

**Palestine News Forum 8/3/16-15/3/16**

**Top News: EU condemns Israel's planned Palestinian land seizure in occupied West Bank (15.3.2016)**



*Source: Al-Arabiya*

The European Union has censured Tel Aviv for its plans to expropriate Palestinian lands in the West Bank, saying that the decision risks threatening the chances of ending the conflict in the occupied territories and the creation of a future independent Palestinian state. Tel Aviv's decision to seize 234 hectares (579 acres) of land near the eastern city of Ariha (Jericho) in the occupied West Bank "is a further step that risks undermining the viability of a future Palestinian state and therefore calls into question Israel's commitment to a two-state solution," the 28-member bloc said in a statement released on Thursday. It added, "Any decision that could enable further settlement expansion, which is illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace, will only drive the parties to the conflict even further apart." "The European Union remains firmly opposed to Israel's settlement policy and actions taken in this context, including demolitions and confiscations, evictions, forced transfers or restrictions on movement and access," the statement pointed out. On Wednesday, Britain slammed Israel's decision to further expand settlements in the West Bank, calling the move "an obstacle to peace."

**Palestine News Forum 8/3/16-15/3/16**

**Other news**

**2. Gaza: Egypt floods “trade tunnel” (14.3.2016)**



*Source: Al-Arabiyah*

Two Palestinian workers were killed after Egypt flooded a trade tunnel stretching from the blockaded Gaza Strip into the Arab country. The Palestinian Interior Ministry said the body of Mohammed Abbas of Rafah was found Sunday following the death of a man named Fadi Abu Dan. Seven Palestinian men had been trapped in the tunnel on Thursday, five of whom were rescued, according to rescue services. A local civil defense official accused Egypt of causing the trade tunnel to collapse by flooding it with seawater. The tunnel stretched from the southern Gaza town of Rafah into Egypt.

Gaza has been blockaded by Tel Aviv since June 2007, leading to a humanitarian crisis that has caused a decline in the standards of living, unprecedented levels of unemployment, and unrelenting poverty. Egypt has also imposed a siege of its own on Gaza.

**Palestine News Forum 8/3/16-15/3/16**

**3. Israeli professor urges boycott of Israeli settlement university (14.3.2016)**



*Source: Al-Arabiya*

An Israeli professor has called on his colleagues to join an internal boycott of an Israeli university in an illegal settlement in the occupied West Bank. Uri Ram, head of Israel's Sociological Society, said on Monday that the group will not cooperate with the institution called Ariel University, as it is operating in the illegal Ariel settlement.

In 2012, the cabinet of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu conferred university status to the institution, sparking criticism among activists who said the move would entrench Tel Aviv's hold on the occupied Palestinian lands. Ram is also a professor of sociology at Ben Gurion University in Negev. His move is anticipated to lead pro-Palestinian academics across the world to boycott the institution.

**4. A child was killed in the West Bank (12.3.16)**

**Palestine News Forum 8/3/16-15/3/16**



*Source: Al-Arabiyah*

A 10-year-old boy was shot in the occupied West Bank during airstrikes conducted by Israeli “forces,” while targeting the base of the Islamist Palestinian Organization “Ha-mas” in Bayt Lahiya. Israeli forces stated that they launched the attacks as a respond to the rocket firing against the Israelis the previous day.

**Palestine News Forum 8/3/16-15/3/16**

**5. Haaretz: The Third Intifada is underway (12.3.2016)**



*Source: Al-Arabiyah*

Israel is facing the third Palestinian Intifada (uprising), with preventive measures taken by Tel Aviv having failed to contain tensions, the Ha'aretz daily writes. Israel “won’t call it this, but there’s no denying that Israel is facing a third Intifada,” the Israeli newspaper wrote on Saturday. The daily referred to tensions as a “more complex” uprising compared to the first Intifada, that took place between 1987 and 1993, and the second one in the 2000s. A total of 6,200 Palestinians died during both Palestinian uprisings. “What makes it different is that it's being carried out by individuals who aren't taking their lead from religious or political figures. And preventive measures run the risk of making matters worse,” it said. Most of the individuals involved in the new Intifada “are relatively young and have no organizational affiliation,” Ha'aretz said.

**Palestine News Forum 8/3/16-15/3/16**

**6. Israel expels Palestinian family from Jerusalem (al-Quds)**



*Source: Al-Arabiyah*

Israeli authorities have reportedly denied East al-Quds (Jerusalem) residency to the five family members of a Palestinian youth shot dead recently in an alleged attack against Israeli officers. Muhammad Mahmoud, a lawyer for the Palestinian prisoners' rights group, Addameer, said the family members of 21-year-old Fouad Abu Rajab Tamimi were summoned to al-Maskobiya police station in al-Quds on Thursday, and deported to the West Bank on the grounds that they were living in the East al-Quds neighborhood of al-Issawiya illegally.

Mahmoud identified the five as Fouad's mother, his two sisters Reem and Rose, aged 19 and 16, and his brothers Mahmoud and Muhammad, aged 15 and 14.

An Israeli court decided to keep the father of family in custody on suspicion that he was involved in the alleged shooting assault against Israeli soldiers earlier this week.

Tamimi was shot dead on March 8 after allegedly firing gunshots at Israeli forces near Salah al-Din Street in occupied East al-Quds, injuring two Israeli officers.

**Palestine News Forum 8/3/16-15/3/16**

**7. Biden and Abbas meet in Ramallah (10.3.2016)**



*Source: Al-Arabiyah*

The vice president of the United States Joe Biden and President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas met yesterday evening in Ramallah and discussed the ongoing violence between Israelis and Palestinians, the White House said.

During his visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, Biden strongly condemned the attack Tuesday in Jaffa, where the American tourist Taylor Force said in a statement, the White House killed.

Biden also reiterated the continued support of the US for a "two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian war, and urged all sides to take steps to defuse the tension, the fulfillment of commitments, and avoid inflammatory rhetoric," wrote the statement.

**Palestine News Forum 8/3/16-15/3/16**

**8. West Bank: Israeli settlers torch Palestinian house**



*Source: Al-Arabiyah*

Israeli settlers have set fire to a Palestinian house in the south-central part of the occupied West Bank in an apparent act of hate crime as tensions continue across the occupied territories. Hassan Barijiya, the coordinator of the popular committee to resist the separation wall in Bethlehem, said a group of settlers from the illegal Neve Daniel settlement torched the house belonging to Mohannad Sa'ad Salah in the town of Khadr, located five kilometers (3.1 miles) west of Bethlehem, on Thursday evening, while he and his family members were outside. Earlier in the day, the exterior walls of the house had been daubed with graffiti and Israeli settlers had hurled stones at it, while Salah, his wife and their daughters were inside. The graffiti read "Death to Arabs" and "Leave" among other threatening writings.