



# House Demolition Report in East Jerusalem 2012

## Monitoring and Documentation Unit-MSD Data Bank



المقدسة للتعمية المجتمع  
Al-Maqdese for Society Development (MSD)

## **Introduction**

The Israeli authorities worked since its occupation of Jerusalem in 1967 on implementing eviction and demolition practices to displace Palestinians from Jerusalem by various means including violating the Jerusalemites' rights, especially the right of citizenship, adequate housing, land & property confiscation and consequently continued settlement establishment on the expense of the Palestinians' space. The Israeli authorities implemented house demolitions of Palestinians under several pretexts; such as the lack of permits and building in green land zones<sup>1</sup>. Concerning building permits, Israel hinders the issuance of such permits by asking Palestinian citizens to meet the complicated and irrational requirements, in other words (incapacitating requirements), in addition to the policies that Israel use and implement through the confiscation of lands and properties of Palestinian Jerusalemites. All of the above aims to evacuate the city from its indigenous persons, in addition to the settlement expansion in the city of Jerusalem that aims to change the demographics of the city. These violations are in serious contravention of all International treaties and provisions, the International Humanitarian Law and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

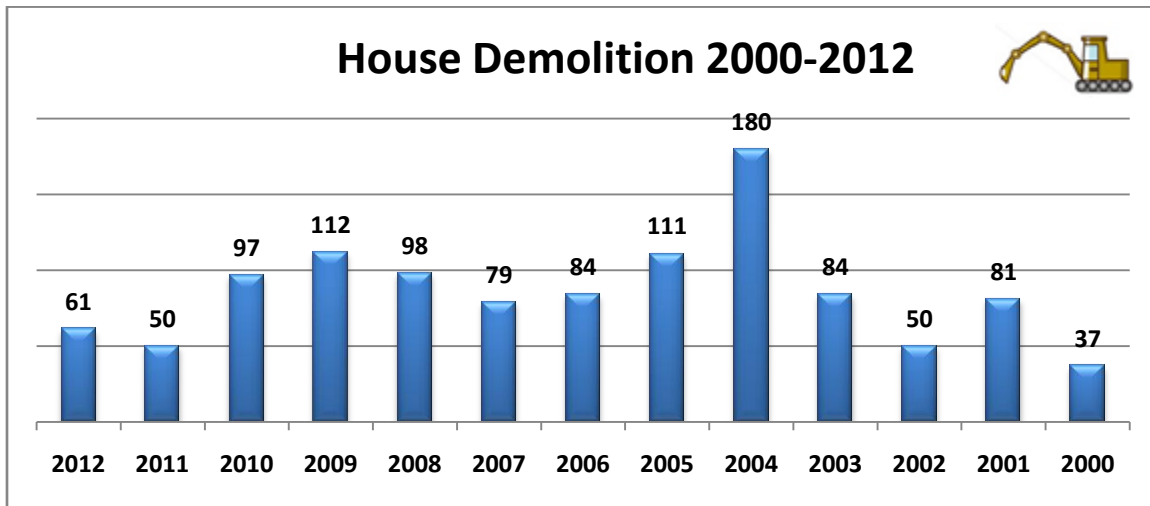
## **Home Demolitions in East Jerusalem 2012:**

Within the policy of evacuating the city from its indigenous persons, the Israeli authorities worked on demolishing the homes and structures of Jerusalemite citizens. This is considered a grave violation of Palestinians' rights of adequate housing as approved by the international treaties and provisions. Since 2000 and until the end of 2012, the Israeli authorities demolished **1124** residential and non-residential structures displacing around **4966** Palestinians including **1311** women and **2586** children. During the year 2012, the Israeli authorities represented in the Israeli Municipality, the Israeli Ministry of Interior, the Nature and Parks Authority and the Israeli Civil Administration demolished **61** residential and non-residential structures (as documented by MSD) and/or through forcing citizens to demolish their houses with their own hands (Self-demolition). Statistics show that the year 2012 witnessed higher numbers of demolitions in comparison with the year before, which constitutes a very dangerous indicator concerning the rise of the violations' intensification year after year.

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<sup>1</sup> Green Zone: Zones identified by the Israeli Municipality as open areas, which means that building there is prohibited in order to keep the minimum limit of green zones. However, in the context of East Jerusalem and despite the lack of cultivation in the green areas, the term "green zone" is used to hinder the normal growth and development of Palestinians in Jerusalem city and near Israeli settlements.

