist Abed Younis and activists Mouath al-Laham, Mahmud Alaa al-Din as well as an Italian activist and a Spaniard activist. (Maannews 16 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA assaulted participants and detained a Palestinian journalist; Abd Al-Rahman Younis. During the operation, the IOA arrested four of the participants, were identified as: Mahmoud Ala' Ad-Diyn, Muaz Al-Laham and two Italian activists. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (Sama News 16 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Beit Jala town and Ayda refugee camp in Bethlehem governorate. (Al-Quds 18 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in several areas in Bethlehem governorate. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, which led to dozens of

- suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA stormed and searched a number of Palestinian houses. (Al-Quds Net 18 August 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Sede Bouz outpost sized 2 dunums of Palestinian land in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city, and planted the land with hundreds of trees. The targeted land is owned by Adnan Salah. (Al-Ayyam 18 August 2013)
  - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed several Palestinian houses in Doha town, Irtas and Za'tara villages and Jabal Al-Fureidis area in Bethlehem governorate. The IOA set up a military checkpoint at the entrance of Za'tara village. (RB2000 20 August 2013)
  - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ad-Duheisheh refugee camp, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds 20 August 2013)
  - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) held military exercises near Palestinian residential areas in Tequ village, east of Bethlehem city. The IOA used live bullets and teargas grenades. During the operation, the IOA closed the western entrance of Tequ village, and prevented Palestinian vehicles from entering or leaving the village. (Al-Quds 20 August 2013)
  - A number of Israeli trucks owned by Israeli settlers in Efrat settlement were seen dumping solid waste in Sall Wad Shaheen area, south of Bethlehem city. (Al-Quds Net 20 August 2013)
  - The Israeli military jeeps and trucks transferred five mobile homes to Nekdim settlement around Jabal Al-Fureidis area, east of Bethlehem city. (Maannews 20 August 2013)
  - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Ad-Dhuheisheh refugee camp, south of Bethlehem city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired live bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to the injury of Karm Naser Alla Abd Rabo (21 years). During the clashes, the IOA arrested Ahmed Abu Arafh (16 years) after storming his family house. (Wafa 21 August 2013)
  - The Israeli Occupation Authorities started the construction of a colonial barracks; 25 meters length and 15 meters width, in Khalit Daher Al-Ein area in Al Khader village, west of Bethlehem city, and started to put the infrastructure for housing units. The targeted land is located between Danial and El'azar settlements. (Wafa 21 August 2013)
  - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. (Sama News 23 August 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) surrounded Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city, and fired teargas and stun grenades at houses. (Al-Quds 26 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and closed Al-Mahajeer area in Beit Fajjar village, south of Bethlehem city, and prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the area, after declaring the village as “closed military area”. During the operation, the IOA stormed and searched a number of stores and confiscated tools. (Sama News & Al-Quds 26 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of three people. (Wattan 27 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in Al Khader village and Beit Jala town in Bethlehem governorate. During the operation, clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA at An-Nafaq Street, the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds Net 28 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. (Al-Quds 29 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Salah Qaseem in Wadi Shaheen area in Bethlehem city, and questioned the residents. (Safa 30 August 2013)
- Israel Occupation Jeeps invaded and toured in Marah Rabah and Beit Fajjar villages in Bethlehem governorate. (Safa 30 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ayda refugee camp, north of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses. (Al-Quds 30 August 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinian suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Al-Masara village, south of Bethlehem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Maannews 30 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a military checkpoint near Omar Ben Abd Al-Aziz mosque in the eastern part of Bethlehem city. (Safa 30 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Jeeps invaded and toured in Wadi Shaheen, Jabal Al-Mawaleh and Jabal Hindazah areas in Bethlehem city. (Al-Quds 31 August 2013)

## Jenin

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) held military exercises in Yabad village, west of Jenin city. The IOA used live bullets and set up checkpoints at Yabad-Jenin Street and at the entrance of Kufeirit village. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 1 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Jenin city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA arrested Abd Al-Halem Azz Ad-Diyn (45 years), and detained for few hours Mohammad Ahmed Al-Qaseem (14 years). (Al-Quds 7 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) intensified its presence around Kafr Ra'I and Fahma villages, southwest of Jenin city, and stormed and searched a number of Palestinian stores. (Raya 11 August 2013)
- Israeli occupation Army (IOA) temporarily detained a former Palestinian minister at Bartaa checkpoint west of Jenin as he attempted to enter his village of origin. Wasfi Qabaha, former Palestinian minister of prisoners' affairs, told reporters that he was held for a few hours at a waiting room after trying to access Bartaa al-Sharqiyya. He added that he had a special permit from Israel to visit Bartaa, but the soldiers at the checkpoint revoked the permit before they ordered him to go back to Jenin. Qabaha had planned to visit his family members on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr. Israeli forces had banned Qabaha from visiting his village except with a special permit from the army. (Maannews 13 August 2013)
- Clashes and injuries have been reported in Jenin city as Israeli soldiers invaded Haifa Street and Al-Jabriyyat area in Jenin city during early dawn hours and fired dozens of flares and concussion grenades. The soldiers broke into the city and violently searched several homes and kidnapped two Palestinians. The two have been identified as Ahmad Hasan Shabrawy and Fadi Kamal As-Sabbagh. Soldiers also forced several families out of their homes, and violently searched them while interrogating the residents; excessive damage was reported. Dozens of residents have been treated for the effects of teargas inhalation. (MEMC 15 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Muthlath Ash-Shuhada' village, east of Jenin city. The IOA fired bullets and teargas grenades at Palestinians. (Safa 16 August 2013)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Silat Al-Harithiya village, northwest of Jenin city. (Al-Quds 19 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Jaba village, south of Jenin city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of Palestinians, and the injury of Shallal Hammrah (22 years). During the clashes, the IOA invaded and searched several Palestinian houses. The targeted houses are owned by Azam Abu O'n, Nasir Ahmed Hammrah, Farahat Malisha, Mohammad Jawdat Abu O'n, Hassan Ahmed Khalilih, Ahmed Shallal Hammrah and Faraj Hussni Malishah. (Wafa 19 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Jenin refugee camp, west of Jenin city, and fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. The IOA stormed two Palestinian houses owned by Imad Shita and Mohammad Abu Galuon. (Wafa 19 August 2013)
- Undercover Israeli Army stormed and toured in Jenin city and assaulted a Palestinian; Ihab Abu Salamah. (Wafa 19 August 2013)
- A Palestinian; Majd Mohammad Lahluh Abu Shahla (17 years) was killed, three others were seriously injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Jenin refugee camp, west of Jenin city. The injuries were identified as: Karem Sobhe Abu Soboh (17 years), Ala Jamal Abu Khalifah (17 year) and Hadi Jamal Abd Al-Latif (18 years). During the clashes, the IOA arrested Abdalla Ahmed Khamisah (20 years) and assaulted Mohammad Othman As-Sadi (34 years). (Raya 20 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and toured in Beit Qad, Silat Al-Harithiya villages and Jenin city. (Safa & Wafa 22 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Jaba village, south of Jenin city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 22 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched two Palestinian houses and questioned the residents, in Arraba village, southwest of Jenin city. The targeted houses are owned by: Jafar Az Al-Deen and Tariq Qadan. (Al-Quds Net 22 August 2013)
- Two Palestinian were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Sanur village, south of Jenin city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. During

the clashes, the IOA summoned Yazed Fawaz Habaibee to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police in Salem military base, after storming his family house in the village. (Maannews 27 August 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house and a gas station in Jalqamus village, east of Jenin city. The targeted house is owned by Ahmed Ghassan Abdalla Al-Haj. (Wafa 29 August 2013)
  - A Palestinian man died after being shot by Israeli soldiers last week in Jenin refugee camp. Karim Abu Sbeih (20 years) was hospitalized after being shot in the chest by Israeli forces on Aug. 20 and had part of his kidneys, colon, lungs and liver removed. (Maanenws 31 August 2013)

## Jerusalem

- The Israeli High Court ordered to demolish 20 Palestinian stores at the entrance of Shufat refugee camp in Jerusalem city, to expand Shufat checkpoint. The Israeli court also ordered the owners to pay NIS 460 thousand. The targeted stores are owned by: Suliman Mohammad Ad-Dajani and Abu Waleed Mohammad Ad-Dajani. (NBPRS 1 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided a non-violent protest at Bab Al-Amoud area in Jerusalem city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter assaulted and fired stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases, and the injury of others. During the clashes, the IOA arrested Mohammad Hamad (23 years). (SilwanIC 2 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed Qalandyia checkpoint, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA prevented Palestinians and vehicles from entering or leaving Jerusalem city. (Al-Quds 3 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at Bab Al-Amoud area in Jerusalem city. The IOA fired stun grenades at Palestinians; as a result, a number of Palestinians were injured. (SilwanIC 5 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed Qalandyia checkpoint, north of Jerusalem city, and prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the city. (Raya 5 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ein Al-Louz neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city, after undercover Israeli Army and the IOA stormed the neighborhood and tried to kidnap three Palestinian children, were identified as: Suliman Abd Al-Raziq, Louay Hamouda Abd Al-Raziq and

Mohammad Da'oud Abd Al-Raziq. The IOA fired rubber bullets and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to the injury of Suliman Abd Al-Raziq. (Al-Quds Net 6 August 2013)

- A number of Jewish movements and organizations called for a mass rally and demonstration at the gates of Al-Aqsa Mosque on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August of 2013, demanding free access of Jews to Aqsa Mosque who call it Temple Mount. The demonstration begins at the gate near the Western Wall. The Jewish organization aimed to pressure the Israeli Occupation police to allow them to break into Al-Aqsa mosque from all its gates. (Wafa 6 August 2013)
- Bennett: Israel will renew construction in Jerusalem in coming days. In interview with Arutz Sheva, Economy Minister Bennett says there is no construction freeze, but sources in the Housing and Construction Ministry say they are unaware of concrete agreement for renewal of construction in the Israeli capital. Tenders for renewed construction in Jerusalem will be issued in the coming days, Economy Minister Naftali Bennett announced on Sunday, a week after Israeli and Palestinian negotiators resumed long-stalled peace talks. "We insisted that there be no construction freeze. Construction will continue," Bennett said, during an interview with the settler-run news service Arutz Sheva. Bennett, who is also the chairman of the Habayit Hayehudi party, added that he hoped the tenders would be issued on a large scale. The renewal of construction in Jerusalem would be a test for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Bennett said, noting that his party would "not be part of a government that freezes construction in our country." He categorically denied media reports that Habayit Hayehudi had agreed to the release of 104 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for construction of 1,000 new housing units in the settlements. "Ironically, in Jerusalem of all places, construction was stopped and we will be unplugging this blockage at this time," Bennett said. However, sources close to Housing and Construction Minister Uri Ariel (Habayit Hayehudi) said there had been no concrete agreement for a renewal of construction in Jerusalem. "At the moment there are 2,500 units ready to be marketed in the Jerusalem area and we will market them at the first possible moment. However, at this time we know of no date at all for this to happen." The sources said that Ariel has given a directive to the Jerusalem District of his ministry "to prepare for the marketing of land in the city as if it can be done tomorrow morning." The sources said there had been numerous planning problems but the plans were now ready. When Ariel took up his ministerial post he pledged that the Housing and Construction Ministry would market land in Jerusalem during 2013. In November 2012, two tenders were published



marketing land in Pisgat Ze'ev, northeast of the capital and in the northwestern neighborhood of Ramot. Each of these tenders includes about 600 housing units. However, the results have not yet been released, apparently because of the freeze. Four more tenders are expected to be published: for 797 units on the western slopes of the southern neighborhood of Gilo; 1,200 units in Gilo's southwestern portion; 100 units between Gilo and the neighborhood of Beit Safafa and between 1,000 and 2,000 units in Har Homa Gimel, southeast of Jerusalem. As revealed by Haaretz recently, Netanyahu informed U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that Israel would be moving ahead with the construction of 1,000 new housing in the settlements during the peace talks. Israel rejected a Palestinian demand for a total freeze on construction in the settlements in the run-up to the talks. However, Netanyahu told Kerry that he would continue the policy he had followed since March 2013, during which time only a few hundred new housing units have been approved, mainly in the major settlement blocs. According to the understandings before the talks began, Israel would move ahead on tenders for the construction of only 1,000 new units and only in the major settlement blocks – Ariel, Ma'aleh Adumim and Gush Etzion. These units were part of government tenders issued by the Housing and Construction Ministry after the Palestinian statehood bid in the United Nations but which didn't go ahead due to technical faults. They will now be reissued. Other than these 1,000 units, there is to be no new government construction in the settlement blocs or announcements of construction. Moreover, no new master plans involving private construction are to be approved by the defense minister in the isolated settlements. In cases where the master plans have already been approved and further authorization by the defense minister is required before construction can commence, such authorization will not be forthcoming. Private construction approved by a regional council in the territories will be allowed to proceed. The only way to stop such construction would be by publication of a special order by the IDF's GOC Central Command, as was the case during the previous freeze. Netanyahu refused to approve the issue of stop-work orders and the Israeli government will deny any reports of its consent, either quietly or publicly, to a freeze on construction in the settlements, according to the understandings. ([Haaretz](#) 6 August 2013)

- Israel to begin construction on new Jewish neighborhood in East Jerusalem. Developer to build 63 housing units near Arab neighborhood of Jabal Mukkaber; announcement comes day after Bennett says construction in Jerusalem will resume in near future.

Housing Minister Uri Ariel and Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat plan to attend a ceremony next week to lay the cornerstone for a new Jewish neighborhood near Jabal Mukkaber, a predominantly Arab neighborhood in southeast Jerusalem. The news of their attendance comes just a day after Economy Minister Naftali Bennett said construction in Jerusalem would resume in the near future. The new Jewish housing blocs are being built by the Bemuna construction company which, according to its website, has built neighborhoods across Israel for the national religious community since 1995. The company recently received a construction permit after a delay of about three years, which Bemuna officials say stemmed from political reasons. The neighborhood, designed to include 63 housing units, is planned for the area that connects Jabal Mukkaber and the southern Jerusalem neighborhood of Armon Hanatziv (which Bemuna also helped build). The housing units were sold five years ago to a group of buyers, and the company had received a construction permit for an underground parking garage, which has since been built. The construction permit for the rest of the neighborhood was delayed due to political pressure, and the Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee put the construction on hold despite the plan having been approved. ([Haaretz](#) 7 August 2013)

- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city, and performed Talmudic rituals. (SilwanIC 11 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Al-Eizariyah town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. During the clashes the IOA invaded and searched Palestinian houses. (Wafa 12 August 2013)
- Israeli Navy soldiers escorted by the Israeli Police entered Al Aqsa Mosque from Bab Al Magharbah (Al Mughrabi Gate) in Jerusalem city and toured in the courtyard of the Mosque. (Wafa 13 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities notified Eid Barakat from An Nabi Samuel village northwest of Jerusalem city to demolish a car wash garage he owns and confiscated equipment under the pretext of building the garage without a valid building permit. (Wafa 13 August 2013)
- Israel's Interior Ministry gave final approval on Monday to a plan to build 890 new apartments in Gilo, a settlement neighborhood beyond the Green Line in southern Jerusalem, just one day before Palestinian leadership is slated to make a final decision on whether to attend Wednesday's scheduled negotiating session. It will be a long time before ground is broken on the project, as the next step is for the

Housing Ministry and the Israel Lands Administration to issue tenders for the work. The plan, however, is especially problematic for the Palestinians because it will expand the boundaries of the neighborhood, located in the southern part of the city, in the direction of the Palestinian town of Beit Jala rather than placing the new buildings inside the neighborhood's current boundaries. The plan approved by the Interior Ministry on Monday, known as Gilo – Southern Slopes, is one of the largest building plans Jerusalem has seen recently. It won final approval from the regional planning and building committee in December, but the developers then sought to make several changes in the plan. About a month ago, ministry planning officials approved the revised plan, and on Monday, the ministry finally signed off on it and allowed it to be published. Sources within the regional planning committee said the long lapse between the panel's approval of the plan in December and the ministry's final approval on Monday was due to pressure from the Prime Minister's Office, which sought to delay the plan for fear of diplomatic pressure on Israel. The decision came just a day after the Housing Ministry announced plans to publish tenders for 394 housing units in the West Bank and 793 in East Jerusalem, including an additional 400 in Gilo. Sources on the regional planning committee said those 400 units would also probably be built on the neighborhood's southern slopes. ([Haaretz](#) 13 August 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem and stormed the house of Hani Halabiya in Batn Az Zeit area and searched it. The IOA destroyed one of the house's doors, ransacked the contents and assaulted his old mother, Amena Kahlil. (Wafa 14 August 2013)
- Al-Aqsa Foundation revealed that the Registrar of Jewish Associations in Jerusalem gave his approval to a group of Jewish rabbis to officially register a new Jewish Association that will advance the construction of a synagogue on parts of the Al Aqsa Mosque. (Wafa 15 August 2013).
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed a former Palestinian prisoner; Ala' Isma'il Mohammad Ali, from Jerusalem city, an order prevented him from entering the West Bank for 6 months, under the claim of "protect the State security" (SilwanIC 17 August 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinians set fire in ties near the Israeli segregation wall in Kabsa area, located between Abu Deis and Al-Ezairiyah towns, east of Jerusalem city, as a result part of the wall were destroyed. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, which led to dozens of suffocation cases.

