



PLO/ NAD-NSU

## Israel's Aggression Against Occupied Palestine May 2025

### Overview

During May, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) continued their genocidal war against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip with airstrikes, bombardment, drones, and artillery attacks. In most cases, innocent Palestinian civilians were subject to Israel's war machine all over the Gaza Strip.

Local reports spoke of horrific massacres, particularly in the northern Gaza Strip in Jabalia refugee camp, and east of Gaza City in Al-Tuffah and Shuja'iyya neighbourhoods, as well as in the city of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip. IOF also severely damaged all hospitals in the northern Gaza Strip, including Kamal Adwan, Al-Awda, and the Indonesian hospitals, through bombardment and by blocking access to medical supplies and fuel that were destined to those hospitals.

Israel also continued to target displaced persons wherever they existed, opening fire towards civilians desperately searching for at least a single bag of flour. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) confirmed that Gaza is "the hungriest place on earth." It urged the occupying authorities to grant the United Nations humanitarian access. OCHA also [indicated](#) that IOF [opened fire](#) towards "tens of thousands of desperate Palestinians" who stormed a military distribution point "built on the ruins of their homes," searching for food. OCHA also stressed that these repeated attacks on displaced persons "demonstrate how the collective punishment of Palestinians continues, and how the assault on their human dignity is accelerating."

Moreover, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor [documented](#) instances in which the IOF opened fire on hundreds of hungry civilians who had gathered at aid collection points. For example, on May 28, 2025, in the Qizan Abu Rashwan area south of Khan Yunis, IOF opened fire on civilians on their way to an aid point established by the occupation forces in the Morag area north of Rafah. The outcome was the martyrdom of six Palestinians, including a woman, and the injury of 15 others.









In May 2025, the IOF killed at least **2,018** Palestinians and injured more than **6,290** Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories. In Gaza alone, at least **2,000** Palestinians were killed and **6,099** were injured, while **18** Palestinians were killed in the occupied West Bank.<sup>1</sup>





In the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem, IOF continued their military operations, dubbed "Operation Iron Wall," which began in the Jenin refugee camp on January 21, 2025, and later extended to the northern governorates of Tulkarem, Tubas, and Nablus. All over those areas, the IOF continued their crimes, including the destruction of infrastructure, blowing up homes in refugee camps and forcibly displacing Palestinians. These attacks resulted in the killing of 18 Palestinians, most of them in the Nablus Governorate, which recorded the killing of 6 Palestinians. In May, IOF arrested no less

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<sup>1</sup> Palestinian Minister of Health

than 488 Palestinians. There were also 237 shooting operations in all governorates of the West Bank, along with 1,349 military incursions and 412 cases of setting up ad-hoc military checkpoints at the entrances to villages and the outskirts of towns and camps. Settlers were also involved in 321 attacks against Palestinians and their properties.

	At least 2,018 Palestinians were killed, 2,000 in Gaza and 18 in the West Bank. The Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH) records noted that between October 7, 2023, and May 31, 2025, the death toll reached 55,402 Palestinians, 54,418 in the Gaza Strip and 984 in the West Bank.
	Over 127,700 Palestinians were injured. Of those, approximately 124,190 were in Gaza. Between October 7, 2023, and May 31, 2025, at least 6,294 Palestinians were injured, among them at least 6,099 in Gaza. (MoH)
	According to various media reports, the Israeli army has committed more than 11,859 massacres against the Palestinians in Gaza. Moreover, an estimated number of over 14,000 people are believed to be missing or dead under the rubble.
	There were 237 shooting incidents in all West Bank governorates, along with 1,349 military incursions and 412 ad-hoc military checkpoints. (NAD)
	Israeli settlers were involved in no less than 321 terror attacks against Palestinian civilians throughout the West Bank (NAD)
	By the end of May 2025, Israel had arrested at least 488 Palestinians, including 19 women and 39 children. The number of Palestinian prisoners held in Israel rose to more than 10,400, including 440 children and 49 women. The highest rate of arrests in the West Bank was in Jenin, where 90 detention cases were recorded. During May, five Palestinians died in Israeli custody. The total number of Palestinian prisoners who died in Israeli custody since October 7 till the end of May 2025 is 71, including 23 from the West Bank, 45 from Gaza, two Palestinians living in Israel and one from Jerusalem.
	The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) <a href="#">said</a> that 92% of homes in the Gaza Strip, or about 436,000 homes, were destroyed or damaged because of the Israeli aggression. In comparison, 90% of Palestinian civilians were displaced from their homes.
	The UNRWA said at least 1.9 million people – or about 90 per cent of the population – across the Gaza Strip are displaced. Many have been displaced repeatedly, some 10 times or more. According to OCHA, people are confined to ever-shrinking spaces, with 81 per cent of the Gaza Strip now within the Israeli-militarised zone, under displacement orders, or where these overlap. The UN estimates that over 632,700 people have

	<p>been displaced yet again since the breakdown of the ceasefire, including over 195,000 between May 15 and 27.</p>
	<p>As of 30 May 2025, 852 incidents affecting UNRWA premises and persons within them have been reported since the beginning of the genocidal war. Moreover, 311 UNRWA installations have sustained varying degrees of damage from shelling, and at least 310 UNRWA staff members have been killed. At least 767 internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in UNRWA shelters have also been killed, and at least 2,419 others injured. UNRWA operates 115 shelters across the Gaza Strip, housing approximately 90,000 IDPs.</p>
	<p>The latest official statistics indicate that 95.2% of schools in the Gaza Strip have sustained varying degrees of damage, and 88.5% of school buildings need complete reconstruction or significant renovation. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 241 government schools have been bombed and severely damaged since October 7, 2023. More than 111 schools were destroyed, in addition to 180 schools that became targets of attacks and vandalism that caused partial destruction to the premises (91 government schools and 89 UNRWA Schools). With regards to higher education institutions, more than 20 institutions were severely damaged, and 60 university buildings were destroyed. In those attacks, at least 1016 university students and more than 213 of the educational staff were killed.</p> <p>Besides, more than 15,111 school students and 674 education sector staff were killed, while more than 22,742 students and 2,915 staff members were injured.</p>
	<p>Since the onset of the aggression, IOF has carried out a total of 1,528 attacks on health facilities and workers, 770 of which occurred in Gaza (WHO as of 22 May). A report issued by the World Health Organization, WHO, revealed that since Israel's aggression last October 2023 and until 22 May, 19 hospitals out of 36 became partially operational in the Gaza Strip, including two hospitals in the northern part of the Strip, eleven hospitals in Gaza, three hospitals in Deir al-Balah, three hospitals in Khan Yunis, while all hospitals in Rafah became out of service. Moreover, 63 of the 156 healthcare centers remained partially operational. These attacks killed a total of 917 health and medical personnel and wounded 1,406 others.</p>
	<p>In May alone, 11 Palestinian journalists and media workers were killed in Gaza. Since the aggression began, the IOF has killed 221 journalists and media workers in Gaza. (<a href="#">Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate</a>)</p>