**Figure (1) House Demolitions 2000-2012**



**Brief Description of House Demolitions<sup>2</sup>**

1. On 16/01/2012, the Israeli Municipality demolished 2 rooms under construction (60 m<sup>2</sup> belonging to Mr. Dabash in Sour Baher area.
2. On 16/01/2012, the Israeli Municipality demolished a 78 m<sup>2</sup> apartment under construction belonging to Mr. Abu Khdair in Shu'fat area, giving the pretext of having no building permit.
3. On 30/01/2012, bulldozers of the Israeli Municipality demolished a 72 m<sup>2</sup> house belonging to Mr. Samara in Beit Hanina area. As a result, 6 persons were displaced.
4. On 30/01/2012, bulldozers of the Israeli Municipality demolished a 95 m<sup>2</sup> of house additions belonging to Mr. Hasouneh in Shu'fat village.
5. On 06/02/2012, the Israeli Authority represented in the Nature and Parks Authority demolished a 30 m wall belonging to Mr. Mwaswes in Al Tour neighborhood (KhiletII-Ein area), in addition to bulldozing the land and the surrounding lands.
6. On 06/02/2012, the Israeli Authority represented in the Nature and Parks Authority demolished a 9 m concrete wall belonging to Mr. Kazmi in Al Tour neighborhood (KhiletII-Ein area), in addition to bulldozing the lands surrounding the wall.
7. On 07/02/2012, the Israeli Authorities forced Mr. Issa Abbasi from Ras Al Amoud area to demolish his 60 m<sup>2</sup> shop that he has been working in for 7 years, taking into consideration that the shop was the source of income for 3 families.

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<sup>2</sup> Attached, you can find a detailed table of the demolitions (Annex 1 )

8. On 09/02/2012, bulldozers of the Israeli Authority demolished a 90 m<sup>2</sup> house belonging to Mr. Izz Al Deen Abu Nijmeh in Beit Hanina (Wadi Al Dam area), it also demolished a 50 m<sup>2</sup> sheep barn .The demolition process displaced 4 persons including 2 children.
9. On 10/2/2012, Mr. Abbas Al Awar from Silwan area was forced to demolish the 72 m<sup>2</sup> barracks that he used to work in.
10. On 13/2/2012, bulldozers of the Israeli Municipality demolished a 60 m<sup>2</sup> barracks and wall belonging to Mr. Siam in Silwan area.
11. On 13/02/2012, bulldozers of the Israeli Municipality demolished a 85 m<sup>2</sup> house belonging to Mr. Ahmad Baghdadi in Al Sowaneh area. The demolition process resulted in displacing 2 persons including one child.
12. On 13/02/2012, bulldozers of the Israeli Municipality demolished the 60 m<sup>2</sup> Mada Creative Center (in Silwan) in Wadi Hilweh area.
13. On 13/02/2012, bulldozers of the Israeli Municipality demolished a 100 m wall belonging to Mr. Ziad Shweiki in Silwan village (Wadi Yassol area), it also demolished a 6 m<sup>2</sup> bathroom.
14. On 13/02/2012, the Israeli Authority demolished a 20 m wall belonging to Mr. Frouji in Al Sowaneh area in Al-Tour.
15. On 12/03/2012, Mr. Na'eem Farrah from Beit Hanina area was forced to demolish the 30 m<sup>2</sup> additions of his house.
16. On 05/04/2012, Mr. Abu Rmaileh from Beit Hanina area was forced to demolish his 90 m<sup>2</sup> house with his own hands.
17. On 09/05/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished a 60 m<sup>2</sup> well used for watering plants belonging to Mr. Idkedek in Beit Hanina area.
18. On 15/05/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished a 20 m<sup>2</sup> garage belonging to Mr. Abu Hadwan from Silwan area.
19. On 19/05/2012, Mr. Al Afifi was forced to demolish his 50 m<sup>2</sup> house in his own hands in the old city area. The demolition process resulted in displacing 8 persons including 6 children.
20. On 21/05/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished a 160 m<sup>2</sup> house belonging to Mr. Sameh Idrees in Al Tour area.
21. On 25/05/2012, Mr. Bkeerat was forced to demolish his 100 m<sup>2</sup> house in his own hands in Sour Baher village; as a result, 2 persons were displaced.