- During the operation, the IOA invaded and searched several Palestinian houses. (Al-Quds Net 17 August 2013)
- The Israeli settlers assaulted and injured 6 Palestinians in Al-Qarmi neighborhood in the old city of Jerusalem, while they were near their house. The Palestinians were identified as: Amal Sub Laban and Her Hasbend, Ghazal Sub Laban (6 years), Adam Sub Laban (11 years), Adi Sub Laban (18 years) and Loay Sub Laban (20 years). (SilwanIC 18 August 2013)
  - The Israeli Occupation Authorities forced Ziad Amirah to demolish his 100 square meters house inhabited by 9 family members in Sur Baher town, south of Jerusalem city, under the claim that the house builds without license. (SilwanIC 18 August 2013)
  - Al-Aqsa Foundation for Waqf and Heritage revealed that Jewish groups and rabbis are trying to persuade Jewish authorities to join an official association that aims to build a synagogue on a part of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Al-Aqsa Foundation published a photo showing that the Jewish groups want to build the proposed synagogue in the southeastern side of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Registrar of Israeli Associations approved the registration of an official association that will work on building a synagogue on part of the Mosque. The Foundation considered in a press statement stressed that the occupation arms have escalated their steps targeting the Al-Aqsa Mosque. It added in its statement that a number of rabbis in Jewish schools and synagogues started about seven months ago to establish a formal association primarily intended for the construction of a synagogue on part of Al-Aqsa. The founders of the Jewish association said that thousands of Jews have been calling for establishing a synagogue in Al-Aqsa Mosque, so that it will form the starting point for the construction of a large synagogue, in preparation for the construction of the alleged temple. Organizers of the Association said that such a synagogue “will be a symbol of the real Israeli control over the Al-Aqsa Mosque.” Al-Aqsa Foundation for Waqf and Heritage called on the Islamic nation to save Al-Aqsa Mosque from the Israeli schemes and plots. ([Occupied Palestine](#) 18 August 2013)
  - The Israeli settlers and Israeli students escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al-Aqsa Mosque from Bab Al Magharbah (Al Mughrabi Gate) in Jerusalem city and toured in the courtyard of the Mosque. (Safa 19 August 2013)
  - The Israeli Occupation forces dismantled residential tents housing Al-Kaabnah Bedouin community in Beit Hanina town in Jerusalem city. Israeli authorities surrounded the tents and evacuated 53 Bedouin

residents of the community, destroying their tents. "Israeli authorities claim that the land belongs to them under the Absentees' Properties Law. (Maannews 19 August 2013)

- Staff of the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several Palestinian houses in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. Among the targeted houses, following were identified: Sarhan, Odeh and Siyam families. During the operation, the IOA summoned a number of Palestinians to interview the Israeli Intelligence Police. (Maannews 20 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned Mahmoud family in Al-Issawiya town Jerusalem city, and detained for few house Wael Mahmoud. (Maannews 20 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) along with Israeli Bulldozers demolished a 60 meter squares residential room, shed and an iron gate in Wadi Hilwah and Al-Abbasiya neighborhoods Silwan town in Jerusalem city, and uprooted a number of trees. The targeted room is owned by Khalid Az-Zir, and the targeted gate is owned by Al-Abbasi family. (SilwanIC 20 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities demolished a number of structures in Baqaa area in Jerusalem city. (DWG 20 August 2013)
- The entrance of a Palestinian house owned by Mahmoud Asilah was collapsed due to the Israeli excavation under the old city of Jerusalem. The targeted house is located in Bab As- Salsla (Dung gate). (Al-Quds 21 August 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city from Bab Al Magharbah (Al Mughrabi Gate), toured in the courtyard of the Mosque, and performed Talmudic rituals. The IOA surrounded Palestinians and checked their ID cards. (Safa 21 August 2013)
- Monastery near Jerusalem defaced in suspected 'price tag' attack. Police are investigating a fire bomb attack Monday night on the Beit Jamal Monastery near Jerusalem in the latest "price tag" incident, Israeli shorthand for anti-Arab hate crimes. Perpetrators threw a fire bomb into the entrance hallway and sprayed the monastery walls with the words "price tag," "death to the Gentiles," and "revenge." The nuns of the Sisters of Bethlehem order who inhabit the monastery outside the city of Beit Shemesh were not aware of the attack until Tuesday when visitors arrived and noticed the damage. Footage from security cameras shows fire burning for several minutes, but no vegetation or wooden furniture caught fire and it died out. Wednesday morning, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fouad

Twal, arrived at the monastery and condemned the incident. Dr. Gadi Gvanyahu, Chairman of the Bright Tag organization working to deter violent “price tag” attacks against Palestinians, said in of the attack: “The violation of the monastery is directly linked to attacks against over twenty Christian and Muslim places of worship in the last three years. The attackers seek to cause unrest between the various religions in Israel and bring about bloodshed.” Jewish extremists originally used the term “price tag” to describe vandalism and violence that targeted Israelis as well as Palestinians and was aimed at preventing or averging evacuations of West Bank settlers. In 2007 the Jewish terrorist Jack Teitel detonated a bomb near the monastery wounding a tractor operator working for the monastery. ([Haaretz](#) 21 August 2013)

- The Israeli Natural Authority along with the Israeli Occupation Army and Bulldozers razed 20 dunums of Palestinian lands and uprooted fruitful trees in Khalit Al-Ein area in At-Tur village in Jerusalem city. The targeted land is owned by Khwis and As-Sayad families. During the operation, the IOA prevented the land owners from entering to their land. Note that the Israeli Occupation Authorities aimed to establish a National Park (A 11092) on 740 dunums of Palestinians land in At-Tur and Al-Issawiya town. (SilawnIC 21 August 2013)
- The Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in the court yard of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city, and performed a presentation about the Jewish Temple. (Sama News 22 August 2013)
- Israel investing millions into Jewish sites in Arab East Jerusalem. The government and the Jerusalem municipality are teaming up to fund development in the City of David and at a mikveh in the Arab neighborhood of Jabal Mukkaber. The Israeli government and the Jerusalem municipality will be sinking millions more shekels into Jewish sites in East Jerusalem. The two bodies will invest upwards of NIS 16 million in developing a national park at Ir David, the City of David, located in the Silwan neighborhood of East Jerusalem, and nearly NIS 150,000 for a Mikveh in the Jewish neighborhood of Nof Tzion, located in the heart of the Arab quarter Jabal Mukkaber. The city will provide NIS 144,900 for that project. The pro-settlement Elad organization runs the Ir David site. According to the proposition which the city council’s financial committee is expected to approve at its upcoming meeting, the project will include “building wide walkways, archeological digging, and other development.” The project is also aimed at developing the Herodian era street, uncovered in recent years, underneath Silwan’s main thoroughfare. In addition, the project



will include building a “functional model,” at an estimated cost of NIS 4 million, as well as a “video exhibit,” to cost NIS 9 million, and a “exhibition tunnel,” with a NIS 7 million price tag. Half of the project’s cost would come from the Prime Minister’s office’s fund for national heritage sites. NIS 5 million will come from the Tourism Ministry, and the Jerusalem municipality is slated to add NIS 1.4 million. The rest of the funds, roughly NIS 3.6 million, will come from private donors. Jerusalem Deputy Mayor and financial committee chairman, David Hadari welcomed the decision. “There will be no compromises concerning Jerusalem, we must continue to build and develop all parts of Jerusalem,” said Hadari. At the same finance committee meeting, which is also slated to be the last meeting before municipal elections, the city is to approve building the Mikvah in Jabal Mukkaber. The Jerusalem municipality commented that the “Ir David site is one of the most popular sites in Jerusalem, and one of the most important in the world. The Tourism Ministry decided to convert some of the funds allocated to it by the municipality for the project, which had been earmarked for building more walkways at the site.” The city added, “There is no addition to the new budget that was not previously approved, and the finance committee will be notified of all progress.” The Elad organization declined to comment. ([Haaretz](#) 22 August 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Authorities reprieved Al-Ka’abna Bedouin committee in Beit Hanina town in Jerusalem city, until the 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2013 to evacuate the area. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2013, the IOA demolished all the structures in the committee. (Al-Quds Net 23 August 2013)
- The District Police in occupied East Jerusalem released a Palestinian child after detaining him for two days, and ordered him under house arrest. The family of the Child, Nour Salim Shalaby (15 years) was also ordered to pay a NIS 5 thousand fine, as ruled by the Israeli District Court in Jerusalem. (IMEMC 23 August 2013)
- Israeli sources have reported that the Finance Committee of the Jerusalem City Council will be convening this coming Sunday to approve a new budget for infrastructure aiming at adding 1500 units for Israeli settlers in occupied Jerusalem. The new units are meant for expanding Ramat Shlomo settlement towards the Palestinian town of Shu’fat and the Ramot settlement. The Regional Construction and Planning Committee initially approved the plan back in February of last year. (IMEMC 23 August 2013)
- A Palestinian was injured in the foot when an Israeli soldier raised a spike strip as the young man was stepping on it. In incident took place at a roadblock installed by the army at the entrance of Shu’fat refugee

camp, northeast of occupied East Jerusalem. Eyewitnesses have reported that, as the young man was cleared to cross, a soldier lifted the spike strip causing the spikes to penetrate his left foot leading to a deep cut and severe bleeding. (IMEMC 25 August 2013)

- Israeli settlers with military escort stormed and toured in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Safa 25 August 2013)
- Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem issued an administrative order to demolish a floor (consist of 3 classrooms) of Ash-Sharfah school in Jerusalem city, under claim that the floor build without license. (SilwanIC 25 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Police handed out administrative orders to demolish a number of Palestinian houses in Wadi Qaddum neighborhood in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 25 August 2013)
- Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem handed out orders to remove a number of stalls at Bab Al-Amoud area in Jerusalem city. (SilwanIC 25 August 2013)
- Jerusalem municipality approves budget for East Jerusalem neighborhood. Ramat Shlomo neighborhood was at the center of a diplomatic row with the U.S. in 2010; committee also approves millions for Jewish sites in East Jerusalem. The Jerusalem municipality's finance committee approved on Sunday a budget for development of a new neighborhood in Ramat Shlomo, which lies beyond the Green Line. The NIS 62.4-million budgets will be allocated to the construction of infrastructure in the planned neighborhood. The new neighborhood, expected to include 1,600 housing units, was at the center of a diplomatic crisis between Israel and the U.S. in March 2010, not least because plans for its construction were announced during Vice President Joe Biden's visit in Israel. The committee, convened for the last time before the municipal election, also approved a number of projects beyond the Green Line. These include a NIS 20-million budget for developing a national park at Ir David, the City of David, located in the Silwan neighborhood of East Jerusalem, NIS 16 million of which will be provided by the Prime Minister's Office, the Jerusalem municipality and the Tourism Industry. Another project that was approved Sunday was a Mikveh in the Jewish neighborhood of Nof Tzion, located in the heart of the Arab quarter Jabal Mukkaber, for which the city will provide NIS 144,900. The committee head, David Harari (Habayit Harehudi), welcomed the moves and called them "Jerusalem's vaccination shot against those who think about dividing it somehow." Deputy Mayor Yosef 'Pepe' Alalu (Meretz) said the



decisions were an attempt by Mayor Nir Barkat to appease Haredi and right-wing voters before the election in two months. Alalu called the moves "very sad" and "a provocation by people who don't want progress in talks with the Palestinians." The Jerusalem Municipality said in response that "there is no change in the municipality's policy over the last 40 years, and we continue to build in all of the city's neighborhoods according to statutory plans for Jews and Arabs alike. In the coming years tens of thousands of housing units will be built all over the city for all sectors. New construction in Jerusalem is necessary for the development of the city and in order to give young people and students the opportunity to live and buy houses [in Jerusalem.]" ([Haaretz](#) 25 August 2013)

- Government to infuse NIS 16 m. into east Jerusalem's City of David Park. National park in primarily Arab neighborhood of Silwan is owned by right-wing Jewish group aiming to strengthen Jewish ties to J'lem. The Tourism Ministry and Prime Minister's Office, in coordination with the Jerusalem Municipality, will infuse approximately NIS 16 million into the development of a national park owned by a right-wing group in the primarily Arab east Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan. The City of David National Park is privately owned by the Ir David Foundation, an association that aims to strengthen the Jewish connection to Jerusalem and renew the Jewish community in the City of David. All construction and development within the park will be overseen by the Nature and Parks Authority and the Antiquities Authority. According to the ministry, roughly half of the park's funding will come from the Prime Minister's Office, with an additional NIS 5 million from the ministry itself. The municipality will add an additional NIS 1.4 million, with the remaining funds being donated privately. "The City of David is one of Jerusalem's most popular sites, as well as one the most important in the world," the municipality said in a statement released Sunday. "The Tourism Ministry decided to convert some of the funds allocated to it by the municipality for the project, which had been earmarked for building more walkways at the site." Meretz city councilman Dr. Meir Margalit, who holds the east Jerusalem portfolio, cited two concerns over the announcement. "The problem with this project is not investing in a park like this in a historical place like this," said Margalit by phone Sunday. "The problem is that the right-wing is systematically taking ownership of this historical place and turning it into a settlement." Margalit continued, "This is a problematic process that can also be seen in other places, such as the Western Wall, where the Orthodox have increasingly taken ownership from the secular. The same process is

happening in the City of David with Palestinian rights.” Margolit cautioned that such a move could create an “explosive” situation. “[The government] must be very, very careful because this is also a Palestinian village and we must be sensitive, because a situation like this one can become very explosive,” he said. While the municipality commended the government’s decision to develop the park, it was equally quick to note that no new budget increases – beyond the amounts approved in previous years – were allocated by the city’s finance committee. In a statement, Jerusalem Deputy Mayor and financial committee chairman David Hadari lauded the announcement. “There will be no compromises concerning Jerusalem. We must continue to build and develop all parts of Jerusalem,” he said. The City of David Visitor’s Center is ranked among the top five tourist attractions in Israel, having grown from 25,000 visitors in 2001 to 350,000 visitors in 2008. An additional NIS 150,000 will be allocated by the government to construct a mikve, or ritual bath, in the Jewish neighborhood of Nof Tzion, located in the Arab quarter Jebel Mukaber. ([IPOST](#) 25 August 2013)

- Israeli settlers wrote anti-Palestinian slogans at the wall of a Palestinian house in Al-Khan neighborhood in the old city of Jerusalem. (Raya 26 August 2013)
- Israeli settlers with military escort invaded Al-Aqsa Mosque from Bab Al-Magharbah in Jerusalem city, and toured in the court yard of the mosque. (Paltoday 26 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation bulldozers along with the Israeli Natural Authority demolished two animal barrack, a garage and Poultry farm, and razed 2 dunums of Palestinian land and uprooted olive trees in Al-Issawiya town in Jerusalem city. The targeted structures and land are owned by An-Natsha, Darwish and Ghaith families. (RB2000 & Wafa 26 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities demolished two Palestinian houses (120 meter square and inhabited by 12 Palestinians) and an under construction building consist of 4 apartments (250 meter square) in At-Tur town in Jerusalem city. The targeted houses are owned by Zakariha and Abd Al-Aziz Ad-Daya, and Mahir Abu Asbitan. (Maannews 26 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the northern entrance of Al-Ram town, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 27 August 2013)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the entrance of Anata town, northeast of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 27 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at Shufat checkpoint in Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Maannews 27 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city and performed presentation about the Jewish Temple. During the operation, a group of Israeli settlers also, stormed and toured in the court yard. (Maannews 27 August 2013)
- Israeli settlers punctured the tires of 10 Palestinian vehicles in At-Tantoura area in Beit Safafa town in Jerusalem city, and wrote racist “Price Tag” graffiti. (IMEMC 27 August 2013)
- A report showed an Israeli structural plan to construct a new neighborhood “Fell” by adding 396 housing units on Beit Hanina land in Jerusalem city, as a part of Ramat Shlomo settlement. The construction of this new neighborhood will link “Ramat Shlomo settlement with Ramot settlement. (Al-Quds Net 27 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities closed a Palestinian classroom in Beir Ayoub Primary school in Silwan town in Jerusalem city. As a result, more than 60 Palestinian students without school. (Safa 28 August 2013)
- Israeli settlers with military escort invaded and toured in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem city. (Maannews 28 August 2013)
- Western Wall egalitarian plaza greeted with skepticism. Measure meant to allow non-Orthodox prayer at site, Naftali Bennett tells Times of Israel, but critics call it ‘a second-rate wall for second-rate Jews’ The Ministry of Jerusalem and the Diaspora announced on Sunday the opening of a new but temporary plaza at the Western Wall that would host egalitarian prayer services at the holy site during the upcoming High Holidays. “The Kotel [Western Wall] belongs to all Jews, all over the world, no matter what stream of Judaism they come from,” Economy and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett, who also serves as minister for Jerusalem and Diaspora, told The Times of Israel. The location of the new plaza “is a continuation of the Western Wall, the same wall of the [ancient Second] Temple, just a bit south. Egalitarian Jews are now able to pray at a respectable place” officially designated as egalitarian by the Israeli government, he added. The new platform built from wood on scaffolding over the Robinson’s Arch area south of

the main Western Wall plaza, measures 450 square meters (4,840 square feet) and can accommodate 450 worshippers. The new section was built quickly over the past two weeks to serve throngs of worshippers expected to come to Jerusalem for the High Holiday period, which begins with Rosh Hashana, the Jewish new year, on September 4. The area was already designated for egalitarian prayer by the High Court of Justice, and has been used for non-Orthodox prayers for about 10 years, but without government funding or involvement. Until now, the area has been open for prayer services free of charge on weekday mornings until 9:15. Any groups arriving later than that had to pay an entrance fee. According to the new plan, the area will now be open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The plan would also ensure that Torah scrolls, prayer books and prayer shawls will be available at the site, as well as ushers to help facilitate prayer services. Until now, these items have been provided and funded by the Masorti Movement, the Israeli branch of Conservative Judaism. The new plan is only an “interim” measure, Bennett emphasized on Sunday. A government-appointed committee headed by Jewish Agency Chairman Natan Sharansky and Cabinet Secretary Avichai Mandelblit is preparing a permanent arrangement to resolve the long-standing dispute between the ultra-Orthodox-dominated Western Wall Heritage Foundation, which administrates the main Western Wall plaza, and those demanding access to Judaism’s holiest site for liberal Jewish groups and customs. ([Time of Israel](#) 28 August 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched a Palestinian house in Jabal Al-Mukaber neighborhood in Jerusalem city. The targeted house is owned by Mohammad Qara’een. (SilwanIC 29 August 2013)
- Israeli settlers with military escort invaded and toured in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa mosque, Al-Qabali mosque, Rock Tomb and Al-Marwanee area in Jerusalem city. (Sama News 29 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinian and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ras Qabsah area in Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, which led to torch the backyard of a Palestinian house and dozens of trees. (PNN 30 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Ar-Ram town, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Sama News 30 August 2013)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the entrance of Qalandyia refugee camp, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Sama News 30 August 2013)
- An Israeli settler tried to stamp a group of Palestinians after attacking them with a knife near As-Selsela gate in Jerusalem city. (Wafa 30 August 2013)

## Hebron

- The Israeli settlers living in Mitzipe Ya'ir outpost escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured Palestinian shepherds and farmers while they were in Khirbet Shab Al-Batem area, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. (Maannews 1 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out a military order to demolish a water tank in Be'ir Al-Balout area in Idhna town, west of Hebron city. The targeted tank is owned by the Municipality of Idhna. (ARN 1 August 2013)
- Israel: Eviction of 1,300 Palestinians necessary to save IDF time, money. State responds to two High Court petitions to stop planned evacuation of eight villages in south Hebron hills. The state wants to evict 1,300 Palestinians from their homes in an army firing zone in the West Bank in part because training there saves the Israel Defense Forces time and money, according to the state's response to two petitions against the mass eviction. The petitions to the High Court of Justice were filed in January by residents of eight Palestinian villages located in Firing Zone 918, in the south Hebron hills. The state's response was submitted on Wednesday following several postponements. In it, the state said the development of a new generation of weapons with longer ranges necessitates larger training areas than were needed in the past. It also said that using Firing Zone 918 in particular saved time and money, because it is located very close to the Nahal Brigade's training base in Tel Arad. In fact, the base was built there in 1993 precisely because it was close to two firing zones, 918 and 522. "The proximity of the firing zone to the training base enables savings of the most precious resource of all in the field of IDF training – the resource of time," the brief said. "This proximity also enables significant savings of money, in light of the high costs entailed in transporting hundreds of combatants, equipment and vehicles for training to a distant firing zone. To this is added the aspect of security for the force and equipment in a distant area. The greater the distance between the training base and the firing

zone, the more the soldiers' training time is reduced, and as a result, their fitness is reduced. This is especially true with regard to the training of new recruits, whose training the IDF views as particularly important." Therefore, the brief continued, "The IDF decided in recent years to gradually transfer regular units to training bases located near firing zones. ... Abolishing Firing Zone 918 would mean that the units that come to train at the Nahal Brigade's training base would be compelled to train in firing zones distant from the base, which would significantly undermine the effectiveness of the training, entail very high financial costs and also result in the loss of precious training time." The brief also reiterated the state's claim that the villagers have never been permanent residents of the area, and maintain permanent houses in the town of Yatta. This claim is based in part on an affidavit by Moshe Sharon, a professor emeritus of Middle Eastern studies at Hebrew University, who in the past served as head of the IDF General Staff's division for Arab affairs, with the rank of colonel. ([Haaretz](#) 1 August 2013)

