

## 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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#### November 1, 1999

- The Jewish settlers of Mitzpe Kramin in a wildcat West Bank outpost earmarked for clearance under an agreement with the Israeli government were simply setting up home on another site nearby. Five caravans have been installed on land around 1.5 kilometers from the hilltop outpost of Mitzpe Kramin, one of the 10 unauthorized settlements to be evacuated under last month's compromise between Prime Minister Ehud Barak and the main settlers' organization. Around 30 settlers are still living at Mitzpe Kramin, a satellite outpost from the "mother" settlement of Kohav Hashahar overlooking the Jordan Valley to the east of Ramallah.

#### November 2, 1999

- The Israeli government ratified a plan to build 37,000 housing units in the Etzion Bloc to bring in 185,400 settlers. The new settlement plan was first proposed few months ago by the so-called "the Higher Council for Planning" in the West Bank.

#### November 3, 1999

- A troop of Israeli soldiers bulldozed dozens of olive trees from El Midya village, west of Ramallah. The uprooted trees were then carried in Lorries to be cultivated in the nearby settlements.

#### November 4, 1999

- The settlers of Itamar installed a big greenhouse at one of the hilltops, east of Itamar settlement overlooking the Jordan Valley.

### **November 7, 1999**

- The Israeli government decided to expand Itamar settlement near Nablus City by 10 folds at the expense of Awarta and Kafr Qallil villages. According to the agreement between Barak and the West Bank and Gaza Settlement Council, Itamar settlement will have its zoning plan approved, giving it some 7,000 dunums in which to grow. This tiny settlement could therefore theoretically grow as big as a mid-sized city in Israel. Moreover, the outpost associated with Itamar, Hilltop 777, also known as Givat Hahayil, will not be removed but rather moved to inside the zoning plan, built 200 meters away from the farthest point in the settlement. That's four kilometers from the settlement. By the force of the agreement, the clause legalizes four other outposts that the Itamar settlers put up on the road from Itamar to Givat Hahayil.
- An article appeared in 'Haaretz' Israeli daily press stating that the land of the West Bank Jewish outposts that are being evacuated "will, in practice, continue to be under the control of the settlements" and can be used for "agricultural and other activity, as the restriction applies solely to residence", according to a document that is being distributed by the Yesha Council of the settlements.

### **November 12, 1999**

- The Israeli government approved two master plans for building in Beit Hanina and Ras Al-Amoud neighborhoods in East Jerusalem. It was decided to construct 1,000 housing units in Beit Hanina, and 28 units and 14 stores in Ras Al-Amoud.
- Barak's government has plans to expand Givat Ze'ev settlement, north of Jerusalem by constructing 594 housing units and expropriating more land from Biddu and El Jib villages, East Jerusalem.

### **November 13, 1999**

- The Israeli occupation authorities unveiled plans to confiscate approximately 2,306 dunums of agricultural Palestinian land from Jalud and Qaryut villages to expand Rechelim settlement in Nablus District.
- In the Nablus District, the settlers of Emanuel surveyed approximately 500 dunums of land located to the north of Jinsafut village as a preparation to be annexed to the settlement.

## **November 15, 1999**

- Palestinian officials and clergymen warned against an Israeli proposal by Rabbi Yitzhak Levy to divide Al-Aqsa Mosque between Arabs and Jews.
- The Israeli 'Peace Now' movement reported that the Israeli government led by PM Barak published tenders to build 2,703 new settlement housing units in the West Bank, among them 54 housing units to be built in Ariel settlement near the city of Nablus.
- Israeli army chiefs decided to discuss the issue of El'azer settlement, south of Bethlehem built on a land owned by a Palestinian Jerusalemite, who had presented through his lawyer all documents which proof his right to the land.
- The policy of demolishing houses in East Jerusalem continued as bulldozers of the Jerusalem Municipality demolished the house of a Palestinian inhabitant named Walid Ja'abari at El Mukhabber Mountain in East Jerusalem under the pretext that the house was built without a permit and on a planned road to Ma'ale Adumim settlement.
- In the Hebron District, as a first step towards expanding Jewish settlements constructed at the expense of Yatta village, Israeli troops demolished six houses at El Mufqra village, east of Yatta and evicted hundreds of Palestinian Bedouins from caves and stone shacks located in the same area. El Mufqra hamlet is adjacent to Havat Maon, an illegal Jewish hilltop settlement that was dismantled by Israeli troops last week.