## Examples Of The Occupying Power's Deliberate Attacks On Palestinian Hospitals, Shelters And Civilians In Gaza In May 2025

### Massacres targeting shelter schools

- **On May 26**, Israeli aircraft launched three airstrikes on the [Fahmi al-Jarjawi School](#), located near al-Sahaba Street in the al-Daraj neighbourhood in central Gaza City. The school was being used as a shelter for hundreds of internally displaced persons from the northern Gaza Strip and Gaza City. The airstrikes sparked massive fires in classrooms, trapping families inside. The attack resulted in the deaths of 31 people, including 18 children and six women. The bodies of most of the children were charred entirely, and several others were injured and missing.
- **On May 6**, intensive shelling of civilian areas within residential neighbourhoods escalated. The most notable crime committed by the occupying forces was [the Abu Hamisa School](#) massacre. At approximately 6:00 PM, Israeli warplanes bombed the school yard located in the Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, which housed more than 267 displaced families. The bombing resumed several hours later, killing 34 civilians and wounding more than 100 others, most of them women and children. Many of the injured were in critical condition.
- **On May 7**, at approximately 3:45 AM, Israeli warplanes bombed [Al-Karama School](#), a shelter located on Al-Nakhil Street in the Al-Tuffah neighbourhood east of Gaza City. The bombing resumed at approximately 10:00 AM the same day, killing 16 civilians, including children, women, and a journalist. At approximately 2:30 PM on the same day, Israeli warplanes bombed the Thai Restaurant. A short time later, they bombed the Palmyra Junction, about 30 meters north of the restaurant. This resulted in the deaths of 27 civilians, including seven children and a journalist, and the injury of approximately 80 others, with their injuries ranging from serious to moderate.



### Targeting civilian homes:

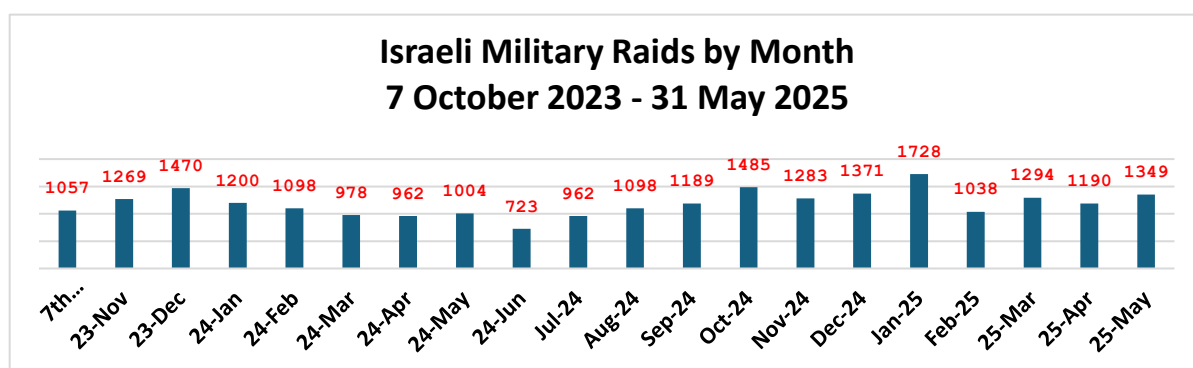
- **On May 7**, in Beit Lahia, at approximately 5:10 PM on the same day, Israeli warplanes bombed the home of the Al-Baddi family, opposite the Beit Lahia Club in the northern Gaza Strip. The attack destroyed the home, killed 15 civilians, and injured many others.

## Israel's Aggression Against The West Bank:

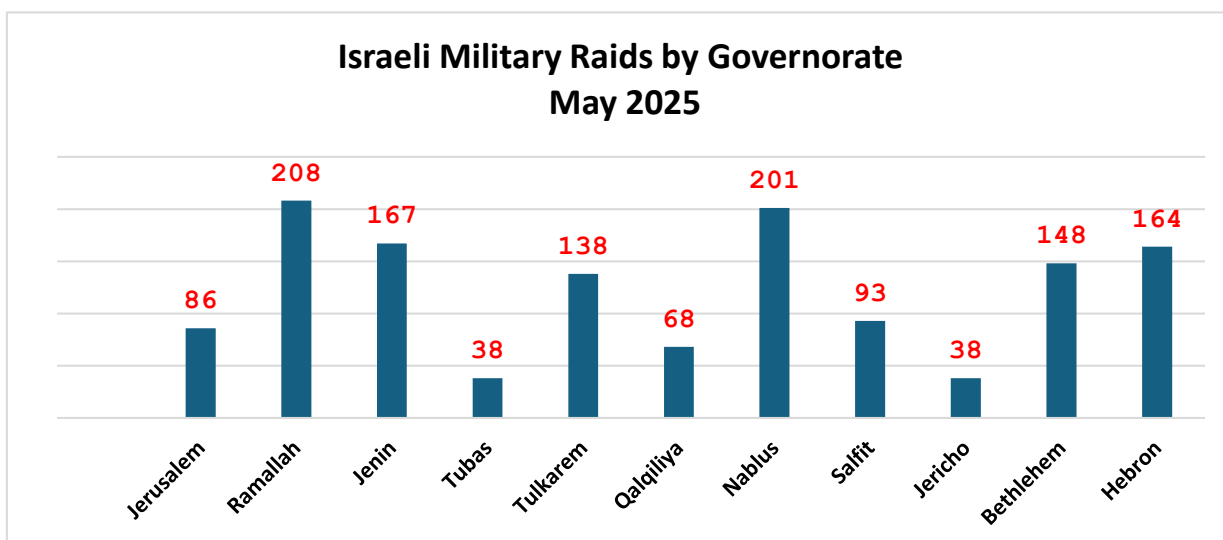
- **In May 2025**, the Nablus Governorate recorded the highest number of martyrs, with 6 Palestinians killed during several IOF incursions into the city and nearby refugee camps, followed by Tubas Governorate, which recorded the killing of 5 Palestinians.
- According to the Palestinian Ministry of Education, since the aggression began and until the **end of May 2025**, the IOF attacked 152 public schools, killed 102 students and four teachers, injured 675 students and 21 teachers.

