

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

Volume 15, October 1999 Issue

<http://www.arij.org>

October 1, 1999

- An article appeared in 'Al-Ayyam' daily stating that Jewish contractors commenced work for building 3,500 housing units in Maaleh Adumim settlement . Two Israeli officials told the Israeli High Court that the expansion of the settlement of Maaleh Adumim is aimed at creating geographical contiguity to Jerusalem. On the other hand, the municipality of Maale Adumim discussed with the Gush Etzion Council the possibility of annexing Kedar settlement, which is considered as one part of the Etzion Bloc settlements and which houses 100 families, to Ma'ale Adumim.
- Jewish right-wingers sought to capture a Palestinian house near Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem ahead of building the Jewish Temple. The 3-dunum plot is registered as a family Waqf (Muslim trust) under the name of the Abu Saoud family.
- The Palestinian Ministry of Environment issued a report in which it warned against the illegal dumping of Israeli toxic solid waste in the Palestinian Territories. The report noted that since 1987, Israel has dumped solid waste in the 'Azoun area in the Nablus District. This has lead to a marked increase in dangerous diseases such as cancer among the Palestinians in the area. The report reviewed the many attempts to smuggle Israeli solid waste into the Palestinian land before they were foiled by the PNA. The report also warned against the Israeli attempts to relocate factories causing environmental hazards from within Israel into West Bank settlements, and pointed out those 40 factories out of 160 existed in the settlements pose real environmental hazard to man and environment.

October 2, 1999

- The Palestinian News Agency “Wafa”, reported that Orthodox Jewish groups protected by Israeli troops attempted twice to storm the Al-Aqsa Mosque through its Qatanin gate. The Mosque guards and people praying there prevented the Jewish extremists through gathering near the gate. Two hours after the first attempt, another group re-attempted to storm into the Mosque through the same gate, but in vain.

October 3, 1999

- According to news reports, the Palestinian Ministry of Religious Affairs (Islamic Waqf) accused the Israeli PM Barak, who supported excavation works undertaken by the Israeli Department of Antiquities, which contravenes all international laws, with opening a new gate near the southern wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque and far away from the southern window of the Mosque closed by Israel two months ago.
- Press reports wrote about Israeli plans being carried out by the Jerusalem Municipality in conjunction with the Jerusalem’s Development Authority to build a new settlement city on an 11-dunum plot at Wadi El Joz neighborhood in East Jerusalem. The plans include the construction of a 200- bedroom hotel, medical center, kindergartens, and multi-purpose halls. The new site is located at the vegetable market (El-Hesba area) northeast of the Old City near Rockefeller Museum.

October 4, 1999

- The Israeli army announced that it sealed agricultural plots of land in the West Bank to be used as Israeli training fields. The Palestinian society for Human Rights and Environment said that the Israeli army orders apply to thousands of fertile dunums belonging to 79 Palestinian villages, most of which are near Hebron. One of these orders confines to close 80, 000 dunums belong to the towns of Sa’ir, Bani Na’im and Yatta in the Hebron District. Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Palestinian Land Defense Committee in Hebron said that the Israeli action came under a new military order No. (99/6/S) issued by the head of the Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank. The order compels thousands of families to leave their communities and land.

October 6, 1999

- The Palestinian inhabitants of Sur Baher village, south of Jerusalem confronted the Israeli authorities' bulldozers that started groundwork without prior notification on a large swathe of land for the construction of the East Ring Road.
- Jewish settlers erected two mobile homes at Hosha site, which is established illegally near Talmon settlement, west Beit El settlement. The site has an order to be dismantled since April 1999.
- In the Hebron District, in response of dismantling an illegal small container in Susya settlement, the settlers set up two mobile houses, only few meters away from the dismantled caravan.
- The Jerusalem Municipality issued an order to demolish the house of the Palestinian inhabitant, 'Abed El Kareem Qar'an under the pretext of being built without a permit. The two-bedroom house which shelters five people is located near a colonization outpost in the Old City of Jerusalem.

October 7, 1999

- According to a study conducted by the 'Peace Now' group, some 83 new mobile houses were erected in the settlements since the Israeli elections in May 1999.
- The Jerusalem Municipality issued a demolition order to the house of the Palestinian 'Ayed Castero under the pretext of building without a permit. The 105- square meter old house is located in the El Qarmi neighborhood in the Old City of Jerusalem.
- In Tulkarm District, the Israeli authorities have continued construction work in Avnei Heifets settlement, east of Shoufa village. Eyewitnesses said that Israeli machinery was bulldozing wide areas of land in preparation to construct more settlement housing units.

October 11, 1999

- The Palestinian daily 'Al-Ayyam' quoted the Israeli 'Yediot Ahronot' newspaper as reporting that a plan was set designating the Ariel settlement in Nablus District as a border city in the final status settlement. The city will serve as a connecting point between the Gush Dan area, the Palestinian territories and Jordan. The newspaper pointed out that plans for that purpose have been prepared by the settlement's municipality in cooperation with the Israeli Ministry of Interior.

