

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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April 1, 1999

- In an exclusive interview with Arutz-7, PM Netanyahu stated unambiguously that he will not evacuate or transfer to Palestinian rule any settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the framework of a peace agreement with the Palestinians: “We will not evacuate anyone; we will not transfer anyone to Palestinian sovereignty, and we will not uproot settlements.”

April 2, 1999

- Backed by the Israeli government and leaders of the right wing groups, Jewish settlers stepped up their campaign against hilltops throughout the West Bank including the erection of many mobile houses at Bat Ayin, a new settlement (settlement) near Gush Etzion.

April 3, 1999

- Extremists Jewish groups sought permission from the Israeli government to renovate Ribat El Kurd, part of the western wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound in Jerusalem ignoring its possession by the Muslim Waqf department.
- In Nablus District, Jewish settlers erected ten mobile houses over hilltops in Yatma and Es Sawiya villages to enlarge nearby Jewish settlements, including Yatma settlement (settlement).
- The Israeli army created a new military camp near Tammun in Jenin District.

- The Israeli military forces damaged large tracts of agriculture fields at Kafr Thulth and 'Azoun villages, near Qalqiliya.

April 4, 1999

- The Israeli police allowed more than 20 extremists Jews to enter the compound of Al-Aqsa Mosque under the pretext of celebrating the 'Pessah' feast. Meanwhile, one of the extremist tried to break into the mosque from El Silsaleh and El-Mugarbeh Gates.
- The Israeli Defense Minister, Moshe Arenz laid the corner stone to build six new settlement (settlement) apartments near the colonization building of 'El Daboya' in the city of Hebron.
- The Yisrael B'aliyah party is establishing its own settlement movement. The purpose of the movement will be to provide housing for Jewish Russian immigrants throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The first stage will be to populate existing Jewish communities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while a second stage will be the establishment of new settlement (settlement) locations for groups of Jewish Russian immigrants organized for that purpose.

April 5, 1999

- The Israeli authorities started to expand the Jewish settlement (settlement) of Harsina at the expense of Jaber's family 200 -dunum land at Baq'a village near the city of Hebron.
- In Tulkarm District, Palestinian villagers from Kafr Sur reported that Israeli machinery continued bulldozing large tracts of land, and uprooting hundreds of olive and almond trees, west of Sal'it settlement (settlement) under the pretext to expand the road which links Sal'it settlement (settlement) with Sur Natan settlement (settlement) near the 'Green-Line' (the 1967 border-line).

April 7, 1999

- Jewish settlers captured 300 dunums cultivated with 400 olive trees and 1,500 almond trees from Qaryut and Jalud villages. They annexed them to the nearby newly established settlement (settlement) which consists of 15 caravans and barracks.

April 9, 1999

- The Israeli authorities confiscated 283 dunums from Kafr Qalil near Nablus for the expansion of Bracha settlement (settlement) which was constructed on Kafr Qalil and Burin villages land.

April 10, 1999

- Beit El settlers tried to annex a 14-dunum plot owned by Khaled Khawldi from Dura El Qare' village to their settlement (settlement), by installing a barbed wire fence around the land.

April 11, 1999

- The so called 'Israeli land department' plans to construct 7,900 housing units in East Jerusalem for Israeli Jews. Plots were marked for the purpose of confiscation in preparation for commencement.
- The Israeli Ministry of Transport considers the possibility of building an airport near Ariel settlement (settlement), built illegally on occupied Palestinian land near Nablus.
- Approximately ten extremist ultra-orthodox Jews attempted to establish a temporary "settlement" on the Qizon hilltop, which the settlers claimed was within Qiryat Arba's municipal boundaries, near Harsina settlement (settlement). The land owned by several Palestinian families of Sultan, El Qaysi, El Bakri, and Jwehan. They brought four tents, water tanks, and an electric generator, but were evacuated lately by Israeli soldiers. When Palestinian journalists approached, settlers turned three dogs loose to chase them away.

April 12, 1999

- In what was seen as a drive to keep as much of the area as possible in Israeli hands, Netanyahu initiated work on a new industrial park between Pesagot and Adam settlements by signing a US \$1.7 million contract for the first structures in the said Park.
- In Jenin District, a batch of Israeli soldiers uprooted more than 130 olive trees from a land owned by Tayseer Zeid in Nazlit Zaid village claiming that it is a 'state-land'. The trees were lately transported in lorries to Shaked settlement (settlement). Meanwhile, the Israeli bulldozers damaged 10 dunums of land cultivated with tobacco, and owned by Tayseer. He reported to *Al-Ayyam* newspaper that his calamity with the Civil Administration has started in 1984, when the Israeli authorities tried to confiscate his land in order to expand the

nearby Shaked settlement (settlement) which was constructed at the expense of Ya'bad land.