22. On 27/05/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished a 35 m<sup>2</sup> cafeteria located in the main road in Hizma area in Beit Hanina.
23. On 27/05/2012, the Israeli authorities demolished a 70 m<sup>2</sup> shop located in the main road in Hizma area.
24. On 27/05/2012, the Israeli authorities demolished a 400 m<sup>2</sup> gas station and car wash in the main road in Hizma area.
25. On 12/06/2012, the Israeli authorities demolished 7 shops in Beit Hanina neighborhood.
26. On 12/06/2012, the Israeli authorities demolished 4 barns in Jabal Al Mokaber area for a total of 700 m<sup>2</sup>.
27. On 02/07/2012, the Israeli authorities demolished a 180 m<sup>2</sup> shop in Al Isawiyeh area.
28. On 01/07/2012, the Israeli authorities demolished 4shops in the old city area (Damascus Gate).
29. On 18/07/2012, the Israeli authorities demolished a 16 m<sup>2</sup> room in Al Thouri area.
30. On 19/07/2012, Mr. Shalabi was forced to demolish his 65 m<sup>2</sup> house in his own hands in the old city area; the demolition process resulted in displacing 8 persons including 3 children.
31. On 29/07/2012, Mr. Rishek was forced to demolish the 6 m<sup>2</sup> additions of his house (roof) in Silwan area.
32. On 03/09/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished a 135 m<sup>2</sup> house and carpentry belonging to Mr. Shabaneh in Al Tour area.
33. On 11/09/2012, Mr. Abu Diab from Silwan area was forced to demolish the 60 m<sup>2</sup> additions of his house (balcony).
34. On 23/9/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished the 150 m<sup>2</sup> wall belonging to Mr. Omar Baidoun in Shu'fat area (the entrance of Ras Khamis area), giving the pretext of building the separation wall.
35. On 14/10/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished the 200 m<sup>2</sup> house and farm of Mr. Taha in Beit Hanina area. As a result of the demolition process, 6 persons were displaced including 4 children.
36. On 05/11/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished a 60 m<sup>2</sup> house belonging to Mr. Abu Laban in Al Tour area. As a result of the demolition process, 5 persons were displaced including 3 children.

37. On 05/11/2012, Mr. Elayan was forced to demolish his 70 m<sup>2</sup> house with his own hands in Beit Safafa area, as a result of the demolition process, 5 persons were displaced including 3 children.
38. On 12/11/2012, Mr. Adaydeh was forced to demolish his 130 m<sup>2</sup> house in his own hands in Beit Hanina area. As a result of the demolition process, 7 persons were displaced including 5 children.
39. On 13/11/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished a 120 m<sup>2</sup> house belonging to Mr. Arameen in Al Tour area. As a result of the demolition process, 8 persons were displaced including 6 children.
40. On 30/11/2012, Mr. Dabash was forced to demolish his 200 m<sup>2</sup> two floor house with his own hands. As a result of the demolition process, 18 persons were displaced including 8 children.
41. On 04/12/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished a 90 m<sup>2</sup> building belonging to Mr. Abu Al Hawa in Al Tour area.
42. On 11/12/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished a 80 m<sup>2</sup> house belonging to Mr. Al Jabari in Al Tour area. As a result of the demolition process, 7 persons were displaced including 3 children.
43. On 23/12/2012, Mr. Halawani was forced to demolish his 90 m<sup>2</sup> commercial facility in Wadi Al Jouz area.
44. On 25/12/2012, the Israeli Authorities demolished a 120 m<sup>2</sup> residential caravan belonging to Mr. Za'atra in Jabal Al Mokaber area.

To sum up, **61** structures were demolished (including residential and non-residential structures); **23** residential units and **38** structures<sup>3</sup> were demolished. **14** persons were forced to demolish their houses with their own hands (Self-Demolition) because they were either threatened with jail or expensive fines. These demolitions displaced **101** persons including **26** women and **49** children. Demolitions prevailed in the area of Al Tour as **8** demolitions were implemented displacing **26** persons including **15** children, in Beit Hanina **8** demolitions were implemented displacing **24** persons including **11** children. Demolitions prevailed as well in the areas of Silwan, Jabal Al-Mukaber and Sour Baher and Shu'fat.

