

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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June 1, 1999

- In Bethlehem District, the people of El Rashayda and Kisan villages reported that the Israeli military forces constructed a military camp on twenty dunums of Palestinian land. This was for guarding the nearby Maale Amos settlement.

June 3, 1999

- In Nablus District, Itzhar settlers set fire to three dunums of land planted with wheat near Burin High School.

June 4, 1999

- According to the Israeli weekly press, 'Kol Ha'ir', the Israeli Civil Administration declared tens of dunums between Neve Yacov and Adam settlements as 'state-owned land' for the construction of 1,800 housing units outside the borders of Jerusalem Municipality. These houses will constitute a new Jewish neighborhood that can be later annexed to Occupied Jerusalem.
- In Nablus District, Jewish settlers escalated their attacks against Palestinian land in Beita village, east of Nablus city. The settlers attempted to expropriate around 1000 dunums planted with olive, fig and vine trees.
- In Bethlehem District, the residents of El Walajeh village protested against an Israeli scheme to expand Har Gilo settlement. This was constructed at the expense of the western part of the village in the early of 1970s. The proposed plan entails the confiscation of 200 dunums of El Walajeh village to be used by the settlement.

June 5, 1999

- The daily 'Al-Ayyam' focused on attacks launched by Beni Heifer settlers against Bani Na'im land in Hebron District during which the settlers annexed by force adjacent land to their settlement (settlement), the second in less than two months. According to eyewitnesses from the Manasra family the settlers uprooted grapes and fruit trees, and annexed 150 dunums to expand the borders of their settlement.
- Jewish settlers of Bracha set a 10-dunum corn field owned by Maher Ghazi Ali in Kafr Qalil near Nablus on fire, and uprooted orchards of grapes and fruit trees owned by the Al-Khdoor, Hajoj and Id'ais families.

June 7, 1999

- The Israeli occupying forces demolished a house in the Shu'fat area under the pretext of being built without a permit. The Israeli bulldozers knocked down the house of Muhammad Abu Khدير, 52, from Shu'fat in Jerusalem. The 280 square meter two-storey building, which cost \$ 82,000 to build, was demolished without prior warning or notification. The house was only completed one month ago to provide shelter to a family of 16.

June 9, 1999

- Jewish settlement communities in Jerusalem stepped up their activities to capture Palestinian houses and commercial stores in Arab East Jerusalem.
- Clearance work was resumed by Israeli settlers on a Palestinian land near Adora settlement (settlement) west of Hebron. The settlers resumed their aggression with the protection of Israeli forces that prevented the Palestinians from reaching their land.
- In typical Israeli settlement (settlement) behavior, the Israeli army sealed two Palestinian houses in downtown Hebron, and posted soldiers on the roof tops before allowing settlers to have the houses.

June 11, 1999

- According to reliable sources, within the next few days the Israeli Ministry of Interior will be transferring NIS 25 million to Jewish settlements as compensation for signing the Wye Memorandum eight months ago. Netanyahu's office is exercising pressure on the Ministry of Interior to transfer this amount before the formation of a new government by PM-elect Barak.

June 12, 1999

- Palestinian landlords staged a sit-in strike on land threatened by confiscation at 'Azoun village (to expand Oranit settlement (settlement), Beit Amein and Sanniriya villages in the Qalqilyah District.
- According to a report published by the daily 'Al-Quds', the Israeli occupation authorities have dispatched ultimatums to five Palestinian families of Al Ghazlan from Jerusalem's Silwan neighborhood to leave their homes by 25 June 1999.
- The daily 'Al Hayyat Al-Jadeeda' reported the storming into a Palestinian house by Kach extremists in Souk El Qazazeen, Hebron. The owner of the house, Abdul Mo'ate Sharabate is prohibited by an Israeli military order to repair or restore the house.
- A recently published study revealed Israel's intention to build twenty-one hotels and tourist facilities in settlements built on Palestinian land in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

June 14, 1999

- Jewish settlers resumed the occupation of hilltops in the West Bank. In an attempt to expand their enclave, settlers from the Maale Amos settlement set up five caravans on a 100-dunum hill known as 'Ras Quwar' under the protection of an Israeli army gun point. This is outside the existing boundaries of their settlement about twenty kilometers from Bethlehem. Local inhabitants said they have seen about ten armed settlers guarding the caravans and accused Israeli soldiers of not interfering to remove the settlers.
- Israeli bulldozers, accompanied by troops and settlers damaged and cleared a Palestinian land in Es Samu' village near Hebron. The land was planted with fruit trees.
- According to a report published by 'Haaretz' daily, Prime Minister-elect Ehud Barak has reached an agreement with the National Religious Party not to obstruct a plan to connect the settlement of Maale Adumim with Jerusalem. He promised settlers not to rescind a decision to expand Maale Adumim settlement. This decision entails the expropriation of 12,000 dunums from Palestinian landlords to expand Maale Adumim to the same size of Tel-Aviv. The oral agreement also contains a promise to continue building in East Jerusalem's Har Homa settlement on Abu Ghneim Mountain south-east of Jerusalem. 'Haaretz' says forty Israeli contractors are competing to carry out their government's plan to build the Har Homa settlement on the confiscated Palestinian land.