- IDF legal adviser: Detention of 5-year-old Palestinian boy was legitimate. Detention of child in Hebron meant to 'thwart a security threat,' IDF's legal adviser says, but adds that soldiers erred in detaining boy's father; B'Tselem: Soldiers committed 'grave errors.' The Israel Defense Forces' detention of a five-year-old Palestinian boy in Hebron earlier this month was a legitimate step in order to "thwart the threat posed by the activities of a minor," the IDF's legal adviser in the West Bank has ruled. Earlier in July, IDF soldiers were videotaped detaining five-year-old Wa'adi Maswada and his father in Hebron, after the boy allegedly threw a stone at an Israeli car. The IDF [opened an investigation](#) into the incident following a demand by the Israeli human rights watchdog B'Tselem. In a letter that legal adviser Col. Ben Barak sent last week to B'Tselem's executive director, Jessica Montell, he explains that "IDF soldiers and Israeli security personnel sometimes encounter situations where children under the age of 12, without any parental supervision, hurl stones at civilians, vehicles and members of the security forces and participate in actions that disrupt public order." The letter, a response to B'Tselem's complaint, stated that, "It should be pointed out that such incidents create a significant hazard for passersby and for members of the security forces and can even pose a danger for the children themselves, who are not at the time under the supervision of the adults who are responsible for their welfare." The IDF's legal adviser makes it clear in his letter that minors under the age of 12 are not criminally responsible for their actions and therefore they



cannot be arrested or placed on trial. “However,” he emphasizes, “that does not mean that IDF soldiers are not authorized to deal with incidents where a minor is endangering the safety of the public, and is even endangering himself or herself. In our view, the security forces have the authority to undertake action in order to remove the hazard posed by the activities of these minors to themselves and to others. Such action can include removing the minors from the area and placing them in the custody of their parents or the Palestinian authorities, which, in accordance with the interim agreement, are responsible for social services.” Col. Ben Barak adds that, “In situations where IDF soldiers see children performing dangerous actions, such as hurling stones at passing vehicles, it would be totally irresponsible on the part of these soldiers to ignore what is happening and to allow the children to persist in their actions without any interference and to continue with their hazardous behavior.” It is the perception of the IDF, says Ben Barak, that the “removal of the hazard through the distancing of the children from the area and through their immediate transfer to their parents’ custody or, alternatively, to the care of the Palestinian authorities, so that they can continue the treatment process as they see fit, is legitimate, as would be similar measures undertaken to deal with a minor involved in such activities in Israel.” The IDF legal adviser defines the incident in Hebron as a “complex dilemma” and clearly states that, in such cases, IDF soldiers must behave “with the required measure of sensitivity, while continually protecting the welfare of the children and guarding to the optimal level their dignity and their needs as minors.” ([Haaretz](#) 1 August 2013)

- Dozens of Palestinians were injured, and other was kidnapped, after Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and Israeli settlers attacked a funeral in Beit Ummar town, north of Hebron city. A number of Israeli settlers attacked a funeral procession in the town, and attacked a local reporter identified as Nayef al-Hashlamon. The IOA arrived at the scene and attacked Palestinians instead of removing the settlers. The kidnapped Palestinian was identified as Ahmad Younis Al-Allami (23 years) after violently beating him. (IMEMC 2 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation jeeps invaded and toured in Ad-Dhahiriya town, south of Hebron city. (PNN 2 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest in Khirbet Um Al-Khair area in Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The IOA prevented Palestinians from reaching to their lands and showed them an Israeli plan to construct more than 60 housing units in the area. (Paltoday 4 August 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to demolish two under construction houses and three water wells in Wadi As-Safar area in Al-Kum village, west of Hebron city. (ARN 4 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the entrance of Khursa village, southwest of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (ARN 5 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the entrance of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinians vehicles and checked ID cards. (Wafa 5 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities approved the construction of 230 housing units in Maon settlement in Hebron governorate. To construct the new housing units, the Israeli plan aimed to size more than 4 thousand dunums of Palestinian land in Khirbet Um Al-Khair, Khirbet Um Al-Hatab, Tuba, Al-Sa'la and Khalil Al-Zaitoun areas, east of Yatta town. The targeted lands are owned by: Al-Shabeen, Rumeen, Abu Sabha, Ash-Shawaheen, Al-Hathalen and Shiran families. The construction of the new housing units will begin within the next 60 days. (Wafa 6 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched two Palestinian houses in Khursa village, west of Hebron city. The targeted houses are owned by: Ayman and Mohammad Tabish. (Al-Quds Net 7 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of five people. During the clashes the IOA arrested Ra'fat Mohammad Awad (16 years) and Ramzi Naser Abd Al-Hamed Al-Alami (15 years). (Sama News 7 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched Al-Maskuniya church in Wadi Abu Katilah area in Hebron city. (ARN 11 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Sair town, north of Hebron city and stormed several Palestinian houses in the town. Among the targeted houses, the following were identified: the houses of Jadallah Jaradat, Imad Jaradat, Tamer Jaradat, Fadi Jaradat, Muhamad Asad Jaradat, Muhammad Naim Jaradat, Ahmad Kamel Jaradat and Ziad Jaradat. (Wafa 13 August 2013)



- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) surrounded the house of Muhammad Ramadan Ghaith in Ras Al Joura area, north of Hebron city. (Wafa 13 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) TURNED Al Urdeisah secondary school in Sair town, north of Hebron city, to a military post. (Maanews 13 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up two military checkpoints at Al Rahma mountain in the central Hebron city and Wadi Al Jouz area, Bani Naim road. (Wafa 13 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city and searched a number of Palestinian houses in the town owned by Al Tal family. (Wafa 14 August 2013).
- The Israeli settlers living in Ma'on settlements uprooted 10 olive trees in At-Tawani village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted trees are owned by Mohammad Khalil Rad'i. (Sama News 16 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched a Palestinian house owned by Ahed Mustafah Mohammad Shalaldah, in Sair town, north of Hebron city. (Safa 18 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinian farmers and international activists from entering lands in At-Tawanih and Um Al-Khair villages and Um Al-Ammad area, east and west of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The IOA declared the area as "closed military zone". (Al-Ayyam 18 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a sudden checkpoint at the southern entrance of Dura town, west of Hebron city. (Safa 18 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a checkpoint between Idhna town and Al-Kum village, west of Hebron city. (Safa 18 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a military checkpoint in Wadi Ash-Shabna south of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Paltoady 18 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a military checkpoint at the northern entrance of Hebron city. The IOA detained Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 18 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Said Salhab in Hebron city. (Wafa 19 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched a Palestinian house owned by Abd Al-Hamid Al-Sharawnah in Deir Samit village, south of Hebron city. (Al-Quds Net 20 August 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities prevented 50 Palestinian volunteers from restoration a Palestinian kindergarten in the old city of Hebron. (Maannews 20 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation jeeps stormed and toured in Hebron city. The IOA stopped and questioned Palestinians, and checked ID cards. (Safa 22 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) and Police confiscated a number of Palestinian vehicles at the entrance of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. (RB2000 22 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a military checkpoint at Halhul Bridge, north of Hebron city. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 22 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) destroyed a number of Palestinian vegetables stalls at Jerusalem – Hebron road, at the entrance of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. The targeted stalls are owned by Sabarnah, Abu Mariya and Al-Almani families. (ARN 23 August 2013)
- Israeli settlers assaulted a group of “Break the silent” organization while they were toured in the Old city of Hebron. (ARN 23 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked and injured Mohammad Deeb Faraj Alla after stopping him at a checkpoint between Idhna and Hebron cities. At the same checkpoint, the IOA detained Palestinian vehicles and transferred them to Gush Etzion settlement bloc. (ARN 24 August 2013)
- In Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city, Ali Mahmoud Al-Alamah (21 years) was injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted him at the entrance of the town. (ARN 24 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up a military checkpoint at Halhul Bridge, north of Hebron city. The IOA detained Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (ARN 24 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Dura town, west of Hebron city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Safa 25 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Beit ‘Awa village, west of Hebron city, and fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses. (Safa 25 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and toured in Ad-Dhahiriya town, south of Hebron city. (Safa 25 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up military checkpoints at the northern entrance of Hebron city and at Halhul Bridge in Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa 25 August 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) held military exercises in Al-Fakheet, Janba and Al-Majaz villages, east of Yatta town south of Hebron city. (Wafa 26 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city, and fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Maannews 27 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military order to stop the construction in four Palestinian houses in Al-M'ala area east of Ad-Dhahiriyah town, south of Hebron city. The targeted houses are owned by: Faiz Suliman At-Tal, Nayif Mohammad Abu Shrikh, Sami Issa Abu Shrikh and Sufiyan Izat Abu Shrikh. (Maannews 27 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) occupied a Palestinian house owned by Ribhi Jawabrih in Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Hebron city, and transferred it to a military base. During the operation, the IOA destroyed the house contents. Clashes erupted between Palestinian and the IOA. (Safa 28 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Halhul town, north of Hebron city. The IOA fired live bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases and the injury of Hamza Yousif Zama'rah. (Safa 28 August 2013)
- A Palestinian worker as injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired bullets at him while he was near the Israeli segregation wall in Ad-Dhahiriyah town, south of Hebron city. (PNN 28 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured two Palestinians; Bilal Saleem Al-Hathleen (25 years) and Tariq Eid Al-Hathleen (18 years), from Yatta town, south of Hebron city, while they were building a room in Khirbet Um Al-Khair area. (Wafa 28 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched three Palestinian houses in Taffuh village, west of Hebron city. The targeted houses are owned by: Sami Abd Al-Mutalib Khamisah, Mohammad Ahmed Izriqat and Loay Izriqat. (Wafa 28 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Authorities (IOA) handed out military orders to demolish 8 water wells and to remove fence around 700 dunums of Palestinian land in Al-Fakhit village, east of Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The targeted wells funded by UNDP, and owned by Al-Amour, Mohammad and Al-Jabareen families. (Raya 28 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) set up military checkpoints at the entrances of Idhna, Beit Ummer, Halhul, Sair, and Dura towns in

Hebron governorate. The IOA stopped and searched Palestinian vehicles and checked ID cards. (Safa & Wafa 28 August 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) assaulted and injured Yousif Khalid Shawamrih (20 years) while he was at the entrance of Al-Fawwar refugee camp, south of Hebron city. (Wafa 29 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked and injured Mohammad Hassan Faris Samarah (26 years) while he was in Khirbet Shwikah, east of Ad-Dhahiriya town, south of Hebron city. (PNN 29 August 2013)

## Qalqilyah

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Jayyus village, northeast of Qalqilyah city. (Al-Quds Net 1 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at participants and houses, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (Wafa 2 August 2013)
- Dozens suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, west of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (ARN 9 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at Azun checkpoint in Qalqilyah governorate. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (ARN 11 August 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (ARN 16 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out military orders to stop the construction in 10 Palestinian houses in Jit village, east of Qalqilyah city, immediately, under the claim that the houses were built without licenses from the Israeli Civil Administration. Among the targeted houses; following were identified as: Tamer Taisir Mahmoud Yameen, Iyad Taisir Mahmoud Yameen, Khalid Nasser Mahmoud Al-Sakhen, Mohammad Abdalla Ali Al-Sadah, Bilal Alyan Mohammad Ali Al-Sadah, Salah Hassan Ahmed Yameen, Sadiq Ahmed Abu Bakir and Jamal Mahmoud Abu Bakir. (Maannews 21 August 2013)

- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at participants and Omar Ban Al-Khatatab mosque. (ARN 23 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Kafr Qaddum village, east of Qalqilyah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at participants, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (PNN 30 August 2013)

## **Tubas**

- The Israeli Occupation Authorities handed out seven military orders to demolish houses, tents and barracks in Tubas city, under the claim that the structures are located in area classified as “Close Military area”. (Maannews 1 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers demolished 15 structures; included residential barracks, animal sheds and others, in Humsa Al-Basaleyeh area in the northern of Jordan valley. (DWG 20 August 2013)

## **Ramallah**

- Dozens of Palestinians and International activists suffered gas inhalation, after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at participants. (ARN 2 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in An-Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. During the operation, the IOA arrested four international activists. (ARN 2 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at participants which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (ARN 9 August 2013)

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained and assaulted two Palestinian workers, while they were working in Al-Beirh city. (Wafa 12 August 2013)
- A number of Israeli bulldozers were seen dumping solid waste in the neighborhoods of Al Bireh city in Ramallah Governorate. (Wafa 13 August 2013)
- A Palestinian youth has been shot and injured during clashes with Israeli soldiers at the entrance of Silwad town, near the central West Bank city of Ramallah. The youth was shot by a live round in his foot during clashes that took place after the army invaded the area, and attacked several residents. IMEMC (14 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed Ramallah-Al Jalazoun road and prevented Palestinians from using it. (Wafa 14 August 2013).
- Israeli settlers from Beit El attacked Palestinian vehicles traveling on the Ramallah-Nablus road. Settlers threw stones at passing vehicles, causing Israeli authorities to briefly close down the road. Settler violence against Palestinian communities and their property is routine in the occupied West Bank, where settlers typically enjoy impunity for their attacks. (Maannews 15 August 2013).
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in An-Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at participants, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. (ARN 16 August 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinian and international activists suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at participants. (Sama News 16 August 2013)
- Shepherd attacked with iron rod. Najeh Abu Ali, 47, attacked near Migron outpost with sticks, sharp objects, witnesses say. A shepherd was attacked near the Migron outpost by a group of Israeli settlers. The victim, 47, was evacuated to the Ramallah hospital with moderate to severe head injuries. The Judea and Samaria Police Department launched an investigation and is searching for the assailants. The attack occurred Sunday morning, as a group of shepherds from the village of Mukhamas crossed an underground tunnel under Route 60, and came across a group of Israeli settlers at the other end. Najeh Abu Ali, who finished crossing first, said six men attacked him with sticks and sharp objects. The victim added that the men beat him on his head, stabbed him and several of his sheep. The shepherds who crossed the tunnel

after Abu Ali, saw the assailants only as they were fleeing the scene, leaving Abu Ali bruised and beaten. Abu Ali had multiple fractures in his body and needed 75 stitches to his head and torso. (Ynetnews 18 August 2013)

- Three Palestinians and an international journalist were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at participants and land, as a result, number of olive trees were torched. (ARN 23 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in An-Nabi Saleh village, northwest of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA. (ARN 23 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained a landfill vehicle owned by Al-Beirh Municipality, while it was in its way to a landfill outside Al-Beirh city. (Al-Quds 23 August 2013)
- Three Palestinians were killed, 21 were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation during clashes that erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Qalandyia refugee camp, north of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired live bullets, teargas and sound grenades at Palestinians. (Raya 26 August 2013)
- Six Palestinian were injured and dozens suffered gas inhalation after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the segregation wall and settlements in Bilin village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. The injuries Palestinians were identified as: Mohammad Abu Rahma (19 years), Kefah Mansour (35 years), Mohammad Hamad (22 years), Khalid Mohammad Khateeb (8 years), Ahmed Abu Rahma (19 years) and Mohammad Abu Rahma (18 years). During the operation, the IOA assaulted Palestine Television crew and arrested an international journalist. (PNN 30 August 2013)
- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Beituniya village, west of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses, causing dozens of suffocation cases, and touch dozens of trees. During the clashes, a number of Palestinian families forced to leave their houses, after the teargas grenades fall inside their houses. (Maannews 30 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked the weekly non-violent protest against the Segregation wall and settlements in An-Nabi Saleh village, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun

grenades at Palestinians, causing dozens of suffocation cases. During the operation, the IOA closed the main entrance of the village. (Sama News 30 August 2013)

- Israeli settlers living in Beit El settlement hurled stones at Palestinian vehicles driving at Ramallah – Al Jalazoun road near the settlement. (Al-Quds 31 August 2013)

## Jericho

- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers demolished a residential structure and an animal shelter in Al- Ajaj area in Jiftlik village, north of Jericho city. (DWG 20 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched a Palestinian house owned by Mahmoud Hamad, in Al-’Auja village, north of Jericho city. (Wafa 21 August 2013)

## Salfit

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented a Palestinian journalist; Khalid Ma’ale, from entering Salfit city, under the claim that the entrance of the city used only for specific vehicles. (PNN 28 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and searched several Palestinian houses in Yasuf village, northeast of Salfit city, closed all village entrances and prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the village. During the operation, the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at houses. (Maannews 29 August 2013)

## Tulkarem

- The Israeli settlers living in Illit settlement attacked a Palestinian taxi driver while he was driving near the settlement. The Palestinian was identified as Najeh Abu Diyab. (Al-Quds 14 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) confiscated pottery wares and all the contents of a commercial store and a plantation at the southern entrance of Tulkarm city near Khirbet Jabarah checkpoint. The targeted store and plantation are owned by Hakim Salman. (Wafa 20 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided and searched Far’un village, south of Tulkarm city. (Safa 30 August 2013)



## Nablus

- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed Huwara village, south of Nablus city. (Al-Quds Net 1 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) detained tens of Palestinian vehicles at Za'tara checkpoint, south of Nablus city, after stopping and searching them and checked ID cards. (Raya 10 August 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Rahel settlement set fire in a mountain in Jalud village, southeast of Nablus city, and attached four Palestinian houses. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli Settlers. (Maannews 12 August 2013)
- The Israeli Settlers living in Bracha settlements set up a number of tents on Palestinian land in Burin village, south of Nablus city. (Wafa 12 August 2013)
- A group of Israeli settlers living in Bracha settlement set up a new settlement outpost, as they erected tents in the east of the village of Burin, south of the city of Nablus in the West Bank. The establishing of the outpost started in the early morning hours. (Palestine-Info 13 August 2013)
- Four masked Israeli settlers from the illegal settlements of Esh Kodesh and Ahiya approached several houses located on the outskirts of Jalud village, south of Nablus city, threw rocks at them in the village and set land on fire, including ten olive trees. According to Abu Osama, one man who lives in the attacked area, the settlers thought that there was no one in the homes because it was a Muslim holiday. Approximately ten minutes later, as residents went out to push the settlers back, they left. "Imagine if we were not in our homes, they would have destroyed them", said Abu Osama. On their way back to the settlements, settlers set several fires on the land, burning down ten olive trees belonging to the five families in the area. (Palsolidarity & Wafa 13 August 2013)
- Hundreds of Israeli settlers visited Joseph's Tomb near Balata refugee camp east of Nablus in the northern West Bank heavily escorted by Israeli forces. Prior to the visit, dozens of Israeli military vehicles raided several neighborhoods in Nablus overnight and ransacked several houses. Al-Sikka, Rafidia, Ras el-Ein and Balata neighborhoods were stormed by Israeli troops. No arrests were reported. Meanwhile, witnesses in Balata refugee camp confirmed that several buses carrying Israeli rightists arrived at Joseph's Tomb where they performed religious rites from midnight until the early morning hours. (Maannews 15 August 2013)
- The Israeli settlers living in Yetzhar settlement closed the road link between the settlement and Nablus city, and uprooted a number of