- In addition to the **bodies of 256 martyrs buried in the Numbers' Cemeteries**, Israel currently withholds the **bodies of 453 Palestinian martyrs**, including 44 children, 79 prisoners, and six women. In May, the occupation authority withheld the bodies of 14 martyrs from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. ([National Campaign for the Recovery of Martyrs' Bodies.](#))

	<b>Settlement activities:</b> The occupation authorities advanced nearly 2,019 settlement units in the West Bank, including 1446 units in occupied East Jerusalem, and approved several other colonial settlement projects. ( <a href="#">Peace Now &amp; Ir Amim</a> )
	<b>House demolitions:</b> The IOF demolished 157 Palestinian structures, including 41 homes and 26 donor-funded structures, displacing 37 families comprising 189 people, of whom 89 were children, and otherwise affecting many families comprising 413 individuals, including 189 children. In occupied Jerusalem, IOF demolished 17 structures, including nine homes, displacing nine families comprising 52 people, including 32 children. ( <a href="#">UNOCHA</a> )



During this period (**October 7, 2023 until the end of May 2025**), 23747 military raids concentrated in the Governorates of Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and Tulkarem.

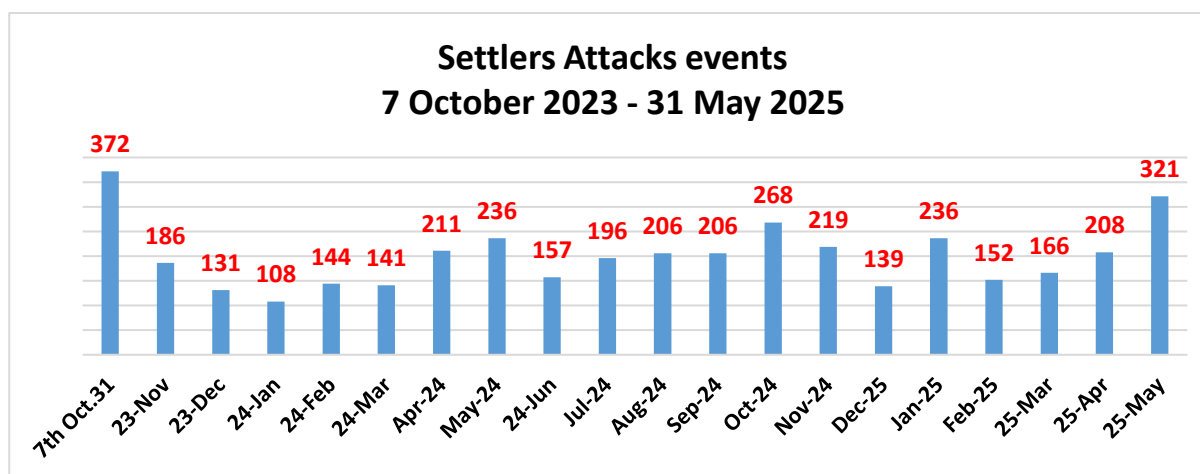


## Israeli Settlers' Terror Attacks

With unconditional and unlimited support from the Israeli occupation authorities and their forces, Israeli settlers continued their terror attacks against defenceless Palestinians and their properties. At least **321** attacks were recorded in December.

Terror attacks by Israeli settlers included arrival in areas adjacent to Palestinian villages and towns, closure of roads, raids on private agricultural lands, and setting fire to their crops. The settlers physically assaulted the landowners and farmers, abused others, detained some at gunpoint, shot at others and their properties, and stoned Palestinian cars passing by the area. There were cases when the settlers brought bulldozers to destroy the agricultural facilities owned by the Palestinian farmers. Settlers also grazed livestock and sheep on citizens' agrarian lands, destroying irrigation networks, bulldozing agricultural lands, and vandalising and uprooting fruit trees.

Most of these attacks occurred in the Governorates of Ramallah, Hebron, Nablus, Salfit, and Tubas. According to a report by the Colonisation and Wall Resistance Commission (CWRC), settlers targeted Palestinian trees and crops, uprooting, damaging, sabotaging, poisoning, and burning 1,068 trees, including 695 olive trees. Most of these attacks occurred in Ramallah governorate, where 33 attacks occurred, followed by Hebron Governorate, 25, and Nablus Governorate, 7 attacks.



## Some Examples Are Below<sup>2</sup>

- May 30, Nablus Governorate:** A group of settlers near the Za'tara Junction checkpoint opened fire at 14-year-old Muhammad Othman al-Najjar (a person with special needs and mental health issues) from the village of Yatma. Israeli occupation forces intervened and detained him.
- May 28, Qalqilya Governorate:** A settler driving his vehicle on the main street in the village of Al-Funduq ran over Awni Bakr al-Faqih, a resident of the village of Beit Imrin in the Nablus Governorate, sustaining injuries and bruises. He was subsequently

transferred to An-Najah Hospital in Nablus for treatment. • On May 22, in the Salfit Governorate: A group of settlers stormed the town of Bruqin, attacked homes on the outskirts of the town, and burned five homes and five vehicles (the owners were identified): Bader Sabra, Ja'afar Bader Sabra, Mahran Hosni Samara, Hamdallah Hosni Samara, Hosni Samara, Qusai Akram Sabra, Haroun Sabra, and Uday Akram Sabra. The settlers' attack also injured nine Palestinians (including one who sustained a stone injury to the head and eight who sustained burns), who were treated in the field.

- **On May 24, in the Nablus Governorate,** Settlers burned approximately 40 dunums of wheat in Sebastia, northwest of Nablus. Settlers from the Shavei Shomron settlement and the new colonial outpost established in the area burned forty dunums of grain in the town plain, owned by Muhammad Basil Muhaibish and Mufid Rashid Shahab. He stated that the wheat crop was burned entirely, causing heavy losses for farmers from Muhaibish and Shihab.
- **On May 17, in the Hebron Governorate:** Two-year-old Sara Amir Da'na fainted and suffered head injuries after being attacked by an armed settler in Hebron, under the protection of Israeli occupation soldiers, while she was returning home with her mother near the occupation checkpoint at the entrance to Shuhada Street in central Hebron. He stated that the attack coincided with the mother and her daughter being escorted by a group of armed settlers who stormed the area. One of the settlers, in his forties, attacked the child and kicked her on the head, causing her to fall to the ground and immediately faint. She was subsequently transferred by Red Crescent Society personnel to a hospital in Hebron, where her injuries were described as moderate. • May 15, in Hebron Governorate: Settlers attacked Palestinians and their vehicles in several locations in the Hebron Governorate. A group of settlers attacked Palestinians' vehicles near the Balouta Roundabout, east of Hebron. They sprayed the Palestinians with pepper spray and injured Yunis Rajoub, a young man from Dura, south of Hebron. Other settlers attacked Palestinians at the entrance to Beit Aoun, surrounded by the Karat Arba settlement, east of Hebron.

**May 3, in Jericho and the Jordan Valley Governorate:** Settlers vandalised and stole a 4-kilometre-long water pipeline that supplies several communities in the northern Jordan Valley. In a related development, settlers set their cows free to graze on Palestinian rain-irrigated crops, as their crops were approaching harvest time.

