

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Report on the Israeli Colonization Activities in the West Bank & the Gaza Strip

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December 1, 1998

- The villagers of Tammun and El Beqi'a received warnings threatening them to evacuate 35 dunums of their own land.
- Two barracks in El Mukabber Mountain owned by Khalaf Al-'Ibeidi and his son were destroyed. The enclosures were built in 1990 on family-owned land and held 40 sheep and 14 horses. The livestock, with an estimated value of 200,000 NIS, were the main source of income for the thirteen family members. The military operation is believed to be part of the land clearing for a new by-pass road.
- Yitzhar settlers set fire to more than 50 olive trees in Awarta in Nablus District.
- In Nablus District, the people of Awarta, Beita, Huwara, Burin, Madama, and 'Asira El Shemalieh received confiscation orders to expropriate approximately 15,000 dunums of land.
- Israeli bulldozers leveled 7 dunums of land in Khilet El Dabei' north-east of Hebron.
- In Bethlehem District, three thousand dunums were confiscated from Jaba'a village. Jaba'a village is located near the Green Line. Four dunums were also confiscated by the Israeli authorities to enlarge the Israeli check point located to the west of the village. More than 80 dunums of land containing olive trees which are nearly 15 years old are also under the threat of confiscation.
- Defying worldwide criticism over the plan to construct 6,500 homes for Jewish settlers, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued tenders last month for construction of the first 1,025 units at Abu Ghneim Mountain (Har Homa). On this day, Jewish extremists accompanied

some 100 Israeli developers to Abu Ghneim Mountain as they examined plots offered in a government tender issued last month.

- The Israeli government announced the construction of 480 new homes in the Jewish settlement (settlement) of Kochav Yacob, more than tripling the size of the West Bank enclave. Construction began on 230 of the units even before formal authorization was given, and that infrastructure was already being prepared for the further 250 homes. Kochav Yacob settlement (settlement) currently has some 230 families and is located east of the Palestinian city of Ramallah north of Jerusalem. Another 500 houses will be built in a second stage of the project.
- Israeli army bulldozers opened a new by-pass road west of Dura near Hebron.
- In Nablus District, the Israeli army uprooted over 1,000 olive nurslings in Salfit.

December 2, 1998

- Israeli bulldozers protected by an army troop demolished houses, barracks and tents in the villages of Jiftlik and Frush Beit Dajan in the Jordan Valley. The Israeli bulldozers demolished the houses and properties of the Jahalin family in Jiftlik, as well as the house of Zaheed Abu Karsh of Frush Beit Dajan. The family of Zaheed is composed of 15 individuals, and is one of four Palestinian Bedouin families in this village that became homeless after the Israeli forces demolished their residences and animal sheds under the pretext of "no permits". The residences that were demolished sheltered 55 people- Zaheed's family, 15; his brother Zuhdi, 15; Muhammad Azra's family, 12; Muhammad Ammar's family, 13. The four families depend on raising cattle, but when the Israeli bulldozers demolished the cattle sheds, many of the animals died beneath the wreckage.
- Israeli bulldozers demolished a Palestinian house in Tayasir village, east of Tubas in Nablus District.
- In the Jordan Valley, Jewish settlers of Mihola settlement (settlement) sprayed large areas of green fields near 'Ein El Bidda village with toxic materials resulting in the poisoning of 25 sheep.
- Jewish contractors continued work on opening a by-pass road near El Arroub, north of Hebron.

December 3, 1998

- Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Palestinian Land Defense Committee reported that three new caravans were placed on a hill three kilometers south-east of the Jewish settlement (settlement) of Susya in Hebron District. The hill and the surrounding land belong to a Palestinian landowner, Sa'id Theban. Witnesses saw Israeli bulldozers working to open a road from the hill on which the caravans were installed to the settlement (settlement) of Susya.
- In Nablus District, forty-five sheep were killed as a result of spraying green fields with toxic materials in Tubas village.
- An article appeared in *Al-Ayyam* Daily calling for expressions of support for the thirty-five Jahalin Bedouin families who are approaching the end of negotiations on their forced eviction and relocation. Groups of Jahalin Bedouin have been living in encampments near the settlement (settlement) of Maale Adumim in the West Bank. The Israeli government claims that the Jahalin are squatting on state-owned land. In addition, the government is motivated by a desire to push Palestinians of Area C- that part of the West Bank which remains under complete Israeli control which would strengthen Israel's negotiating position on the future of these areas.

December 4, 1998

- Jewish settlers uprooted 900 olive trees in Deir Ballut in Nablus District. An Israeli army troop carried the trees away in trucks so that they could not be replanted by Palestinian villagers.
- The Habbabah family from Beit Ikhsa continued their heroic struggle against the Jewish settlers of Ramat settlement (settlement), constructed on Beit Ikhsa land north-west of Jerusalem that are bent on capturing the family's only house. The settlers' goal is to expand their settlement (settlement) at the expense of the Habbabah family home which they claim is an obstacle to their aim.
- In Ramallah District, Jewish settlers from nearby settlements sprayed a number of olive trees with toxic materials, uprooted many others, and fenced around 2,000 dunums of Turmus 'Ayya land located near Jewish settlements for a future ultimate expansion.
- A group of settlers seized five hills from the villages of Turmus 'Ayya, Abu Falah, Jalud, and El Mughayir located 30 kilometers away from the city of Ramallah.
- Israeli sources unveiled a plan intending to confiscate lands owned by Palestinians to the north of Beit El settlement (settlement) in order to construct security fences for the settlement (settlement).

