

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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December 1, 1999

- The Israeli government dispatched ultimatums to demolish 40 cistern wells in El Khader village near Bethlehem under the pretext of being built without a permit.
- The Israeli State Attorney's office has informed the High Court of Justice that the government will not forcibly remove mobile homes illegally placed by settlers beyond the Green Line (1949-Armistice Line) in nine locations. The attorney for the petitioners listed in the petition 10 sites on which illegal buildings were located: Bracha, Avnei Hefetz, Hill 7(near Shilo), Hill 759, Shvut Rachel VI, Givat Hahish (near Allon Shvut), Givat Harasha (near Talmon), Mitspeh Danny (near Maale Mikhmas), Zayit Raanan (near Talmon) and Maale Levona.

December 2, 1999

- According to the new data released by the Israeli Interior Ministry's spokesperson to 'Haaretz' journalist Amira Hass, 394 ID cards were confiscated from Palestinian Jerusalemites during the period of January 17 - October 1999. Of these ID cards, 121 were revoked because their holders had moved to the West Bank and Gaza outside the Israeli defined municipal borders of Jerusalem city, and 273 were found living abroad.
- Anwar El Tamimi, 90 years old from Hebron accused the Jewish settlers of Qiryat Arba of uprooting 400 vine trees (35 years old) from his farmland.

December 3, 1999

- Ten Palestinian inhabitants were wounded while defending their land in Yanun hamlet near Nablus. The confrontations erupted when the inhabitants staged a sit-in strike to protest the confiscation of their land to expand Itamar settlement.

December 5, 1999

- Scores of Palestinians staged a sit-in protest strike on a site threatened by Israeli confiscation near Tel Rumeida settlement in Hebron. The landlords were protesting against a new confiscation order issued by the Israeli army to seize a three-dunum and a half plot for opening a new by-pass road. The confiscated land serves as the only remaining entrance to the Palestinian adjacent houses.
- PM Barak threatened to take stiff measures against Muslim Waqf (Religious Affairs trust) in the event it carries out restoration works at the Marwani Mosque in East Jerusalem.

December 6, 1999

- An Israeli group, 'the Peace Now movement' urged PM Barak to return the 300 Palestinians brutally displaced by Israeli soldiers from their homes near Yatta, Hebron.
- Israeli bulldozers uprooted 300 olive trees owned by Palestinians from Deir Ballut village, west of Salfit to open a settlement by-pass road linking Peduel and Eli Zahav settlements with Hari Zahav settlement which was established during Netanyahu's government.
- The Israeli authorities issued an order to confiscate 14 dunums of land cultivated with olive trees and owned by Palestinians from Kafr Laqif village in the Tulkarm District. The land seizure aimed at opening a by-pass road, which separates Karne Shomron settlement from Qalqiliya-Nablus main road.
- In a sharp contrast to PM Barak's statement, "We know that the continued expansion of the settlements hurts peace talks and undermines our image abroad", Barak continues to issue tenders for the building of more housing units in settlements throughout the West Bank. The Peace Now movement, an Israeli leftist group, revealed that Barak had ordered the construction of another 500 settlement units around East Jerusalem and near the Palestinian town of Qalqiliya in the northern part of the West Bank.

- Israeli heavy machinery bulldozed Palestinian land owned by 'Issa 'Eid and Al Haja Shukrieh from El Nabi Samuel village in the Jerusalem District.

December 7, 1999

- Israeli military bulldozers started leveling large areas of land estimated at 200 dunums located east of El Walajeh village, Bethlehem. The land is owned by the Palestinian families of Al Sayfi and Khamis from Bethlehem. The mayor of El Walajeh village claimed that the leveling work is an attempt to establish a new settlement outpost near the village.

December 8, 1999

- A group of 300 Jewish settlers from Shilo settlement attempted to occupy an old Palestinian house located on the Ramallah- Nablus main road. The house was formerly used as a police station during the Jordanian rule.

December 14, 1999

- According to Palestinian sources, a new colonization outpost was installed on top of Abu Hanun Mountain, south of the city of Nablus. The settlement is only few kilometers away of Eli settlement and overlooks Huwara and Burin villages.

December 21, 1999

- Jewish settlers from Shvut Rachel rooted out as many as 200 fully-grown olive trees at the Palestinian village of El Mugheir near Ramallah. According to official sources, uprooting of the trees was the fifth incident of its kind in the last few months in an attempt to clear the area for the expansion of Shvut Rachel settlement.

December 26, 1999

- The Israeli occupation authorities are planning to seize an estimated five thousand dunums of privately owned Palestinian land in several places around Hebron. The areas to be seized are adjacent to the Jewish settlements of Qiryat Arba and Kharsina and along the newly opened by-pass roads circumventing the town of Halhul.

- In the Bethlehem District, the settlers of the Etzion Bloc attempted to seize a Palestinian land in El Khader village in order to link the settlement of Elazar with Neve Daniyyel settlement, south of Bethlehem.

December 27, 1999

- The Israeli Peace Now movement confirmed that Barak's government approved building 5,000 new settlement units in the West Bank and Gaza.
- In the Ramallah District, Jewish settlers of Rachel resumed their assaults against Palestinian agricultural land in Turmus 'Ayya village when they uprooted vine trees belonging to a Palestinian inhabitant from the village.
- settlers of Qiryat Arba have threatened to destroy the home of the Palestinian Sultan family from Hebron that lives about one kilometer north of Qiryat Arba settlement, on land it has owned since the turn of the century and establish a new neighborhood on the site. According to witnesses, the settlers destroyed an agricultural terrace and uprooted saplings, threatening to return with bulldozers.

December 28, 1999

- The Israeli military forces declared the Sultan family home a restricted military zone. The Qiryat Arba settlers claim that the Palestinian home is an illegal building on the settlement's territory, and demand that the house be demolished.

December 30, 1999

- A group of teenage settlers from the Dor Hahemshech (Next Generation) organization was removed by Israeli police and army officers after they attempted to establish an outpost at a disused army camp in the 'Arab ar Rashayida village, Bethlehem. The outpost was set up on an abandoned land near Teqoa' village used for target practice by the Israeli military forces. The army base was closed down in preparation for the area's handover to the Palestinian authority.
- The Israeli authorities dispatched an ultimatum to demolish the home of Khaled Sa'id from 'Izbat Et Tabeeb village in the Tulkarm District under the pretext of being built without a permit.

This report is based on information compiled from local daily press & field verification.