

## 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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#### September 3, 2000

- In Nablus District, Israeli authorities seized a piece of land with an extent of 20 dunums in Salfit, close to Trans- Samaria, and owned by the inhabitant Taha Khader Taha. He clarified that the Israeli forces prevented him from reaching his land, where the Israeli bulldozers tried to destroy it, as a preparation to confiscate it. *Quds*
- Acting Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami revealed that Israel agreed at the Camp David Summit to hand over 88.5% of the West Bank to the Palestinians, retaining control over 11.5%. He added that Israel would retain three blocs under a final status agreement: Gush Etzion, Maale Adumim and the bloc of the settlements in the Western Parts of the West Bank. In the Jordan rift, Israel will settle for security arrangements and an area of military presence. *Harretz*

#### September 4, 2000

- *Al-Quds* Daily published an article stating that, Bit Fajjar inhabitants, southeast of Bethlehem, balked the Israeli bulldozers, which tried to open a new road around the nearby-confiscated land. The plot, which is located near Efrat settlement, is estimated at 95 dunums, and passed by Jurat ash Sham'a, Umm Salamuna and Al Zawahreh villages. According to Bit Fajjar mayor, Salah Al Deri, stated that the Israeli authorities claimed that the expropriated land is a state-owned land, and that the settlers intend to build a Jewish cemetery on it. Al Deri also pointed out that the villagers of the land have documents (Tabu) proving their ownership of the land.

- On the other hand, the settlers of Shaked planted about 400 olive trees on 1666 dunums of land, at the expense of Umm Ar Raihan village, in Jenin District.

## September 9, 2000

- The Israeli government led by Ehud Barak unveiled plans to build more than 10 thousand settlement housing units in east Jerusalem to bring the number of the inhabitants about million in the year 2020. The plans include:
  - In Gush Etzion:
    - Connection of Maale Adumim settlement with Jerusalem by constructing 100-200 new settlement housing units.
    - Planning to construct 2000 housing units in Efrat settlement.
    - Another 3500 housing units are being planned by the Israeli Ministry of Housing to be built east of Maale Adumim.
  - East of Pisgat Zeev :
    - Planning to build 2200 housing units in Pisgat Zeev settlement
    - Another 6500 units will be built in Bitar Elit settlement.
  - In Givat Zeev :
    - The Israeli Ministry is planning to build 1300 housing units
  - Olmert Plans :
    - Olmert plans to construct 25,000 new settlements -housing units, west of Jerusalem. *Quds*
- In Nablus District, a group of settlers from Itamar near Bit Furik village; uprooted dozens of olive and fig trees and replace them by citrus ones. The citizen Ahmad Nasasra noted that the settlers have recently erected a new caravan and a barrack. He also added that the settlers are trying to prevent the villagers from reaching their lands, in an attempt to confiscate it; see map. *Quds*
- Tha'r Suleiman, 12 years old resisted the Israeli bulldozers which tried to destroy his father's land in 'Isla village, near Qalqiliya. Bassam Suleiman, the father of Tha'r, declared that the real torture started from the beginning of August when the settlers destroyed part of his land under the pretext of expanding the water networks. He added also that as he saw the bulldozers starting to damage his plot, he and his sons threw themselves in front of the bulldozers in an attempt to prevent them. *Jadeeda*

## September 10, 2000

- The PLO's top decision-making body postponed declaring statehood for at least two months, but gave the go-ahead to launch preparations for future sovereignty, such as possible expanding the Palestinian police. *JPost*
- According to official sources, Angel Company with the coordination for developing Ariel settlement and a number of investors will construct a new settlement neighborhood in Ariel, including 367 new housing units on a cost of 70 million dollars. This company had marketed 60 units from a previous project during ten months. *Quds*

### **September 11, 2000**

- A report issued by B'tselem confirmed that Israel killed 287 Palestinians including 44 children since the signing of Oslo agreements. *Quds*
- A report published by Israeli Legal Center for Land Defense stated that Israel bulldozed about 5650 dunums of lands (mainly from Bethlehem) owned by Palestinian inhabitants, demolished six houses and uprooted more than 450 fully-grown trees, during August 2000. In addition, the report pointed out that the Israeli authorities sent notices to demolish more than 26 Palestinian houses, which are mainly located at the contour of Jerusalem District. *Quds*
- The Department of Israeli building and Organization issued demolition orders to several owners of commercial caravans in Mas-ha market, southwest of Nablus, under the pretext of being built without permits. *Quds*

### **September 12, 2000**

- The Israeli Ministry of Housing reported that there is an increase in the number of building Jewish settlements during the first half of year 2000, and which reaches 96%. Moreover, the statistics showed also that the Israeli government has started to construct about 2000 housing units since Ehud Barak's tenure. *Quds*
- The Palestinian citizens of Biddya village, in Nablus District, confronted the Israeli authorities' bulldozers that started groundwork on a piece of land in an attempt to expand Trans-Samaria B. *Jadeeda*.

