

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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April 2, 2000

- Jewish settlers set a house on fire owned by Issam Abu Taha from Sheikh Jarah neighborhood, near Jerusalem, after failure of their repeated attempts to purchase the house, which is near to a number of Israeli government and private institutions.

April 3, 2000

- In Hebron District, Jewish army bulldozers destroyed hundreds of dunums of fertile land owned by the Palestinian citizens Musa and Fadel Abu Okeil in As Simiya hamlet, near As Samu' village, for the purpose of opening a 3-km long road to serve Jewish settlements in the area.
- According to a report published by Amnesty International, the Israeli government destroyed more than 2650 Palestinian houses in the West Bank since 1987, under the pretext of being built without permits.

April 4, 2000

- Kisan village, which is lying in the Bethlehem District, is facing a new settlement assault by Maale Amos settlers, particularly at the northern side of the settlement, in order to confiscate more Palestinian land. On the other hand, a troop of settlers from Kisan village installed ten mobile homes in Al Fawwar Mountain, for the purpose of expanding their settlement.

April 5, 2000

- The Jerusalem Municipality signed an expropriation order of 658 dunums of land in East Jerusalem. Of the total, 543 dunums are earmarked for the eastern ring road, which is intended to divert vehicles traveling between Bethlehem and Ramallah. The other 115 dunums are earmarked for lateral roads that will connect to the ring road. The confiscated land belongs to residents of five villages: Al 'Isawiya, At Tur, Al 'Eizariya, Abu Dis, and Ras al 'Amud.
- The Israeli Civil Administration has issued a number of eviction orders against the Palestinian cave dwellers near Mount Hebron, just after a week of the Supreme Court decision that allowed them to return to their homes.
- Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Land Defense Committee reported that several military orders to halt construction were issued by the Israeli military forces on construction, and about 50 dunums of land have been seized, in the Hebron District.

April 6, 2000

- According to a report issued by the Department of National and International Relations, the Israeli authorities confiscated 1555 dunums of land belonging to Palestinian villages during March 2000.

April 7, 2000

- More than 7,000 housing units in Jewish settlements are currently under construction.
- According to an article appeared in *Al-Ayyam* newspaper, stating that the Israeli government ratified a plan to construct a new tourist center on 150 dunums of seized land in the south of Bethlehem in the Etzion Block.

April 8, 2000

- Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Land Defense Committee reported that the Israeli authorities delivered demolition order to the Palestinian citizen Ismael Muhamad's house in Yatta village, Hebron, under the pretext of being built without permit.

April 9, 2000

- In Qalqiliya District, The settlers of Kedumim uprooted hundreds of fully-grown olive trees owned by Sae'd Nassar, in the Palestinian village of Kafr Qaddum, as a preparation to expand Kedumim settlement.

- According to an article appeared in *Al-Quds* daily, Prime Minister Ehud Barak proposed a plan to annex Maale Adumim settlement to Jerusalem, and to hand over Abu Dis and Anata to the Palestinian authority.

April 10, 2000

- PM Barak has given the green light for the construction of 12 new by-pass roads in north and south of the West Bank, which will be completed by the end of this year.
- In Tulkarm District, the settlers of Avnei Hefetz chopped down dozens of olive trees belonging to the Palestinian inhabitant Hamdan Taher from the village of kafr al Labad, in order to expand Avnei Hefetz settlement .

April 11, 2000

- The Israeli Civil Administration delivered notification orders to demolish eight Palestinian houses in Beit Ummar village, north of Hebron, under the pretext that the houses were built without permits.
- In Bethlehem District, Jewish settlers accompanied by a large number of Israeli military forces commenced work on expanding Efrat settlement at the expense of El Khader village. The settlers were building 350 housing units on 400 dunums of land, as a preparation to be annexed to Efrat settlement.

April 12, 2000

- Israeli military bulldozers started destroying large areas of land estimated at 265 dunums located in El Walajeh village, near Bethlehem. The land is owned by the Palestinian family of Al Saifi, from Khamlet Al Rabbe' hamlet, in an attempt to construct 200 housing units in Har Gilo settlement.