### **In Focus: Summary Of Israeli Violations In Occupied Jerusalem In May 2025<sup>i</sup>**

#### **Martyrs in Jerusalem – May 2025**

- During May 2025, two Palestinian youths from Jerusalem were martyred as a result of direct assaults carried out by Israeli occupation forces and settlers, within the context of systematic crimes targeting the residents of the Jerusalem Governorate.
- On **22 May 2025**, **Fu'ad Muhammad Elayyan** (30 years old) from Beit Safafa was



martyred following a racially motivated attack by a group of settlers in the Katamon neighbourhood, west of occupied Jerusalem. Fu'ad and his cousin were sitting in a public park when the settlers approached them, demanding that they leave because they were Arabs." The settlers then chased them with their vehicles. As the two attempted to flee on a motorcycle, one settler rammed into them. After they fell to the ground, another settler deliberately ran them over, killing Fu'ad and critically injuring his cousin. Despite the clear racist motive, the Israeli police attempted to cover up the crime by labelling it "criminal" and releasing one of the perpetrators.

- On **16 May 2025, Mohammad Nidal Abu Libdeh** (17 years old) from Beit Hanina was shot and killed by Israeli occupation forces near Bab al-Silsila in the Old City of Jerusalem. The forces opened fire directly at him and left him to bleed to death without providing medical aid. Mohammad and his siblings were preparing to sit for their high school final exams. Following his killing, the Israeli forces raided the family home, arrested the parents and siblings, and vandalised its contents, leaving the infant sister alone. The Israeli authorities continue to withhold Mohammad's body, as part of a deliberate policy to deny Palestinian families their right to bid farewell and bury their loved ones with dignity.

### **The Issue of Withheld Martyrs' Bodies**

- Throughout May 2025, Israeli authorities continued their policy of withholding the bodies of Palestinian martyrs. The body of Mohammad Nidal Abu Libdeh remains in Israeli custody. By the end of the month, the total number of bodies of Jerusalemite martyrs withheld by the occupation—either in morgues or in the so-called "cemeteries of numbers"—rose to 47. This constitutes a blatant violation of international humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions, which affirm the right of families to bury their deceased according to their religious beliefs.
- Withholding bodies is not only a crime under the law but is also a form of political punishment, aimed at imposing prolonged collective grief on Palestinian families. In the Jerusalem context, this policy is a tool of broader oppression, control, and dehumanisation.
- This inhumane practice completely disregards basic moral and ethical standards. It necessitates urgent international action to pressure the Israeli government into releasing the withheld bodies and allowing families to bury their loved ones with dignity.

### **Violations and Crimes at Al-Aqsa Mosque – May 2025**

- The Jerusalem Governorate recorded an unprecedented settler escalation at the Al-Aqsa Mosque during May 2025, culminating in 6,767 settlers storming the mosque under heavy Israeli police protection. The settlers held their Talmudic rituals, including the so-called "epic prostration," waved Israeli flags, and sang songs within the mosque compound, an act considered outrageous by Muslim worshippers.
- Besides, 5,611 other settlers and fanatic Jews entered under the guise of "tourism," as



part of a systematic policy aimed at enforcing a de facto division and asserting Israeli sovereignty over the mosque by force.

- One of the gravest violations included a failed attempt to slaughter an animal sacrifice inside the mosque compound. Extremist rabbis issued religious edicts encouraging settler women—married or unmarried—to enter the mosque as a form of "ritual purification," and public calls were made for the construction of the so-called "Third Temple" atop the mosque ruins. Israeli government ministers also took part in storming the mosque, particularly during the "Flag Dance" march, accompanied by severe restrictions on Palestinian access to the site.
- These actions constitute a blatant violation of the status quo and a direct assault on the Islamic identity and sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque, amid dangerous international silence that emboldens the occupiers.

### **Documented Violations in Al-Aqsa Mosque – May 2025**

- **1 May 2025:** A series of provocative incursions into Al-Aqsa took place during what Israel calls "Independence Day." Settlers raised Israeli flags, performed public rituals including the "epic prostration," and distributed flags and clothing to give a celebratory character to the raid.
- **6 May 2025:** Under direct approval from Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, the occupation began so-called "renovation, maintenance, and expansion" works at the "Small Western Wall"—historically known as **Ribat al-Kurd** and popularly referred to as **Hosh Shihabi**—adjacent to Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- **7 May 2025:** In a dangerous act of religious incitement, U.S. ambassador to Israel **Mike Huckabee** visited the "Shilo" settlement and inspected the **red heifers**, which are to be used in "purification" rituals by extremist "Temple Mount Faithful" groups, signalling a dangerous escalation targeting Al-Aqsa directly.
- **12 May 2025:** In a precedent-setting event, settlers attempted to **bring a sacrificial animal** through **Bab al-Ghawanmeh** to slaughter it inside the mosque. Al-Aqsa guards intervened and prevented the act, which was an alarming development in settler aggression.
- **25 May 2025:** In anticipation of "Jerusalem Day," the "Temple Mount Faithful" groups and their activists launched intense campaigns urging mass settler participation in Al-Aqsa incursions and flag-waving inside the compound. Prominent rabbis joined these mobilisation efforts in an unprecedented push to escalate the violations.

### **Violations in Jerusalem on "Jerusalem Day" – 26 May 2025**

- **On the 58th anniversary of the occupation of East Jerusalem,** thousands of Israeli settlers—accompanied by extremist ministers and Knesset members—stormed the Old City's streets and Al-Aqsa Mosque in what is known as the "Flag March." These incursions were coupled with racist chants, including "Death to Arabs" and "Flatten

Gaza,” and included attacks on Palestinians’ shops, and journalists. Settlers also stormed the UNRWA headquarters in Sheikh Jarrah.

- **A total of 2,118 settlers stormed Al-Aqsa on that day**, including Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, Minister of the Negev and Galilee Yitzhak Waserlauf, and Knesset members from the Likud, Jewish Power, and Religious Zionism parties. These settlers performed Talmudic rituals under the protection of occupation forces who simultaneously barred Palestinian worshipers from entering the mosque and severely restricted freedom of worship.
- **A widely circulated video** showed Ben-Gvir and Knesset members performing the “Priestly Blessing” inside Al-Aqsa—an egregious breach of its sanctity.
- **In the evening, hundreds of settlers gathered** at Bab al-Amoud (Damascus Gate), dancing provocatively, and waving Israeli flags while chanting racist slogans. The Israeli police set up checkpoints, cordoned off the Old City, shut down Palestinian businesses by force, and restricted movement throughout the area.
- **Photographs documented repeated assaults by settlers**, including beating a Palestinian man near Bab al-Amoud, spraying pepper gas at others near Bab al-Sahira, (Herod’s Gate) and assaulting an elderly man in the Islamic Quarter. Settlers also stormed the Nabi Samuel shrine northwest of Jerusalem under heavy military protection.
- **Later, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** held an exceptional meeting in Silwan, south of Al-Aqsa, reiterating Israel’s claim to a “unified Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty.” He released a video from a tunnel extending from Silwan to beneath the mosque, which sparked outrage and was seen as an open attempt to impose a new Judaized reality.