December 5, 1998

- A new by-pass road will be opened near Ya'bad village in Jenin.

December 7, 1998

- In Nablus District, eight heavy-duty bulldozers leveled 4,000 dunums of Salfit's best agricultural land in preparation to make the land a part of Ariel settlement (settlement). As a result, hundreds of almonds and olive trees were uprooted.
- In Ramallah, settlers from Halmesh settlement (settlement) set fire to 140 olive trees owned by a Palestinian farmer.

December 8, 1998

- In Nablus District, settlers from Bracha settlement (settlement) installed five mobile homes on a hilltop a mile away from the settlement.

December 9, 1998

- An article that appeared in *Al-Ayyam* daily warned that Road no. 60 will damage 6,500 dunums of land and result in the demolition of 8 houses at Ya'bad near Jenin.
- In Jenin District, Ya'bad Municipality received notifications from the Israeli Civil Administration to confiscate more than 1,200 dunums of the village's land.

December 10, 1998

- The Municipality of Jerusalem notified the Al-Ghazlan family to demolish a second house which they were constructing in El Tur neighborhood in East Jerusalem under the pretext that they were building without a permit.

December 11, 1998

- In Ramallah, Israel expropriated 600 dunums of land from Turmus 'Ayya and Sinjel villages.
- Abdel Hadi Hantash reported that settlers had seized two more hills near Harsina settlement (settlement), east of Hebron city, putting the land and the homes of more Palestinian families at risk.

December 12, 1998

- The Israeli military forces confiscated tents owned by Palestinians from the village of Ebziq near Jenin under the pretext that they were pitched in a closed military area.

December 13, 1998

- Jewish settlers captured a hilltop near Burqa in Ramallah.
- The Israeli government unilaterally declared Tammun village, north-east of Nablus, a nature reserve.

December 16, 1998

- Israeli bulldozers demolished a building of three stories in El Mukabber Mountain in East Jerusalem sheltering 35 Palestinian Jerusalemites.

December 18, 1998

- A Jewish family moved into a house in Ras Al-Amud in East Jerusalem joining two other Jewish families.

December 20, 1998

- The Israeli military forces opened a new by-pass road on Yatta's lands.
- Jewish settlers resumed constructing more housing units at Tel-Rumeida near Hebron.
- The Israeli military forces began bulldozing 18 dunums of land for "military purpose" in Otniel settlement (settlement) in the south of Hebron District.
- Near Al Ramadeen in the extreme south-west of Hebron District, settlers were working the land confiscated from Palestinians to expand the military settlement (settlement) of Sinsana.

December 21, 1998

- A cornerstone was laid for the construction of a new neighborhood to be added to the settlement (settlement) of Metzpe Yireho located on the Jerusalem-Jericho highway road.

December 22, 1998

- Settlers from Itamar which was constructed on Awarta land east of Nablus city installed barracks near their settlement (settlement) on Palestinian owned land.

December 26, 1998

- In Nablus District, the settlers of Rachel captured 200 dunums from the Palestinian village of Jalud .
- Settlers from Pnei Hever, southeast of Hebron, began clearing a road to a nearby hill, and prepared five dunums for construction. The land belongs to the Manasara family, from the Bani Na'im village, and that the family did not receive any notification of land expropriation.

December 27, 1998

- The Israeli Authorities opened a new by-pass road near 'Asira El Shemalieh, north of Nablus.
- Israeli bulldozers are nearly finished with the construction of a by-pass road which is linking an Israeli military base with Elon-Moreh settlement (settlement) in Nablus.

December 28, 1998

- In Kafr Haris, a Palestinian village of some 5,000 people in the West Bank, very close to the Israeli settlement (settlement) of Ariel (the second largest in the West Bank), the Israeli authorities demolished two houses belonging to Mahmmud Shakur which housed a family of seven and Hussam Abu Ya'coub, for allegedly building without permits. The fact that the demolitions took place during the holy month of Ramadan was particularly humiliating and disrespectful to Palestinians. Two more Palestinian families now have nowhere to live in the cold winter.

December 29, 1998

- In Habla village near Qalqiliya, a group of Israeli soldiers accompanied by military bulldozers demolished a 1300 square meter Palestinian cement pipe factory under the pretext of building without a permit. The loss of the factory was estimated at 50,000 Jordanian Dinars.
- Israeli bulldozers leveled hundreds of agricultural dunums of land ordered to be confiscated by the Israeli Civil Administration in Qisra village south-east of Nablus.

December 31, 1998

- The Israeli housing Ministry issued tenders for the construction of 1,051 housing units for Jewish settlers in the West Bank. Tenders for 651 housing units were issued for Betar Illit, south of Jerusalem. The remaining 400 units are to be constructed in Ofarim settlement (settlement) in the north of the West Bank where some 400 settlers live.

This report is based on information compiled from local and international daily press.

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