

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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February 1, 2001

- Israeli occupation bulldozers demolished a 3-floor Palestinian house (under construction) with a fence around it near Qalandyia Camp opposite the airport, in Jerusalem District. *Quds & Fieldworker*
- According to *Al-Quds* newspaper, Israeli bulldozers continued to bulldoze wide areas of Jerzeem Mountain in Nablus District, towards the south, for fourth month in a row. Eyewitnesses stated that tens of dunums have been damaged during this period as the army has established a military barrack. The Palestinian Land Defense Committee reported that Jewish settlers erected a new outpost in Jalud village close to Ahiya outpost, near Shvut Rachel settlement, in addition to preventing the villagers from reaching their land close to these two outposts. Meanwhile, Jewish settlers near Qaryut village fenced around 400 dunums of Palestinian land and cultivated it with trees. The Palestinian villagers resisted this action by taking down the erected fence and uprooting the planted trees.
- Israeli occupation forces started to set up new Israeli roadblocks along the main road connecting Qalqilyah and Nablus Districts. For a distance of six km, all the side roads leading to this road are now blocked. This prevents villagers in this area from reaching Qalqilyah city. This action also aims to divide Qalqilyah District by isolating the city from the villages. *Quds*

February 2, 2001

- According to *Alhayat Al-Jadeeda* newspaper, Jewish settlers uprooted 50 olive trees from the Palestinian village of Huwwara, in Nablus District.

February 5, 2001

- In Hebron District, Israeli occupation forces bulldozed 30 dunums of land from Beit Ummer village, 9 km north of Hebron city, close to the Etzion Bloc. The bulldozers also uprooted dozens of fully-grown olive, vine and almond trees. The aim of these moves seems to be to confiscate more Palestinian land, in order to expand the nearby Jewish settlements that were built on the village's land. Moreover, Jewish settlers attacked Palestinian land close to Maon settlement and east of Yatta village, in Hebron District, as a preparation to seize it. *Quds, Jadeeda and Fieldworker*

February 6, 2001

- Israeli occupation forces accompanied by Israeli Border Police attacked a Palestinian house owned by the Jerusalemite Shadi Hamdan Suleiman from Beit Hanina neighborhood during the night. The police arrested Shadi's brother and held him for 24 hours in Al Maskobiya prison without any charge. According to Suleiman, in addition to the house storming, the Israeli forces expropriated several items from the house. *Quds*
- Israeli occupation authorities re-imposed a complete closure on all Palestinian Districts, villages and hamlets in the West Bank and Gaza Strip due to the Israeli election. *Quds*
- The villager Ziad Abu 'Ayyash from Beit Ummar village, in Hebron District, received a military order to stop building, on the grounds that he is building without a permit. On the same day, Jewish settlers protected by Israeli authorities erected five new caravans in Karmi Tzur settlement, which was built on the lands of Halhoul village. The caravans were set up outside the fence that surrounds the settlement. Moreover, Israeli forces moved the gate of the settlement about 100 m southwards. The land which is located between the new location of the gate and the old one is threatened to be confiscated and is estimated to be more than 50 dunums. *Fieldworker*

February 7, 2001

- In Nablus District, the settlers of Yizhar uprooted and destroyed about 500 fully-grown olive trees from 'Urif village, west of Nablus city. According to the villagers, the settlers came with electrical saws during the night. Jewish settlers captured new hilltops that had been bulldozed previously and erected five caravans on Yanun village land, close to Nablus. A number of villagers from Yanun told *Al-Quds* correspondent that the settlers seized more Palestinian lands from the eastern side of the village and prevented the shepherds and farmers from reaching their lands nearby Itamar settlement. *Quds*

- *Haaretz* newspaper paid NIS 82,000 for three Palestinian families in El Walajeh village, in Bethlehem District, and apologized to them for its article published in previous edition on January 29, 2001. In the article *Haaretz* claimed that these families sold 1200 dunums of land from El Walajeh village southwest of Gilo settlement, to Jewish societies. Each family had received NIS 27,000 compensation from the newspaper. *Quds*

February 8, 2001

- An article appeared in *Al-Quds* newspaper stating that Jewish settlers carried out part of their plan to establish new settlement outposts in the West Bank on the eve of the election. The part of plan implemented included the movement of about 20 trailer homes into different locations in the West Bank.

