

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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May 1, 1999

- The Municipality of Jerusalem decided to transfer a Palestinian school in Jerusalem's Wadi El-Jouz neighborhood in order to use it as offices for the Municipality and for the Ministry of Interior.

May 2, 1999

- Jewish settlers celebrated laying the foundation stone for a new settlement called Har Zehav, 2 kilometers east of Deir Ballut village near Salfit. In the first stage, some 200 housing units will be constructed at the new site out of 1000 units.
- In an escalating campaign to capture more Palestinian territories, an Israeli plan was unveiled to confiscate 5000 dunums in an area located between Yatta and Es Samu' villages in Hebron.
- In Nablus District, Jewish settlers of a newly established outpost constructed on the confiscated Palestinian land of Qaryut village, leveled 30 dunums planted with cereals.

May 3, 1999

- Jerusalem Municipality court supported in a ruling pronounced annexing some parts of El Walajeh village near Jerusalem to the municipal orders of Jerusalem Municipality.

- As a part of the ethnic cleansing policy in Jerusalem, the Israeli Ministry of Interior demolished two Palestinian houses at El Mukaber Mountain under the pretext that they were built without a permit. The first owned by Jamil Surri and his 4-member family, and the second by Jamal Salama Surri and inhabited by six family members.
- According to a study conducted by the Israeli Peace Now group, it is found that there are 3,714 empty housing units in more than 140 Jewish settlements (settlements) built in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

May 4, 1999

- Jewish settlers of Efrat installed a ready-made concrete factory and 12 caravan over 100 dunums confiscated from El Khader village near Bethlehem.
- The settlers of Avnei Hefetz commenced survey and excavation works at Shoufa village near Tulkarm.

May 5, 1999

- The Israeli Housing Council discussed the possibility of linking Ariel settlement in the West Bank, five kilometers north of Salfit town, with a railway station at Ras El 'Ein terminal.
- The Municipality of Jerusalem decided to demolish six floors in a building owned by Bilal Kamal in East Jerusalem under the pretext of being built without a permit.
- The Israeli government endorsed the Ministry of Housing project to encourage Jews on purchasing houses and real estates in East Jerusalem.
- Without prior notification, the Municipality of Jerusalem demolished a house in El Mukaber Mountain under the pretext of being built without a permit, owned by Musa Zu'ater, the third in less than 72 hours.
- In Tulkarm District, Israeli surveyors accompanied by soldiers surveyed Palestinian plots in Baqa Esh Sharqiya town for the opening of new settlement roads.

May 6, 1999

- In the Baq'a Valley in Hebron District, the Israeli bulldozers have been working on a hill owned by Abdel Jawad Jabber just above and beside

his house; whereas before they were mostly working on the back side which is toward Harsina settlement . This is a settlement expansion in progress, threatening a Palestinian family. The settlement expansion plan was approved in 1982 that has expropriated much of the Baq'a Valley land.

- According to the Housing Ministry spokesman, Israel issued a tender for the construction of 1025 homes at a controversial site known as Abu Ghneim Mountain south-east of Jerusalem.

May 7, 1999

- The Israeli government approved Circular Road project no. 4585 around East Jerusalem to isolate Jerusalem from the West Bank.
- The Municipality of Jerusalem decided to build a new settlement neighborhood in Abu Dis. The municipality asked an engineering office to prepare the preliminary designs for the project in the heart of this Palestinian town.
- According to the Israeli *Kol Hair* newspaper, Jewish settlers were preparing for a massive settlement campaign on the eve of the Israeli elections and that over 800 mobile houses were transported to over 50 Jewish settlements all over the West Bank during the past seven months.
- A sit-in strike was staged in El Jib village near Jerusalem, to protest the expropriation of Palestinian plots for the construction of a new settlement road passing through the village, linking Jerusalem with Pisgat Ze'ev settlement.
- Jewish settlers from Ariel settlement, cut down 250 olive trees from Iskaka village. The uprooted trees were transported in a lorry to cultivate them in Ariel.

May 8, 1999

- Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Land Defense Committee unveiled an Israeli plan aiming at expanding Ash Kaliot settlement which is constructed at the expense of some 808 dunum of El Thahiriya village, and Al Ramadeen Bedouin tribe land.
- A Palestinian family from El Sa'diya neighborhood in Jerusalem's Old City warned of the collapse of its home due to excavation works undertaken by the Municipality of Jerusalem beneath the building.

