

1. Israel partially lifts a ban on Palestinian access to settlements (20.1.16)

Israel allowed limited access to the settlements in the West Bank. According to an Israeli military spokesman, thousands of Palestinian workers will be able to have access to several regions, not included the Old City and Hebron. Security checks are conducted constantly.

2. EU-Israeli relations discussed between Morgherini and Netanyahu in Davos (21.1.16)

The HR/VP Federica Morgherini met PM of Israel in Davos, in the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Meeting. The top issue was the relations between EU and Israel, given the bilateral sociopolitical and historical links. They also discussed regional tensions, especially in the West Bank. The importance of a two-state solution was underlined, while Morgherini also stated that peace in the region is set as a priority for the EU.

3. Israel confirms the annexation of land in the West Bank (22.1.16)

Israel confirmed the illegal annexation of a big part of the Palestinian Jordan Valley, which was also characterised as “the frontline of Israel’s defense”. As first published by Israeli Media, 1,540 acres will be annexed, from a region the Palestinians expected to found their own state. This part of land is already under effective military control by Israel. The UN Secretary General condemned the seizure of the territory, stating that such an action is a clear violation of both the international law and the public statements of Israel supporting any possible two-state solution.

4. International reactions to the Israeli seizure of the Jordan Valley (22.1.16)

According to the NGO “Peace now”, which stands against the settlements, the annexation of land is a “diplomatic disaster”, as it undermines any future possibility of a State of Palestine. Palestinian officers condemned the seizure of the Valley also referring to violations of international law and to “stealing land”. The PLO representative stated: “What we see here is the theft of 92% water, theft 92% of the land and the largest colonial regime, ”he said and dismissed the strategic importance of this valley, cited by the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.” According to the UN, Israel is undermining peace efforts.

5. Girl tries to kill Israeli guard (23.1.16)

A Palestinian girl holding a knife attacked an Israeli guard in the West Bank. The guard fired against the 13 year old girl causing her death.

6. A woman succumbs to her wounds after Palestinian attacks (26.1.16)

A 24 year old woman was stabbed by two Palestinians in the West Bank. Her death was confirmed later by the hospital doctors.

7. Ministry of Defense approved new housing units project (26.1.16)

The Defense Ministry of Israel approved plans to build 153 new housing units in the occupied West Bank. It is the first time in 1,5 years that the Israeli government adopts building projects in the West Bank, according to Israeli NGOs. The international community opposes Israel’s plans since they are seen as barriers to achieving a state of peace in the Middle East