- trees in Burin village, south of Nablus city, clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli settlers. (Maannews 16 August 2013)
- Dozens of Palestinians suffered gas inhalation during clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Iraq Burin village, south of Nablus city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. During the clashes, the IOA raided and searched Palestinian houses. (Maannews 20 August 2013)
  - The Israeli Occupation Bulldozers along with the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded Furush Beit Dajan village, east of Nablus city and demolished two barracks and four residential rooms. The targeted structures are owned by Mohammad and Mahmoud Bani Odeh. (Wafa 20 August 2013)
  - Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) visited Joseph's Tomb in Nablus city, and performed Talmudic rituals. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the latter fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians, which led to dozens of suffocation cases. During the clashes, the IOA arrested a Palestinian child, and closed the area. (Al-Quds 21 August 2013)
  - The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) razed Palestinian land in Einabus village, south of Nablus city. The targeted land is located in pool No.3 in Al-Wara area near Yetzhar settlement. (Wafa 21 August 2013)
  - Israeli Occupation bulldozers **razed private Palestinian** land in Nablus city in order to enlarge an illegal settlement outpost. The Israeli forces dug up vast tracts of land surrounding Einabus village to enlarge an outpost known as Hill 782. (Maannews 25 August 2013)
  - Israeli settlers uprooted 25 olive trees in land located between Huwara and Burin villages, south of Nablus city. The targeted trees are owned by Hassan Bani Saleem Khaliliya. (NBPRS 28 August 2013)
  - Israeli settlers attacked and hurled stones at Mohammad Shahada and Mahmoud Odeh while they were working in their land in Qusra village, south of Nablus city, and confiscated an agricultural tractor. (Raya 29 August 2013)
  - Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian in Iraq Burin village, south of Nablus city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers (Wafa 30 August 2013)

## Gaza

- The Israeli Occupation jeeps and bulldozers staged few meters into the eastern part of Al-Burij refugee camp, in the central of the Gaza strip, and searched and razed Palestinian land. (ARN 6 August 2013)

- A 20 years Palestinian was killed after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at him while he was near the border fence in the eastern part of Al-Burij refugee camp, in the central of the Gaza strip. (ARN 9 August 2013)
- A Palestinian was injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at him while he was near the border fence in the eastern part of Ash-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza city. (ARN 11 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation Warplanes fired *artillery shells* at agricultural lands in Beit Hanoun city in the northern Gaza Strip which caused a state of fear amongst people living in the near area. No injuries were reported. (Wafa 14 August 2011)
- Three fishermen have been detained, and violently attacked by Israeli soldiers, in Palestinian territorial waters, resulting in moderate injuries. The Israeli soldiers kidnapped the three fishermen, and violently assaulted them, before releasing them later on. The three arrestees were identified as Khader Marwan Sa'eedy, Mohammad Jamal No'man, and Hasan Ali Morad. When Israel imposed the illegal siege on Gaza in 2006, the fishermen were limited to only three nautical miles off the Gaza shore. Yet, the fishermen and their boats are constantly attacked even within those three miles leading to dozens of casualties, and excessive property damage. As part of the ceasefire agreement of November 2012, Israel agreed to allow the Palestinians to fish within six nautical miles of the shore, but unilaterally decreased the allotted area to three miles. Last May, Israel decided to allow the fishermen to fish within six nautical miles of the Gaza shore, but the Navy continued to attack them even within the three nautical miles. Under the Oslo accords in the mid-nineties, the Palestinians are supposed to be allowed to fish in 20 nautical miles off the Gaza shore. IMEMC (14 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation bulldozers staged few meters into the eastern part of Khan Younis city, south of the Gaza strip, and razed Palestinian land. (Al-Quds 14 August 2013)
- The Israeli Occupation gunboats opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats while they were sailing at Gaza city shore. (Raya 20 August 2013)
- Two Palestinians were injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at them while they were in the eastern part of Jabaliyah town, north of the Gaza strip. (PNN 21 August 2013)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) opened fire at Palestinian land and houses in the eastern part of Ash-Shouka village, east Rafah city in the Gaza strip. (Al-Ayyam 27 August 2013)

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) fired bullets at a Palestinian farmer; Yousif Kamal Sa'id (21 years), while he was working in land east of Jabaliya refugee camp, north of the Gaza strip. (Sama News 30 August 2013)

## Others

- Israel to retain 85% of settlement blocs, Kerry reportedly says. Congressman who spoke to secretary of state after initial Washington meetings says he sounded optimistic about peace talks. Secretary of State John Kerry estimated in conversations with Congressmen that Israel will retain 85% of the settlement blocs in a future peace deal, Yedioth Ahronoth reported. According to the report, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators who recently met in Washington to discuss timetables for negotiations, also discussed the fate of West Bank settlements and the possibility of land swaps. Immediately after Minister Tzipi Livni and Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat left Washington, Kerry phoned some of his friends at the House of Representatives to report about the talks. In separate phone calls Kerry assured the congressmen, most of whom were pro-Israel, that Israel's interests are being safeguarded. According to one congressman, Kerry said he believed 85% of Israel's biggest settlement blocs will remain under Israeli sovereignty. He added that the US administration had safeguarded Israel's interests. The congressman, who described himself a true friend of Israel, asked Kerry whether the Palestinians will ever recognize Israel as a Jewish state, to which the secretary of state reportedly replied "that's one of my goals. A homeland for the Jewish people." The congressman got the impression that all core issues had been raised during the Washington meetings, including the question when to discuss the status of Jerusalem. According to him, Kerry was optimistic and said "We had a good start." ([Ynetnews](#) 1 August 2013)
- Feiglin Declares 'It's Time to Flood the Temple Mount'. Feiglin: If the Right does not fight for the Temple Mount, it will be given over to Islam. Israelis who believe the Temple Mount should remain in Israeli hands must take urgent action, Likud MK Moshe Feiglin warned Thursday. Feiglin, who heads the Jewish Leadership faction of the Likud party, visited the Temple Mount on Thursday despite knowing he would find it locked to Jews, as a display of protest. In an "unprecedented" move, police on Wednesday informed Jewish groups that the Temple Mount will be closed to all non-Muslims until at least the end of Ramadan, on 11th August. The announcement has provoked

renewed anger over anti-Jewish discrimination on the Temple Mount, and sparked calls by activists for a mass-protest on 7th August, at the start of the Hebrew month of Elul. Temple Mount activists had complained that for the past three days the Temple Mount - the holiest place in Judaism - remained inexplicably closed to non-Muslim visitors. The only "explanation" offered was a bland sign which simply read "Today the Temple Mount will be closed to visitors." Those restrictions did not, however, apply to Muslim visitors, who continue to receive unrestricted access. On Wednesday, Police Commander Avi Bitton finally informed representatives of the Organisation of Temple Movements - an umbrella of various Temple Mount groups - that the sign would remain up for at least another two weeks, until after the Muslim festival of "Eid", which marks the end of Ramadan. Feiglin told *Arutz Sheva* on Thursday that the closure of the holy site to Jews for the Ramadan holiday is a real cause for concern. The unprecedented move is linked to diplomatic talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, he confirmed. "There's a process here of taking sovereignty over the Temple Mount into Islamic hands, and it's part of an agreement that [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu and [Justice Minister] Tzipi Livni are going to build in the upcoming months," he warned. The political right must realize that unless it is willing to sacrifice for the sake of Jewish access to the holy site, nothing will happen, he added. "I call for everyone who hears us to come here, to understand that they are giving the very heart of Jerusalem to foreigners, to Islam," he called. Taking a conservative approach will not help, he said. "This isn't a matter of policy, of authorizations – we've already tried all the accepted routes. We need to understand that there needs to be sacrifice here, which one thousand people show up ready to make sacrifices, ready to be arrested," he explained. ([Israel National News](#) 1 August 2013)

- Livni: Much Worse to Free Terrorists with a Gun to Your Head. Justice Minister says Israel won't release terrorists unless the PA shows it's serious about negotiating. Justice Minister Tzipi Livni responded on Friday to Israel's decision this week to release terrorists as a gesture to the Palestinian Authority, saying that in her opinion, giving in to demands by terror groups that kidnapped a soldier by releasing prisoners was much worse. Speaking to *Channel 10 News* after meeting PA negotiator Saeb Erekat in Washington earlier this week, Livni said that the 104 terrorists Israel agreed to free would be released in small groups and only if the PA shows that it is serious during the negotiations. "The bereaved families feel this conflict in the most painful way," she said, "but to me, releasing such terrorists when there

is a gun pointed at our heads in exchange for a soldier or for dead bodies, is much worse from a national perspective." Livni added that the release of the terrorists is meant to "generate hope for the children of those who paid the price [of the conflict]," and claimed that it will happen "in small groups and only if the negotiations will be serious." "All the parties involved have an interest in reaching a settlement," she said and, referring to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's announcement that the negotiations will continue for nine months, added, "Time is less important. If we require more than nine months, of course we'll continue, and if the negotiations will not be serious - then even nine months will not necessary. My impression is that the Palestinians are serious; this is a test for them. Anyone who enters the negotiating room knows more or less how it should end." Livni claimed that PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas had toned down his previous preconditions before this round of talks, saying, "Abbas's demands just four months ago were much more stringent. He wanted a map based on the [pre-]1967 borders that is approved and signed by the Israeli government, a complete freeze of settlement construction and release of prisoners. We tried to produce a package that does not include things that Israel could never give." Livni admitted that "For me, a construction freeze is not something problematic. It is our duty to keep the 'settlement blocs' as part of Israel, and I see no point in further building." She stressed that negotiations could not have happened without Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's decision to restart talks. Finally, referring to the referendum law which passed its first Knesset reading this week, Livni said, "I objected but the law has been enacted. We'll accept the decision of the people." ([Israel National News](#) 2 August 2013)

- West Bank water shortage forcing Palestinians to lease land from settlers. Shortage of water and agricultural land in area leads local farmers into embarrassing predicament. Settlers in the Jordan Valley are leasing some of their land to local Palestinians and to Israeli citizens, but both sides prefer to keep the matter a secret. Official Israeli sources say they know nothing about the matter, and in any case it is not common and there are only a few marginal cases involved. The Palestinians are forced to lease the land from the settlers because of a shortage of land and water, which Israeli policy in the Jordan Valley has brought on, and because of limitations placed on the marketing of their produce. The Israelis are leasing land from the settlers because their small numbers do not match the huge area of land the state has allocated to the settlements since the occupation of the West Bank in

1967. This leasing is against the rules of the Jordan Valley Regional Council and the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Department, which in practice holds the majority of the agricultural land for the state in the Jordan Valley. The council's regulations ban the leasing of land to non-citizens. Nonetheless, such leasing is embarrassing for the Palestinians since the farmed land is land Israel confiscated through various means from Palestinian communities and residents, then allocated it to settlers in the Jordan Valley. Haaretz spoke with some 10 Palestinians in various spots in the Jordan Valley who lease land from the residents of a number of settlements. A few of them at first hid the fact that they are leasing, saying that they were employees of the Israeli who holds the land. A number of them said the practice has existed since at least the middle of the 1990s, when Israel started the regime of travel permits that limited their movement, but that it grew in the 2000s alongside the closing of the Israeli labor market for most West Bank residents. The size of the plots the Palestinians are leasing vary from a few dunams per person to hundreds of dunams. A number of the lessees are Israeli citizens, Jews and Arabs, who hire Palestinian workers from the Jordan Valley. In a number of cases, the Israeli lessee only signs the documents and in practice the employers are his relatives, Palestinians who live in the Jordan Valley. In some cases, especially when the leased plot is not large, the deal is done without signing any documents at all. There are also a very few cases of partnerships between Jews and Palestinians from the Jordan Valley. Dror Etkes, who investigates Israel's policy of taking control of the land in the West Bank, is now finishing a project of mapping and analysis of Israeli agriculture in the West Bank. He says he has managed to map some 6,000 dunams (about 1,500 acres) in the Jordan Valley that Israelis have leased to Palestinians - or their representatives. Etkes estimates there is more. The IDF's Civil Administration in the territories said it did not know about the matter. ([Haaretz](#) 2 August 2013)

- Netanyahu to Arab MKs: You weren't in Israel before us. PM takes podium and responds to MK Zahalke who says "We [Arabs] were here before you and we'll be here after you." Arabs were not in Israel before the Jewish people, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu asserted early Thursday morning before the Knesset vote on the referendum bill. The bill passed in its first reading with 66 MKs in favor and 45 opposed. The legislation reinforces existing law by upgrading it to a Basic Law, which means it would have constitutional status in the eyes of the Supreme Court. The current law requires a referendum on any concession of sovereign territory, in a peace treaty or as a unilateral



move. Sovereign territory does not include Judea and Samaria, but it includes all of Jerusalem and any land swaps. During the debate, MK Mordechai Yogev (Bayit Yehudi) said “the Land of Israel belongs to the people of Israel,” and MK Jamal Zahalka (Balad) responded: “We [Arabs] were here before you and we’ll be here after you.” In an unusual move, Netanyahu asked to take the podium and said to Zahalka: “The first part isn’t true, and the second won’t be.” Many MKs stood up and applauded, which is against the Knesset’s rules. Soon after, Netanyahu posted the exchange on Facebook and Twitter, and Economy and Trade Minister Naftali Bennett wrote on Facebook that he’s proud of Netanyahu. “We were here first, because it says so in the Torah,” UTJ MK Moshe Gafni pointed out, and Finance Minister Yair Lapid – who rarely agrees with Gafni on anything – shouted out “that’s right.” Bennett passionately defended the referendum bill, which his party insisted be advanced by this week before the Knesset went on recess, and argued with opposition MKs who spoke out against it. “You in Shas want to teach me about loving the Land of Israel? [MK] Arye Deri is scolding me? The Land of Israel was divided on your backs!” Bennett said incredulously, referring to the Oslo Accords. The Bayit Yehudi leader added that he doesn’t understand why the Left is so concerned about a referendum if they think the nation wants two states for two nations. Interior Minister Gideon Sa’ar spoke out in favor of the bill and accused Labor of hypocrisy, saying the party always supported referendums in the past. “When a decision is made and we are on opposite sides, no one wants the final call to be made by deserters that are seduced by benefits,” Sa’ar added, referring to the way the Oslo Accords were approved by the Knesset. Coalition chairman Yariv Levin (Likud Beytenu) said that the reason the existing Referendum Law needs to become a Basic Law is because of the Supreme Court’s “unprecedented invasion of the Knesset’s authority.” “As one of the people who proposed this bill, I hope we will never have to use it,” he added. Deputy Minister for Liaison with the Knesset Ofir Akunis, who cosponsored the original referendum bill in the previous Knesset, said “a public issue that divides our society more than any other should be determined by the whole population. They will go to the polls and decide whether to accept an agreement the government reached.” “Oslo II was passed because of a Mitsubishi [given to a new deputy minister]. The disengagement was authorized by the government only after two ministers who disagreed with then-prime minister Ariel Sharon were fired,” Akunis said. “We can’t have more tricks like this. The referendum bill will prevent them.” MK Merav Michaeli (Labor) said that “the Bayit Yehudi doesn’t want to let



us reach a peace agreement and are looking for any way to torpedo it.” According to MK Muhammad Barakei (Hadash), the coalition is trying to create a “semi-fascist dictatorship.” Expressing opposition to the bill from a different standpoint, MK Nissim Ze’ev (Shas) said “A referendum will legitimize removing Jews from their homes.” Shas MK Avraham Michaeli said that a referendum is a “trick” and Bayit Yehudi’s voters will not forgive the party. “This is one of the saddest days in the history of Israeli democracy,” MK Yisrael Hasson (Kadima) told ministers. “I don’t trust you, and I don’t have any expectations from you.” ([IPOST](#) 2 August 2013)

- The Israel Antiquities Authority's peculiar decision not to reconstruct smashed Ottoman tiles in King David's Tomb means the vandals who attacked the site last year managed to erase virtually every remnant of its Muslim past. A serious act of vandalism, a string of coincidences, and a decision by the Israel Antiquities Authority have combined to change the character of King David's Tomb on Mt. Zion from a Muslim site into a synagogue. On Tuesday this week, two painters were busy applying the last coats of paint on the building's doorposts, thereby completing six years of extensive renovations. For the first time since the 16th century, every last trace of the building's Muslim past has been erased; the site, holy to Judaism, Islam and Christianity, has for all intents and purposes become a synagogue. Two policemen who were patrolling Mt. Zion on the night of December 19, 2012, heard knocking coming from the tomb. They entered the room and found two men smashing the ancient ceramic tiles covering some of the structure's interior walls. The tiles were created by Ottoman artists in the 17th century as part of renovations to the tomb's structure, which then served as a mosque. Similar tiles can be found at the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount. During their interrogation, one of the suspects said he was a bachelor looking for a wife. He claimed he'd been told to break the ceramic tiles because “they were blocking his prayers.” The police recommended indicting him on the charge of violating a sacred space, a serious crime carrying a jail term of up to seven years. The State Prosecutor's Office has yet to make its decision, however. All parties involved in running the place from Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch, the rabbi of the Western Wall, and the National Center for the Development of Holy Sites to the Israel Antiquities Authority expressed their profound shock over the incident and concluded that better security was necessary. But two weeks after the two men were caught breaking the tiles, Israel Antiquities Authority employees came to work in the morning to discover that someone had returned and

completed the job of smashing the tiles overnight. This time, the damage wasn't just partial: Every last Islamic tile inside the tomb structure had been systematically destroyed. The incident raised some troubling questions about the various authorities' policy on King David's Tomb. The vandalism took place just one day before security cameras were set to be installed. The lock of the door leading to the tomb did not show signs of tampering. But it gets odder: According to every assessment, whoever carried out the damage must have worked many hours inside the tomb using machinery - and not hammers - yet no one heard a thing; the police received no report. "It seems everyone had an ear infection that night," said one of the site's guards. Rabbi Avraham Goldstein, the head on the Diaspora Yeshiva, however said it is possible yeshiva members didn't hear the vandalism as it was taking place. "We're not connected to this act in any way," he said. "It would seem there are ways of accomplishing such destruction without anyone knowing," Shortly after the incident, the Israel Antiquities Authority held a meeting. It seems the authority has replicas of the tiles because of renovations done on the tiles in the past. It was possible to reconstruct at least some of the decorations as most of the experts involved recommended. Nonetheless, Shuka Dorfman, the director general of the authority, decided not to restore the wall. Within a few months, all the renovations were completed, the walls remained bare, and King David's Tomb lost virtually every remnant of its Muslim past. Because of the chain of events, a group of Jerusalem researchers in various disciplines got together and to protest the Israel Antiquities Authority's decision not to restore the tomb's walls. "Deciding not to reconstruct the tile work...is first and foremost rewarding the vandals who achieved their goal," wrote the scholars, including Prof. Ora Limor, Prof. Elhanan Reiner, Dr. Amnon Ramon, Dr. Doron Bar, and Dr. Nirit Shalev-Khalifa. The Israel Antiquities Authority does not deny that the decision represents a victory for the vandals but claims that the authority also benefitted by having the ancient walls behind the tiles exposed. This assertion aggravated the scholars even further. According to Dr. Shalev-Khalifa, who has published an article on the tiles of King David's Tomb, "the tiles weren't a matter of decoration; they were the ultimate artistic expression of the Ottoman Empire." Dr. Yuval Baruch, director of the Jerusalem District of the Israel Antiquities Authority said "the tiles were irreversibly damaged. Therefore the choice was either a full reconstruction of the 17th century tiles or exposing the hewn rock walls of the original structure. Because a full restoration is not in keeping with the Israel Antiquities Authority's mission, the authority chose to

preserve the walls instead... No attempt has been made to hide remnants of different eras." ([Haaretz](#) 3 August 2013)

