

## Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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#### February 1, 2000

- Israeli bulldozers demolished the house of the Palestinian inhabitant, Abed El Razak & Omar, under the pretext of being built without a permit. The 140-square meter house which shelters 8 members, is located in Alç Isawiya, east of Jerusalem. This is the second time that Abed El Razek's house has been demolished in less than 10 months.

#### February 3, 2000

- Israeli heavy machinery bulldozed a Palestinian land from Kafr Qaddum village in the Qalqilyah District, in an attempt to expand Kedumim settlement.

#### February 4, 2000

- According to a report published by the "PeaceNow" movement revealed that the Jewish settlers in the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, grew in 1998 by 7.5%. In December 1998, more than 172,000 Jewish settlers live in 140 Jewish settlements.

#### February 5, 2000

- The Israeli occupation authorities prohibited the inhabitants of two Palestinian villages of Kafer Sur and Kafer Jammal, south of Tulkarm, from reaching their agricultural lands, in an attempt to seize the lands, in addition to the erection of roadblocks outside the two villages.

- The Israeli government intends to expropriate 6000 dunums belonging to Palestinian citizens of Az Zawiya and Rafat villages, near Nablus.

### **February 7, 2000**

- The Israeli internal Security Minister, Shlomo Ben Ami, has issued a military order to protest the Waqf archaeologist, Najeh Ibkeirat from entering Al Aqsa Mosque, due to his role in renovating the Islamic holy places at the site.

### **February 8, 2000**

- The Israeli authorities confiscated wide areas of lands from Al Tur and Az Za'ayyem villages east of Jerusalem, to open a by-pass road linking Maale Adummim settlement with Hebrew University settlement.

The Orient House revealed in a study prepared by the Palestinian Center for Civilians and Social Rights that the Israeli occupation authorities are planning to partition Palestinian Jerusalemites into five categories which will transform the indigenous Palestinians into a minority. The plan is based on annexing more land without its population to affect the demographic balance and to transfer the issue of Arab Jerusalemites into a case of minority so that their numbers will not exceed 50,000.

### **February 9, 2000**

- According to PLO Negotiations department, The Israeli government issued 4112 tenders for Jewish settlements built in the occupied territories during Barak's tenure. The Department stated this is in addition to 2700 housing units being built in Abu Ghneim Mountain, southeast of Jerusalem, and 132 houses in Ras al 'Amud neighborhood in Jerusalem.

### **February 10, 2000**

- The Israeli daily newspaper Haaretz mentioned that Jewish prayer sites have been set up over the last few years inside sheikh's tombs in many parts of the country. They are set up in graves of Muslims, without official permission. Severe damage has been taken to antiquities at the locations, but no legal action has been taken against the practice.

According to Palestinian sources, the Israeli authorities confiscated 542 dunums and uprooted 780 fruit trees from Palestinian lands during January 2000.

### **February 11, 2000**

- The US and the Israeli "Peace Now" movement demonstrated against the confiscation of more Palestinian land and the expansion of Jewish settlements in the Hebron District.
- The Israeli government gave the green light for the construction of a new road network in and around Jerusalem to consolidate its occupation of Arab East Jerusalem.
- Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Palestinian Land Defense Committee in Hebron said that the settlers of Maon uprooted 100 fully-grown olive trees at the Palestinian village of KHALLET RIBEI'. According to Abdel Hadi Hantash, uprooting of the trees was the fourth incident of its kind in the last few months, in an attempt to clear the area for the expansion of Maon settlement.

### **February 13, 2000**

- Barak's government decided to stop settlement expansion activities in Ariel settlement as long as negotiations are conducted with the Palestinians to reach a framework agreement. At the same time, settlement expansion continues unabated in Betar settlement, where more than 13,000 religious Jews live.

### **February 14, 2000**

- A group of Jewish settlers of Alfei Menashe settlement accompanied by a large number of Israeli military forces bulldozed wide areas of land belonging to Palestinian inhabitants. The seized land which extends 500 dunums is aimed at opening a by-pass road nearby Alfei Menashe settlement.

### **February 15, 2000**

- Just after the Oslo Memorandum was signed, the Israeli military forces confiscated 400,000 dunums of land belonging to Palestinian villages during 1999.

- A report published by the "Peace Now" movement stating that the settlements in the West Bank consumes 78,786 dunums from the confiscated Palestinian land.
- Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Land Defense Committee reported that a new and fixed army roadblock has been erected at the entrance of Susiya settlement, in Hebron District.

### **February 18, 2000**

- An article appeared in "Al-Ayyam" daily stating that the Israeli government recently endorsed plans to construct four large hotels on confiscated private Palestinian land in the vicinity of the former British High Commissioner's residence, in east Jerusalem. The Committee for Zoning and Demographic Planning gave its final approval for the hotels ranging 7 to 22-story buildings.
- The settlers of Shilo and Rachelim destroyed around 50 dunums of fertile agricultural land owned by Moussa Moussa of Qaryut village in the Nablus District.

