



ICAHD

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

Resisting Apartheid, Building a Shared Democracy

DEMOLITION AND DISPLACEMENT REPORT FOR JULY 2018

This month, 53 structures were demolished in the occupied Palestinian Territories (including East Jerusalem) displacing 97 people- including 55 children- and affecting a further 644 people, including 292 children. Inside Israel, 11 houses were demolished in Arab-Palestinian cities, displacing dozens of people, and in the Naqab desert, the unrecognised Bedouin village Al-Araqub was demolished for the 131st time.

All the demolitions and confiscations occurred on grounds of lacking an Israeli-issued building permit. Most of the demolished structures supported agricultural, herding and commercial livelihoods.



Full List of Demolitions

- On 2 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a barn in Umm Tuba, East Jerusalem, affecting 2 people.
- On 2 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a car wash in Ras al ‘Amud, East Jerusalem, affecting 1 person.
- On 2 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a structure in Ras al ‘Amud, East Jerusalem, affecting 11 people from two households.

- On 2 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a structure in Ras al ‘Amud, East Jerusalem, affecting 9 people from three households.
- On 2 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a structure in Battir, Bethlehem, affecting 19 people from two households.
- On 3 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a 120-square meter house in Battir, Bethlehem, displacing a family of eight.
- On 3 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a structure in Al Khadr, Bethlehem, affecting 13 people from three households.
- On 4 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a water tank provided as humanitarian assistance, in the herding community of Al Farisiya-Khallet Khader, Tubas, affecting access to water for 148 people from 22 households.
- On 4 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished 19 structures, including nine homes and agricultural structures in Abu Nuwar, Jerusalem Periphery, affecting 19 people from three households, and displacing 51 people from nine households.
- On 5 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished five structures in Hizma, East Jerusalem, affecting 29 people from four households.
- On 5 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a house in Susiya, Hebron, displacing a family of five.
- On 8 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished four houses under construction in Umm al-Fahm, North Israel.
- On 10 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished two houses in Qalanswa, North Israel.
- On 11 July, 2018, Israeli forces confiscated two structures that were supposed to be used as an elementary school in the rural community of Khallet Athaba’, Hebron, affecting 33 people. The confiscation has left the community’s children with no school structure for this upcoming school year.
- On 15 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished two residential structures in Khirbet al-Marajim, Nablus, affecting 23 people from four households. The families received a demolition order a week earlier and submitted objections to an Israeli court, however they did not receive any reply from the State. One house was built four years ago, and the other some 30 years ago.
- On 17 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a structure in Al Walaja, Bethlehem, affecting ten people from one household.
- On 17 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished two structures in At Tur, East Jerusalem, affecting nine people from one household.
- On 17 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished three structures in Shu’fat, East Jerusalem, affecting six people from one household. The house, an agricultural structure and a wall were all demolished with no prior notice. This is the second time Saleh abu Khdeir, owner of the house, has had his home demolished, after Israeli forces demolished his home on February 2018.
- On 18 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished four structures in Isteih, Jericho, affecting 1 person from one household and displacing a family of six.
- On 18 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a structure in At Tur, East Jerusalem, affecting nine people from one household.
- On 18 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished two houses in al-Duyuk at-Tahta, Jericho.
- On 18 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished four houses in Lod, Central Israel. The demolition displaced around 40 people.
- On 19 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a house in Ath Thuri, East Jerusalem, displacing eight people from two households. ‘
- On 19 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished two structures in Beit Hanina, East Jerusalem, displacing 19 people from four households.

- On the same day, 19 July, 2018, also in Beit Hanina, East Jerusalem, two Palestinian families self-demolished their homes, after they lost in a court case that was going on for several years now, in which Israeli settler Ariye King had claimed ownership on the land the houses were built on. After the court handed its decision and ordered the families to evacuate the land, they decided to demolish the houses rather than seeing Israeli settlers move into them. As a further act of resistance, the families have set up tents next to the demolished houses and are residing in them currently. In addition, the court fined both families for building without an Israeli-issued building permit (the houses were built 17 years ago), it fined one family 75,000 NIS and the other 120,000 NIS.
- On July 23, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a house in Sakhnin, North Israel.
- On 25 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished a kindergarten and a women's centre in the Bedouin community Jabal al Baba, Jerusalem Periphery, affecting 290 people from 58 household.
- On 26 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished the unrecognised Bedouin village of Al-Araqib for the 131st time since June 2010.
- On 30 July, 2018, Israeli forces demolished an animal pen in Yatta, South Hebron Hills, leaving the family of herders with no shelter for their livestock. The family was further ordered to pay several thousands of shekels as a fine for building without an Israeli issued building permit.