## **November 16, 1999**

- In the Nablus District, Jewish settlers uprooted more than 200 olive trees from a land located to the west of Deir Ballut village, and owned by Deeb Abu Deir.

## **November 18, 1999**

- Jewish settlers stormed a Palestinian house owned by Rifqa El Kurd in Shiekh Jarah neighborhood, East Jerusalem in an attempt to force her to renounce ownership of the house. The El Kurd family has been living on the land since 1956, when the UNRWA contracted the land from the Jordanian government for 99 years, and built 28 units on the land, which are inhabited by refugees of 1948. Problems started in 1972, when a group of settlers claimed that the land was owned by Jews. Since then, cases concerning the land have been taken to court several times. On 23 February 2000, the court will deliver its decision.

### **November 20, 1999**

- The Israeli government revoked the identity card from Basim Zohdi Qutineh, a Palestinian Jerusalemite while leaving to Saudi Arabia for work.

### **November 21, 1999**

- In the Qalqiliya District, the Israeli government issued orders to expropriate 500 dunums from 'Isla village to the settlement of Alfei Meneshe. The land is owned by the heirs of Ibrahim Radi and others from the village.

### **November 23, 1999**

- The settlers , members of Dor Hahemshech, a second-generation settlers ' group set up an illegal outpost near the Etzion Bloc settlement of Nokdim, south of Bethlehem. The Jewish youth set up four tents and built rickety wooden shelters.
- Israeli bulldozers backed by a large number of soldiers and police officers demolished two houses in the 'Issawiya village in East Jerusalem One house was owned by Khaled Nasser, 23 and the other owned by Hussein 'Issa, 55. This is the second time that Nasser's house has been demolished in two months. The first demolition took place on 16 October 1999, but the house was rebuilt again in defiance. Hussein 'Issa's house is 240 square meters of two floors, and a shelter of 14 family members.
- The demolished houses are among 21 other houses facing the threat of demolition under the pretext of being built without permits.

### **November 24, 1999**

- The Israeli Civil Administration delivered demolition orders for 30 cistern wells used for irrigation under the pretext of being built without a permit in El Khader village in Bethlehem District.

### **November 26, 1999**

- The Israeli government gave the green line for the construction of 1,026 new housing units on 26,000 square meter of land confiscated from El Khader and Artas villages near Bethlehem City for the purpose of expanding the Jewish settlement of Efrat. According to the Israeli sources, construction works will commence within fifteen days for building these

units. Palestinian witnesses claimed that Jewish settlers erected 30 caravans on the site in addition to a religious school.

### **November 27, 1999**

- According to a report published by the Palestinian Ministry of Environment, the Israeli occupation forces control about 81% of water resources in the West Bank and Gaza. The report indicated that despite the acute shortage of water in the Palestinian Territories, Jewish settlements illegally built in the PalesOccupied Territories continue to exhaust Palestinian water resources at an alarming rate causing severe damages to land, people and environment. The report said that a settlement rate of water consumption is 16 times that of a Palestinian. The report accuses the Israeli occupation authorities of building water barriers designed to reduce the amount of water accumulated from rain for the benefit of the Palestinians and diverting it to Israeli areas both within the 'Green-Line' and outside.

### **November 28, 1999**

- Five Jewish families from a nearby religious school (Yeshiva) protected by Israeli military forces moved into an Israeli army unit base in the old city of Hebron. Military sources denied that the army has allowed the settlers to live there permanently, despite claims by the settlers to the contrary. 'Haaretz' correspondent has learned that the move was permitted because the school was undergoing renovations.

### **November 29, 1999**

- The Israeli occupation forces demolished seven stores and stone shacks and three cistern wells under the pretext of being built without a permit in El Khader village near Bethlehem.

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