

## 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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#### January 2, 2000

- Palestinian sources unveiled an Israeli plan to transfer Palestinian land and houses to Jewish settlement groups in the old city of Jerusalem, Sheikh Jarrah and Mar Elias neighborhoods.
- The Palestinian Land Defense Committee stated that Dolev settlement, in the West of the Ramallah District, might expand by several dozens acres, in addition to the 3 caravans and the 3 independent houses that were added to the settlement.

#### January 10, 2000

- According to a report published by The Department of National and International Relations, the Israeli occupation forces control about 80% 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 Palestinian Occupied Territories continue to exhaust Palestinian water resources at an alarming rate causing severe damages to land and environment. The report said that a settlement rate of water consumption is 10 times that of a Palestinian.

#### January 11, 2000

- The Israeli occupation authorities decided to evacuate 15 cave-dwelling Palestinian families from Hebron District, who have been citizens of the area and living there for a long time.

- In Ramallah District, the Jewish settlers are planning to seize 15 dunums of land owned by the Palestinian citizens Mohammad Kana'n and Mustafa Amira in Bil'in village, in order to expand the nearby settlement.

### **January 12, 2000**

- Israeli bulldozers uprooted 30 fully-grown olive trees owned by Palestinians from 'Abud village northwest of Ramallah, in order to establish an Israeli military zone. At the same time, Jewish army bulldozers destroyed 100 dunums of land belonging to Palestinian citizens from Yasuf village in Nablus District. The land seizure aimed at opening a by-pass road there.

### **January 13, 2000**

- In an attempt to seize more Palestinian land and expand existing settlements in Nablus District, the settlers of Alei Zahav cut down hundreds of olive trees belonging to Muhammad Abed Alla of Deir Ballut, in an attempt to expand the settlement.

### **January 15, 2000**

- According to eyewitnesses, the settlers of Yasuf in Nablus erected a new settlement spot at rugged mountainous area not far away from the village and set up new caravans at the site. Meanwhile, in nearby Za'tara junction the Jewish settlers expanded a military outpost and added new electric poles to light the main highway linking Nablus and Ramallah.

### **January 16, 2000**

- The Israeli government issued a military order to confiscate Al'Arba'een Mosque in Tel Rumeida village in Hebron District. The military order, which was signed by the chief of the occupation forces in the West Bank Moshe Ya'alon states that the aim is to use the Mosque and the surrounding area for military purposes.

### **January 17, 2000**

- The Jerusalem Municipality is planning to construct a neighborhood settlement on the Palestinian land of Abu Dis on the out skirts of Jerusalem.

### **January 18, 2000**

- The Israeli occupation authorities declared a 2,800 dunums of land owned by Palestinian peasants at Al Mughayyir village, north of Ramallah, a closed military zone, in an attempt to expand a nearby Jewish settlement. A local peasant named Ahmad Abu Alya said that the villagers possessed authentic land deeds proving their ownership of the land.
- According to a report published by the LAW Human Rights Organization remarking that Israel confiscated 40,178 dunums of fertile land and uprooted 15,000 fruit trees, during last year.

### **January 20, 2000**

- The Israeli government gave the green light for the execution of ten settlement schemes in the District of Bethlehem, for the purpose of constructing new settlement units.
- According to a report published by Amnesty International, the Israeli authorities destroyed more than 2600 Palestinian houses in the West Bank since 1987, under the pretext of being built without a permit.

### **January 21, 2000**

- The “Peace Now” movement urged PM Barak to return the displaced Palestinian families back to their homes in Yatta village near Hebron.
- According to Israeli sources, two Jewish groups seek to purchase a Palestinian land in Ras Al-Amoud, east of Jerusalem.

### **January 22, 2000**

- The Israeli bulldozers uprooted 50 fully-grown olive trees (200 years old) from Palestinian land at Kafr Kaddum village, west of Nablus, as a preparation to establish an Israeli industrial zone.
- A troop of Israeli soldiers forcibly expelled a Palestinian citizen named Muhammad Jaber Al Mahfour (62 years old) from his cave that shelters 12 members, in Hebron District.
- More settlement provocation in Qalqiliya District as the Israeli government sent notices to demolish a Palestinian house in Izbat at Tabib village.

### **January 23, 2000**

- Israeli police arrested 3 Jewish settlers who tried to block surveyors from taking measurements for a reinforcement wall around their Tel Rumeida enclave in Hebron District. On the other hand, Israeli police and army forces prevented dozens of members of the right-wing Next Generation (Dor Hahemsheh) movement from planting trees on the site of the former illegal Jewish outpost Havat Maon, on the southern slope of Mount Hebron.
- In Nablus District, the Israeli authorities have plans to expand Al Qanana enclave by expropriating 300 dunums of land and uprooting thousands of trees from Az Zawiya village in Nablus District. On the other hand, the settlers of Dolev destroyed about 80 beehives belonging to the citizen Ma'amoun Ibrahim from deir Ibzi' village west of Ramallah.
- Israeli government led by PM Barak reconsiders a previous decision to evacuate the 300 Palestinians from Al Tawaniya village, south of Hebron.

#### **January 24, 2000**

- The Israeli authorities issued an order to confiscate 30 dunums of land cultivated with fully-grown olive trees and owned by Palestinians from Izbet Noufel hamlet in the Qalqiliya District, in order to be used as Israeli training fields.

#### **January 25, 2000**

- The Israeli army stopped two trucks carrying construction materials necessary for the restoration works done on and around Al-Aqsa Mosque, in Jerusalem.

#### **January 26, 2000**

- The Israeli military forces closed off 3,000 dunums of fertile land belonging to the Palestinian village of Az Zawiya, near Nablus. The confiscated land is close to the Qana settlement.
- The Israeli government is planning to expand Mode'in settlement located nearby the Green Line (Armistice Line) separating the West Bank from Israel, west of Ramallah in order to be able to absorb more than 60,000 settlers by October 2001.

#### **January 27, 2000**

- A group of Jewish settlers stormed a metalwork shop owned by Abu Yusef, in Akbat Al-Sarayiyeh hamlet in the Old City of Jerusalem, under the pretext of being 'state-owned land'.

### January 29, 2000

- A decision to move an IDF checkpoint situated near the Green Line (1949-Armistice Line) places the new portal to Israeli territory at the doorstep of the Mevo Horon settlement, in the West Bank. The re-location three kilometers eastward, which could be interpreted as the effective annexation of Mevo Horon and the adjacent Canada Park to Israel, are liable to spark a new dispute between Israelis and Palestinians. The IDF moved the checkpoint two weeks ago. Formerly, the crossing point had been located about a mile north of the Latrun exchange.

### January 31, 2000

- The Jerusalem Municipality dispatched an ultimatum to demolish the home of Zuheir Taraweh and his brother Bassam from Eizariya suburb, east of Jerusalem under the pretext of being built without a permit. This is the second time that Zuheir's house has been demolished. The first demolition took place on 19 April 1998, but the house was rebuilt again in defiance.

District	Land Confiscated	Land Threatened	Uprooted/ confiscated trees	Houses Demolished	Threatened House
Ramallah	0	15	30	0	0
Nablus	3100	300	50	0	0
Qalqilyia	30	0	600	0	0
Jerusalem	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3130</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

The Monthly overview 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.

The Monthly Report does not necessarily reflect ARIJ'S Opinion.

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