

Israel plans to seize big tract of Palestinian land in new land grab bid

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A Palestinian woman sits next to the remains of her home after it was demolished by Israeli bulldozers in a disputed military zone in the area of Musafir Jenbah, south of the West Bank

Ramallah, June 16 (RHC)-- Israel reportedly plans to illegally seize a large plot of land in the occupied West Bank to construct a huge park for the settlers, in what is viewed as one of the regime's biggest land grab schemes.

Tel Aviv set up a project which intends to seize a land area stretching 1,000 square kilometers from occupied al-Quds, all the way to the Dead Sea, the Palestinian Information Center reported on Wednesday.

If implemented, the project can change the geographical and political structure of the region and may rule out the possibility of establishing an independent Palestinian state in the future, the report warned.

In a separate development, the Israeli regime's military has razed a Palestinian man's house to the ground in Wadi al-Hummus district in Sur Baher neighborhood on the southeastern outskirts of East al-Quds, Iran's Al-Alam website reported on Thursday.

Mahmoud Robay'eh, the owner of the house said that Israeli forces have raided his house, broke the door, and forced everyone out. He said they have lived in the house for the past seven years and only last month, an Israeli court ordered the demolition of the house.

Israel routinely demolishes Palestinian houses in the occupied West Bank and East al-Quds, unjustifiably claiming that the structures have been built without permits while such permits are almost impossible to obtain.

They sometimes order Palestinian owners to either demolish their own houses or they have to pay the demolition costs. Israel has already occupied thousands of dunums of Palestinian agricultural lands to construct and expand new illegal settler units in various areas in the West Bank.

The Tel Aviv regime also plans to force out Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in an attempt to replace them with settlers. That plan sparked days of fighting between Gaza-based Hamas and the Israeli regime in May last year.

More than 600,000 Israelis live in over 230 settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and al-Quds.

All Israeli settlements are illegal under international law. The United Nations Security Council has condemned Israel's settlement activities in the occupied territories in several resolutions.

Palestinians want the West Bank as part of a future independent state, with East al-Quds as its capital.

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