- Bennett Denies Terrorists-for-Housing Deal. Bayit Yehudi leader denies reports he agreed to prisoner release in exchange for homes in Judea, Samaria. Bayit Yehudi Chairman Naftali Bennett denied Sunday that there was a deal between him and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, in which he agreed to accept the release of 104 terrorist prisoners, and Netanyahu agreed to allow the construction of 1,000 homes for Jews in Judea and Samaria. He said that the report was “baseless” but went on to say that tenders for construction will be issued in the coming days, and that this building will take place in locations where there had been a de facto freeze on construction, including parts of Jerusalem. The number of housing units to be approved is a “respectable” one, he said. Asked how he lives with the fact that left-leaning Justice Minister Tzipi Livni is in charge of negotiations with the Palestinian Authority, Bennett noted that Livni was appointed to head the negotiations by the government and the Cabinet, and does not have independent authority. “The prime minister and the Cabinet are updated frequently,” he stated. “We are watching very closely.” He added that he is updated regarding the progress of the negotiations through the prime minister's office. The Bayit Yehudi leader said that he does not foresee a “peace deal” that will include handing over Judea and Samaria, but “we must be careful.” “Am I calm? No. But are we in a catastrophe? No.” ([Israel National News](#) 4 August 2013)
- Cabinet approves new development plan to benefit more Israeli settlements. Several West Bank settlements and communities inhabited by former Gaza settlers to start receiving government benefits; two Haredi communities removed from list. The cabinet on Sunday approved a new map of national priority areas, which includes an additional 20 West Bank settlements and communities inhabited by former Gaza settlers. The list of national priority areas features hundreds of towns and villages that are entitled to government benefits in housing, infrastructure, education, culture and security. The list was last updated in 2009 to include dozens new West Bank settlements. Fifteen out of 20 communities to receive national priority status are strongholds of Habayit Hayehudi, one of Netanyahu’s chief coalition partners. Conversely, two Haredi communities have been removed from the list. However, the government claims that the reason for including settlements on the list has to do with security and is not at all linked to a policy of settlement expansion. Four ministers

abstained in Sunday's vote, including Justice Minister Tzipi Livni and Environmental Protection Minister Amir Peretz (Hatnuah). They blamed the government for promoting a partisan agenda at the expense of a national one. "It is unacceptable that [northern Negev towns] Kiryat Gat and Kiryat Malachi are not on the list due to so-called proximity to the center, despite their difficult socioeconomic state, and at the same time include remote settlements, that were until recently illegal outposts, under the guise of 'security needs,'" Peretz said. Some of the newly prioritized communities are outside the large settlement blocs, like Eshkolot and Negohot in the southern Hebron Hills. Other settlements on the list include Rehelim, Sansana and Bruchin, which were considered illegal outposts until several months ago, but were legalized by the cabinet before the last elections. Other settlements on the list are the West Bank settlements of Nofim, Geva Binyamin, Ma'aleh Michmash and Elon Moreh. Several communities populated by former Gaza Strip settlers, who were evacuated from their communities in 2005, were also added to the list. These are Be'er Ganim, Bnei Dekalim, Ganei Tal, Netzer Hazani and Nitzan. All these communities meet the criteria set by the cabinet for receiving the benefits, including proximity to the border or the degree of security threat. Other communities that will be added to the map and are not associated with a particular political lobby are Kibbutz Alumot in the Jordan Valley, Alon Hagalil in the Lower Galilee, Moshav Amatzia in the souther Lachish district, which has a mix of both secular and religious residents, Kadita in the Upper Galilee, Shalva and Mitzpeh Ilan in the Negev. Livni said that she decided to abstain, rather than vote against the plan, because "it also includes measures to reduce socioeconomic inequalities and bolster the security in some underprivileged areas." Four communities that had been on the list for the past four years have been removed. Two of them are predominantly ultra-Orthodox, like the West Bank settlement of Betar Ilit, most of whose 40,000 residents have voted for United Torah Judaism or Shas. The community of Harish in Wadi Ara – that former Housing Minister Ariel Atias (Shas) was personally involved in attempts to establish a Haredi city there – was also removed from the list. The other two are the settlements of Efrat and Kedar. Communities benefiting from national priority status will receive immediate funding in education, culture, sports and environmental protection. However, benefits in housing, infrastructure, agriculture and rural development will require additional approval from government panels, following Israel's pledge to the American government in 2005 to refrain from encouraging Israelis to move to the settlements. In his opening

remarks, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "There is one place that is always at the top of our priorities – our capital, Jerusalem. Jerusalem is entitled to all the benefits the plan other communities get, and more." ([Haaretz](#) 4 August 2013)

- ISM video: IDF soldier kicking 12-year old Palestinian in Hebron. Army investigating incident after soldier holds, kicks boy; activist group charges incident occurred during settler dispute. The army is investigating an incident in which a soldier in Hebron held a 12-year-old Palestinian by the arm and kicked him on Saturday. The incident occurred at about 4:30 p.m. near a lookout post in a section of the city under military control. It was caught on tape by the International Solidarity Movement, a pro-Palestinian group, and posted on YouTube. In the footage one can see two soldiers who appear to be separating two young Palestinians. They push one out of the way and kick the other. Both boys remain standing. The one who was kicked holds his leg briefly and screams. The soldiers then run off down the road, apparently after another Palestinian. The IDF said only that the incident was non-routine. The ISM said it occurred while settlers were "causing trouble" on the roof of a private home. Yosef Hartuv, of the nearby Kiryat Arba settlement, was at the lookout post, which is located on the roof of a private Palestinian home. He said he had come there with visitors, including a woman who spoke Arabic and asked the homeowner for permission to stand on the roof. "We asked explicit permission in the language of the home owner and he acknowledges to us in Hebrew that he was fine with it," Hartuv said. As an unofficial guide, he added, he had brought visitors to the lookout post for years and had often exchanged a few, limited pleasantries with the homeowners. He added that prior to the incident he had observed Palestinian teenagers fighting among themselves, and that the soldiers appeared to be breaking up the fight. ([IPOST](#) 4 August 2013)
- Report: State funds groups that advocate building Third Temple. The state has been subsidizing nonprofit organizations that advocate the building of the Third Temple atop Jerusalem's holiest site, an Army Radio expose revealed on Sunday. Over the course of the last decade, the Education Ministry and the Culture and Sport Ministry have transferred between NIS 300,000 and 700,000 to a non-government organization known as The Temple Institute. Just last year, the group received NIS 282,000 from the Education Ministry and another NIS 134,000 from the Culture Ministry. "The Institute is dedicated to every aspect of the Biblical commandment to build the Holy Temple of G-d on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem," the group's website reads. "Our

short-term goal is to rekindle the flame of the Holy Temple in the hearts of mankind through education. Our long-term goal is to do all in our limited power to bring about the building of the Holy Temple in our time." Anyone browsing the group's website could see images of models of the Third Temple, with the Muslim holy places like the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque conspicuously absent from these illustrations. Army Radio also discovered that aside from subsidies, the state also permits young women who opt to forgo compulsory military service to perform national service as unpaid tour guides and instructors with the institute. The women are also sent to schools and kindergartens around the country to speak about their experiences as well as the educational programs the institute has to offer. The Education Ministry responded to the Army Radio report, saying: "The nonprofit meets criteria for receiving subsidies that go toward instructing students who visit the institute, and this has been the case for over 10 years now." "The Temple Institute deals with research, and it is supported by the ministry in accordance with professional criteria that has nothing to do with directly supporting the individual who heads it," a Culture and Sport Ministry spokesperson said in response. "Thus far we have found nothing that would raise suspicions of incitement or anything unusual as it relates to the temple. In light of the Army Radio report, it is the ministry's intention to bring this matter to the attention of our legal department." "For over 25 years the Temple Institute has stood at the forefront of research, education and preparation towards the time of the rebuilding of the Holy Temple," a spokesperson for the Temple Institute told The Jerusalem Post. "The Institute's efforts have been recognized and awarded by Israel's Ministry of Education. Its trailblazing educational materials and scholarly publications have revolutionized these difficult areas of Torah knowledge for young and old alike." "Over one million people from all over the world, of every background and religion, have visited the Institute's exhibition located in Jerusalem's Old City," the spokesperson said. "The Temple Institute's website is the most popular and educational web site on the subject of the Holy Temple in the world." "The rebuilding of the Holy Temple, called by the prophet Isaiah a 'house of prayer for all nations,' is a positive commandment, and the vision of the Temple's rebuilding, which will usher in an unparalleled era of world peace and harmony, is the central theme of the entire Torah. The Temple Institute is proud to represent the concept which has been heartfelt prayer of the Jewish people for two millennia." ([IPOST](#) 4 August 2013)



- Bennett urges Israeli government to cut ties with EU over settlement guidelines. Economy minister voices lonely position as government mulls joining EU research and development program, which would make Israeli institutions eligible for NIS 1.4 billion in grants. Economy Minister Naftali Bennett is urging the government to end all cooperation with the European Union in light of the latter's new guidelines on the settlements – even if such cooperation would boost Israel's economy. On Monday, National Security Council chairman Yaakov Amidror convened a meeting to discuss the implications of new EU rules barring cooperation with Israeli entities that have ties to West Bank settlements, East Jerusalem or the Golan Heights. The discussion, which took place at the level of ministry directors-general, was preparation for a similar meeting that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu plans to hold in the coming days. One of the topics discussed was whether Israel should join the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and development program. Israel already participates in the EU's current research and development program, which ends on December 31, and is the only country outside the European Union that was invited to join Horizon 2020 as a full member. The economy, education and science ministries had all been slated to participate in the new program, which will begin next year. Though Bennett wasn't present at the meeting, he made it clear that he believes the right thing to do is end all cooperation with the European Union. But his associates stressed that this is merely his personal opinion, and that at the meeting with Netanyahu, he will also present his ministry's professional opinion. "It's not clear that Israeli counter-measures would have any effect," one Economy Ministry official explained. "We're talking about a fly that wouldn't really bother the European elephant. But if we find something that could have an impact, we'll consider it." In contrast to Bennett, Science Minister Jacob Perry vehemently opposes dropping out of Horizon 2020. He sent a letter to his cabinet colleagues a few days ago urging them not to make any hasty decisions. The Council for Higher Education, which is subordinate to the Education Ministry, hasn't yet finalized its opinion on the matter. ([Haaretz](#) 6 August 2013)
- Judea and Samaria Jewish Population Up 2% in 6 Months. The rate of growth in the Biblical heartland is larger than in the rest of Israel. Peace Now is despondent. The Jewish population of Judea and Samaria grew by 2.12% in the last six months – faster than the rate of Jewish

population growth in the rest of Israel, which was 1.9%, reports *Israel Hayom*. The Jewish population of Judea and Samaria currently numbers 367,000. In the last six months, this number grew by 7,700, including immigrants and births. The newspaper noted that the number is particularly impressive when one takes into account the low supply of housing in Judea and Samaria, the rise in housing prices and the fact that in the last year, there have been less construction tenders issued and delays in approval of zoning plans for communities in Judea and Samaria. The population of the Etzion Bloc Regional Council grew by 4.1%, and the Samaria Regional Council grew by 3.2%. Yigal Dilmoni, Deputy Director of the Yesha Council, an unofficial federation of Judea and Samaria leaders, reacted to the numbers, telling the newspaper: "The large demand obligates the government to renew construction and issue new tenders in the settlement blocs." Peace Now chairman Yariv Oppenheimer was disappointed with the figures, saying: "At this rate, soon the two-state vision will not be realizable." Jews have lived in Judea and Samaria since Biblical times, around 3,500 years, but prior to the establishment of the State of Israel faced discrimination, persecution and often mass-murder - for example in Hevron, where despite the difficulties there was a sizable Jewish community until 1929, when local Arabs conducted a massacre of the local Jews, the remainder of whom were forced to flee their homes. Any Jews who remained in Judea and Samaria were expelled during the 1948-1949 War of Independence and did not return until the liberation in 1967. Since then, the Jewish population in Judea and Samaria has grown dramatically, but has also been the focus of a bitter political controversy that virtually defines the difference between left and right in Israeli politics. While leftists oppose the existence of Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, nationalists support it, and "centrists" support a continued Jewish presence only in certain "blocs", while agreeing to tear down Jewish communities outside those blocs in a future peace deal. ([Israel National News](#) 6 August 2013)

- Poll: Most Israelis object to withdrawing to pre-1967 borders. More than 50% oppose peace agreement that involves withdrawal to Green Line, even with land swaps; 65.6% doubt peace deal with Palestinians can be achieved. Most Israelis would oppose any peace deal with the Palestinians that involved withdrawing to pre-1967 ceasefire lines, even if land swaps were agreed to accommodate Jewish settlements, a poll showed on Tuesday. The survey by the liberal Israeli Democracy Institute (IDI) showed 65.6% of those questioned did not expect to see a deal in talks between Israel and the Palestinians within a year. The



talks resumed last month after a three-year hiatus. US Secretary of State John Kerry has said he hopes a peace agreement that has eluded the parties for decades can be achieved within nine months. But even if the Israeli government managed to defy skeptics and secure an accord, the poll, jointly sponsored by Tel Aviv University, suggested it would struggle to sell it to its people. Of the 602 people questioned, 55.5% said they were against Israel agreeing to the 1967 lines, even if there were land swaps which would enable some Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem to remain part of Israel. Among Israel's majority Jewish population, opposition to such an agreement was 63%, while among Israeli Arabs, a minority group, only 15% objected to such a deal. The issue, which refers to the lines that existed before the Six Day War between Israel and its Arab neighbors, is considered key to sealing any deal. Some 67% of all Israelis said they would also oppose Palestinian demands for a return of even a small number of refugees who either fled or were driven away when Israel was created in 1948. They were also against compensating the refugees or their descendents financially. On one of the other issues facing negotiators, the question of whether Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem should become part of a Palestinian state, some 50% of Israeli Jews said they were against the idea. Only 55% of Israeli Arabs were in favor, fewer than might be expected, suggesting Arab residents of east Jerusalem did not want to lose advantages of living under Israeli government control, such as health and national insurance benefits, the IDI said. After an opening round of talks in Washington a week ago, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have agreed to meet again during the second week of August. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is also facing an uphill task trying to sell the talks to his people, even within his Palestine Liberation Organization – an umbrella body that includes many leading political factions. In a statement on Tuesday, two groups – the Popular and the Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine – called for the talks to be suspended, denouncing them as "a repetition of pointless and harmful negotiations" held since the early 1990s. ([Ynetnews](#) 7 August 2013)

- Israelis fleeing from north and south, heading for West Bank hills. Study shows steady decline in Negev and Galilee, but population hike in settlements; MK in charge of strengthening the country's 'periphery' blasts government policy. A Knesset study reveals that over the past 10 years, Israel's Jewish population has been trickling out of the northern and southern regions of the country and into the center and West Bank. According to the Knesset Research Department, in the years 2001-2010,

30,200 residents of the country's north left the area, and 25,300 left the south, while 38,880 went to live in the West Bank. It is not clear how much of the West Bank's population rise came from people leaving the north and south. The study, based on Housing and Construction Ministry figures and submitted this week to the Knesset Finance Committee, also found a population decline in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv as Israelis increasingly move into neighboring suburbs. The figures are a blow to the country's longstanding policy of trying to promote growth in peripheral areas, though some officials charge that the goal has been abandoned, as evidenced by a state funding priorities map released this week which added several West Bank settlements. The figures in the report reflect primarily the movement of the Jewish population, according to Knesset researchers. The Arab population in the north and south is remaining in those areas, according to the Maariv daily, which first reported on the study Wednesday. "The center of the country is pulling the young people away from the periphery," noted Shlomo Buhbut, mayor of the northern town of Maalot Tarshiha. "Most of the high-tech industry is centered on Herzliya, Raanana, Kfar Saba, in the country's center." "The Israeli government has given up on the Galilee and the Negev," he charged on Wednesday. "The benefits have dried up." "I am personally an example of a person who had to leave the Galilee, my hometown Safed, for Jerusalem because of the desperate lack of employment in the north and south for many years," said MK Hilik Bar (Labor), the chair of the Knesset Caucus for Strengthening the Periphery. Bar blamed successive Israeli governments for favoring settlements over poorer periphery communities. "The right-wing governments that have ruled Israel for the past 20 years have taken funds that could have developed the Galilee and Negev and created work and housing, and invested them in places [in the West Bank and Gaza] that only heighten the conflict and threaten the two-state solution," Bar said. It was a policy, he said, "That contradicts the Zionist dream and a Jewish state of Israel." Funding for isolated settlements created a fracas in the weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday, as ministers sparred over adding several isolated settlements into the government's National Priority Areas map. ([Time of Israel](#) 7 August 2013)

- Israel approves plans for hundreds of residential units in West Bank settlements. Some 550 units in the settlements of Talmon, 60 in Alon Shvut and 38 in Kokhav Yaakov have been approved, out of a total 878; discussion of some of the plans had been postponed amid renewal of negotiations with the Palestinians. The Civil Administration, Israel's

highest civilian authority in the West Bank, approved construction plans on Wednesday for 878 housing units in isolated settlements across the territory. Discussion of some of the plans had initially been postponed following U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's announcement that diplomatic negotiations with the Palestinians would resume, but was brought back to the drawing table in recent days. Several plans that had already been approved in the past by the government came up for discussion in the Civil Administration Higher Planning Council, including validations for the construction of 95 new residential units in the settlement of Shiloh, on a site in a southern neighborhood that now holds chicken coops. Validation is the final stage necessary for approval in the planning council, paving the way for the construction and sale of the unit - pending approval by the Defense Ministry. The council also gave retroactive approval for the construction of 17 residential units in another area of Shiloh, where the Amana movement has already begun to build, apparently without permits. The High Court of Justice issued an interim injunction against the continuation of construction at the site, in response to a petition. A criminal investigation was then launched by the Judea and Samaria Police central investigative unit, but the state continued to push for building permission. Following the retroactive approval, the official documents will be available for public viewing and objections. Some 559 residential units were retroactively approved in the settlement of Talmon, 304 of them in the settlement's northern neighborhood of Zayit Raanan. There are about 30 buildings in that neighborhood at present, only 10 of them legally constructed. Now, according to the plan, the northern neighborhood is scheduled to become a spacious sub-division. Another 255 units were retroactively approved in Talmon, in the Nahalei Tal neighborhood where fields currently stand. In Kokhav Yaakov a plan for 38 residential units was retroactively approved, and on Kibbutz Gilgal in the Jordan Valley another 78 units have been added to the 156 already in place. In Almog, which is near the Dead Sea, 31 units were approved, and in Alon Shvut in Gush Etzion a plan for 60 units was advanced. ([Haaretz](#) 8 August 2013)

- Under pressure from settlers, Israel reinstates home buyer benefits. Buyers complained of travesty of being lured into buying in the periphery with broken promises. The government rescinded its decision to repeal benefits given to residents in the periphery only hours after the settlement movement Be'emunah petitioned the High Court of Justice against this repeal. The benefits will now be given until the end of October. The government decided last May to suspend these

benefits, amounting to as much as NIS 100,000 per purchaser, to buyers of apartments in 29 settlements located in outlying areas of the country, in an effort to balance the state budget. However, many of the affected buyers complained of an administrative travesty, considering they had purchased land based on the promised benefits. The new ultra-Orthodox city of Harish, near Hadera, was affected in particular. Buyers began formally opposing the government decision three months ago, culminating in the High Court petition on Wednesday. The petition, submitted by the law office of Jacob Weinroth, faulted the government's conduct in first taking money from buyers and then cancelling the promised benefits. In response, the Finance Minister extended the benefits to young couples purchasing their first home. The extension will be valid until October 21. This decision was reached through a meeting at the Treasury, which included representatives from the Ministry's budget division as well as the director general of the Housing Ministry, Shlomo Ben Eliyahu. Finance Ministry officials said the decision was made in order to minimize financial damage to home buyers in the periphery, who were entitled to and counted on a discount in the purchasing price. "They can now finalize the deal in a timely fashion," according to one such official. Housing and Construction Minister Uri Ariel supported the extension, saying that "collaboration between government ministries is fruitful. This is done to encourage people to move to these areas, without hurting people who have made initial payments based on these benefits." ([Haaretz](#) 9 August 2013)