April 13, 1999

- Jewish settlers from Yakir and Nofim settlements started the construction of a new settlement (settlement) at Wadi Qanna area, west of Deir Istiya village in the Salfit region. The settlers set up four caravans near the barracks where the family of Yousef Mansour live. In the meantime, the Civil Administration delivered notification orders to the family to evacuate their residences within 18 hours in preparation to expropriate the land.
- The High Islamic Commission in Jerusalem issued a statement denouncing the ongoing Israeli government's attempts to Judaize East Jerusalem, and for giving a Hebrew name for Ribat El-Kurd, adjacent to the walls of Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound.
- Israeli agents of the police "minority affairs unit" posted a closure order on the door of the office of the Christian Affairs Committee in Jerusalem headed by Ibrahim Qandalaft. The office is part of an association promoting Christian-Muslim relations which has operated since before the Palestinian National Authority's autonomy government was created in 1994. The decision was designed to reassert Israeli sovereignty over East Jerusalem, where Palestinians hope to establish the capital of a future state.
- Abdel Hadi Hantash reported that he had witnessed 16 houses under construction in Susya settlement (settlement) near the very southern border of the West Bank. On a hilltop near Susya settlement (settlement), one colonist has set up a caravan and named the hill after Ariel Sharon, Israeli Foreign Minister, who told the settlers to "take all the hilltops" in the West Bank.
- In Nablus District, the settlers of Itzhar escalated their attacks against the Palestinian villagers of Huwwara. They damaged several wells and prohibited the farmers to cultivate their fields.
- A report appeared in *Al Quds* daily revealed the establishment of a new settlement (settlement) outpost in Wadi El Qilt area, by installing three house trailers twenty days ago. The two Jewish families residing there assured to expand the outpost in the near future.

April 14, 1999

- The Israeli authorities confiscated 613 dunums from El Khader village near Bethlehem in order to expand Neve Daniel settlement.
- The Arab El Jahalin Defense Committee revealed an Israeli plan which aims at gathering more than five thousand Palestinian Bedouin family in an area called Wadi El Nar after evacuating them from their current residing zones which extend from the southern part of the West Bank to the north for more detail.

April 17, 1999

- Israel confiscated 7,023 IDs from Palestinian Jerusalemites, 16 of them in the past two weeks. This contradicts the Israeli Ministry of Interior reports claiming the confiscation of 1,641 IDs only.
- Al Aqsa Committee condemned in a statement the recent Jewish settlers' attack against Ein Karem mosque in Jerusalem.
- Netanyahu's government confiscated 600 dunums from Issawiyeh village, north-east of Jerusalem, for the construction of tourist, industrial, and commercial enterprises for settlers.
- The Israeli government unveiled new plans to confiscate 2,000 dunums from Shibteen and Deir Qiddis villages, west of Ramallah for the expansion of Nili settlement (settlement).
- Palestinian Jerusalemites are angered by a decision issued by the Olmert Municipality permitting the extremist Ateret Cohanim group to build in Jerusalem's Old City.

April 18, 1999

- Jewish extremist settlers continued their attack against the Muslim "Ribat El Kurd" wall and removed earth from its vicinity in preparation for taking over this sacred Muslim shrine.
- In Qalandia village, north of Jerusalem, Israeli army bulldozers leveled large tracts of agricultural lands, and uprooted more than 20 olive trees to construct a 200 -meter long road to link Road 45, which passes by Qalandia airport, with the main entrance of the airport from the western side.
- In Nablus District, The Israeli authorities have completed the pavement of a by-pass road which starts from Huwwara village. On the other hand, the settlers of Eileh bulldozed tens of dunums to the

- north of the settlement (settlement) in preparation for installing new caravans for the settlement (settlement) residents.
- The West Jerusalem Municipality ordered temporarily the suspension of excavations and survey works in Al-Shiekh Jarah neighborhood for the establishment of a park and garden for extremist religious Jews after Palestinian landlords protested this illegal action.
 - The Palestinian Coordination office in Tulkarm protested to the Israelis the confiscation of 4,000 dunums at Kafr Sur and Er Ras villages, south of the city for the expansion of Sal'it settlement (settlement).
 - The Israeli authorities buried hazardous material in the El Mosafir area near Hebron, and ordered the driver of a bulldozer digging holes for the materials not to uncover the sacks which contained chemical materials.
 - Survey teams commenced surveying large portions of land in Deir Estiya village north-east of Salfit in preparation for its annexation to nearby Jewish settlements including Nofim settlement (settlement).
 - An Israeli troop destroyed the fences built around two olive groves, two kilometers away from Elon -Moreh settlement (settlement). The groves owned by Jamil Mahmoud and Yunis Hamdan who was left a warning ordering him to uproot the trees under the pretext that his land is a 'state-owned land'.
 - The Palestinian people of 'Azoun village in Nablus District are deeply concerned with the colonization scheme threatening to swallow hundreds of dunums cultivated with olive and orange trees in case of constructing a by-pass road linking Alfei Menesheh settlement (settlement) near the Green-Line with Ginot Shomron settlement (settlement).