### **Settlers’ Attacks:**

- **During May 2025, the Jerusalem Governorate** documented a total of 46 attacks carried out by Israeli settlers against Palestinian residents in Jerusalem. These attacks included direct physical assaults, among which were 7 cases of physical harm, one of which resulted in the martyrdom of the young man Fouad Muhammad Elayyan from the town of Beit Safafa. These violations ranged from provocative raids into Palestinian neighbourhoods, physical assaults on civilians, restrictions on freedom of movement, to targeting the religious and cultural components of Palestinian society, including attacks on the shrine of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Dajani, which has stood in Jerusalem for hundreds of years — a clear violation of the site’s legal and historical status.
- **The Jerusalem Governorate** emphasizes that these violations do not occur in isolation from the official occupation system but rather in an environment that encourages them and provides political, security, and legal cover by the occupation authorities. The occupation forces provide protection to settlers during their attacks and grant them effective immunity from accountability by often classifying their crimes as minor

criminal offenses that usually end with a symbolic detention lasting only a few days. Meanwhile, Palestinians face policies of field executions, arbitrary arrests, and systematic mistreatment.

### **Key Settler Attacks:**

- **May 1, 2025:** Settlers carried out provocative tours in the Ras Al-Amud neighbourhood of occupied Jerusalem, using open vehicles displaying occupation flags, in a settlement show coinciding with the so-called “Independence Day.”
- **May 5, 2025:** A group of settlers gathered around the traffic circle in Jaba’, under the protection of occupation forces, threw stones at Palestinian civilians’ vehicles.
- **May 6, 2025:** Groups of settlers stormed Palestinian-owned lands in the Wadi Al-Rababa neighbourhood, in repeated attempts to impose settlement facts on the ground by force.
- **May 15, 2025:** A new rabbinical decree was issued by several settler rabbis permitting settler women to enter Al-Aqsa Mosque after a so-called “religious purification,” aiming to intensify raids and expand participant numbers.
- **May 16, 2025:** Settlers performed celebratory rituals in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood involving verbal assaults and provocations against residents as part of a systematic Judaization campaign and terrorising indigenous residents.
- **May 21, 2025:** A settler attacked the shrine of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Dajani at the Ma’man Allah cemetery by breaking and changing its lock, inserting personal furniture, and removing the grave and historical plaque — constituting a violation of cultural and religious heritage.
- **May 22, 2025:** Settlers pasted racist stickers inside Palestinian buses in Jerusalem containing inciting slogans such as “No future in Palestine.”
- **May 22, 2025:** Settlers committed a horrific crime against two young men, Fouad Muhammad ‘Elayyan (30 years old) and his cousin Bara’ Elayyan from Beit Safafa south of Jerusalem. They attacked them in a park in the Qatamon area west of the city, expelled them because of their Arab identity, chased them, and ran over them with a vehicle. Fouad died from his wounds and Bara’ sustained severe injuries, including fractures in the thigh, hands, and pelvis. Despite the clear racist background of the crime, the occupation police claimed it was a “criminal” incident and released one of the involved settlers, completely ignoring the motives and national context.
- **May 23, 2025:** Occupation authorities closed major streets in Jerusalem to facilitate a settler-only bicycle marathon, clearly discriminating against Palestinians’ right to movement and a free life.
- **May 26, 2025:** The Old City of Jerusalem witnessed violent attacks by Israeli settler groups during the annual “Flag March” on the occasion of “Jerusalem Unity Day,”

injuring three civilians with wounds and bruises.

- **May 28, 2025:** Settlers, accompanied by occupation forces, raided eastern lands in the town of Michmas in ongoing attempts to seize Palestinian lands and expand illegal settlements

### **Injuries**

Amid the grave and systematic violations committed by Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinian civilians in occupied Jerusalem, in a clear breach of their obligations as an occupying power under international humanitarian law, the Jerusalem Governorate documented during May 2025 a series of attacks on Palestinian civilians resulting in 17 injuries, including injuries caused by live or rubber bullets, severe beatings, and cases of suffocation, among which six injuries were caused by settler attacks.

### **These violations were concentrated across various areas in occupied Jerusalem as follows:**

- **May 13, 2025:** Young man Muhammad Nidal Al-Kasbah was shot by occupation forces near Kalandia refugee camp and later severely beaten, resulting in bruises and contusions.
- **May 15, 2025:** A young man was injured after being beaten by occupation forces in the Bir Ayoub neighbourhood of Silwan town.
- **May 17, 2025:** Three workers from Hebron Governorate were injured during occupation forces' pursuit in Al-Ram town, one of whom was injured from falling off the separation wall.
- **May 22, 2025:** Jerusalemite Bara' Elayyan sustained severe injuries and fractures in the thigh, hands, and pelvis after being deliberately run over by settlers in the Qatamon neighbourhood west of Jerusalem; the same attack that caused Fu'ad Elayyan's death.
- **May 23, 2025:** Child Saleh Al-Natsheh (14 years old) was injured after being assaulted by occupation forces during a search of his phone at Bab Hatta.
- **May 26, 2025:** An elderly man and two young Jerusalemites were injured following settler attacks in the Old City, around Bab al- Zahra and Bab al-'Amud gates. The day also saw attacks targeting Palestinian traders and women.
- **May 29, 2025:** Three young men were injured during occupation forces' raid on Beit Duqqu town northwest of Jerusalem: Mu'min Muhammad Abdul Hafiz Riyan and Amin Maher Riyan were shot in the foot, while Mu'min Tha'er Abdul Hafiz Abu Riyan was shot in the hand.
- **May 30, 2025:** Jerusalemite drivers Muhammad Siyaj and Ahmed Al-Far'een were violently and racially assaulted by extremist settler fans of the "Beitar" team while defending each other. They suffered facial bruises and scratches and were hospitalized for treatment.

- These figures reflect a dangerous escalation in the volume and severity of violations committed against Palestinian civilians in Jerusalem as part of an organized policy aimed at targeting the Palestinian presence in the city, constituting a blatant breach of fundamental legal protections guaranteed by international law

### **Arrests:**

During May 2025, the Jerusalem Governorate documented a marked escalation in the number of arrests conducted by Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinians of occupied Jerusalem, recording 41 arrests, including six children and four women, along with summons and pursuits targeting journalists, activists, and human rights defenders. These actions constitute flagrant violations of the legal guarantees under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

The arrests were concentrated in the towns of Al-Isawiya, Silwan, Anata, Beit Hanina, Sur Baher, Al-Tur, Shu'fat, Kalandia refugee camp, towns northwest of Jerusalem, around Al-Aqsa Mosque, and at military checkpoints throughout the city. The campaign included mass arrests, home raids, and violent searches, arrests of minors while heading to school or inside their homes, and arrests during social and religious events.