October 12, 1999

- The Israeli Housing Ministry is in the process of building a new ultra-orthodox extension comprised of additional 3,000 settlement housing units to the settlement of Kokhav Yaacov, a settlement southeast of Ramallah. The new area, known as Tel Zion, will be only a few kilometers away from Jerusalem's northern suburb, Neve Yaacov. The first 300 families are due to move in around Passover (A Jewish Feast), and a further 150 families will follow a year later. The developer, Vishnitz Hassidic Association has permits from the Rural Settlement Department to start building 600 units.

October 13, 1999

- A group of Jewish settlers of El Kana settlement accompanied by a large number of Israeli military forces uprooted more than 300 olive trees belong to the Palestinian inhabitants of Zawiya village, southwest of Nablus.

October 15, 1999

- Jewish settlement sources disclosed that PM Barak has approved the establishment of 35 settlements in the West Bank and the expansion of Itamar settlement in Nablus District by seven thousand dunums.
- According to a report issued by Jerusalem Center for Social and Economic rights on Jerusalem and the Israeli practices in the city, Israel continues illegal land acquisition. The report clarified that 34% of the city is now totally confiscated and pointed out that Israel classified 52% of Jerusalem as 'Green areas' where building is prohibited, and so only 14% of the city with houses built on is left for the Jerusalemites. The report finally noted that Israel built on the confiscated land 15 settlements, 9 industrial zones and more than one hundred factories for the Israeli industries.

October 16, 1999

- The Palestinian newspapers wrote about the continued settlement expansion in the West Bank. Palestinian inhabitants from Deir El Hatab reported that the Israeli settlers at the Elon Moreh settlement have continued to place caravan houses to the east of the settlement in contradiction with the announced stand of their government to remove some settlements that were built on the Palestinian land after signing the Wye Memorandum.

October 17, 1999

- Jewish settlers of Elon Moreh chopped down more than 400 olive trees owned by Nader Abed El Rahman, in the Palestinian village of Deir El Hatab, east of Nablus.
- The Palestinian village of Deir Ballut near Nablus witnessed a sit-in strike over the confiscation of hundreds of dunums of premium agricultural land belonging to the Palestinian citizens of the village in order to construct an Israeli military camp. One of the landowners, Jbara Youssef, 72, who didn't stand the situation and died of a heart attack, got the order a week ago confiscating his 500-square meters of farmland.

October 18, 1999

- The Israeli occupation authorities in Hebron issued a military order prohibiting the renovation of Palestinian houses in the old city of Hebron close to the Ibrahimi Mosque.

October 20, 1999

- The Israeli occupation authorities ordered a Palestinian inhabitant from Burin village in Nablus District not to work on his land.
- In Hebron District, ultra-orthodox Jews erected a mobile synagogue in an illegal outpost, called Havat Maon, south of Hebron. Havat Maon is one of the 42 illegal settlements constructed after Wye Memorandum in order to create facts on the ground before the Israeli-Palestinian final negotiations.

October 21, 1999

- At the first discussion on the plan for separate security systems for Israel and the Palestinians under the final settlement, Prime Minister Ehud Barak supports erecting a fence between Israel and the Palestinian entity. The plan was drawn up by Moshe Shahak, the Public Security Minister during Yitzhak Rabin's term.

October 22, 1999

- Israeli sources unveiled a secret item in the agreement between Barak and the settlers states that the land of the evacuated settlements' outposts will remain under the Jewish settlers' control.

October 25, 1999

- The 180 square meter-homes which was used to house three families numbering 18 people in the East Jerusalem village of Beit Hanina was demolished under an Interior Ministry directive. The action came despite an agreement between the Jerusalem Municipality and the Beit Hanina administration according to which no new illegal structures would be built and no existing buildings would be demolished. The owner of the house had been warned by police that his home would be demolished, but had obtained an order against it.

October 26, 1999

- Israeli bulldozers backed by large number of soldiers and police officers entered the 'Issawiya village in East Jerusalem to demolish the family house of Ihab Nasser, 23. The house, 100 square meters was home to three family members. According to the family's lawyer, the demolition came as a surprise especially in light of the Jerusalem Municipality's request three months ago to initiate licensing procedures. The family was also informed that the land on which the house was built had been confiscated. Nasser's house is one among 38 other houses facing the threat of demolition in the area deemed by the City Council as a 'Green Area'.

October 27, 1999

- An Israeli daily press, 'Haaretz' unveiled an Israeli plan to establish a new religious Jewish outpost near the settlement of Eli Zahav, to the south of Nablus. In the first stage, 200 housing units will be constructed out of 700 in the so-called Ibad Illit settlement.

October 29, 1999

- The Israeli occupation forces moved army roadblocks into Ya'bad and 'Anin land in Jenin District, and confiscated 10 thousand dunums of land belonging to the two Palestinian towns.

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