### **September 14, 2000**

- Dolev and Talmon settlements , which are erected at the expense of Al-Janiya, Ras Karkar and Al Mazra'a al Gharbiya villages, near Ramallah, seized a 300-plot of land belonged to citizens from Al-Janiya village; *Quds*
- The Israeli bulldozers demolished two Palestinian houses in Ateel Al Jadeeda village, in Jerusalem District, owned by the two inhabitants Ziad Al-Asmar and Omar Dari. *Quds*

### **September 15, 2000**

- The Israeli Ministry of Housing and Construction submitted this week the second stage plan for building a new Jewish settlement in Abu Ghneim Mountain (Har Homa settlement ), southeast of Bethlehem for the approval of the so-called “Building and Urban Planning Committee” at Olmert’s Municipality. The project includes construction of 3000 new settlement housing units, which are supposed to be under-construction before the end of this year (2000). On the other hand, Israeli sources mentioned that the settlement project financed by the Jewish millionaire Irveing Moscovitch at Ras al ‘Amud neighborhood, in east Jerusalem is about to be completed and will absorb more Jewish immigrants. *Quds & Mol*
- Mehola settlement in Nablus District is undergoing an expansion campaign at the expense of Palestinian lands in Jericho, where the settlers have damaged a number of agricultural plots. *Jadeeda*

### **September 16, 2000**

- Israeli occupation authorities started to destroy tens of dunums of land owned by the heirs of Mohamad Ali from Kafr Laqif village, in Qalqiliya District, in an attempt to construct a large commercial mall. Furthermore, the landowners added that “Kadumim 3000” company, which owned by Jewish millionaire Fashori was bulldozing large parts (36 dunums) from the land aiming at reaching the main road that connects Qalqiliya with Nablus District. Besides, the company which is damaging hundreds of dunums from Kafr Laqif village is trying to open a new settlement by-pass road that will unify the entrance of Ginnot Shomeron and Karne Shomron settlements. *Quds*

### **September 17, 2000**

- The Israeli Minister of Housing and Construction Benyamin Ali'azar has recently endorsed a list of projects which include 29 plans for the construction of 139,000 housing units inside the Green Line and in Jewish settlements lying in the Jerusalem perimeter to comprise more Jewish immigrants. Here is a list of some of building projects that **will be implemented**:
  - Bitar-3200
  - Givat Zeev-873
  - Gush Etzion-10100
  - Maale Adumim-5450

(The numbers referred to the number of housing units). *Quds*

- The Israeli occupation forces bulldozed 13-dunums of agricultural land owned by Khalil and Issa She'abat located in Beit Sahour area, (Jaba Al Sakour hamlet), near Abu Ghneim Mountain. The inhabitants confirmed that these lands are the main source of living due to their agricultural value. *Quds*
- The General Director of the Islamic Waqf (religious affairs) Authorities in Jerusalem, Adnan Al Huseini said that the Israeli authorities are preventing the entry of building materials for the restoration works to Al-Aqsa Mosque without giving any reason. *Quds & Mol*

### September 18, 2000

- In Bethlehem District, the settlers of Kedar, which is constructed at the expense of Tuqu' and At Ta'amreh villages, captured a piece of land owned by the inhabitant Shahin Al Zeir from At Ta'amreh as a preparation to be annexed to Kedar settlement. *Quds*
- According to *Ha'aretz and Al-Quds* newspapers, Olmert Municipality dispatched military orders to many Palestinian inhabitants in the area located between Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood (southeast of Jerusalem) and Silwan, informing them that their villages and houses will be confiscated for a public purpose, which is the paving of eastern ring road. This road will swallow about 1070 dunums of their lands.
- Several notices were dispatched to Palestinian families in Hebron District. The notices warned demolition of seven Palestinian houses in different villages of Hebron, under the allegation that they had been built without permits. Moreover, the Israeli authorities issued

notification orders to stop building works in 24 Palestinian houses in several areas, under the pretext of being located in area C. *Jadeeda*