### **February 19, 2000**

- According to Al-Quds newspaper, the Israeli Company "Himona" related to Kiren Kemet establishment registered two pieces of land in the tabu (land registration). The land is estimated at 3900 dunums and is located in Nahalin and Sourif villages, in the Bethlehem District.

### **February 20, 2000**

- According to figures released by the Council for Jewish Communities, The Jewish population in the settlements beyond the Green Line (1949 Armistice Line) grew in 1999 by 12.5 percent, the highest growth rate recorded in recent years. In December 1999, the Jewish population in the settlements numbered 193,680. In all, about 150,000 people live in areas designated as areas of national consensus, while another 45,000 live in or near areas that, according to government plans, will be handed over to the Palestinians.
- PM Ehud Barak and Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh denied that the defense establishment had prepared a list of 12 isolated settlements beyond the Green Line slated for evacuation and another 16 settlements whose status was doubtful because they are not closely connected to a continuous line of Israeli settlements.

- The Nature Reserves and National Parks Authority investigated that sewage from homes in the West Bank settlement of Adam, east of Jerusalem's Neve Yaakov settlement, is seriously contaminating the springs that feed into Wadi Qelt, causing a stench and killing animal life. It had seeped into the ground several hundred meters from the community and streamed into the groundwater that flows for some three kilometers to the Ein Fara spring that feeds into the stream in Wadi Qelt.
- The Israeli government dispatched ultimatums to demolish 26 Palestinian homes from Yatta village in the Hebron District, under the pretext of being located in an area under full Israeli control, which is designated as Area "C".

### **February 21, 2000**

- The Israeli Housing Ministry reported that Barak's government exceeded that of Netanyahu in building new settlement housing units in the Jewish settlements, illegally built on occupied Palestinian territories. PM Barak achieved 1320 housing units since July 1999, and another 7120 units are in the process of building.
- An article appeared in 'Al-Ayyam' daily stating that an Israeli Land Fund claimed the ownership of about 100 dunums of land in Abu Dis, Jerusalem.

### **February 22, 2000**

- The Israeli occupation authorities announced that it would soon commence building nine by-pass roads in different land in the West Bank.

### **February 23, 2000**

- The settlers of Gush Etzion confiscated 30 dunums of land belonging to Palestinian citizens from Beit Úmmar, in Hebron District, where the Israeli settlers seized another 60 dunums owned by Palestinian inhabitants living in the area.

### **February 24, 2000**

- Senior politicians have instructed the Jerusalem Municipality not to demolish Palestinian houses in the East Side of the city ahead of Pope John Paul's visit to Israel on March 21. Meanwhile, a Jerusalem municipal spokesman said that the city does not recognize any agreement to halt demolitions of illegal houses for the Papal visit, or any other occasion.

### **February 26, 2000**

- A group of American Jewish immigrants to Israel were planning to build a luxurious Jewish neighborhood on seized Palestinian land at the depopulated Arab village of Lifta in West Jerusalem. The planned neighborhood would include three luxurious flats, a large hotel, a big mall, and a large tourist resort.
- Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Palestinian Land Defense Committee reported that the settlers of Tel Rumeida in Hebron uprooted 17 olive trees owned by the Palestinian citizen Firial Abu Haikal.

### **February 27, 2000**

- The Israeli authorities announced that it seized 3,000 dunums of agricultural Palestinian land from Az Zawiya village, in Nabus Distirct, in an attempt to expand Bayon stone quarry.

### **February 28, 2000**

- In Ramallah District, Jewish settlers accompanied by Israeli military forces chopped down more than 700 olive trees from Al Mughayyir village, near Ramallah. The settlers vandalized about 100 dunums, in an attempt to confiscate the land.
- In Hebron Distrtict, a troop of Israeli soldiers forcibly expelled 19 Palestinian families from their homes in Yatta village, under the pretext of being too close to Jewish settlements and military camps.

### **February 29, 2000**

- In Nablus District, the settlers of Shavei Shomron seized 40 dunums of land owned by Al Huwari Palestinian family from Sabastiya village. The landowner has documents proving their ownership of the land.
- According to Israeli sources, three Israeli companies intend to build 496 new settlement -housing units in the settlements of Jerusalem. The project aims at constructing 300 housing units in Pisgat Zeev settlement, 60 in Maale Adummim, and 136 units in Ramat Rahel.

District	Land Confiscated	Land Threatened	Uprooted Trees	House Demolished	Threatened House
Ramallah	0	100	700	0	0
Nablus	3090	6000	0	0	0
Qalqilyia	500	0	0	0	0
Jerusalem	0	0	0	1	0
Hebron	90	0	117	0	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>3680</b>	<b>6100</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>

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 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.

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