May 9, 1999

- The Israeli cabinet approved the transfer of NIS 400 million to Jerusalem and to give another NIS 20,000 grants to those purchasing new apartments in any settlement in Jerusalem's District during the coming two years.
- In Bruqin village near Nablus, scrambled for hilltops before elections with government connivance, 15 new caravans were erected by Jewish settlers who want to set up a religious school 'Yeshiva' on the site. Israel has designated the area as 'state-land', opening the way for Jewish development there. Haaretz
- In Ramallah District, several caravans were installed at the new outpost called "Maale Erez" near Mukhmas settlement.
- The Israeli authorities confiscated 200 dunums to expand Metzpe Yeriho settlement in Jericho. The Israeli government endorsed plans to construct 1911 new apartments for Jewish settlers at Metspe Yeriho settlement .
- Village residents of Eshuyukh village saw bulldozers supported by Israeli soldiers arrive in the area. Without prior warning or a requisition order, they began work to level the land which is the only remaining area in the village available for development, in preparation for a new industrial settlement zone. The land in question spans 1,050 dunums and is under the jurisdiction of the Eshuyukh village council.
- The Beit El court issued a decision to confiscate eight dunums of land owned by Jad Allah Abdel El'al from El Jib village, north-west of Jerusalem under the pretext of being a 'state-land'.

May 10, 1999

- The Israeli Knesset Finance Committee approved NIS 13 million for Jewish settlement expansion in the West Bank and Gaza.

May 11, 1999

- An article appeared in *Al-Quds* daily stating that since 1967 when East Jerusalem along with other Palestinian land was occupied, Israel built more than 40,000 housing units for Jewish settlers in East Jerusalem and none whatsoever for the Palestinian inhabitants of the city.
- Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Land Defense Committee reported that settlers and the Israeli army brought three bulldozers to land, east of Hebron near the village of Eshuyukh in order to begin construction of a new by-pass road. CPT

- Jewish settlers from Efrat erected eight mobile houses on Palestinian land near El Khader village to accommodate more extreme settlers on Palestinian occupied land.
- Bethlehem 2000 Project Committee considered the Israeli government decision to stop work on the Jerusalem-Hebron high road as an attempt to impede the progress of its projects and to undermine the millennium celebrations. According to Israeli officials, the Israeli authorities are opposed to the construction because part of the road would run through an area of Bethlehem under Israeli control.
- The Israeli Minister of Communications and the mayor of Jerusalem formally inaugurated a new road linking Jerusalem with Maale Adumim the cost of NIS 230m.
- Jewish settlers erected mobile houses on two settlement sites near the village of El Mughayir north of Ramallah, Qaryut and Jalud villages in Nablus.

May 12, 1999

- Confrontations erupted between Palestinian villagers of Deir Qiddis and armed Jewish settlers after Israeli bulldozers from Kiryat Sefer settlement a few kilometers to the south began damaging fields and uprooting trees to expand the settlement.
- Jewish settlers uprooted hundreds of olive trees on land belonging to Kafr Ed Dik and Deir Ballut villages near Salfit.

May 13, 1999

- The Israeli army razed four houses in the southern West Bank after evicting dozens of Palestinians from their homes. Bulldozers guarded by dozens of soldiers demolished two homes in the village of Ed Dirat south-east of Hebron and another two houses in the nearby village of El Bwib. The army said the structures were built without proper authorization in zones still under full Israeli control.
- In Es Sawiya village, Jewish settlers established a new outpost by setting up new caravans.

May 14, 1999

- The Israeli High Court of Justice orders the Israeli Civil Administration Department in the Occupied Territories to refrain from confiscating 400 dunums from "Nazlit Zaid village" near Jenin. Palestinian landlords

submitted documents proving the plots were registered in their names as indicated in the recommendation of the Jordanian Minister of Finance and the Jordanian government's decision dated June 18, 1967.

May 15, 1999

- In 'Einabous village near Nablus, Jewish settlers from Itzhar occupied a Palestinian hill near the settlement. Eye-witnesses reported that the Israeli bulldozers uprooted olive trees, and erected several new mobile houses at the site. Near that hill, the settlers demolished a well owned by a Palestinian, and erected a caravan instead.
- In Qasra village south-east of Nablus, settlers from "Migdolim" settlement installed several caravans, a water tank, and a military checkpoint in an attempt to create a new outpost.
- In Tulkarm District, the Israeli bulldozers leveled large tracts of land in Shoufa village, and uprooted 100 olive trees in preparation to expand Avnei Hfets settlement. Eye-witnesses said that the Israeli bulldozers were paving new settlement roads in an attempt to construct new housing units for the settlers.

