

# *Israel Destroys Palestinian House in West Bank*

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Ramallah, March 10 (RHC)-- Israeli forces have razed to the ground a Palestinian house in a village in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli forces destroyed the house, which belonged to Palestinian Judge Kifah Abd al-Rahim Sholi, in the village of al-Jarushiyya in Tulkarem Governorate on Monday, Ma'an news agency reported.

According to local sources, the Israeli forces raided the village and destroyed the two-story building under the pretext that the house had been constructed without an Israeli permit.

"Security forces carried out the demolition of an illegal building which was constructed without the necessary permits," Ma'an news agency quoted a statement by the Israeli Civil Administration as saying. Over 560 Palestinian homes have been destroyed in the occupied West Bank so far this year.

Israel is facing widespread global condemnation over its settlement construction in the occupied Palestinian lands. The presence and continued expansion of Israeli settlements in occupied Palestine has created a major obstacle in the way of efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

More than half a million Israelis live in more than 120 settlements built since Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 1967.

The Israeli settlements are considered to be illegal by the United Nations and most countries because the territories were captured by Israel in the war in 1967 and are thus subject to the Geneva Conventions, which forbid construction on occupied lands.

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