

Day 137: Jerusalem during “Al-Aqsa Flood” Operation

February 20, 2024



On the 137th day of "Al-Aqsa Flood Operation", the Israeli occupation forces demolished a residential building in the town of Beit Hanina, while the Shweiki family began to self-demolish their building in the town of Silwan, and the restrictions imposed on worshippers' entry to Al-Aqsa continued, in addition to incursions into the towns and neighborhoods in Jerusalem.

Demolition of an under-construction building in Beit Hanina

In the early morning hours, the forces accompanied by bulldozers stormed the town of Beit Hanina, surrounded an under-construction residential building and then proceeded to demolish it under the pretext of building without a permit.

The residential building consists of 8 floors, and is under construction.

Demolition of a building in Silwan

In the evening hours, the Shweiki family began to demolish their building in the Wad Yasoul neighborhood in the town of Silwan, under the pretext of building without a permit.

The Shweiki family explained that the municipality issued a decision to demolish the building a month ago, and did not agree to freeze or postpone it, so they were forced to empty the contents of the house, and then start the demolition process in order to avoid paying the "demolition fee" to the municipal crews and the accompanying forces."

The building consists of a two floors, including 5 apartments, and 16 people live in it.

The Shweiki family pointed out that the municipality imposed a financial penalty of NIS 75,000 on them, 6 months ago.

The siege on Al-Aqsa Mosque continues

The occupation authorities continued to impose their restrictions on worshippers' entry to Al-Aqsa, by randomly preventing young men and women in particular from entering it, and

stopping all arrivals and checking their identities and searching their bags, in addition to a permanent presence on all its gates.

The settlers' incursions into the Al-Aqsa Mosque continue, and 201 extremists carried out their incursions into the Al-Aqsa Mosque, through the Dung Gate, in the form of successive groups, and performed prayers during the incursions.

Arrests

The arrests of Palestinians from the city of Jerusalem continued, and the police said in a statement that they arrested 70 Palestinians from the West Bank under the pretext of illegal presence and entry into Jerusalem, pointing out that among those arrested were 38 people that were arrested last night from inside a "car wash".

The forces also carried out various arrests from Silwan, and the Shu'fat refugee camp.

Clashes broke out at the Shu'fat refugee camp checkpoint in Jerusalem late Thursday night.

Judges and courts

On the other hand, the Judge Appointment Committee appointed 16 judges to the District Courts in Nazareth and Haifa, and a judge to the District Court in Eilat, and the Minister Orit Strock, a member of the Judge Appointment Committee, objected to the promotion of a judge from the Magistrate's Court to the District Court in Haifa, claiming "that the nominated judge was lenient in one of the rulings regarding a detainee during the Al-Aqsa uprising", claiming that this judge "is not sufficiently patriotic of Israel."

Regarding the decision, Mohammad Mahmoud, a lawyer at the Wadi Hilweh Information Center in Jerusalem, described the decision as serious, and said: "A new credibility has been added to the appointment of judges in the Israeli courts. The harsher the judge's rulings are against the Palestinian youths and those accused of security charges, the more likely he/she will be promoted and successful, meaning that the judge will be evaluated according to the rulings he/she issues."

Trying to break into a school

In the afternoon hours, the police were stationed on the gate of the "Al-Sawahra School for Boys" in the village of Jabal al-Mukabber, in an attempt to storm it.