February 9, 2001

- In Nablus District, groundwork continues on Jerzeem Mountain “At Tur” and all around the city of Nablus, where the Israeli bulldozers damaged tens of dunums cultivated with forests. The Israeli excavation work comprises more than 20 dunums including areas of religious, historical and tourist interest. *Quds*

February 11, 2001

- An article appeared in the *Jerusalem Post* newspaper stating that Jewish settlers set up a number of outposts in the West Bank. Dozens of caravans have been set up near the following existing settlements: Maon settlement, Karmeit Zzur (in Gush Etzion, Hebron), between Kafr Eldad and Nokdim settlements in eastern Gush Etzion, (near Neve Daniel), Bat Ayin, Mount Artis (near Beit El); The article added that a number of trenches had been dug for the protection of Jewish settlements and a watchtower had been set up near Neve Daniel settlement many month ago for security purposes.
- The Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert announced that the Jerusalem Municipality and the Israeli Organization and Construction Committee need to construct 120,000 new housing units in order to maintain the demographic balance in Jerusalem (70% Jews, 30% Arabs). *Quds*
- According to a report published by the Palestinian Land Defense Committee in Nablus stating that about 6,132 trees (most of them olive trees) were either burned or uprooted by the Israeli occupation bulldozers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during January. The report also showed

that around 1020 dunums of Palestinian lands were confiscated in the West Bank. *Al Quds*

February 12, 2001

- An article appeared in *Al-Quds* daily stating that the blockade imposed on Tulkarm District and other districts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has caused great losses for the agricultural nurseries in the District. The reason for the losses is that most villagers from the West Bank districts and the ones inside the Green Line were not able to reach nurseries in Tulkarm to get their seedlings. In some cases the damage has been so severe that it will force the nurseries to close. *Quds*
- Israeli occupation authorities sent notices to two brothers, Mohammad and Mahmoud Hamamdeh from Yatta village, to demolish their water wells under the pretext of their having been built without permits. They also confiscated a water tank and a cement mixer that were working at their houses. The Israeli occupation bulldozers also damaged about one dunum of agricultural land planted with vine trees in Halhoul village, owned by Mahmoud 'Aqel. *Fieldworker*

February 13, 2001

- Israeli occupation authorities re-imposed the blockade on the West Bank as a reprisal for the killing of eight Israeli soldiers by a Palestinian bus driver near Tel Aviv. They re-enforced the closure imposed on all towns, villages and hamlets in the Palestinian Territories by erecting concrete blocks and piles of earth at entrances. *PIC*
- In Bethlehem District, Israeli machinery bulldozers destroyed tens of dunums of agricultural land cultivated with almond and vine trees from Al Khadr village. The bulldozed land overlooks road # 60, where the Israeli forces erected a number of caravans, tents and expanded water and electricity networks. *Fieldworker*
- Intensive colonization activities are now taking place at Aveni Hefetz settlement, which is constructed on Shoufa village land, in the south of Tulkarm District. New bypass roads have been opened around the settlement, in addition to continuing the construction of the housing units. Groundwork is continuing in the area where Israeli forces previously damaged agricultural lands cultivated with wheat and olive trees, owned by a number of Palestinian villagers from Shoufa village. *Quds*
- In Hebron District, Israeli bulldozers destroyed 5 dunums of land planted with vine trees and belonged to 'Aqel family from Halhoul village. The

bulldozed land is located between road # 60 and Halhoul main road, close to the northern entrance of Hebron city. *Quds*

- In Hebron District, ultra-orthodox Jewish settlers erected a new caravan on confiscated land, located to the west of Beit Iyen settlement, which is established on Surif village land, northwest of Hebron. *Quds*