April 14, 2000

- The Israeli government plans to dig a new tunnel beneath the Buraq wall in the Aqsa Mosque's courtyard, Jerusalem. The Israeli plan that will be carried out by the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs comes as part of the on going Israeli efforts to dig around the Mosque in the southern and southwestern sides.
- The Jerusalem Municipality is planning to build governmental and non-governmental establishments over 28 dunums of land at Wadi al Joz, east of Jerusalem.

April 15, 2000

- A group of Jewish settlers brutally attacked a 71-year old Palestinian woman named Dahab Al-Najar from Burin village, in Nablus District. The old woman was working in her field that lies near a settlement spot illegally built on the land of the village.

April 16, 2000

- The Israeli occupation authorities dispatched eviction orders to Palestinian citizens from Edna village, in Hebron District, under the pretext of being a closed military zone.
- A report published by the Orient House stated that 36 houses have been demolished in Jerusalem last year, under the pretext of being built without permits.

April 17, 2000

- The Israeli Civil Administration is planning to establish a tourist resort center near the settlement of Bet Ain, which was built over plots confiscated from the Arab villages of Nahalin, Surif, and Jaba, in Hebron District.

April 18, 2000

- The Israeli army bulldozers demolished three Palestinian houses in the area of the Issawiya village that falls with Israeli-controlled Area C of the West Bank, under the pretext that the houses were built without permits. The houses belonged to the families of Mohammad Dirbas, Omar Dari and Yousef Muheisen. Demolishing of the houses was the seventeenth incident of its kind since the beginning of this year, where another 24, are on the Israeli demolition list.
- In Jenin District, the Israeli bulldozers cut down 211 olive nurslings belonging to Sadek Khalil from Ti'innik village, in order to confiscate the land.

April 21, 2000

- Two Palestinian inhabitants were wounded while defending their land in Beit Ula village, near Hebron. The confrontations erupted when the inhabitants staged a sit-in strike to protest the confiscation of their land.

April 23, 2000

- Just after a week of the demolition action near the village of Issawiya, east of Jerusalem, the Israeli occupation forces destroyed another six houses, dismantled approximately 48 tents, and a water reservoir, under the pretext that the houses were built without permits.

April 24, 2000

- An article appeared in *Al-Quds* daily stating that the settlers of Yizhar demolished several pen sheds owned by Palestinian inhabitants from 'Urif and 'Einabus villages, near Nablus, and stole tens of heads of sheep.

April 28, 2000

- PM Ehud Barak has reportedly given the green light for a new settlement campaign to confiscate more Palestinian land and to build a new Jewish settlement in Ma'ale Adumim settlement, east of Jerusalem, by constructing 174 new settlement-housing units.

April 29, 2000

- According to the Palestinian land Defense Committee, from Tel Rumeida attempted to seize a piece of land belonging to the family of Abu Haikal, in Hebron District.
- The Israeli authorities sent notices to uproot dozens of olive nurslings belonging to the villagers of Issawiya, near Jerusalem, in an attempt to expand the nearby settlement.

District	Land Confiscated	Land Threatened	Uprooted Trees	Houses Demolished	Threatened Houses
Jerusalem	658	28	0	9	0
Hebron	50	0	0	0	0
Bethlehem	265	150	0	0	0
Jenin	0	0	211	0	0
Total	973	178	211	9	9

The Monthly review report gives a list of the Israeli Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory which are based on reports provided by field workers and/or by one or more of the following news sources: Al-Ayyam daily newspaper, Al-Quds daily newspaper, Palestinian National Information

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Center, Haaretz Daily Newspaper, The Jerusalem Post - English-language daily newspaper, International Press Center, Palestine News Agency-Wafa, Ma'an News Agency, and Yediot Achronot.

The text is not quoted directly from the sources but is edited for size and clarity.

The Monthly Report does not necessarily reflect ARIJ's Opinion.

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