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<sup>3</sup> Such as barracks, commercial stores, walls, tents and stores (for nonresidential purposes)

**Table (1): House demolitions and the number of persons displaced according to area for the year 2012**

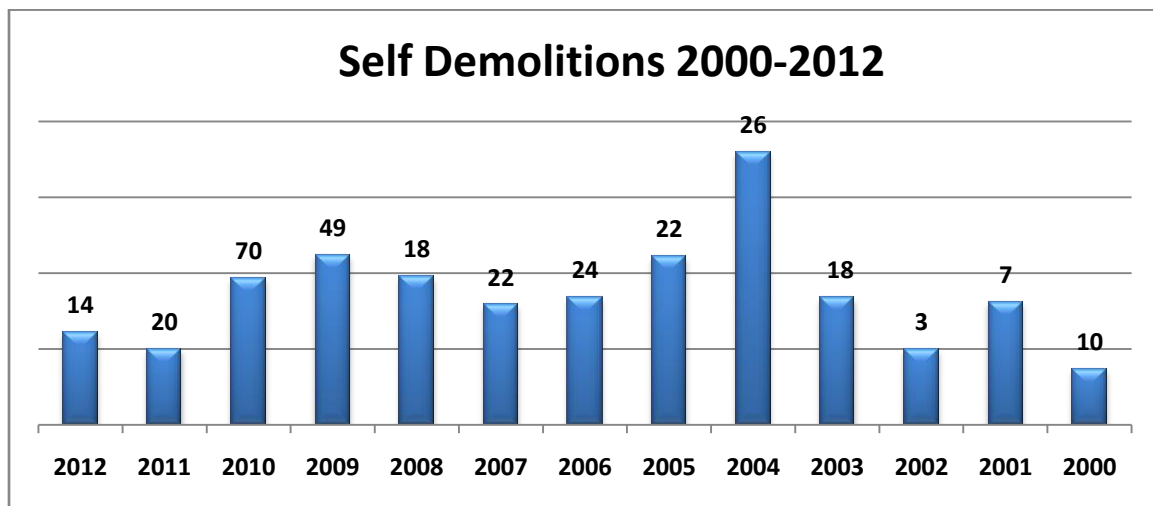
Area	Type of Building		# of Persons Displaced		Implementing Party	
	# of residential units	# of nonresidential structures	Adults	Children	Self-Demolition	Demolition by Israeli Authorities
Al Thoury	0	1	0	0	0	1
Al Tour	4	9	11	15	0	8
Al Isawiyeh	0	1	0	0	0	1
Al Sowaneh	1	1	1	1	0	2
BeitHanina	6	3	13	11	3	5
BeitSafafa	1	0	2	3	1	0
Hizma (the main road)	0	4	0	0	0	3
Jabal Al Mokaber	1	4	1	0	0	2
The Old City	2	4	7	9	2	4
Ras Al Amoud	0	1	0	0	1	0
Shu'fat	2	1	5	2	0	3
Silwan	1	8	0	0	4	3
Sour Baher	5	0	12	8	2	1
Wadi Al Jouz	0	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>

MSD statistics indicate that house demolitions and forced self-demolitions in particular are the most dangerous and most critical, since 2000 and up until 2012, the Israeli Authorities forced **303** citizens to demolish their houses with their own hands. The year 2010 witnessed the highest rate of self-demolitions; **70** self-demolitions were documented<sup>4</sup>. As for the year 2012, MSD monitored and documented **14** self-demolitions, but not all self-demolitions can be documented since some persons keep these demolitions in discreet and abstain from informing the media, human right organizations and civil society organizations about the cases of self-demolition.

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<sup>4</sup>According to MSD Data Bank statistics and a report from the Israeli Ministry of Interior

**Figure (2): Self Demolitions 2000-2012<sup>5</sup>**



**Economic losses of the demolitions:**

House demolitions are not limited to the demolitions and displacements only, there are many other losses, the most important ones are the losses that the person faces as a result of the demolition process, in addition to the expensive fines that reaches millions of dollars before and after the demolition. During the year 2012, the total area of houses that were demolished (residential houses whether it was under construction and/or inhabited) reached **2460m<sup>2</sup>**, and the area of nonresidential structures reached **1974m<sup>2</sup>**, (as documented by MSD).

When counting the economic losses resulting from house demolitions, we notice that they reached more than **1,700,000 USD**, while losses from demolitions of nonresidential structures reached 1 million USD. In total, economic losses reached **2,700,000 \$**, this number does not include the massive amounts of money that are imposed as fines.

All of the above aims to stranglehold Jerusalemite citizens economically and making it impossible for them to live inside the city.