February 14, 2001

- A group of Jewish settlers destroyed the main water pipes that lead to Deir Nidham village, in Ramallah District. Also, the settlers of Hallamish which is established on El Nabi Saleh and Deir Nidham village land damaged all the water wells and springs in Deir Nidham village. *Quds & Jadeeda*
- The settlers of Pene Hever, which was constructed on the land of Bani Na'im village in 1983, placed toxic chemicals inside a well that belonged to Mansour Hamdan. When Hamdan went to feed his sheep, he found that five sheep had died due to drinking from this toxic water. *Fieldworker*

February 15 2001

- According to an ARIJ fieldworker, Israeli occupation forces seized a Palestinian house owned by Abdel Rahman Al Jawabneh from Al Arrub Camp and turned it into a military post.

February 16, 2001

- According to an article in *Al-Quds* daily, the Israeli contractors, who are establishing a new settlement neighborhood in Abu Ghenim Mountain (Har Homa settlement), northeast of Bethlehem, are demanding the speeding up of the paving of the main road leading to this neighborhood. The leader of the surveyors, Shmolic Levy stated that this road must not take more than a month to be finished, which will not exceed 400 m length.
- A group of settlers from Asfar (Mitzad) in Hebron district stole money belonging to villagers from Sa'ir and Tuqu' villages. Eyewitnesses stated that four settlers from the Jewish settlement located northeast of Sa'ir village stopped a Palestinian general car owned by Younes Qawazbeh and confiscated NIS 4000 and JD 1050 from him and another two villagers in the car. *Fieldworker & Quds*
- In Ramallah District, Israeli occupation authorities accompanied by Jewish bulldozers demolished Palestinian houses and cattle sheds located close to Al Bireh Municipality, near Al Bireh industrial zone. They then declared

the area a closed military zone and prevented the villagers from entering it. *Quds*

- Groundwork for a new tunnel in the French Hill settlement in Jerusalem is going to start this month though they are still waiting for a further financial installment. The 350 m length tunnel will be established between the crossroads of Shedrot Ashkol and Hyatt Hotel. *Quds*
- A group of Yizhar settlers, in Nablus District, chopped down 250 olive trees, belonged to the Khamous and 'Awad families in Huwwara village. 50 of these trees were more than 60 years old. *Jadeeda*

February 17, 2001

- The Israeli army began to erect a new Israeli watchtower by the Israeli industrial area for toxic materials, west of Tulkarm City (inside Israel). This tower is near to Palestinian house in the West Bank and seems to be designed as a lookout over this Palestinian area. Moreover, Israeli bulldozers started to destroy wide areas of agricultural land near the Tulkarm District Coordination Office owned by the Islamic Waqf (Muslim Religious Trust) and imposed concrete blocks as a preparation to set up more watchtowers in the area. *Quds*
- In Hebron District, Israeli occupation army attacked the Palestinian "Al-Rayian Farm" for dairy products that is part of the Islamic Charitable Society for the care of orphans in Hebron District, which is located in Al-Rama suburb that is classified as Area C (under Israeli control). This attack caused the death of one of the workers on the farm and injured several of them. The Israeli occupation authorities fined a 30-year-old Palestinian villager Iyad 'Adel, from Al Jalama village, in Jenin District, NIS 750 in addition to arresting and attacking him. 'Adel was fined this amount for attempting to pass by the Israeli roadblock imposed at the main entrance of Jenin. He was taking this route because he had no other alternative to use, after all the dirt tracks that were opened by Al Jalama villagers and also the usual main roads had been closed by the Israeli Occupation forces. *Quds*
- Dozens of settlers from Yizhar, south of Nablus uprooted hundreds of trees from 'Urif village. The villagers from told *Al-Quds* correspondent that they were surprised when they saw the settlers chopping down about 300 olive trees (with electrical saws) in the morning and then came in the afternoon to cut down another 700 olive trees from the same area north of 'Urif village. The land belongs to Ishhadeh, Sabah and Al-Safadi Palestinian families. The village was also attacked by the Israeli forces two weeks earlier when the settlers uprooted another 500 olive trees.

