



# ICAHD

The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions  
الحركة الإسرائيلية ضد هدم البيوت  
הוועד הישראלי נגד הריסת בתים

**Resisting Apartheid, Building a Shared Democracy**

Demolitions & Displacement in the occupied West Bank (including occupied East Jerusalem) and within the state of Israel

April 2020 Report



*Photo credit: Amer Aruri, B'tselem*

36 Demolished Structures - OPT	0 Demolished Structure - Israel	8 Displaced People	195 Other Affected People
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Location	Date	Structures Demolished/ Confiscated	Displaced people	Affected people	Reason for Demolition stated by Israel <sup>1</sup>	Category (see below for details)
Rummana, Jenin	1 Apr 2020	3 under-construction houses	0	6 adults, 4 children	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit /Area C	Administrative
Khirbet 'Alan, Jordan Valley	1 Apr 2020	1 livelihood structure	0	unknown	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit /Area C	Administrative
Al Jiftlik-ash-Shuneh, Jericho	1 Apr 2020	1 livelihood structure (a blacksmith workshop)	0	4 adults, 7 children	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/Area C	Administrative
Kafr Ni'ma, Ramallah	1 Apr 2020	3 60-cubic meters water cisterns (in addition 1,200 trees were uprooted & confiscated)	0	2 adults, 4 children	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/ Area C	Administrative
At Taybe, Hebron	2 Apr 2020	2 agricultural structures, 1 mobile latrine, and 1 concrete base	0	10 adults, 23 children	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/ Area C	Administrative
Beit Skaria, Bethlehem	3 Apr 2020	1 livelihood structure	0	Unknown	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/ Area C / Self-demolition	Administrative
Hebron, Hebron	6 Apr 2020	1 livelihood structure, 2 containers (which were full of tools and equipment that were confiscated)	0	11 adults, 16 children	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/ Area C	Administrative

At Taybe, Hebron	7 Apr 2020	1 agricultural structure, 1 mobile latrine	0	16 people	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/ Area C	Administrative
Al Mas'udiya, Nablus	20 Apr 2020	1 structure for livestock	0	6 people	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/ Area C	Administrative
Sebastia, Nablus	20 Apr 2020	1 structure used for tourists	0	Unknown	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/ Area C	Administrative
Burqa, Nablus	20 Apr 2020	1 residential structure	Unknown	Unknown	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/ Area C	Administrative
Al Lubban al Gharbi, Ramallah	22 Apr 2020	1 under construction livelihood structure	0	2 people	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/ Area C	Administrative
Ein ad Duyuk at Tahta, Jericho	23 Apr 2020	1 inhabited house, and 1 structure for agricultural use	2 adults, 6 children	0	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/Area C	Administrative
Deir al Qilt, Jericho	26 Apr 2020	3 uninhabited residential structures, 2 structures used for animals	0	4 adults, 7 children	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/Area C/ Closed Military Zone/ Firing Zone	Administrative
Al Khadr, Bethlehem	28 Apr 2020	3 agricultural structures	0	10 adults, 14 children	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/Area C	Administrative
Jurat ash Sham'a, Bethlehem	30 Apr 2020	1 livelihood structure ( plant nursery)	0	8 adults, 5 children	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/Area C	Administrative
Al Khadr, Bethlehem	30 Apr 2020	1 livelihood structure, 1 latrine, 1 agricultural structure	0	21 adults, 15 children	Lack of an Israeli-issued building permit/Area C	Administrative
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>36 structures (2 inhabited homes, 6 uninhabited homes, 6 WASH, 7 livelihood, 8 agricultural, 3 animal shelters and 4 other structures</b>	<b>8 people displaced (2 adults and 6 children)</b>	<b>195 people affected (of which 100 adults, 95 children are confirmed )</b>	<b>17 incidents on grounds of lacking an Israeli-issued building permit, (of which 1 was a forced self-demolition)</b>	

## Notes:

<sup>1</sup>. There are four categories of demolitions:

1. Punitive demolitions: Houses demolished as punishment for the actions of people associated with the houses.
2. Administrative demolitions: Houses demolished for lack of a building permit. This happens in Area C and in East Jerusalem, under exclusive Israeli authority, though prior to the existence of Areas A, B & C it occurred in other areas as well. It is important to point out that in almost all cases, Palestinians have no choice but to build "illegally" as permits are rarely granted
3. Land-clearing operations/Military demolitions: Houses demolished by the IDF in the course of military operations for the purposes of clearing off a piece of land (for whatever reason), achieve a military goal or to kill wanted persons as part of Israel's policy of extrajudicial executions..
4. Undefined demolitions: These include mainly demolitions resulting from land-clearing operations and removal of Palestinian populations.

\* WASH stands for structures relating to water, sanitation and hygiene.

† In many cases, notably in East Jerusalem, Israeli authorities condition Palestinians to either demolish their properties themselves or have the authorities do so. In an attempt to avoid having to pay the high fee of the Israeli authorities' demolition operation and additional high fines, many Palestinians are forced to self-demolish. .

*Above data is from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), B'tselem, Palestinian Information Centre)*

## Legal updates & more

### **“Israel’s destruction of Palestinian property undermines efforts to curb Covid-19**

Israel’s recent targeting of homes and even water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in the occupied West Bank violates international law and undermines efforts to curb the corona virus pandemic.

Ongoing demolitions and threats of forcible transfer, amid plans for Israel’s next government to unilaterally annex large parts of the West Bank, jeopardises the health and safety of thousands of Palestinians. A land grab would not only disenfranchise Palestinians and erode their hopes for genuine self-determination, but also sever coordination between Israeli and Palestinian authorities necessary to counter the spread of Covid-19 among both peoples.

"It is Israel's legal obligation to protect the health and life of Palestinians under occupation," said Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). "We urge Israeli authorities to immediately cease the unlawful destruction and seizure of property in the West Bank, including humanitarian relief items. This is not the time to undermine global efforts to prevent the spread of the corona virus."

"The international community must act to ensure Israel abides by international law and joins the global call to end political conflicts to fight the pandemic, rather than escalate the vulnerability of Palestinians under occupation," said Egeland.

Since Israel confirmed its first case of Covid-19 on 21 February, the UN reported that the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) demolished 69 structures in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This forcibly displaced 63 people and affected 417 others. The structures included 28 residential properties and seven water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Donor states had provided a third of the destroyed or seized structures as humanitarian relief.

While the ICA confirmed on 7 April that it will not destroy inhabited residential property in the West Bank to mitigate the spread of the corona virus, it did not extend the freeze to other structures, including infrastructure such as critical WASH facilities, essential to prevent infection.

Restrictions imposed by Israeli and Palestinian authorities to contain Covid-19 have isolated vulnerable communities from local markets and crippled their capacity to earn a living. In contrast to the stimulus package passed to support the Israeli economy and population under strain from public health measures, Israel has demolished 28 Palestinian agricultural and livelihood structures in Area C, exacerbating affected families' ability to provide for themselves and their communities. Israel has further failed to prevent settler violence against Palestinians and their property, with the UN reporting a surge in attacks since the outbreak of Covid-19.

**Note to editors:**

- International humanitarian law (IHL) requires Israel, as the occupying power, to protect the population of the territory that it occupies, and ensure the welfare and well being of Palestinians, as well as respect for their human rights. Israel has a legal obligation to ensure and maintain health facilities, services, and supplies in occupied Palestinian territory. If unable to adequately provide for the needs of the occupied population, Israel must allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief.

- Destruction of property, including humanitarian relief consignments, by the occupying power is prohibited, except for reasons of imperative military necessity, and amounts to a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Demolitions combined with other factors, such as the denial of basic service infrastructure, including water, sanitation, and community health care facilities, aggravate the coercive environment in which Palestinians throughout the West Bank live, generate a risk of forcible transfer, and contribute to the spread of Covid-19. “

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