- Israel to start building nearly 1,200 new units in West Bank and East Jerusalem. Both the Palestinians and the Americans knew in advance that Israel would release this latest announcement about construction and it is still unclear how this will affect the peace negotiations meeting planned for Wednesday in Jerusalem. Israel's Housing Ministry announced Sunday the marketing of land for the immediate construction of nearly 1,200 new units in Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem and the West Bank settlement blocs. About 793 residential units will be sold in the East Jerusalem neighborhoods beyond the Green Line, with 400 in the neighborhood of Gilo, 210 in Har Homa (Homat Shmuel), 92 in Ma'aleh Adumim and 183 in Pisgat Ze'ev. Another 394 units will be sold in West Bank settlement blocs, including 117 in Ariel, 149 in Efrat and 36 in Beitar Illit. Haaretz revealed two weeks ago that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had informed U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that in the coming months of negotiations with the Palestinians, Israel would restrict construction in the

settlements and limit it to 1,000 new units. Senior Israeli officials noted at the time that Israel would announce new construction parallel to the government's decision to release 104 Palestinian prisoners jailed before the Oslo Accords. The announcement regarding the units for sale comes just hours before the special ministerial committee will convene to select the names of the first 26 Palestinian prisoners to be released in the initial stage, which is expected to occur on Tuesday. Israeli and Palestinian Authority negotiating teams will meet the next day in Jerusalem to resume peace negotiations, accompanied by special U.S. envoy Martin Indyk. Both the Palestinians and the Americans knew in advance of Israel's latest construction plans. Shortly before the plans were announced, chief Palestinian negotiator ([Haaretz](#) 11 August 2013)

- Ministry of Interior Affairs Hearing on Temple Mount Prayer. Director for Religious Services hopes to grant religious sovereignty to all who wish to pray on the Temple Mount. The Ministry of Interior Affairs held a hearing on Sunday regarding Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount. The most recent conflict surrounding the Temple Mount has been the ban of all non-Muslims and religious prayers at the holy site. Many Jewish visitors protested against these restrictions, with hundreds of individuals attending prayers and vigils on August 7th outside of the Temple Mount, in order to demand the same privileges as Muslim visitors, who have unrestricted access to the site. Jewish visitors are subjected to severe restrictions while on the Temple Mount, including a total ban on conducting prayers or any other religious rituals, despite the site being the holiest place in Judaism. The ban on Jewish prayer has continued despite numerous court rulings that such restrictions are illegal. In response, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Religious Services, Moshe Dagan, stated: "As a regulator, the Ministry will work together with the Chief Rabbinate of Israel to avail prayer to all parties interested in worship." In another response, Ministry Director, Elhanan Glatt commented, "The Ministry of Religious Services attaches great importance to the establishment of regulations that make prayer available to all who wish to pray at designated holy sites." The director of Religious Services also noted that the Ministry is working in order to grant the Kotel HaKatan, the Small Western Wall, status as a holy site. ([Israel National News](#) 11 August 2013)
- Minister vows 'thousands more homes in Judea and Samaria'. Uri Ariel's remarks come at cornerstone-laying for new Jewish neighborhood in East Jerusalem. Housing Minister Uri Ariel (Habayit Hayehudi) declared on Sunday that "there are thousands of apartments ready for sale in Judea and Samaria, and they will be



marketed,” adding that this was “only the beginning.” Ariel spoke at a cornerstone-laying ceremony for a new Jewish neighborhood at the edge of the Palestinian village of Jabal Mukkaber in East Jerusalem. The neighborhood, planned to include some 63 housing units, will be constructed in the area between the village and Armon Hanatziv neighborhood, closer to the Palestinian village. Bemuna company is building the neighborhood, which will be marketed to the religious-Zionist public. Company owners have recently claimed that the permits for the neighborhood were stalled due to political pressure. A week ago, the final permits were issued and the construction is due to begin in the next few days. The ceremony took place only hours after the ministry announced that it plans to issue tenders for the construction of more than 1,000 housing units in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Also present at the ceremony were Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, Knesset Finance Committee chairman Nissan Slomiansky and prominent religious Zionist Rabbi Shlomo Aviner. “With God’s help we will continue building all the land of Israel and Jerusalem the capital,” Ariel said. “It must be made clear that this is only the beginning. This melody can’t be stopped. ... Do not be too impressed by the voices in the coalition. I can tell you that every single one of the leaders of Yesh Atid support construction in Jerusalem. ... We can and will market thousands of apartments in Jerusalem and there are more than 10,000 apartments ready for marketing in Judea and Samaria. You should all follow, encourage and pressure us to do so as soon as possible.” Said Barkat: “I hear complaints from people who have certain hardships with construction for Jews in certain neighborhoods, but we won’t discriminate against anybody, and certainly won’t discriminate against Jews anywhere in Jerusalem.” The mayor said the city issues building permits to all local groups, including Palestinians. Several demonstrators who arrived to protest the construction were cleared from the area of the ceremony. Among these was Deputy Mayor Yosef ‘Pepe’ Alalu (Meretz), who said, “I feel sorry for Barkat and Ariel, they build 63 homes and invite journalists. That shows weakness.” Alalu also challenged Barkat’s claim about issuing building permits to the city’s Palestinians, saying Palestinians seeking to build homes are stymied by bureaucracy. ([Haaretz](#) 12 August 2013)

- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told visiting German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle on Monday that the European Union's new guidelines on Israel's settlements in the West Bank undercut the freshly resumed peace process and strengthen the Palestinian position. In a meeting at the Prime Minister's Residence in Jerusalem, where he was recovering from a recent hernia operation, Netanyahu assured

Westerwelle that Israel was committed to peace and working actively toward achieving it. Nevertheless, he warned, the European Union's guidelines have prompted the Palestinians to demand impossible results. Netanyahu added that a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict could be achieved only through negotiations between the two sides, and not by the dictate of any external force. The European Union released its guidelines on settlements in late July, before U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced that direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations would resume for the first time in more than three years. The sides are expected to hold talks in Jerusalem on Wednesday night, a day after the prisoner release. The European Union's guidelines bar any of its agencies from funding entities connected to settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and residential areas in the Golan Heights. They also require that any agreement or contract signed by an EU country with Israel include a clause stating that the settlements are not part of the State of Israel and therefore are not part of the agreement. The guidelines will go into effect on January 1, 2014. ([Haaretz](#) 13 August 2013)

- Construction and Housing Minister Uri Ariel (Bayit Yehudi) said on Tuesday he would be ready to put on the market 1,000 new homes in the Kochav Yaakov settlement if given the green light to do so. “We are building and we will continue to build,” he said. “In the next few months, building will begin here on 200 new homes,” he said during a visit to the settlement, located in the Binyamin region of the West Bank, just outside of Jerusalem. “But what makes me even happier is that there is a potential here for over 1,000 homes that can be ready within a few months, with the finalization of planning and marketing,” he said. He spoke one day before the second round of direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, scheduled to be held Wednesday in Jerusalem. “On the eve of the talks, we have to say that thousands of homes will be built in Judea and Samaria in the next year,” said Ariel. “That is clear. I am sorry we are not building more, we will try to build more,” he said. In response to international pressure against Israel to stop building over the pre- 1967 lines, he said: “We won’t accept dictates on where we can build, there is no area where we will refrain from building.” On Wednesday, he said, he plans to visit Sde Dov in Tel Aviv, for an event that marks the release of land for thousands of new housing units. He pledged to work to solve the country’s housing crisis and reduce prices by building in all parts of the country, on both sides of the pre-1967 lines. Young people in every sector of society deserve housing, he said. Ariel said he had an obligation to build not just because he was a minister or a member of the Bayit Yehudi party, “but because I am Jew

in the Land of Israel.” “We do not need a permit to build in the Land of Israel,” he said. “We will build every place.” This will also include construction in the settlements of Karnei Shomron, Ariel and Kiryat Arba. He added that when it came to building, he saw no difference between land within and without the Green Line. In response to a question from the audience about whether he supported annexing Area C of the West Bank to Israel, he said it was an option that should be considered. His visit to Kochav Yaakov followed a trip he made on Monday to Jerusalem’s East Talpiot neighborhood, located over the pre-1967 lines, where he laid a cornerstone for a new 63-unit Jewish housing project. ([IPOST](#) 14 August 2013)

- Properties seized in East Jerusalem under the Absentees Property Law would not be returned to Palestinians with a security record or connection to hostile elements, under new procedures being drawn up by Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein’s office that were obtained by Haaretz. Moreover, such properties would only be returned to Palestinian owners after taking into account “the influence releasing the property would have given its location in the fabric of Jerusalem’s neighborhoods,” the proposed guidelines state. This would make it difficult for a Palestinian to get back his property if Jews had moved into the adjacent areas. These guidelines are a follow-up to a response Weinstein gave the Supreme Court two months ago, in which he stated that the Absentees Property Law could be used to seize properties in East Jerusalem. Under the Absentees Property Law – 1950, any person who lived in a hostile country, or in the area of “Eretz Yisrael” that was not under the State of Israel’s control, and owned property within the State of Israel, is considered an absentee owner and his property can be transferred to the Custodian of Absentee Property. The primary purpose of this law was to enable use of lands belonging to Arabs who fled during the War of Independence. After the Six-Day War, which extended the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem into what had been the West Bank, Palestinians with assets in Jerusalem suddenly found themselves considered “absentee” owners, even though they hadn’t gone anywhere. For example, the Ayad family of Abu Dis owned the Cliff Hotel, only 200 meters from their home. However, the municipal boundary of Jerusalem now runs right between their home and the hotel. As a result, in 2003 the Custodian declared it absentee property and confiscated the hotel for the state. Over the years, the issue of whether the law could be applied in East Jerusalem has gone both ways. As attorneys-general, both Meir Shamgar in 1968 and Menachem Mazuz in 2005 ruled that the law cannot be applied in East Jerusalem.



But between 1977-1992, when the Likud was in power, many properties were seized from their owners under the law. If these new guidelines are approved by the court, observers say, the government could apply the law in Jerusalem as forcefully as it was during the 1980s. The new guidelines, being prepared for a Supreme Court hearing scheduled for next month, sets the criteria for returning East Jerusalem property to its “absentee” Palestinian owners after it had been transferred to the Custodian of Absentee Property. A decision on returning the property would be made by a special committee headed by Ehud Praver, the Prime Minister’s Office official who heads the committee that formulated the plan to regulate Bedouin lands in the Negev. Lawyers involved with the issue say that the Absentees Property Law was never meant to punish people for security offenses. “As far as I know security issues were never a criteria under the Absentees Property Law,” said attorney Sami Ershied, who submitted one of the appeals the court is hearing. “I don’t think there’s a person on the West Bank who doesn’t have a connection to a hostile element, or that there’s a single family without a security prisoner or a wanted person.” The criteria are vaguely worded in a way that gives the authorities wide leeway to refuse to return a property. For example, the special committee must take into account “whether the property is required for public needs... including possible needs that have not yet been crystallized.” This contrasts with a regular expropriation procedure, in which owners are compensated when their property is taken for public needs. Another questionable criterion is the one that requires the committee to take the “fabric of the neighborhood” into account when deciding whether to seize or return a property. In many cases, properties in East Jerusalem taken by the Custodian were given to Jewish groups that settled families in them. This makes it doubtful that a seized building adjacent to a Jewish enclave will ever be returned. Danny Zeidman, who researches Israeli policies in East Jerusalem, says this criterion will allow Jewish settlement nuclei in Arab neighborhoods to grow. “The legal system is telling residents of East Jerusalem, ‘As far as your rights are concerned, you are a tolerated minority, and your rights hang in the balance. You are always suspect and your presence, your property rights, and your ability to express yourself are not assumed, but are a handout we give you.’” The Justice Ministry said in response: “The attorney general was asked to consider the issue and his decision will be brought before the court on the date set.” ([Haaretz](#) 14 August 2013)

- Netanyahu adviser: Evacuating settlements is a fantasy. The former cabinet secretary and long-time aide to the prime minister say the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be found through 'trial and error.' Zvi Hauser, one of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's closest and most trusted advisers, has told Haaretz that forcing 150,000 settlers to leave their homes in the West Bank is "a fantasy" and has warned that any government that agrees to do so risks polarizing Israeli society. In an expansive and exclusive interview, Hauser – whose four-year stint as cabinet secretary ended in May – said that the Jewish people's "connection to Judea and Samaria does not resemble the French ties to Algeria or the British ties to the Falkland Islands. We are talking about the formative territory of the Jewish people and of Jewish civilization, from which the State of Israel arose ... The time has come to understand that there will not be mass evacuation of settlers here, nor need there be," he added. And in the same week that the third Netanyahu government entered into renewed peace talks with the Palestinian Authority, Hauser said he believes that a solution to the conflict can only be found "within a framework of trial and error." "The situation, which is changing radically, necessitates long-term reversible interim agreements, which will oblige us to make wrenching decisions only if and when they prove themselves," he said. Hauser also has some implied criticism of the current American push for a final-status solution between Israel and the Palestinians, saying that it is "impossible to achieve a final-status agreement." On the issue of Iran, which Netanyahu sees as the main threat to the future and security of Israel, Hauser is slightly less alarmist than his former boss, but says that a nuclear-armed Islamic Republic would "put an end to any prospect of peace in the Middle East. With the revolving nuclear sword of Iran hovering above, no moderate Arab who is considering a compromise with us will go ahead." While Hauser has some critical words for Netanyahu, he still believes that the prime minister has handled the challenges of leadership with aplomb. Netanyahu "coped responsibly with a global economic crisis and with regional changes unprecedented for 100 years," he says. "The result was security stability, economic stability and political stability as well." ([Haaretz](#) 16 August 2013)
- Likelihood of Kedem Compound Plan Being Deposited for Public Review in Coming Weeks. On [August 12](#), handlings of the prerequisite conditions for deposit of the Kedem Compound plan were completed at the District Planning and Building Committee. The action constitutes a formal step signifying that all necessary documents have been prepared according to the planning regulations and that the conditions

the District Committee had set for deposit of the plan have now been fulfilled. This development signals that within 1-4 weeks, the plan is likely to be formally deposited for public review, which then sets off the 60 day period in which objections to the plan can be submitted before the decision on final approval of the plan is made. Recently, Ir Amim reported that on July 15th the District Committee agreed to modify the plan in order to include commercial areas. Now, less than a month later, and despite the recent commencement of peace negotiations, the plan has quickly been prepared for deposit. There is a limited period of time to act to halt the plan from being deposited. In the weeks since Secretary Kerry's announcement of the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Israel has announced the advancement of building plans and tenders for thousands of housing units beyond the Green Line. In East Jerusalem, the numbers amount to 1,744 housing units that have been promoted. The Kedem Compound is a key component of the Elad settler group's plan to consolidate Jewish control of areas surrounding the Old City. The compound's sensitive location in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan, next to the Old City and just meters from the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, will make deposit of the plan at this specific time a highly provocative act with the potential for extremely destructive impacts on the talks. (Ir-Amim 16 August 2013)

- 'West Bank military courts systematically deny Palestinians the right to a fair trial'. Military prosecution fails to meet legal requirements under Geneva Convention, says Col. Netanel Benishu, president of the military courts in the territories. The president of the military courts in the territories, Col. Netanel Benishu, has determined that the military prosecution does not meet its legal requirements to provide Palestinian defendants with the evidence against them in a "system-wide and systematic" way. This damages their right to a fair trial, said Benishu. Benishu, the new president of the military courts, heard the case of three Palestinians charged with attempted murder. They allegedly threw rocks at an Israeli car near the village of Hussan during Operation Pillar of Defense in November 2012, and as a result seriously injured Ziona Kala. The indictment against the three was filed in December 2012, but in May it turned out that part of the investigative material in the case, such as films, were not given to the defense. Also, only in May did the military prosecutor notify the defense that confidential evidence in the case would not be given to them. The defendants' lawyer appealed the decision to place the evidence under a secrecy order, claiming the late date it was done harmed the defense.

“There is great justice in the claim on the delay in invoking secrecy,” wrote the judge. He said the prosecution violated its duties to the defendants time after time. The failure was not just a one-time occurrence, but a systemic failure on the part of the entire military judicial system. He ordered the military prosecution to immediately formulate clear rules to provide a solution to meeting these commitments. Benishu also ruled that the prosecution’s actions violated Section 72 of the Geneva Convention, which deals with the rights of citizens to a fair trial in times of hostilities. But in the end Benishu denied the petition in all involved with the confidential material, and wrote in his decision that exposing the material would harm vital interests. Nonetheless, he ordered the prosecution to deliver the film from a security camera located near the event to the defense. This film was not included in the secret material. The IDF Spokesman’s Office said the military prosecution is studying the judge’s decision and will hold a discussion with the relevant bodies to examine the significance of the ruling. ([Haaretz](#) 16 August 2013)

- Bibi to Ban: Settlement is not the main issue. Prime minister says root of Israeli-Palestinian conflict is refusal to recognize Israel as Jewish state. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a meeting with UN chief Ban Ki-moon, who is visiting Israel, that the root of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the refusal to recognize the Jewish state "on any border" and has nothing to do with Israel's settlement enterprise. Netanyahu said he was looking forward to discussing regional issues with Ban, foremost Iran's attempts at obtaining a nuclear weapon and the Syrian civil war. The prime minister said it was important to discuss "the real issues" and not those that usually get more attention such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He remarked that until recently the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was commonly cited as the root of instability in the Middle East but that this was no longer applicable in the wake of unrest in the Arab and Muslim world. Addressing the Palestinian issue, the prime minister said that the conflict began before even one settlement was established. He noted that attacks against Israel continued despite the Gaza pullout and that this was because of a fundamental rejection of the Jewish state. He stressed that construction in areas such as Gilo or in settlement blocs, which he said everyone including the Palestinians knows would stay under Israeli sovereignty in a future agreement, should not be the main issue of discussion. The main issue should be how to achieve a demilitarized Palestinian state that will recognize the one and only Jewish state, according to Netanyahu. Earlier on Friday, Ban met with President

Shimon Peres and stated that negotiations were the best way to move towards a two-state solution. He said this was a critical moment for Israel. ([Ynetnews](#) 16 August 2013)

- Attorney general without justice. Weinstein is promoting 'jurisprudence without justice' that violates the rights of Palestinians in the service of Jewish settlements. With disappointing disregard for his role as protector of the rule of law, Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein has approved using the Absentee Property Law in East Jerusalem – a decision that enables the expropriation of property in the city from Palestinian residents of the territories. Applying the Absentee Property Law to East Jerusalem is part of an effort to Judaize Palestinian neighborhoods and creates an artificial separation between the West Bank and Jerusalem, and especially between them and the Palestinians who live in these areas. This effort has found expression in other ways as well, first and foremost the separation barrier. The law, which was problematic from the start, was applied after the War of Independence with the goal of enabling the state to appropriate the property of Palestinians who were living outside the state's borders, mainly in refugee camps, without any possibility of entering Israel. The attempt to apply it again following the Six-Day War, after some of the territory conquered in that war was annexed to Jerusalem, took place under completely different circumstances. The owners of these assets became "absentees" despite the fact that they never left their place of residence, and even though they lived outside the annexed territory, they still had access to their property. The attorney general at that time, Meir Shamgar, therefore ordered that the law not be exercised, on the grounds that applying it under these new circumstances would constitute unjustified eviction and violation of property rights. In a 2006 ruling, Judge Boaz Okon termed the attempt to apply this law "a legal trick not backed by any reality" and "a type of jurisprudence without justice." Supreme Court President Asher Grunis once asked why the law shouldn't also be applied to property inside Israel owned by settlers, since they too live outside the state's borders. Former Attorney General Menachem Mazuz also ordered that the law not be exercised. In addition, applying this law in territory that Israel annexed unilaterally after seizing it during wartime would violate international law, despite the fact that Israel has applied its laws to East Jerusalem. In contrast to his predecessor, who was scrupulous about upholding the rule of law, human rights and the public interest, Weinstein is promoting "jurisprudence without justice" that violates the rights of