May 16, 1999

- Jewish contractors commenced construction work to build 1025 housing units on Abu Ghneim Mountain, south-east of Jerusalem in the last day of Netanyahu's office.
- In Um Safa village, north-west of Ramallah, Israeli settlers grabbed a new hilltop of about ten dunums, 300 kilometers away from Halmesh settlement, and set up more than ten mobile houses there.

May 17, 1999

- Jewish settlers confiscated 500 dunums from Kafr 'Aqab village, and annexed the land to Kochav Yacov settlement.
- The Israeli occupation authorities unveiled plans to confiscate 4,000 dunums from Mukhmas and Jaba' villages in the West Bank.
- In Yatta village near Hebron, the Israeli authorities delivered eviction orders to Palestinian families to evacuate their 5000 dunum- land which is located near Susia settlement.

May 18, 1999

- Settlement activities are taking place in the Jordan Valley where ten housing units were built in Yafit settlement, 18 houses in Shedmot settlement, and more than 60 caravans were added to a military camp near the Israeli settlement which was constructed on Tammun land. A new military camp was also constructed near Al 'Aqba village.
- In Jenin District, a group of Jewish settlers uprooted 200 olive trees in the village of 'Abba.
- Dr. Irving Moskowitz who secured permission from the Jerusalem Municipality to build 132 apartments announced the next stage of construction at Ras Al-Amoud neighborhood in the heart of East Jerusalem, his 132-unit housing and community development project adjoining Jerusalem's Mt.of Olives burial ground. The 16-dunum development, on which ground was broken, last October, will include a shopping center, a synagogue, and a kindergarten. It completes the geographical contiguity of the Jewish presence in Jerusalem.

May 19, 1999

- Bulldozers supported by Israeli troops and police destroyed three Palestinian water reservoirs they alleged were built without permits in the Baq'a Valley in Hebron District.
- In Beit Dajan near Nablus, Israeli soldiers cut down about 50 olive trees owned by the Palestinian villager, 'Adnan Abu El Haj.

May 20, 1999

- In Ramallah District, the Israeli bulldozers guarded by military troops demolished a house measuring 140 square meters in El Tira village for allegedly being built without a permit. They also tore down another structure owned by Najm Safi near Beit El under the same pretext.

May 26, 1999

- The Israeli bulldozers continued construction works over 300 dunums of land located in the Baq'a Valley and El Buwayra village owned by El Ashhab, Sultan, and Jabber families in an attempt to expand nearby existing settlements (settlements), and open new by-pass roads. On the other hand, the Israeli Civil Administration has begun marking new municipal boundaries for Kiryat Arba' by surveying 500 dunums of land claimed by Palestinian owners that were previously declared to be beyond the settlement's municipal limits.

May 27, 1999

- Israel decided to add a wide swath of West Bank land to a Jewish settlement and connect it to Jerusalem. Outgoing Defense Minister Moshe Arens decided recently to add four square-miles to the settlement of Maale Adumim, east of Jerusalem. The decision was reported by Israeli media and confirmed by Arens adviser, Avi Kalstein. With the expansion, Maale Adumim will border on Jerusalem and further cut off the eastern sector of the city, demanded by the Palestinians as a future capital, from its West Bank hinterland.
- The settlers of Elon-Moreh cut down hundreds of olive trees from Deir El Hatab village in Nablus District.

May 28, 1999

- In Es Sawiya and Lubban Esh Sharqiya villages, Jewish settlers supported by the Israeli military forces confiscated about 600 dunums to expand Eileh settlement which is constructed on the confiscated land of the two Palestinian villages.
- In Hebron District, the Israeli bulldozers leveled tens of dunums of Palestinian land near Tarqumya village in order to enlarge the settlement of Adora.

May 29, 1999

- According to Palestinian sources, Israeli labors started to cultivate hundreds of olive trees, which were uprooted from Kafr Ed Dik and Deir Ballut villages, in Giv'at Shmo'il neighborhood in Tel Aviv city.

May 30, 1999

- The Israeli bulldozers uprooted more than 500 olive trees from Iskaka village, south of Nablus.
- In Deir Istiya village near Salfit, leveling works continued in order to expand Qana settlement which is constructed at the expense of the village land.

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