Updates

On July 5, 2018, UN officials released a statement calling for an end to West Bank demolitions and respect for International Law.

“Today, the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Jamie McGoldrick, the Head of West Bank Operations for UNRWA, Mr. Scott Anderson, and the Head of the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. James Heenan, expressed serious concern over demolitions and related events in vulnerable Palestinian communities in the central West Bank

Yesterday, Israeli forces began levelling access routes in the Palestinian Bedouin community of Khan al Ahmar-Abu al Helu, home to more than 180 people, 95 per cent of whom are Palestine refugees. The work comes in advance of the expected demolition of the entire community. Israeli forces injured thirty-five Palestinians and arrested others, including residents, in confrontations that ensued while bulldozers were levelling all entry and exit points. One Israeli soldier was also reported injured as well. Today, the Israeli authorities have declared Khan al Ahmar a closed military area, and are heavily restricting movement of residents and preventing the entry of others to the community.

“What we are seeing unfold on the ground is deeply disturbing,” said Mr. McGoldrick. “Demolitions have a devastating impact on families and on communities. These demolitions are particularly outrageous because they target communities who already live in extremely difficult conditions, with high levels of humanitarian needs. I call again on the Israeli authorities to cease demolitions and other measures that may result in the forcible transfer of Palestinians.”

This situation occurs on the backdrop of a wave of demolitions across the West Bank in recent days. Since 1 July, eleven incidents have occurred, displacing 59 Palestinians, including 37 children, and affecting more than 200 others. Included within this is the demolition of 19 structures, including nine homes, in the Palestinian Bedouin community of Abu Nuwar (around 600 residents, 88 per cent Palestine refugees). As a result, 51 people, including 33 children, were displaced and another 13 people, including five children, who had family property destroyed, were directly affected. Also, one home was destroyed today in Susiya, displacing a family of five.

“The escalation of events in the last few days – the demolitions in Abu Nuwar, the declaration of the Khan al Ahmar community as a closed military zone, the violence and large presence of armed Israeli forces – makes life in these communities virtually untenable. The latest developments are of serious concern as it is evident that they are undertaken with the objective of relocating the concerned communities, as well as causing serious distress to the vulnerable residents who are watching what appear to be preparations for the demolition of their community,” said Mr. Scott Anderson. “These pastoral communities are mostly Palestine refugees – originally displaced from their tribal lands in the Negev. They should not be forced to experience a second displacement against their will.”

“The demolitions in the community will have serious human rights and humanitarian law consequences,” said Mr. Heenan. “There is high risk of forced evictions of individuals, destruction of private property as well as a dramatic increase in the coercive environment under which the community already lives, in turn raising the risk of forcible transfer.”

Background

Khan al Ahmar – Abu al Helu and Abu Nuwar are among the 46 Palestinian Bedouin communities (8,100 people) at risk of forcible transfer in the central West Bank and among the more than 3,500 residents living in 18 communities located in the area slated for the E1 settlement plan that seeks to connect the Ma’ale Adummim settlement bloc with East Jerusalem.

International humanitarian law (IHL) requires an occupying power to protect the population of the territory that it occupies, ensure its welfare and well being, as well as the respect for its human rights. Any destruction of property by the occupying power is prohibited, except when rendered absolutely necessary by military operations, which is not relevant in the West Bank where there are currently no active hostilities. The extensive demolition of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly, may be a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and may amount to a war crime. Other than for the security of the population or imperative military reasons, IHL further prohibits the transfer of the population of an occupied territory without the genuinely and fully informed consent of the affected people, regardless of the motive. Consent is not considered genuine in an environment marked by the use or threat of physical force, coercion, fear of violence or duress. In the absence of such consent, the transfer is forcible and constitutes a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Khan al-Ahmar – Legal Update

The demolition of the Palestinian Bedouin community of Khan al Ahmar-Abu al Helu was temporarily delayed following the filing of two new petitions to the Israeli High Court of Justice. Like Abu Nuwar, it is among the 18 communities in or around the E1 settlement plan area, which face the risk of forcible transfer. The petitions will be heard no later than 15 August. On 3 July, the Israeli military requisitioned land to begin works on roads leading to the community. Additionally, the area was declared a closed military zone, prohibiting non-residents from entering the community. While not continuously enforced, access to the community for the provision of regular humanitarian relief services, including by the mobile health clinic and mental health teams, has been delayed or prevented on a number of occasions.

(OCHA oPT)