April 19, 1999

- Two homes were demolished in the village of Issawiyeh, in East Jerusalem, because they had been built without Israeli permission. Israeli Border Police, accompanied by officials of the Jerusalem Municipality, demolished the home of Bassam Taraweh. The house contained four rooms and covered an area of 95 square meters. The second house demolished was the home of Khawla Omr As-Shiekh. The demolition of the house was carried out without prior notification. The house contained five rooms and covered an area of 110 square meters. The foundations of an extension of a third house were also destroyed to make way for the demolition vehicle. According to the owner of the partially built house, was told by Jerusalem Municipality

official that his house and another nine others will receive house demolition orders within the coming days.

April 20, 1999

- The decision of the Israeli High court sentencing Al-Kurd family to evacuate parts of its house was carried out by the Israeli police who in their turn, evicted the family from an 80-square-meter addition to their home that they had built without a permit over the last year in Al-Shiekh Jarah neighborhood in East Jerusalem.
- Jewish settlers erected tents and water tanks on a hilltop near Burin village in Nablus District as a first step towards establishing a new settlement (settlement).

April 21, 1999

- In a highly provocative measure against Palestinians in Jerusalem, the Israeli cabinet has ordered the closing of the main Palestinian offices in East Jerusalem, the Orient House. The offices are the Office of National Institutions, Khalil Tufakji's office which investigates settlement building, and Hussein's office, known as the Office of National Research.(The Jerusalem Post)The closure order follows numerous attempts by Israeli authorities to silence Palestinian activity and presence in Occupied Jerusalem.
- Jewish settlers opened a new by-pass road linking a number of settlements west and south of Nablus including Qedumim and Itzhar settlements.
- Jewish settlers seized new plots of about 300 dunums, east of Yatta town at Tel Twani area, and planted the land with forest trees in an attempt to change the status of thousands of dunums owned by Palestinians into 'Green Area' in order to keep the land empty of any Palestinian residential or built-up area..

April 22, 1999

- Settlers from Maatzedot Yehuda settlement (settlement) destroyed a 300-meter fence around a Palestinian school near Yatta.

April 23, 1999

- According to Israeli sources, PM Netanyahu appropriated over US \$120 million to support the construction and expansion of Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories.
- The Israeli government planned the construction of a gigantic tourist tower on El Mukhaber Mountain in East Jerusalem.
- Jewish extremists from Bani Heifer settlement (settlement), east of Hebron uprooted about 200 olive trees near the Palestinian village of Bani Na'im.

April 24, 1999

- The Israeli military forces gave evacuation orders to several Palestinian families living in the southernmost part of the West Bank. The orders give them 30 days to leave their land and which the military claims is 'state-land'.

April 25, 1999

- According to Israeli sources, Jewish colonist will move within the coming days into nine Palestinian houses after evacuating their residents in Al-Shiekh Jarah's neighborhood in East Jerusalem.
- A Jewish family occupied a hilltop, one kilometer away from Maale Levona settlement (settlement) on the Ramallah -Nablus highway to establish a new settlement (settlement).
- Jewish settlers commenced excavation works ahead of building new permanent houses at Tel-Rumeida near Hebron.

April 27, 1999

- A group of extremist settlers captured three Palestinian houses in Al-Shiekh Jarah in East Jerusalem.
- The Israeli army bulldozers uprooted 50 olive trees in Kafr Ed Dik village near Salfit to expand a settlement (settlement) road connecting the existing settlements in the area.

April 28, 1999

- Israeli army bulldozers damaged large portions of farms in Kh. Karm, south of Hebron. The bulldozers are constructing by-pass road no. 60 to serve Jewish settlements. Ayyam

- In Ramallah District, the Israeli bulldozers started leveling large portions of land from 'Aboud village in an attempt to create a new settlement (settlement) city in an area located to the east of Ofarim settlement (settlement) near the 'Green-Line', (the 1967 border- line) which was constructed at the expense of 'Aboud village land. Implementing such a scheme would result in the confiscation of more than five thousands of best agricultural fields from 'Aboud village and its surrounding Palestinian communities. The new settlement (settlement) city will include about eight thousand housing units over some five thousand dunums. Two thousand housing units for religious Jews will be built as the first stage in four years followed by another six thousand units for secular Jews. The units will be of small size so that they can be purchased at relatively low prices (70-100 thousand US \$).
- In Tulkarm District, the Israeli authorities announced a new scheme (4/158) for Avnei Hefetz settlement (settlement). According to the scheme, hundreds of dunums from Shoufa village which is cultivated with olive and almond trees will be confiscated despite the fact that the Palestinian landowners have legal deeds proving their ownership of the land. It is worth mentioning that the Israeli machinery have been bulldozing scores of Palestinian land near the settlement (settlement) borders for the purpose of constructing new housing units.
- In Nablus District, ultra-orthodox Jewish settlers tore up by the roots about 25 olive trees from Mirda village.
- In Salfit region, Jewish settlers uprooted trees owned by Al Khafsh family in an area located to the north of Ariel settlement (settlement).

April 29, 1999

- The Israeli bulldozers commenced the construction of a 19 -kilometer long and 50 -meter wide by-pass road to link 'Ofnael with Shima settlements. The total Palestinian confiscated land is 950 dunums and owned by Abu 'Aqil and Al Salamin families in Es Samu' village.

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