Palestinians in the service of Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem that have taken over the property of these present “absentees.” He would do better to shelve this procedure, follow in the footsteps of his predecessor and refuse to apply the law. ([Haaretz](#) 16 August 2013)

- At the end of June 2013, some 4,827 Palestinian security detainees and prisoners were held in Israeli prisons, 409 of them from the Gaza Strip. An additional 1,267 Palestinians were held in Israel Prison Service facilities for being in Israel illegally, 24 of them from the Gaza Strip. The IPS considers these Palestinians – both detainees and prisoners – criminal offenders. A few dozen other are held in IDF facilities for short periods of time. ([B’Tselem](#) 17 August 2013)
- World Zionist Organization funneled NIS 400,000 into infrastructure work at illegal West Bank outpost. Organization’s settlement division denies it carries out illegal construction. The World Zionist Organization’s Settlement Division has financed NIS 400,000 worth of infrastructure work in the West Bank outpost of Negohot, even though the work was carried out without building permits. Negohot, located in the western Hebron Hills, was built on the ruins of an army outpost in 1998. Over the years, the Housing Ministry built permanent houses there, and another outpost, called Mitzpeh Lachish, was set up nearby. Together, these two outposts are home to some 50 families. But neither has ever had an approved master plan, and therefore, there is no way to issue legal building permits. Over the past two years, however, extensive infrastructure work has been done in Negohot, including construction of sidewalks and supporting walls, and upgrades of the water and sewage systems. Documents obtained by Haaretz show that the work was carried out by the Mount Hebron Regional Council, but some of the funding came from the WZO’s Settlement Division. The Settlement Division functions as the state’s agent for building new communities and strengthening existing ones, both inside Israel and in the West Bank. Its budget comes from the state, and as Haaretz has previously reported, this budget grows every year. In 2012, it was originally supposed to be NIS 60 million, but had risen to NIS 272 million by the end of the year. A report on unauthorized West Bank outposts that the state commissioned from attorney Talia Sasson in 2005 found serious flaws in the Settlement Division’s conduct. Inter alia, it found that the division regularly funded illegal construction in many locales. In response to Sasson’s report, then-Attorney General Menachem Mazuz issued orders barring the use of public funds for illegal construction. Those orders applied to all public bodies and explicitly defined legal construction as construction carried out in



accordance with a valid master plan. In addition, the Finance Ministry assigned an accountant to the Settlement Division to monitor its conduct. The accountant is subordinate to the treasury's accountant general, and his task is to ensure that the division's financial conduct complies with Israeli law. Since then, violations of the rules like what happened at Negohot have become rare. The Settlement Division confirmed that it helped Negohot upgrade its water and sewage system and build sidewalks and supporting walls to the tune of NIS 400,000 last year. It also acknowledged that Negohot doesn't yet have an approved master plan. Nevertheless, it said in a statement, "regrettably, this isn't the only community, either in Judea and Samaria [the West Bank] or within the State of Israel ("the Green Line"), which doesn't have a valid master plan, for various reasons. To our great regret, these are claims that have also been made in the past regarding the legality of building in Judea and Samaria, inter alia in Talia Sasson's report, and they received a detailed response, including a list of communities within the State of Israel that lack a valid master plan (the most famous of these, until recently, was Kfar Malal, the birthplace of former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon), and were also addressed in the Levy Report." The Levy Report, issued last year by a panel of jurists headed by former Supreme Court justice Edmond Levy, asserted Israel's right to build throughout the West Bank. "All Settlement Division work that requires permits is carried out in accordance with permits in principle issued by the planning committees, as per their authority," the division's statement continued. "Execution of the work, whether directly by the Settlement Division or with its budgetary participation, goes through a tender process in the tenders committee in accordance with financial and administrative regulations. All work is done transparently, in broad daylight — a fact that cannot be denied." "The claim that the Settlement Division has ostensibly resumed financing illegal construction is an outrageous claim," the statement concluded. "The Settlement Division, as stated above, has not financed and does not finance any illegal construction." ([Haaretz](#) 19 August 2013)

- IDF removes roadblock to Palestinian villages – twice. Vandals, believed to be settlers from the illegal Israeli outpost of Mitzpeh Yair, use rocks and tires to block access road, throw animal carcass into Palestinian water cistern. Israel Defense Forces troops were dispatched twice on Sunday to remove roadblocks that were set up in an attempt to thwart access to four Palestinian villages in the southern Hebron Hills. Residents of the villages discovered the roadblock around 10

A.M. Sunday, between a dirt path leading to the villages and an asphalt road leading to the illegal Israeli outpost of Mitzpeh Yair. At 6 P.M., roughly three hours after an army bulldozer removed the barrier, a group of Israeli men wearing skullcaps replaced the roadblock using rocks and tires, as soldiers and police officers looked on. At around 8 P.M., the soldiers once again removed the roadblock -- this time with their bare hands. Three of the villages that were blocked (Jinba, Al-Markaz and Halawa) are among eight villages inside Firing Zone 918, which the IDF intends to evacuate and demolish to make way for a live-fire training area. The High Court of Justice is expected to rule on the inhabitants' petitions against the forcible evacuations in September. The fourth village, Bir el-Eid, is closest to the Mitzpeh Yair outpost. When the roadblock was discovered Sunday morning, Bir el-Eid residents also noticed that the water cistern that provides drinking water for them and their flocks had been polluted and reeked of a foul odor. They believe vandals threw an animal carcass into the reservoir, which the army later confirmed to Haaretz. Activists from Ta'ayush, an Arab-Jewish rights group, and Rabbis for Human Rights notified the army about the roadblocks. An army bulldozer arrived more than five hours later to reopen the path. Meanwhile, activists from the International Solidarity Movement who came to the village Sunday evening to record the residents' testimony said they encountered a group of Israelis erecting a new roadblock of rocks and tires, in the same area connecting the dirt path to the asphalt road. (The Civil Administration has prohibited residents from paving the dirt path and even issued an injunction to stop work after residents began clearing the rocky ground.) The activists saw a white civilian car whose passengers were uniformed and watched what went on without interfering. Afterward, an army jeep appeared; soldiers got out, approached the Israelis who were constructing the roadblock, shook their hands and spoke with them, while more Israeli civilians arrived (there were about a dozen in all). Then at 7 P.M., a police car appeared and the officers also spoke for about half an hour with the Israelis building the roadblock. Activists said they got the impression the police were negotiating with the Israelis. At about 7:30 P.M., the Israelis left the path they had blocked and began walking toward Mitzpeh Yair, and the police officers left as well. When the Palestinians wanted to remove the roadblock on their own, the remaining soldiers stopped them, telling them the army bulldozer would arrive in about an hour and reopen the road. But the bulldozer never came, and the activists saw the soldiers removing the rocks and tires themselves. The IDF Spokesperson's Unit confirmed to Haaretz that the access path had



been blocked twice and reopened by soldiers, and that an animal carcass had been found in Bir el-Eid's water cistern. Residents of Bir el-Eid have documented several incidents in which their water cisterns were polluted and their water pipes broken. In the early 2000s, the residents were forced to leave the caves where they lived because of traffic and construction restrictions and attacks by settlers. They returned after a legal battle backed by Rabbis for Human Rights and Ta'ayush. ([Haaretz](#) 19 August 2013)

- Netanyahu irate over Livni's move to draft alternative to Jewish State Law. Justice Minister commissions legal scholar Prof. Ruth Gavison to draft an alternative to the controversial 'Jewish State Law,' attempting to find a balance between Israel's definition as both a Jewish state and democratic state. Justice Minister Tzipi Livni has appointed Prof. Ruth Gavison to formulate an alternative version to the "Jewish State Law" which is being proposed by Likud-Beiteinu and Habayit Hayehudi in the Knesset. The controversial bill has recently been introduced by coalition whip MK Yariv Levin and by the head of Habayit Hayehudi's Knesset faction MK Ayelet Shaked. The bill, labeled the Jewish State Law by the media, proposes to legally define a predominance of the country's Jewish identity over and above its democratic one, particularly with regard to future judicial rulings. The proposed bill is a softer version of one which was prepared in the previous Knesset by former Kadima MK Avi Dichter. Livni's appointment of Gavison is an attempt to find a balance between defining Israel as a Jewish state and and a democratic one. In her letter to Gavison, Livni wrote that "the time has come to find a constitutional definition to the character of Israel as both a Jewish and a democratic country and to consolidate its identity components in a manner which will find a balance between the two." Gavison accepted the appointment, saying that she will "strive to achieve such a balance, based on the principles that were outlined in Israel's Declaration of Independence. I will examine the bills now being considered by the Knesset and will consult with all relevant parties. After the formulation of a preliminary proposal, it will be sent to the justice minister and presented to the public for debate, as necessary." Livni's announcement also conveyed that the move was welcomed by Prime Minister Netanyahu. ([Haaretz](#) 20 August 2013)
- High Court to debate on Amona outpost. Yesh Din petition High Court asking to overrule A-G decision not to demolish 30 of the 40 homes in the settlement. The High Court of Justice is set to debate the fate of 30 homes in the Amona outpost on Tuesday afternoon in Jerusalem. In July it appeared as if attempts to demolish the West Bank outpost had

been thwarted, when the High Court ruled that homes on contested outpost land could remain where they were until the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court adjudicated conflicting property claims between settlers and Palestinians. Attorney-General Yehuda Weinstein then stated that his interpretation of the High Court ruling was that only one home and a portion of the access road to the outpost needed to be removed by July 24. Amona residents have adhered to this ruling. But the NGO Yesh Din petitioned the High Court against Weinstein, arguing he should be held in contempt of court – charging he had circumvented the ruling for political reasons. Yesh Din believes the ruling should be interpreted to mean that 30 of the 40 Amona homes should be demolished. The NGO petitioned the High Court against the Amona outpost in 2008 on behalf of the Palestinian landowners on whose property the outpost was built in 1995. The High Court had initially ruled that the outpost should be demolished by July 15. But it amended its ruling in July after settlers claimed to have purchased some of the property. But the language of the July ruling was vague and has allowed for a dispute in its interpretation. The High Court ruling did not state how many homes were on the contested lots and how many were on uncontested lots, considered to be private Palestinian property. The court simply stated that structures on uncontested lots should be removed, and those structures on contested lots against which there were purchase claims could remain – pending the Magistrate's Court ruling. Yesh Din has now brought the matter back to the High Court. Amona is located in the Binyamin region of the West Bank, on the outskirts of the Ofra settlement. According to the 2005 government-sponsored report on West Bank outposts by private attorney Talia Sasson, the outpost was built on private Palestinian property without the necessary permits. The Construction and Housing Ministry spent NIS 2.16 million on infrastructure for Amona, according to Sasson. ([IPOST](#) 20 August 2013)

- Shelah defies Yesh Atid platform: Jerusalem will be Palestinian capital. Yesh Atid faction leader's comments defy not only party platform, but also Lapid's explicit statements during election campaign. Yesh Atid's leadership sent mixed messages about its platform on Jerusalem, after faction leader Ofer Shelah said the city is likely to be capital of a Palestinian state, while Finance Minister Yair Lapid stated the opposite when campaigning ahead of this year's election. The Yesh Atid platform says "Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel and its unity is a national symbol of the utmost importance. Jerusalem will stay united and under Israeli sovereignty. Jerusalem is not just a place or a city, but

the center of the Jewish-Israeli ethos and the holy place on which Jewish people set their sights in every generation." Speaking at a Peace Now conference in Tel Aviv Monday night, Shelah sang a decidedly different tune: "I don't see a possible agreement with the Palestinians in which they will not be able to call east Jerusalem their capital, just like I don't see a possible agreement that isn't based on '67 borders." "The solution in Jerusalem will be very complex. It will be one of words and of actions," Shelah added. "We cannot just build a wall and say 'this is ours and this is yours.'" Shelah, a former television and print journalist, never hid his opinions, which put him at the far left in the spectrum of opinions within Yesh Atid. Last week, he wrote on Facebook "the occupation must end not because of the world's demands, but for the good of our worthy existence here and due to the rising price we have to pay for it every day." Still, the Yesh Atid faction leader's opinions defy not only the party platform but its leader's explicit statements during the party's election campaign. During an event in the major settlement Ariel last October, in which Lapid presented his diplomatic position, he promised not to divide the capital. "The Palestinians will have to understand that we have iron principles that we will not break," Lapid stated. "The return to Zion wasn't to the Azrieli Towers; it was to the Tower of David. The heart of Jerusalem is also the heart of the State of Israel." ([IPOST](#) 20 August 2013)

- Much of Amona outpost built on cultivated Palestinian land, Civil Administration says. Findings contradict West Bank settlers' claim site was unused rocky hilltop before they came in 1996. Most of the land where the northern West Bank outpost of Amona now stands were worked by Palestinians before the outpost went up in 1996, according to a Civil Administration document. The document contradicts the settlers' claim that the site was a rocky hilltop before they moved there. Amona, one of the first outposts, was built near the settlement of Ofra, entirely on private land registered to Palestinians from the nearby village of Silwad. In 2006, the state demolished six structures at the outpost and recently, following a petition to the High Court of Justice by landowners, the settlers demolished another house on their own. Over the years the settlers have claimed that there had been nothing there before they came. That is the narrative of a film made about the site, "Amona, the whole story." However, it turns out that not only was the land privately owned by Palestinians, it had also been cultivated. In a case now before the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, landowners are claiming, through the human rights group Yesh Din and attorneys Michael Sfard and Shlomi Zacharia, that the state must

compensate them for its failure to evacuate the outpost. As part of its case, the state this month submitted the opinion of the Civil Administration's real estate appraiser Raphael Marciano and another official involved in monitoring land use in the West Bank, Gilad Pelman. After examining aerial photographs from 1985, the two discovered that 27 percent of the central lot on the site, lot 96, which measures 36 dunams (about 9 acres) was cultivated in 1996 when the outpost was founded. In lot 93, measuring 24 dunams (some 6 acres), 82 percent was under cultivation. In lot 110, a small lot in which a structure was demolished last month because it had been built on private land, 68 percent was under cultivation. Lot 118, measuring 71 dunams (almost 18 acres) was found not to have been cultivated. Marciano has calculated that compensation should be in the amount of NIS 185 per year per cultivated dunam, and NIS 110 per year per dunam. The plaintiffs say they should receive a much higher amount. Meanwhile, another hearing about Amona was held in the High Court on Wednesday. In 2008, landowners and Yesh Din petitioned the court asking for the evacuation of the entire outpost. But because the settlers had purchased part of the land only two lots were evacuated, while 30 structures on private land that is not claimed to have been purchased were not evacuated. On Wednesday, attorneys Sfard and Zacharia told the High Court that the state had shown contempt of court by not evacuating everything that had been built on private land. Justice Esther Hayut, who was critical of the state's position, said: "You cannot assume that what you are asking, and about which no decision has been rendered, is the given state of affairs." The state's representative, head of the Justice Ministry's High Court Petitions Department, Osnat Mandel, said the demand to evacuate additional land must come from additional petitioners. ([Haaretz](#) 22 August 2013)

- Jerusalem city council hopeful's campaign platform: Get Arabs out of our parks. Right-wing activist Aryeh King wants to improve cleanliness and quality of life services in Jerusalem's periphery neighborhoods, and is playing up the race card to appeal to his voters. Right-wing activist Aryeh King is playing the race card in his campaign for Jerusalem city council, promising to clean the capital's parks of Arabs and lower the volume on the muezzins, The slogans on his campaign posters read along the lines of "Are you afraid in the park?" and "Muezzin cackling?" King, whose primary endeavor in recent years has been purchasing land settling Jews in Palestinian neighborhoods of East Jerusalem, has created a candidate list named the "seam neighborhood list," which focuses on Jerusalem's periphery

neighborhoods. Aside from making calls to improve cleanliness and quality of life services in these neighborhoods, King also wants to deal to the "problem" of Arabs in the western part of the city. "The problem of Arabs in parks is a problem that spans beyond the seam neighborhoods," King said to Haaretz. "It starts with the fact that the government and the municipality did not invest in East Jerusalem like they did in West Jerusalem. The Arabs have no choice but to go west to the parks. The result is that many families stay away from the parks. I have no problem with his, I live with Arabs, but many Jews do have a problem with it, and that's understandable," continued King. According to King, part of the problem is the prohibition on drinking alcohol and socializing with women within the Arab community. "The Jews have alternatives and the Arabs don't, so they come and do it in parks on the western side of the city. It's no secret that there are abandoned parks in Neve Ya'akov, Pisgat Ze'ev, and Gilo. They're abandoned because of the Arabs from the nearby neighborhoods." The solution, King says, is to lock all parks at night, save for one in each neighborhood, which would be equipped with security cameras and lighting. "This will be the best for everyone. If an Arab wants to come, he can, but he will know that the days of terrorizing Jewish girls in the park are over." Another problematic phenomenon that King has identified is the increasing volume of the muezzins in Palestinian neighborhoods. "It's a problem that causes suffering for everyone, both Arabs and Jew. It cannot be that people are woken up at 4:30 in the morning because the muezzin decided to turn up the volume," said King. King is known for his ties to the millionaire Irving Moskowitz, who funds much of King's land purchases and settlements in East Jerusalem. In the last Knesset election, King was number four on the Otzma Leyisrael ticket. King is very critical of current Jerusalem mayor Nir Barkat, who he claims is "Jerusalem's most left-wing mayor." This statement earned King some praise from Moshe Leon, who is competing against Barkat in the mayoral race. "Aryeh King is a patriot, both local and national," read a statement from Leon's staff. Through King, Leon's campaign is hoping to overcome Barkat's apparent advantage with the religious community, which is likely to be the deciding factor in the election. Leon has also joined King's calls for preserving resident's safety, "we see King as a partner in a future coalition." "The time has come to bring safety back neighborhoods," read a statement from Leon's campaign. At the same time, however, King has not been quick to endorse Leon, and is himself considering a run at the mayor's office. "That's what's called a bear hug," said King regarding Leon's statement. "If I'm convinced that the Haredim

support Leon, I'll pitch in and support Leon, in order to get the left-winger out of the mayor's office, and if the Haredim support me, I expect Leon to support me, too." ([Haaretz](#) 22 August 2013)