Multiple cases of torture and ill-treatment were recorded during these operations, including severe beatings, prolonged handcuffing, verbal abuse and threats, and excessive use of force in pursuit of detainees. Journalists were targeted, prevented from working, and arrested on allegations of "breaching court orders."

### **Occupation Courts' Decisions against Jerusalemites**

Occupation courts continue to issue arbitrary decisions against Palestinian detainees, including prison sentences of varying durations, imposition of forced house arrest, orders for forcible expulsion from places of residence or worship, and imposition of heavy financial fines placing an economic burden on Palestinian families. These courts have also extended administrative detention for some detainees for long periods, sometimes for several years without clear charges, blatantly violating the principles of fair trial and what is stipulated in the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, especially the right to liberty, the right to know the reasons for detention, and the right to appear before an independent and impartial judge.

### **Prison Sentences Recorded:**

**During May 2025**, the Jerusalem Governorate recorded 26 actual prison sentences, including 19 administrative detention orders, with repeated renewals for some prisoners. This escalation confirms the continued policy of occupation authorities to institutionalize oppression and persecution of Palestinians in Jerusalem, targeting activists, youth, journalists, and released prisoners who were re-arrested and subjected to trials lacking fair trial standards.

### Noticeable e sentences and decisions:

**May 4, 2025:** A 17-month prison sentence and a 5,000 shekels fine were issued against Jerusalemite prisoner Muhammad Hani Al-Louzi from Kalandia refugee camp.

**May 6, 2025:** A two-and-a-half-year prison sentence was issued against Jerusalemite youth Ali Nader Abu Aweis from Al-'Isawiya town.

**May 21, 2025:** A 48-month prison sentence was issued against Jerusalemite young man Mahmoud Gharib from Al-'Isawiya.

**May 27, 2025:** An 8-year and 10-month prison sentence and a 10,000 shekels fine were issued against Jerusalemite young man Mu'az Ali Atoun, who has been detained for two years.

**May 5, 2025:** Administrative detention renewal for prisoners Abd al-Rahman Hamad and Mahmoud Shahin from Kalandia refugee camp for 6 months for the second consecutive time.

**May 28, 2025:** Administrative detention renewal for the third time for prisoner Tamer 'Omar Hammouda from Al-Qubeiba town for 6 months

### House Arrest Decisions

House arrest is one of the coercive methods used by the Israeli occupation in Jerusalem and serves as an alternative to direct detention. Occupation authorities force citizens, especially minors, to stay confined within their homes for varying periods, often accompanied by heavy fines or electronic bracelets, which restrict their freedom and disrupt their daily lives, especially education, work, and social relations.

**During May 2025, the Jerusalem Governorate documented at least 7 house arrest orders, including:**

**May 7, 2025:** The occupation authorities imposed house arrest with an electronic bracelet on 15-year-old Muhammad Abu Khaled.

**May 15, 2025:** Open house arrest was imposed on Jerusalemite youth Saleh Akleik from Silwan town south of Al-Aqsa Mosque after his release.

**May 22, 2025:** Ra'ed Zughayer, head of the cleaning department at Al-Aqsa Mosque, was placed under five-day house arrest.

**May 26, 2025:** The occupation authorities extended house arrest on four children — Muhammad Abu Khaled, Majid 'Elayyan, Muhammad Al-Da'as, and Muhammad Nassim Elayyan — postponing their court sessions to June 2025, while keeping them under surveillance with electronic bracelets that restrict their movement and mobility.

### Banning Entry into Al Aqsa Mosque

In May 2025, the Jerusalem Governorate recorded the issuance of (5) ban orders by the

Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinian Jerusalemites, including (4) orders of expulsion from the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Expulsion was used as a repressive tool to restrict freedom of movement and presence, especially in religious and sacred sites. These orders typically target activists who perform religious vigilance (Murabitin), activists, and women, aiming to isolate them from their social, religious, and national surroundings, and deprive them of practicing their activities in Jerusalem.

### **The most noticeable orders during May 2025 were:**

- **May 14, 2025:** The occupation authorities expelled the Jerusalemite woman Nafiseh Khweis from Al-Aqsa Mosque for one week until May 20, 2025. She was subjected to interrogation as a prelude to issuing a new order extending the expulsion for several months, after her house was raided in the town of Al-Tur and she was summoned for investigation.
- **May 15, 2025:** The occupation authorities expelled the Madeline Issa from Al-Aqsa Mosque while practicing her prayers.
- **May 22, 2025:** The occupation authorities expelled Al-Aqsa Mosque guard Imran Al-Rajabi for one week after a hearing session, with a condition to return to receive a decision to extend the expulsion period, which may reach six months.
- **May 28, 2025:** The occupation authorities expelled Jerusalemite activist Fatima Khader for one week from Al-Aqsa Mosque after arresting her from her home in Beit Hanina, north of Jerusalem.

### **Demolition, Land Levelling, and Property Confiscation**

During May 2025, the Jerusalem Governorate documented (42) demolition operations by the occupation authorities, including (15) forced self-demolitions, (22) demolitions carried out by occupation machinery, in addition to (5) land levelling operations.

### **Noticeable demolitions and land levelling:**

- **May 1, 2025:** The Jerusalem municipality forced Mahmoud Elayyan from Al-Issawiya to self-demolish his house, which has sheltered him, his wife, and daughters for eight years.
- **May 7, 2025:** The occupation forces demolished an agricultural facility and a mobile home belonging to the Abu Al-Hummus family and leveled stone terraces in Al-Issawiya. On the same day, the occupation forced citizen Muhammad Al-Obaidi to self-demolish his house in the Al-Ashqariyya neighbourhood of Beit Hanina, also demolished the house of Jerusalemite Hani Al-Jaabari in Wadi Yasoul without prior warning, and demolished a horse stable in Al-Issawiya.

**May 10, 2025:** The Jerusalem municipality forced Muhammad Odeh to demolish his office forcibly in Al-Bustan neighbourhood in Silwan, after imposing a fine of 14,000 shekels.

**May 13, 2025:** The occupation authorities conducted a wide demolition campaign in the



town of Anata, including tin structures, fences, and residential rooms belonging to three families. Citizen Adam Shuqeirat was also forced to self-demolish his house in Jabal Mukaber.

**May 14, 2025:** The occupation forces demolished a wall belonging to the Bashir family in Al-Bustan neighbourhood and forced Firas Abu Farha to self-demolish his house in Wadi Al-Joz.

**May 18, 2025:** The Jerusalem municipality forced Khalil Abu Mi'ala to demolish a building under construction containing five apartments in the Shu'fat refugee camp.

**May 19, 2025:** Occupation machinery demolished a house and two livestock pens belonging to Jerusalemite Ziad Mustafa in Al-Issawiya and forced the Dabash family to self-demolish parts of their building in Sur Baher.