**Summary:**

The Israeli occupation continues to implement its various discriminatory policies against Palestinians through different procedures and processes such as: displacement, house demolitions and eviction outside the city borders, in addition to taking away their right of residency and housing, and preventing them from being in their own city by using forced displacement policies, in addition to many other forms of abuse from the settlers and the extreme right wing groups that get the full and official coverage and support of the government.

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<sup>5</sup> Source: MSD Data bank- demolitions monitored and documented by Al-Maqdese.



All of the above requires a clear political stand of all supporters of Palestinians' rights and providing them with protection, security and support in their self-determination and enjoyment of their rights in various forms.

However, the practical experience showed that the occupation considers itself above all laws, and that Israel does not follow any of the international laws and treaties and that the international community sees that but stays still and does nothing.

Palestinian Jerusalemites have had their share of Israeli violations of their rights and they are at a point where they cannot remain dormant concerning their situation. However, the birth of the Arab Spring and the mobilization of the masses clearly affected the Jerusalemite community, MSD predicts the birth of a peaceful mass movement against the occupation and its policies. The international community, the Arab and the Islamic countries should support the Palestinians in general and in Jerusalem specifically to achieve their goals and get their freedom.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1) The Israeli authorities must **immediately stop** house demolitions which serves as a tool for ethnic cleansing and forced displacements for Palestinians in Jerusalem, taking into consideration that these practices are against all international provisions and treaties and the International Humanitarian Law and the Fourth Geneva Convention in particular. Also, Israeli authorities must halt all demolition orders (whether they were administrative, judicial or military) of Palestinian houses in Jerusalem.
- 2) The international community, the Islamic and Arab countries and the Palestinian Authority must reconstruct the houses that were demolished by the Israeli Authorities, and they must compensate their owners who suffered from the demolition and displacement.
- 3) To follow a planning policy that is based on respecting the rights of Palestinians in adequate housing, making new plans that meet the residential needs of Palestinians and adjusting the existing plans and giving building permits that allow Palestinians to build houses according to their needs based on the basic right of Palestinians of having adequate housing.
- 4) To demand the International community to continuously and effectively put pressure on Israel to end its occupation of the Palestinian territories. Until then, they must provide protection for Palestinians in the Palestinian territories against Israeli policies and house demolitions in particular.
- 5) To return the status of Palestinians whose houses were demolished for any reason to what they were before, in case this was not possible, they should be compensated

financially and morally for the losses that harmed them and their families as a result of the arbitrary policies that are based on racial discrimination and aim to spread forced displacement.

- 6) The Palestinian Authority must fulfill its responsibility towards the city of Jerusalem and its citizens through implementing clear and sustainable supporting mechanisms and identifying a specified budget from the Palestinian Government budget that meets the existing needs in occupied Jerusalem.
- 7) The Palestinian Authority must establish a supporting fund from the government budget, this Fund should be managed by the Jerusalem Governorate Office and it will be assigned for providing financial and urgent support for harmed families.

## Annex 1

**Al-Maqdes for Society Development (MSD)  
House demolitions in East Jerusalem 2012**

**MSD Data Bank****Suggested citation:**

Al-Maqdes for Society Development (MSD). 2012. House demolitions in East Jerusalem 2012. MSD Data Bank. Jerusalem