- Abuse and torture in interrogations of dozens of Palestinian minors in the Israel Police Etzion Facility. Since November 2009, B'Tselem has received testimonies from dozens of Palestinian residents of the Bethlehem and Hebron districts, most of them minors, alleging that they were subjected to threats and violence, sometimes amounting to torture, during their interrogation at the police station at Gush Etzion. The station is located within the jurisdiction of the SHAI (Judea and Samaria) District of the Israel Police. The testimonies describe interrogations in which the minors were forced to confess to alleged offenses, mostly stone-throwing. In almost all cases, the interrogators stopped using violence against the interrogatees once they confessed. The right of every person not to be subjected to ill-treatment or torture (whether physical or mental) is one of the few human rights that are considered absolute. As an absolute right, it may never be "balanced" against other rights and values, nor suspended or limited, even in difficult circumstances such as war or fighting terrorism. This right now holds the highest and most binding status in international law. A confession obtained through violation of this right can certainly not serve as the basis for a conviction. The interrogator made me go into a room. He grabbed my head and started banging it against the wall. Then he punched me, slapped me and kicked my legs. The pain was immense, and I felt like I couldn't stand any longer. Then he started swearing at me. He said filthy things about me and about my mother. He threatened to rape me, or perform sexual acts on me, if I didn't confess to throwing stones. His threats really scared me, because he was very cruel and it was just the two of us in the room. I remembered what I'd seen on the news, when British and American soldiers raped and took photos of naked Iraqis (from the testimony of M.H., resident of Husan, 14 at the time of his arrest). In November 2009, B'Tselem began receiving reports of violence against Palestinian minors during interrogation at the Etzion police station. Until July 2013, B'Tselem field researchers collected 64 testimonies from residents of eight communities in the southern West Bank who reported such incidents. Fifty-six of them were minors at the time of their interrogation. The testimonies described severe physical violence during the interrogation or preliminary questioning, which, in some cases, amounted to torture. The violence included slaps, punches and kicks to all parts of the body,



and blows with objects, such as a gun or a stick. ([B'Tselem](#) 22 August 2013)

- According to State procedures, new settlements can be constructed only after granted government approval. A new West bank neighborhood, Leshem, currently under construction, is theoretically a part of an existing settlement – Alei Zahav – but is marketed as a separate community, with its own board, separately issued tenders, and administrative personnel. "We are inaugurating a new community today," Housing Minister Uri Ariel said at the inauguration of the new residential complex Leshem. Formally, it's part of an existing settlement, but will function as a separate community for all intents and purposes, and we shouldn't be afraid to say it." Last week, the first families moved into their houses in the new neighborhood. "There is no way, during any negotiations that we will not build in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, the Jordan Valley and all the land of Israel. Today, we are inaugurating a new community." Deputy Transport Minister Tzipi Hotovely added: "It doesn't matter if this is a settlement or a neighborhood, as long as we build more houses. It is at this time of negotiating that it is most important that more neighborhoods or settlements be built and that the Palestinians are sent a message that Israeli settlement is here to stay." Gershon Mesika, head of the Shomron Regional Council, said in the inauguration ceremony: "I'm telling John Kerry... you can talk and do whatever you want. We will stay here and build on all the hills around." Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office MK Ofir Akunis who also attended the ceremony said: "There is a negotiation with the Palestinians, but that doesn't stop anyone from building a home in the land of Israel. Here we say that a Palestinian state will not be formed. Who needs another Arab country in this region?" ([Ynetnews](#) 25 August 2013)
- Housing Minister Ariel: Two-state solution is unrealistic, will never happen. Ariel vows building won't be confined within "Auschwitz borders". A two-state solution is an unrealistic resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Housing and Construction Minister Uri Ariel said on Sunday evening as he helped dedicate two new neighborhoods of 160 homes in the West Bank settlement of Kedumim. "Those who are here understand why the vision of two states is unrealistic and will never happen. Those who think they can force us to build only within the Auschwitz borders are wrong," Ariel said. "I suggest that one should look for those big criminals against humanity somewhere else," he said. "They won't be found here, they are elsewhere in the Middle East," he added. He also helped celebrate the construction of a new neighborhood called Leshem of 300 homes in the Alei Zahav

settlement, of which 100 have been built. "I will say very clearly that I am here to build you an apartment, and we are doing this everywhere in Israel. We are building 300 homes in Leshem just like we are building thousands in Rosh Ha'ayin. We are building in Kedumim like we are building in Kiryat Gat and in Modi'in. We are building in Jerusalem like we are building in the Galilee," Ariel said. Building new homes is a Zionist and economic solution to the high cost of housing, he said. ([IPOST](#) 26 August 2013)

- Jerusalem demolishes Palestinian home, family forced to move into a cave. Family says it plans to set up large tent, and is threatening to block the road that crosses the village. Jerusalem municipal bulldozers demolished the home of the Zir family of Silwan last week before the courts ruled on the issue. Left homeless, the family has moved into a cave. Khaled Zir, a Silwan resident and father of five children, the smallest of them four months old, lived for the past seven years in a 60-square meter home made of drywall and tin. The home was built on an open area owned by the family in the heart of the East Jerusalem neighborhood. The Zirs built around their home a dovecote, a small chicken coop and planted a grove. Half a year ago, Zir received an administrative order from the city to demolish his home because his family's land is zoned as open area within the national park surrounding the walls of the Old City. His lawyer, Sammy Arshid, appealed to the city to cancel the order, which he claimed to be illegal. "My client claims someone who is not authorized to order the destruction of buildings issued the announcements," wrote Arshid. Although the city did not respond to Arshid regarding the rejections and in contradiction of the guideline not to carry out a demolition order as long as an objection stands, bulldozers arrived last week to carry out the order. Under the cover of inspectors from the municipality and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and backed by a large police force, the bulldozers demolished the home, dovecot and coop. Zir has been busy ever since trying to rebuild. Using plywood and aluminum frames, he built some walls and a door at the opening of an ancient cave. The cave had served as a horse stable until a week ago. Zir furnished the cave minimally to make it livable, and moved in with some of his children, while others stay with relatives. The cave, which borders the Zir's plot, is of the kind used for human habitation in the 19th century, when Jews and Arabs both moved into Silwan. Zir's grandparents lived in the cave, and his father was born in it. "I have no choice where to live," says Zir. "At least here there's good air." Zir says he plans to set up a large tent and is even threatening to block



the road that crosses the village with his tent in protest at his home's destruction. "I went to get a license. They told me its green space — you can't put one brick there. Where am I to go with small children?" he says. His horse, meanwhile, has found a home in another smaller cave, next to the roosters. The doves are still bunched up in shock on the rock bordering their old dovecote. For now, they aren't prepared to enter the new dovecote, which was quickly built to protect them. "We filed the objections to the city. The city hasn't replied to the objections to this day, and without any prior warning they came and destroyed it," says Arshid. "It's clear that the desire to kick out more and more people from their homes and from Silwan is what stands behind the city's action." The Jerusalem municipality commented: "The objection came in February, and half a year passed since then. The objection doesn't delay carrying out [the demolition], and since it was filed nothing was filed to the court, and the petitioner didn't turn to the municipal prosecutor or the municipal supervisor on the matter, so the announcements regarding the evacuation were valid and the evacuation and cleanup conducted by the force was legal. "Likewise, let it be emphasized that there wasn't a destruction of structures in the place. The city, in partnership with the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, evacuated from the place a number of tin shacks, which were found in the middle of land designated for a national park in which it is prohibited to build residential buildings." ([Haaretz](#) 27 August 2013)

- Military force that killed three Palestinians stayed in Qalandiya Camp until almost 7am. B'Tselem's field researchers have begun investigating the incident that took place this morning (26 August) in which three Palestinians – Rubin Zayed, Yunes Jahjuh and Jihad Aslan – were killed by Israeli security forces' fire in Qalandiya Refugee Camp, and almost twenty others were injured. According to B'Tselem's initial investigation, as well as media reports, Israeli security forces comprising soldiers and Border Police entered the refugee camp at approximately 6:00 A.M. today with the intention of arresting a Palestinian recently released from Israeli prison. Residents of the camp responded by throwing stones and other objects at the force that was carrying out the arrest itself – some ten Border Police officers – following which soldiers arrived in four armored jeeps in order to escort the force out of the camp, and fired live ammunition. Over the years, B'Tselem has documented various incidents in which Israeli military forces entering a Palestinian refugee camp were met with massive stone-throwing and responded with fatal fire. One of them occurred in Qalandiya Refugee Camp itself, some two years ago:

On 1 August 2011, soldiers entered the camp in the middle of the night on an arrest mission and were met with stone-throwing by residents; at the end of the mission, the force opened fire, killing two residents – Mu'atasem 'Adwan and 'Ali Khalifah – and injuring a third. B'Tselem's initial investigation indicates that several recent arrest operations in Qalandiya Refugee Camp have ended with stone-throwing by residents, to which the soldiers responded by using crowd control weapons, which did not lead to injury. At this early stage, it appears that the stone-throwing was more massive today as the security forces remained in the camp until around 6:45 A.M., a busy hour on the street as the Palestinian school year started yesterday. Past experience shows that whenever Israeli security forces enter a densely-populated Palestinian residential area, they are exposed to stone-throwing and to a potential threat to their lives – a predictable situation that must surely be known to the command ranks. Indeed, Israeli daily Ha'aretz quoted a military official today as saying that "in recent months, not a single arrest has occurred without the residents responding – whether it's youths coming out of their houses and throwing stones at the forces, or the use of live fire". Given that commanders are well aware of the danger inherent to these situations, such missions should not end with the killing of three civilians. Today's harsh consequences cast doubt on their judgment in ordering the mission, and on the degree to which the force was prepared in advance. There is also room for grave suspicion that not all possible measures were taken to prevent this result, including the consideration of alternative modes of operation, and that the forces made excessive use of lethal weapons. An investigation into the incident must be opened immediately in order to examine these issues, and particularly the command's decision to carry out the arrest in this manner, and the question whether they forces prepared in advance for the mission in a way that could have prevented the use of lethal arms. B'Tselem has written to the Military Advocate for Operational Matters and to the SHAI [Judea and Samaria] District Police, which is in charge of investigating suspected breaches of shooting protocol by Border Police, demanding that an investigation be opened. Additionally, the military must take action to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, such as establishing clear procedures for arrest missions and for the entry of army forces into densely-populated residential areas. ([B'Tselem](#) 27 August 2013)

- Samaria's 'Foreign Ministry' Hosts Rep. Dave Reichert. As part of the Shomron Regional Council's efforts to reach out to U.S. lawmakers, Rep. Dave Reichert was in Israel. Dave Reichert, the U.S. Representative for Washington's 8th congressional district, was in

Israel on Monday for a meeting with leaders of the Shomron (Samaria) Regional Council. The meeting with Reichert was part of an effort by the Shomron Regional Council, which has established its own Foreign Ministry after realizing that other groups were not going to take the lead in promoting Israeli communities in the region. The heads of the Council have been meeting with U.S. lawmakers and explaining to them the importance of keeping Judea and Samaria under Israeli control. This initiative has become all the more important as peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority were renewed several weeks ago. During his visit to Israel, Reichert met with Shomron Regional Council head Gershon Mesika, his deputy Yossi Dagan and with Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon (Likud). Danon told his guest: "Just as the State of Israel is a line of defense to the United States, so are the communities in Judea and Samaria a defense line to the State of Israel." Mesika gave Reichert a review of the communities in Judea and Samaria and noted, "Hundreds of thousands people reside in Judea and Samaria, and Samaria is the heart of the country. This is not the West Bank, but Judea and Samaria. This is our homeland." Following the meeting, Reichert said, "We have just had an excellent meeting, discussing the peace process and also the safety and security of the people of Israel." "We really want to show the support that we have for the people of Israel," he added, noting that he will present a personal statement upon his return to the United States. ([Israel National News](#) 27 August 2013)

- Minister Ariel Launches New Neighborhood in Karnei Shomron. "Every neighborhood being built in Samaria helps lower housing prices. I am committed to building," says Housing Minister. Housing Minister Uri Ariel (Bayit Yehudi) took part on Wednesday in a ceremony marking the start of construction of Ganey Shemer, a new neighborhood in the Samaria community of Karnei Shomron. The new neighborhood contains 96 homes and it is part of "Karnei Shomron 2020" - a program put together by the Karnei Shomron Local Council in order to turn Karnei Shomron and surrounding communities into another "settlement bloc." Minister Ariel said at the ceremony that "every neighborhood being built in Samaria reduces the real estate crisis in the Dan region, and each house built in the Binyamin region contributes to the security of the Sharon region." "I, as Housing Minister, am committed to building throughout the country - in the Galilee, in Judea and Samaria, in the Negev and in the Golan Heights, thus lowering the housing prices and strengthening the Zionist enterprise." The head of the Karnei Shomron Local Council, Herzl Ben-Ari, said at the ceremony that the new neighborhood is "the first link in

the Karnei Shomron 2020 program, and is our answer to the futile talks between Tzipi Livni and [Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud] Abbas.” “Ganey Shemer in Karnei Shomron is our contribution to the national effort to lower housing prices,” he added. “I call on the residents of Gush Dan: Come live in Karnei Shomron. There is affordable housing combined with quality of life and community values.” Earlier this week, Ariel attended a dedication ceremony for a new neighborhood called Leshem in the community of Aley Zahav. During that ceremony he declared that Israel will continue to build Jewish homes in Judea and Samaria, even as peace talks with the Palestinian Authority continue. “Today we are placing another brick in Israel. I say in the clearest voice that I’m here to build you an apartment. And we do this everywhere in the country,” stated Ariel. “We’re building 300 units in Leshem just as we are building thousands of apartments in Rosh Haayin. We build in Kedumim just as we build in Kiryat Gat and in Modi’in. We build in Jerusalem just as we build in the Galilee.” Those comments raised the ire of extreme leftist organization Gush Shalom, which responded by saying that Ariel is a provocateur. Likud MKs who spoke to *Arutz Sheva* during Sunday’s ceremony said that building Jewish homes in Judea and Samaria is not an obstacle to peace and that Israeli construction must go on in these regions despite the peace process. Despite having been informed of the Israeli building prior to the latest round of talks, and despite the fact that the construction will take place in areas which even the PA has accepted in previous negotiations will be within Israeli borders, Palestinian Authority officials and their supporters have expressed outrage at Israeli plans to build. ([Israel National News](#) 29 August 2013)

- Supreme Court rejects appeal of east Jerusalem family to remain in their home. Israel Land Fund will evict Shamasna family after years of legal battles; permitted to stay until elderly deceased. The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected the high profile appeal of the Shamasna family, opening the way for the Israel Land Fund to the evict the family from its Sheikh Jarrah residence after years of legal battles. The court gave the family 18 months to find a new residence. The ruling followed a May 21 hearing in which the court failed to convince the sides to accept a compromise in which the Fund’s rights as owner would be recognized, but the Shamasna family would be permitted to stay in the residence until the elderly Shamasna’s, who claim to have lived there since 1964, were deceased. The Shmasna’s appeal arose from a 2012 Jerusalem District Court decision to evict the east Jerusalem Arab family from Beit Merivah in Sheikh Jarrah. The

seemingly simple ownership lawsuit for the Shamasna family, filed in 2009, has been one of the front0line battles between groups of Arabs and Jews over the future character and identity of the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. The court did not go into serious depth analyzing the argument, essentially using a procedural argument to disqualify the case. It noted that since the appeal was actually a second round appeal (an appeal from the district court which was already an appeal from the lower magistrate’s court), the Supreme Court did not need to seriously analyze the issues unless there was some obvious and glaring error by the lower courts. Since the Supreme Court did not see any glaring errors, it would not specifically address each argument. The 18 month delay was framed as a humanitarian gesture of sorts, beyond the requirements of the law. ([JPOST](#) 29 August 2013)

- CBS: Settler housing starts up by 141.5% this year. 75% of construction cases were in the five largest settlements; work began on 1,461 homes during the first six months of 2013. The number of settler housing starts in the West Bank skyrocketed by 141.5 percent in the first half of 2013, compared to the same period last year, according to Central Bureau of Statistics data released on Thursday. The jump from last year is so great that the work that began on 1,461 homes during the first six months of 2013 has surpassed the 1,089 starts registered by CBS for all of 2012. However, housing starts throughout the country including the West Bank dropped by 5.9% in the first half of 2013, when compared with the same period in 2012, according to CBS. The report of increased construction in settlements comes in the midst of renewed peace negotiations – aimed at making a deal within nine months – between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. But the time period in which the spike occurred, pre-dates the renewed peace process which began at the end of July. Palestinians have argued that continued building in the settlements jeopardizes the peace process. Israel, in turn, has insisted that settlement building could continue during the peace talks and that such construction has nothing to do with negotiations. The bulk of the building occurs in settlement blocs that, it expects, would remain part of Israel in any final-status agreement. Israel has refused so far to freeze any kind of settlement activity, as it did in the end of November 2009, when it imposed a ten month moratorium on new settler housing starts. According to CBS, in 2008, during the Annapolis peace conference, work began on 2,332 West Bank homes, and in 2009, prior to the moratorium, when the Annapolis process and peace talks in general were halted, construction began on 1,963 more units. That number declined by 62% to 738 in 2010, the year of the moratorium,



which ended that September, according to CBS figures. CBS data reveal that although the number rose by 50%, to 1,108 homes in 2011, it was still far below the 2009 and 2008 figures. In addition, ground broken for housing units in 2012 was consistent with 1,089 settler starts that year. The decrease in the last three years was due in large part to the absence of tenders for West Bank housing during the first two years of Binyamin Netanyahu's premiership. He began publishing tenders in 2011, in response to Palestinian moves toward unilateral statehood and the murder of five members of the Fogel family in Itamar by PA terrorists in March of that year. The absence of tenders caused a sharp fall in starts in the three largest West Bank settlements – Modi'in Illit, Beitar Illit and Ma'aleh Adumim. Prior to 2010, building in those cities over many years accounted for half of the settlement growth. In particular, there was a drop for public housing in West Bank settlements. In 2009, 602 of the housing starts were for public housing, compared with 119 in 2010, 91 in 2011 and 108 in 2012. The resumption included public housing, for which there were 757 starts in the first half of this year. In 75% of the cases where ground was broken in the first half of 2013 – a total of 1,100 – the construction projects were in the five largest settlements, with 176 in Ariel, 272 in Beitar Illit, 219 in Givat Ze'ev, 278 in Modi'in Illit and 155 in Ma'aleh Adumim, according to the CBS. The number of finished settler homes has risen this year, from 329 in the first half of 2012 to 628 in 2013. ([IPOST](#) 30 August 2013)

- State to Fund Educational Projects in Jewish Hevron. For the first time, the Israel State Lottery (Mifal Hapayis) education fund will pay for projects in Jewish Hevron. For the first time, the Israel State Lottery (Mifal Hapayis) education fund will pay for projects in Jewish Hevron (Hebron), as it does everywhere else in Israel. The board of directors of the Lottery approved the funding plan Thursday night in a unanimous vote. The proposal was first presented by former director of the National Security Council, Uzi Dayan, who is now chairman of the Lottery. Lottery proceeds are used to build community centers and run after-school programs, and Lottery-funded projects are found in almost every town and city in Israel, including Arab towns. Until Thursday, Hevron's Jewish community was not on the list for such projects – as a neighborhood in the city of Hevron, the community technically was not under the jurisdiction of any Israeli local authority. Dayan's proposal overrode that problem, and approval of it has paved the way for programs funded by the state for youth and adults in the Hevron community. Until now residents of Hevron were forced to receive

services in the nearby town of Kiryat Arba. Among the benefits now available to the community will be funding for classrooms for schoolchildren, as well as equipment such as computers and books, and a much-needed community center. Hevron is the site of the Cave of the Patriarchs, widely revered as Judaism's second holiest site, after the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. ([Israel National News](#) 30 August 2013)

- Monthly Violations Statistics – August 2013

Governorate	Land Confiscated (Dunums)	Lands Threatened of Confiscation (Dunums)	Uprooted Trees/ Burnt trees	Demolished Houses	Demolished structures	Houses threatened of Demolition	Israeli settlers violence
Bethlehem	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Jerusalem	0	22	0	8	6	23	14
Jenin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulkarm	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ramallah	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Nablus	0	0	35	4	2	0	10
Salfit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jericho	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Gaza	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qalqilyah	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Hebron	0	4000	10	0	0	18	4
Tubas	0	0	0	15	0	7	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4022</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>35</b>