- An article appeared in *Alhayat Al-Jadeeda*, stated that a new settlement neighborhood has been established in Ariel settlement, Nablus, to absorb more Jewish settlers. The project was constructed at the expense of the Palestinian villages of Yasuf and Iskaka (Salfit), as a preparation to expand Ariel settlement. Furthermore, in Qalqiliya District, the Israeli occupation forces destroyed wide areas of confiscated land estimated at 350 dunums from the village of Jayyus. According to Majed Salim, one of the landowners said that the Israeli authorities hindered the villagers from reaching their lands in addition to uprooting several olive trees belonged to them.

### **September 20, 2000**

- Amer Sha'ban, from Al Jalama village, in Jenin District, received a military order from the Israeli authorities informing him to demolish his house, under the pretext of being built without a permit. *Quds*
- Israeli occupation authorities issued a military order to confiscate 14 locations in the Israeli areas, which are classified as H-2, in order to be used for military purposes. This order includes seizure of lands and houses belonged to Palestinians from Tel Rumeida village and the old city in Hebron; *Ayyam*

### **September 22, 2000**

- According to Israeli resources, a number of Israeli formal departments ratified a plan to construct a tourism resort that will include huge hotels on the top hill of Jaba al Mukabbir, near Jerusalem. Yeroshaleim newspaper mentioned that the Israeli Ministry of Tourism and the Jerusalem Municipality will publish sooner a tender to administrate four hotels in Jaba al Mukabbir area. *Quds*
- An article appeared in *Al-Quds Daily* stating that the number of ratified plans for the settlements in the West bank reached 30, while the submitted ones for approval is 27 plans. Moreover, the number of endorsed by-pass roads were 14, whilst the offered ones for approval is 13 by-pass roads, in addition to the construction of two new Jewish settlements east of Ramallah: Maale Mode'in and Hari Zahav on the account of Kafr Al Deik and Deir Balut lands.

### **September 25, 2000**

- The Israeli authorities set up several caravans in Avnei Hefetz settlement, which is built on Palestinian land from Shufa and Kafr al Labad villages, southeast of Tulkarm. *Quds*

### September 26, 2000

- According to Israeli sources, eight extremist Jewish groups occupied three Palestinian houses, on the Mount of Olive, in eastern Jerusalem, close to the new settlement, which was established in Ras-al Amoud neighborhood. The total area of these houses is 210 square meters and they are very ancient. The extremist groups claimed ownership by Jews since 1956 and began restoration works. The source also pointed out that one house was occupied immediately, while the remaining two houses will be soon occupied. *Quds & Mol*
- A report appeared in *Al-Quds Daily*, stating that the percentage of population growth among Arabs in Jerusalem registered three folds than the percentage of growth among Jews.
- In an attempt to assimilate more Jewish settlers in the Palestinian territories, the Israeli authorities are planning to construct another 132 new settlement -housing units in Ras al ‘Amud neighborhood, Jerusalem. *Jadeeda*

### September 27, 2000

- Israeli occupation authorities demolished a commercial store in St. George Street, east of Jerusalem, and owned by the citizen Fahmi Abu Sneineh, under the pretext of being built without a permit. *Quds*
- Jewish settlers have renewed their attempt to damage the agricultural lands in the West Bank, where a group of settlers from Gilo, near Beit Jala, chopped down several numbers of olive trees belonged to the citizen Ibrahim Jawaish, in an attempt to expropriate his land. *Ayyam*

### September 28, 2000

- According to Palestinian sources, Jewish settlers attacked the Palestinian inhabitant Ibrahim Al-Tous (47 years old) from Sourif village, in Hebron District. They also cut down the phone lines from a number of Palestinian traders. *Quds*

District	Land Confiscated	Land Threatened	Uprooted / Confiscated	House Demolished	Threatened Houses
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			/ Burnt/razed Trees		
<b>Salfit</b>	20	0	0	0	0
<b>Bethlehem</b>	108	0	0	0	0
<b>Jenin</b>	0	1666	0	0	1
<b>Ramallah</b>	300	0	0	0	0
<b>Jerusalem</b>	0	1070	0	2	0
<b>Qalqilyia</b>	386	0	0	0	0
<b>Hebron</b>	0	0	0	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>2736</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</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.