Serial No of D.B	Date	Location	Type Of Structure	Building	no. of Apartments	Other	Total	People displaced			Type of Demolition		Comments
								Adult	Child	Total	Self	Israeli Authorities	
3290	16/01/2012	Sur Baher	Residential Non Inhabited	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of two rooms 60 m <sup>2</sup> and barn
3291	16/01/2012	Shu'fat	Residential Non Inhabited	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a house roof under construction 78 m <sup>2</sup>
3318	30/01/2012	BietHanina	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	6	0	6	0	1	Demolition of a house 72 m <sup>2</sup>
3319	30/01/2012	Shu'fat	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	5	2	7	0	1	Demolition of an extension room 95 m <sup>2</sup>
3323	06/02/2012	Al-Tour	Non Residential	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a retaining wall, iron fence and caves
3324	06/02/2012	Al-Tour	Non Residential	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a wall, and two caves
3325	07/02/2012	RasAlamoud	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	Self Demolition of an aluminum workshop mini market 140 m <sup>2</sup>
3326	09/02/2012	BietHanina	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	2	2	4	0	1	Demolition of a house 90 m <sup>2</sup>
3327	10/02/2012	Silwan	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	Self Demolition of an aluminum workshop, 72 m <sup>2</sup>
3328	13/02/2012	Silwan	Non Residential	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a barracks 60 m <sup>2</sup> and a wall
3329	13/02/2012	Al-Sowaneh	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	demolition of a house 85 m <sup>2</sup>
3330	13/02/2012	Silwan	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of Mada Silwan Center for children activities,
3331	13/02/2012	Silwan	Non Residential	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a wall and rest room
3332	13/02/2012	Al-Sowaneh	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a wall 20 m
3380	12/03/2012	BietHanina	Residential Non Inhabited	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	Self Demolition of a house under construction 30 m <sup>2</sup>
3383	09/05/2012	BietHanina	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a well 60 m <sup>2</sup>
3394	05/04/2012	BietHanina	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	Self Demolition of an apartment 90 m <sup>2</sup>
3395	15/05/2012	Silwan	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	Self Demolition of a Garage 20 m <sup>2</sup>
3396	19/05/2012	Old City	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	2	6	8	1	0	Self Demolition of a house 50 m <sup>2</sup>
3397	21/05/2012	Al-tur	Residential Non Inhabited	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a house 100 m <sup>2</sup>
3398	25/05/2012	Sour Baher	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	Self Demolition of a house 100 m <sup>2</sup>
3399	27/05/2012	Hazma	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a Cafeteria 35 m <sup>2</sup>
3400	27/05/2012	Hazma	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a shop 70 m <sup>2</sup>
3401	27/05/2012	Hazma	Non Residential	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a Petrol station 400 m <sup>2</sup> and car wash
3402	12/06/2012	BietHanina	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of 7 shops 270 m <sup>2</sup>
3403	12/06/2012	Jabal Al-Mukaber	Non Residential	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of 4 animal barns 700 m <sup>2</sup>
3404	02/07/2012	Al-Isawiyeh	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a shop of 180 m <sup>2</sup>
3405	01/07/2012	Old City	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a shop in the old city
3406	01/07/2012	Old City	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a shop in the old city
3407	01/07/2012	Old City	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a shop in the old city
3408	01/07/2012	Old City	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a shop in the old city
3409	18/07/2012	Al thouri	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a room 16 m <sup>2</sup>
3410	19/07/2012	Old City	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	5	3	8	1	0	Self demolition of a house 65 m <sup>2</sup>
3411	29/07/2012	Silwan	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	Self demolition of a roof 6 m <sup>2</sup>
3421	03/09/2012	Al-tur	Residential Inhabited	1	1	1	2	3	3	6	0	1	Demolition of a house (85m <sup>2</sup> ) and a carpenter shop (50m <sup>2</sup> )
3412	11/09/2012	Silwan	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	Self demolition of a balcony 60 m <sup>2</sup>
3413	23/12/2012	Shu'fat	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of a wall 150 m
3414	14/10/2012	BietHanina	Residential Inhabited	1	1	1	2	2	4	6	0	1	Demolition of a house and farm 200 m <sup>2</sup>
3415	05/11/2012	Al-Tour	Residential Inhabited	1	1	1	2	2	3	5	0	1	Demolition of a residential house and fence 60 m <sup>2</sup>
3416	06/11/2012	BietSafafa	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	2	3	5	1	0	Self demolition of a house 70 m <sup>2</sup>
3417	12/11/2012	BietHanina	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	2	5	7	1	0	Self demolition of a house 130 m <sup>2</sup>
3418	13/11/2012	Al-Tour	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	2	6	8	0	1	Demolition of a house 120 m <sup>2</sup>
3419	30/11/2012	Sour Baher	Residential Inhabited	1	2	0	2	10	8	18	1	0	Self Demolition of n 2 apartments 200 m <sup>2</sup>
3420	04/12/2012	Al-Tour	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Demolition of structure 90 m <sup>2</sup>
3422	11/12/2012	Al-Tour	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	4	3	7	0	1	Demolition of a house 80 m <sup>2</sup>
3423	23/12/2012	Wadi Al-Jouz	Non Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	Self Demolition of a medical center 90 m <sup>2</sup>
3424	25/12/2012	Jabal Al-Mukaber	Residential Inhabited	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	Demolition of residential caravans 120 m <sup>2</sup>
				22	23	38	61	52	49	101	14	33	