February 18, 2001

- In Bethlehem District, Israeli occupation bulldozers destroyed wide areas of agricultural lands from Husan and Nahalin villages belonged to Sabatin family. This action of bulldozing comprised opening of new by-pass roads, and ditches in order to establish new military sites close to the by-pass road (no.375). The bulldozed land is estimated to be about 500 dunums cultivated with vine, almond and olive tree. The aim seems to be to annex these lands to the nearby Jewish settlements. At the same time, Israeli occupation forces continue to bulldoze wide areas from Jerzeem Mountain, in Nablus District, where they have established new military barracks in order to re-enforce the siege on the city and its nearby villages and hamlets. *Quds*

February 19, 2001

- According to the *Palestinian Information Center*, the Higher Islamic Authority in Jerusalem denounced the Israeli aggressive practices against holiness of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Israeli authorities are planning to establish a Jewish synagogue in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa Mosque, either in the Omarite School, the Islamic court of jurisprudence or near the Buraq Wall. Thus, the aim of the synagogue's construction is to impose a de facto Jewish feature on Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- According official sources in *Al-Quds* daily, the Jewish Agency endorsed plans to construct 1000 new housing units near the Jewish settlement of Beit Ain, which is part of the Gush Etzion bloc in Bethlehem District.
- In Jenin District, Israeli occupation authorities forced Palestinian villagers who owned agricultural nurseries and commercial stores in Al Jalama village (located on the border between Jenin and Israel) to evict their nurseries and stores without giving any reason. The villagers are concerned whether Israel is planning to either evict them from their lands or prevent them from working there or maybe that the aim is to annex them. They are also afraid of moving the permanent roadblock that is only few meters away from the area into their lands as a preparation to be annexed. *Quds*
- According to an ARIJ *fieldworker*, the villagers Khalil Al Mahamdeh and Mahmoud 'Eibed from Yatta village, in Hebron District, received demolition orders for their wells. Israeli authorities claimed that these wells were constructed without having permits.

February 20, 2001

- A group of settlers attempted to confiscate thousands of dunums located between Kafr ad Dik, Biddya, Az Zawiya and Mas-ha villages close to the Green Line (Armistice Line-1949). The lands to be seized include Thahr Subh, Khirbet Susa, Wadi Al Magnoun, 'Ourara, Al Khanek, Soukat Al Khilleh, Abu Sabah, Al Gahfeh and Al Sharraf hamlets. According to the landowners, the settlers have tried several times to confiscate these lands. The first time was at the beginning of the eighties. After this, one of the villagers was killed by a colonist and the colonist did not return to the village until one day before the Israeli Prime Minister election in February 2001, when they set up a new mobile home. The Palestinian villagers set fire to it immediately. But the settlers have now brought another caravan and began to pave a new by-pass road north of Kafr ad Dik village that will the Trans-Samaria will Alei Zahav and Peduel settlements. This road, which is only about 50 meters away from the village (Kafr ad Dik village), will isolate the village from all its hamlets. *Quds*
- In Hebron District, Israeli occupation forces accompanied by Jewish bulldozers demolished two Palestinian houses from Beit Za'ata hamlet, northeast of Beit Ummar village and Al Arrub Camp. The first house (120m²) was owned by Ahmad Al Jawabneh from Al Arrub Camp. While the second house (200m²) which belonged to Zein Al 'Almi from Beit Ummar village was demolished for the second time. It was first demolished in 1991. Israeli authorities claimed that these two houses were built without permits. At the same time, Palestinian villagers from Ma'in began to bulldoze more than tens of dunums belonged to a number of Palestinian villagers. *Fieldworker, Ayyam & Jadeeda*
- Israeli occupation authorities bulldozed 10 dunums of land cultivated with olive trees from Ma'in village, located between Maon and Susiya settlements. The land which belonged to Khaled Jabarin was bulldozed without any reason. *Fieldworker*
- Israeli occupation army set up a new caravan on a confiscated land of Um Al Tala' hamlet in Beit Ummar village, Hebron as a preparation to expropriate the land. *Fieldworker*
- In Ramallah District, the Jewish settlers of Qiryat Sefer started to expand their settlement on the surrounding Palestinian land and erected a new wire fence around wide areas of land estimated at 400 dunums from Khirbet Bani Harith, Deir Qiddis and part from Bila'in villages from the east side of the settlement. This action aims to annex Qiryat Sefer settlement to Israel. Also the villagers are worried about the old road between Khirbet Bani Harith and Beit Sira villages that may become an internal road inside the settlement. *Fieldworker*