June 15, 1999

- Israeli settlers from the Itamar settlement are clearing Palestinian land and uprooting olive trees near the settlement to expand it.
- A new Israeli plan, published by 'Haaretz' newspaper is to build 1000 housing units at Ariel settlement near Salfit. The construction of these units within the next two years has been approved, according to the director-general of the Ariel Economic Corporation. About half of those units are already under construction. The 1,000 new units will increase the number of households in Ariel from 4,000 to 5,000, a 25 percent increase. In fact, 477 of the housing units were already under construction and contracts are to be signed soon with developers to build the others.
- According to information provided by the spokesperson of the Israeli Interior Ministry in Jerusalem to 'Haaretz' journalist Amira Hass, Israel confiscated 117 ID cards from Palestinian Jerusalemites between January 31, 1999 to May 1999. This cancels their right to enter the country or receive social services. The campaign targets Palestinians accused of living outside the borders of Jerusalem for seven years or more, even if they are native Jerusalemites and the absence was to obtain education or employment abroad. On the other hand, the Orient House questioned the published Israeli statistics. It said that Israel has confiscated 1,260 IDs, since the beginning of this year, thus disproving the published Israeli figures.

June 16, 1999

- Dozens of Palestinians, most of them from the villages of El Furdais and Za'tara near Bethlehem, clashed with Israeli settlers in the south of the West Bank as bulldozers prepared a two-hectare plot of land for the expansion of a nearby Jewish settlement. A 57-year old Palestinian farmer was wounded during these clashes.

June 17, 1999

- In Jericho District, the Israeli military apparatus ordered the Arab Ommariyin tribesmen to dismantle their homes near El Auja village. Otherwise Israel would demolish them at the owners' expense.
- The Israeli army demolished an uninhabited 160 square meter house owned by Mahmoud Riyan in the village of Beit Leqia in the Ramallah District. The reason given by the authorities for the demolition was that the house had been built without a permit.

- A study conducted by the Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem warned of drastic environmental degradation in Wadi El Biar area in El Khader village due to waste water from the nearby Efrat settlement (settlement). The area is rich in cisterns for irrigation and drinking use.
- In Abu Dis town near Jerusalem, the Israeli authorities demolished two buildings that were under construction, owned by the El Sinawi and Abu Sneh Families.
- In the El Mukabber Mountain near Jerusalem the Israeli bulldozers, guarded by heavy military forces, uprooted olive trees from land owned by Khalil Aqil.

June 18, 1999

- The 'El Hayyat El-Jadeeda' daily newspaper quoted a report published by the Israeli weekly newspaper 'Kol Ha'ir' on the establishment of a new Jewish settlement neighborhood comprising of 50 housing units in downtown Hebron.
- A new Israeli plan to construct a neighborhood consisting of 350 housing units on 115 dunums of confiscated land in El Mukabber Mountain was disclosed.

June 20, 1999

- The Palestinian Authority objected to Israel's attempt to build a fortified crossing point at the Bethlehem northern entrance, similar to Erez in Gaza. Palestinian sources noted that the Israeli designs will suffocate Bethlehem and harass the 4000 Palestinians living in the one-kilo meter area to be confiscated by Israel.

June 21, 1999

- The Palestinians lodged a complaint with the Israeli High Court, appealing against a by-pass road that will change the entrance of Salfit town.

June 22, 1999

- The Jerusalem Municipality demolished a 160- square meter home in East Jerusalem inhabited by a Palestinian family of eleven. The home owned by Khalid Ali El Sahuri, lying in As-Sal'a quarter near El Mukabber Mountain was demolished under the pretext of being built without a permit.

- The Israeli authorities unveiled a new scheme to construct a by-pass road to serve Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The construction work will swallow up thousands of acres from Jenin and Nablus Districts.
- Thousands of acres owned by Palestinian families in Jenin District were expropriated by the Israeli authorities. According to a military order, 185 plots or over 500 dunums were confiscated at Silat El Daher village alone. In El Fandaqumiya village, 70 landlords were affected by the expropriation order. In addition to these villages, Attara and Bezariah were badly affected. In Nablus, Israeli survey teams were seen surveying plots at Deir Sharaf village in addition to other lands in the district.

June 23, 1999

- In Bethlehem District, the settlers from Efrat settlement (settlement) brought eight caravans near to the village of El Khader. They also cleared around 100-confiscated dunums with the aim of converting it into a graveyard.
- The Israeli authorities closed Salim village near Nablus, and uprooted dozens of olive trees under the pretext that they were cultivated in 'state-owned land'. Israeli forces on the site prevented journalists and citizens from entering the village throughout the day.

June 26, 1999

- Israeli army bulldozers unearthed Palestinian plots at 'Anata and Jaba' villages near Jerusalem to build a new Jewish industrial zone.
- Israel demolished a house owned by 60-year old Ali Abu Hadid from Bitunia near Ramallah for the sixth time.

June 27, 1999

- Despite the agreement signed between the Israeli government and the Arab villages of Beit Surik, Beit 'Anan, Biddu, Qibya, Qatanna, Beit Adar and Beit Duqqu near Jerusalem, the Israeli government violated the agreement that requires Israel to supply these villages with a minimum of 70 cubic meters of water an hour. The above mentioned villages now receive a maximum of 20 cubic meters an hour.

June 28, 1999

- In a first-page report, the Palestinian newspaper *Al-Quds* reported Jewish settlers' attacks staged almost on a weekly basis against three Islamic shrines in 'Awarta village near Nablus in order to perform Jewish religious rites. The report quoted local eyewitnesses as saying the settlers entered the village heavily armed, danced and sung in the courtyards of the Muslim shrines. They also vandalized the Muslim tombs and cursed the local inhabitants.

June 29, 1999

- An Israeli military order was issued to demolish a nearly completed mosque in Ras Al-Amoud for allegedly being built without a permit.
- In Ramallah District, Jewish settlers installed more than fifteen caravans on 200 dunums of expropriated land for a new outpost. The land is located near Um Safa village, and owned by farmers of the same village.

June 30, 1999

- The daily *Al Quds* reported the sit-in strike staged by Palestinian Jerusalemites opposite the offices of the Israeli Ministry of Interior to protest against a delay in finalizing their papers.

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