**May 21, 2025:** The occupation forces demolished a car wash owned by Jerusalemite Hisham Dari in Al-Issawiya for the fifth time, forced brothers Riyad and Walid Abu Diab to complete forced demolition of their house in Silwan, and again forced the Dabash family to continue demolishing parts of their building.

**May 26, 2025:** The occupation authorities demolished a car wash and parking lot belonging to Abdullah Al-Joulani in Kalandia without prior warning.

**May 28, 2025:** Occupation machinery demolished the house of Jerusalemite Nour Totah in Beit Hanina without waiting for a court ruling, levelled lands belonging to the Gharab and Abu Sneh families in Al-Z'ayem town, and demolished a barracks belonging to Jerusalemite Ishaq Odeh in Ain Al-Louza neighbourhood in Silwan.

### **Demolition, Forced Eviction, and Land Confiscation**

Demolition, eviction, and confiscation orders are a central tool in the Israeli occupation's policy aimed at forcibly displacing Palestinians from occupied Jerusalem, under the pretext of unlicensed construction despite strict restrictions on granting permits. Families in Jerusalem are often forced to carry out self-demolitions within a short period under the threat of heavy fines and the costs of forced demolition if they refuse.

In May 2025, the Jerusalem Governorate recorded the issuance of 17 demolition orders mainly in Silwan, south of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The most serious of these was the Jerusalem municipality's delivery of a demolition notice for the "Al-Wa'ad" building in Wadi Qaddoum, Silwan, consisting of 12 apartments. There was also an escalation in Judaization attempts, including the announcement by the extremist mayor of Jerusalem alongside the Israeli prime minister on May 25 to convert the Ma'man Allah Pool—located in the middle of a historic Islamic cemetery—into an "Israeli heritage site" by government decision, constituting a flagrant violation of the city's sacred Islamic-Arab identity.

### **Crimes and Violations against Jerusalemite Institutions and Landmarks**

In May 2025, the Jerusalem Governorate documented a clear escalation in crimes and

violations committed by occupation forces and settlers against educational, religious, and media institutions in occupied Jerusalem. This is part of a systematic policy targeting the suppression of Palestinian life and threatening the national and cultural existence in the city. These violations included raids of Al-Aqsa Mosque, persecution of students, repression, arrests, detention, interrogations, and targeting of media crews, reflecting a systematic targeting of Palestinian national institutions and attempts to impose complete security and cultural control over the city.

**Key violations include:**

- **May 2, 2025:** Occupation forces stormed the Marwani Prayer Hall in Al-Aqsa Mosque to prevent filming during the Quran recital by students from the Safwa Huffaz initiative in Jerusalem.
- **May 20, 2025:** Occupation forces prevented the opening of a park at the Burj Al-Laqlak Association in the Old City and arrested the association's director, Montaser Dkeidek.
- **May 22, 2025:** The Jerusalem Magistrate Court dismissed a lawsuit filed by the Islamic Cemeteries Committee against the occupation municipality and Nature Authority regarding stopping land levelling and demolition in the Al-Yousefiya cemetery near Bab Al-Asbat (Lions' Gate). The court rejected the case on procedural grounds, denying the legal status of the Islamic Cemeteries Committee and imposing a court fee of 70,000 shekels on them. This decision was despite clear evidence presented by lawyers confirming that the land is an Islamic waqf used for burial for years, and that the demolition constitutes a blatant violation of cemetery sanctity and Muslim sentiments. The decision is part of broader Judaization plans aiming to transform the land into a public park within the "Path around the Walls" project, which seeks to change the historical character and Islamic landmarks of occupied Jerusalem.
- **May 21, 2025:** Occupation forces detained female teachers from Beit Iksa Secondary School at a checkpoint near Jerusalem and interrogated them about their teaching specializations before releasing them after an hour.
- **May 26, 2025:** During the so-called "Flag Dance," settlers harassed media crews near Bab Al-Silsila and Bab Al-Amud gates; occupation forces assaulted media teams, and settlers stormed the UNRWA office in Jerusalem with participation from a Knesset member. On the same day, occupation forces arrested journalist Tharwat Shuqra on the Mount of Olives.
- **May 27, 2025:** Occupation authorities summoned journalist Roz Al-Zaru and journalist Ahmed Jalajil near Bab Al-Amud, detained them for interrogation, then later released them.
- **May 31, 2025:** Occupation forces prevented the commemoration of the 24th anniversary of the martyrdom of the "Prince of Jerusalem" Faisal Al-Husseini in front of the Beit Al-Sharq (Orient House) institution in occupied Jerusalem.

## **Closure of UNRWA Schools in Jerusalem**

Following the deadline set by the Israeli occupation authorities to implement the decision to close UNRWA schools in occupied Jerusalem on May 8, 2025, occupation police, accompanied by members of the municipality and the Israeli Ministry of Education, stormed the six UNRWA schools located within the so-called municipal boundaries of Jerusalem, besieged them, and enforced closure orders by force.

Reports indicated that the raiding forces stopped employees at one of the schools, requested identification, and recorded staff numbers. They demanded immediate dismissal of students despite over 550 students aged 6 to 15 and their teachers being inside the school premises at the time, causing severe psychological trauma and a blatant violation of UN privileges and immunities.

UNRWA was forced to evacuate the six schools immediately to protect the safety of students and staff, condemning the act as a “serious violation of international agreements and the immunity of the UN institution.” UNRWA warned that the

This escalation comes in the context of an Israeli campaign aimed at undermining the role of UNRWA in Jerusalem. Since April 8, Israeli Ministry of Education teams have distributed closure notices to six UNRWA schools in Shu’fat, Silwan, Sur Baher, and Wadi al-Joz, claiming that the schools are “operating without licenses and contrary to the law.” They urged parents to transfer their children to schools the occupation municipality runs.

This Israeli campaign targets about 1,100 students studying in UNRWA schools, attempting to subject the education system in Jerusalem to the control of the occupation and increase the number of students in Israeli schools at the expense of reducing those studying the Palestinian curriculum.

This step clearly violates the 1967 “Kumay-McClure” agreement signed between Israel and UNRWA, which affirmed the agency’s roles and privileges as a UN institution enjoying immunity. It also violates the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302 of December 1949, which established the agency’s mandate to provide education, relief, and employment for Palestinian refugees.

On Monday, May 26, 2025, Israeli extremists, including Knesset member Yulia Malinovsky from the “Israel Beiteinu” party, stormed the UNRWA headquarters in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem, coinciding with the so-called “Jerusalem Unification Day.” The intruders claimed to be “liberating” the former agency headquarters, raising flags and banners in an attempt to declare it a site for establishing a new settlement neighbourhood.

## **Violations against Prisoners**

The Israeli occupation authorities continued their violations against Palestinian prisoners, especially children, through unfair trials and harsh sentences. On May 4, 2025, the occupation prosecution submitted a general indictment statement to prepare an

indictment against seven youths from the village of al-Issawiya in Jerusalem, including the released prisoner Rida Obeid, who was freed as part of the last prisoner exchange deal and now faces the risk of conviction again in occupation courts. The youths were presented to the “Magistrate Court,” which decided to extend their detention pending the filing of indictments. This step followed a violent arrest campaign conducted by occupation forces in April, which included home raids and assaults on residents, while the detainees, including Rida, were subjected to harsh interrogations in cells.

On May 25, 2025, the occupation court rejected an appeal request to reduce the sentence of the Jerusalemite child prisoner Muhammad al-Zalabani (14 years old), insisting that the two years he spent in occupation prisons should not be counted toward his 18-year sentence. The court also refused to reduce the hefty fine of 250,000 shekels, in a clear attempt to punish and deter Palestinian children.

On May 27, the Jerusalemite teenager Muhammad Yasser Darwish from al-Issawiya was transferred to Al-Maqassed Hospital following his release from occupation prisons after serving seven months, due to his deteriorated health resulting from severe wasting and exhaustion. The occupation issued a one-month house ban against him, later reduced to 15 days. He is expected to be transferred to one of the West Bank cities to complete his exile period, reflecting a systematic policy targeting released prisoners with additional punitive measures after their release.

The occupation authorities continue to target released prisoners with house arrest and exile orders, especially from the Al-Aqsa Mosque, aiming to isolate them from their social and religious environment, prevent any celebration of their release, and continue to restrict them through surveillance and security pursuits. These measures extend the occupation’s approach of suppressing basic freedoms and depriving prisoners of their simplest human and legal rights even after their release.

### **Colonial Projects**

Through daily monitoring of official announcements issued by the Civil Administration and the occupation municipality in Jerusalem, in addition to reports by the Arab Studies Society – Beit al-Sharq, Jerusalem Governorate recorded 19 colonial plans during May 2025, distributed as follows: 8 plans deposited, 4 plans approved, 1 plan put out for tender, the start of implementation of 5 colonial projects, and the inauguration of 1 colonial project.

The occupation government, through its so-called “security cabinet,” announced the start of a comprehensive project to register lands in the “Area C” classified zones of the West Bank, an unprecedented step aiming to transfer ownership of vast areas of Palestinian land to the control of the occupation state or individual settlers. This policy is part of a systematic plan to obstruct Palestinian efforts to document ownership and impose a new legal reality that undermines the chances of a fair settlement and directly strikes the foundations of the two- state solution by converting most of the “Area C” lands into colonial assets.

### **Deposited Plans:**

- Plan No. 101/1193739 in Ramot settlement: addition of two housing units to an existing building on an area of 2.651 dunums.
- Plan No. 101/1320233 in Givat Hamatos settlement: construction of towers containing 350 housing units on 31.436 dunums.
- Plan No. 101/0805531 on Hebron Street: establishing a bus station on 65.137 dunums.
- Plan No. 101/1098219 in Ramat Shlomo settlement: addition of 4 housing units to an existing building on 0.697 dunums.
- Plan No. 101/1226851 in Gilo settlement: addition of one housing unit to an existing building on 0.807 dunums.
- Plan No. 101/1252998 in Givat Shaked settlement: construction of 450 housing units and commercial/employment area on 11.437 dunums.
- Plan No. 101/1225895 in Ramat Eshkol settlement: construction of towers containing 181 housing units and commercial/public buildings on 4.816 dunums.
- Plan No. 226/2/1/1/1 in Almon settlement, built on the lands of Anata village: changing land use from open public area to buildings and public institutions on 0.764 dunums.

### **Approved Plans:**

- Plan No. 101/0921197 in Ramot settlement: construction of buildings and public institutions on 18.998 dunums.
- Plan No. 101/1011840 in the Talpiot settlement: building towers containing 458 housing units, commercial areas, and public buildings on 9.586 dunums.
- Plan No. 242/2 in Kochav Yaakov settlement on lands of Kafr Aqab village: construction of 627 housing units, commercial areas, public buildings, institutions, and gardens on 253.91 dunums; plan was deposited on June 21, 2024.
- On May 28, 2025, Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper revealed that the "Security Cabinet" secretly approved two weeks earlier the establishment of 22 new settlements in the West Bank, including the Atarot Adar settlement in occupied Jerusalem.
- Plan Offered for Tender:
- Tender No. 2025/10 in Ramot settlement: implementation of construction works including a mikveh and synagogue called "Ramot Country."

### **Colonial Projects under Implementation:**

- During May 2025, the occupation authorities began implementing the second phase of the light rail project, which aims to connect more illegal settlements in East Jerusalem

with West Jerusalem.

- On May 5, 2025, with the approval of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the occupation authorities started restoration and expansion work on what is called the "Small Western Wall," historically known as "Ribat al-Kurd" or "Hosh Shahabi," located at Bab al-Hadid in Al-Aqsa Mosque. This western wall, over 700 years old, is an integral part of Al-Aqsa Mosque and is managed by the Islamic Waqf Department. These works are part of a Judaization project aiming to monopolize parts of the western wall and annex them to the so-called "Wailing Wall," flagrantly violating Palestinian religious and historical rights.
- On May 8, 2025, the occupation authorities began a project to drain sewage from the Givat Hamatos settlement, causing sewage to flow into the village of Beit Safafa south of occupied Jerusalem, resulting in serious environmental damage and foul odours.
- On May 12, 2025, the occupation moved the military checkpoint in the village of al-Walajah to a new location within the village lands, confiscating more agricultural lands and depriving residents of access to the "Ain al-Haniya" area.
- On May 14, 2025, the occupation municipality opened a new park in the heart of Jerusalem, named "Moshe Arens," after a member of the "Irgun" gang and a former Defence Minister from the Likud Party. This was the ninth such opening since October 2023.
- On May 19, 2025, the occupation municipality announced the upcoming opening of a sports club dedicated to settlers inside the Ma'ale Hazitim settlement. The club will be built on the lands of Ras al-Amoud neighbourhood in Silwan town south of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Work on the project began in 2023, and it is expected to open officially in 2026.
- In May 2025, the occupation authorities began constructing a new colonial road near the village of Rafat between Jerusalem and Ramallah, targeting about 2,178 dunums of Palestinian land. The project aims to connect the Pisgat Ze'ev settlement to the Modi'in Illit complex, threatening to isolate several Palestinian villages from their surroundings and geographically fragment them.
- On May 28, 2025, the Israeli Settlement Affairs Department began the land registration process in Wadi al-Rababa neighbourhood in Silwan town. This step aims to transfer land ownership to Israeli institutions under a legal cover. It currently targets plots No. 16 and 18 of Basin No. 30126, which include 8 inhabited houses, opening the door to eviction orders soon, and increasing the risk of forced displacement of Palestinian residents.

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<sup>i</sup> Main Source: Unless otherwise indicated, the Public Relations and Media Unit of the Jerusalem Governorate.