February 21, 2001

- In Tulkarm District, two Israeli tanks were seen moving over Palestinian agricultural lands surrounding the settlements of Aveni Hefetz and Enav. According to eyewitnesses, the first tank started from Enav settlement and began to move over Deir Ban land during the night causing the destruction of several olive trees. The second tank started from Aveni Hefetz settlement and moved over lands belonging to villagers from Shufa and Beit Lid villages. *Quds*

February 22, 2001

- Israeli authorities sent military order to demolish five Palestinian houses in Al Fahs hamlet, south of Hebron (between Hebron & Yatta) and to other villagers from Beit Ummar. *Jadeeda*
- In Nablus District, Israeli occupation authorities established new military posts on the hilltops of Jerzeem Mountain. Eyewitnesses said that Israeli bulldozers continued expansion work in the area, uprooting forest trees. *Quds*
- A group of settlers from Yizhar chopped down fully-grown olive trees from 35 dunums of land near Burin village, south of Nablus. An ARIJ *fieldworker* estimates that this area would have held around 700 olive trees. The area is located close to the bypass road no. 57 and is known as Al Ibris hamlet. *Quds*

February 23, 2001

- According to Israeli sources, the Israeli Housing Ministry endorsed a plan to construct about 700 new settlement -housing units in Tel Zion settlement (a neighborhood of Kokhav Yacov settlement , south of Al Bireh city, Ramallah and close to Psagot settlement . This new project is going to be executed on around 300 dunums of Palestinian land. *Ayyam*

February 25, 2001

- For the second time this month, Israeli occupation forces bulldozed 10 dunums of land planted with olive trees between Ma'on and Susiya settlements. This time, land from At Tawani hamlet, east of Yatta village, in Hebron District was bulldozed and the earth collected to make blocks in order to close the village and prevent the villagers from moving between nearby villages *Fieldworker*
- According to a report published in Alhayat Aljadeeda newspaper, Israeli occupation authorities began to add new housing units in Eshkolot settlement in Hebron District, south of Adh Dhahiriya village. Jewish

settlers commenced to bulldoze wide areas of Palestinian land and added new caravans there in order to construct hundreds of housing units on 808 dunums of confiscated land, confiscated in 1998. An ARIJ fieldworker Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Palestinian Land Defense Committee in Hebron reported that the aim of the confiscation and the construction is to connect Eshkolot settlement to the Green Line, one km away. Groundwork is taking place in Tene settlement, also south of Adh Dhahiriya village, where Jewish settlers are beginning to build new housing units. Colonization activities are also being seen in Otni'el settlement, south of Hebron, where Israeli forces handed over a military post of more than 16 housing units, to the Jewish settlement. In addition, construction work is taking place in Haggai settlement, south of Hebron. About 450 dunums of agricultural land have been bulldozed from Surif and Al Jab'a villages, west of Gush Etzion Bloc where a new caravan was set up two weeks ago.

- Also, in Nahal Negohot settlement, west of Dura village, part of the land has been bulldozed and more than 300 olive and almond trees uprooted.

February 26, 2001

- In Bethlehem District, Israeli occupation forces set up a permanent military post on a hilltop in Al Khadr village, close to road no. 60. They also erected concrete blocks on the site and seized an old rural Palestinian house. At the same time, Jewish settlers started to open new by-pass roads near Al Fawwar hilltop in Hebron District around the nearby Jewish settlements. *Jadeeda*
- In Salfit District, Israeli occupation forces started to bulldoze tens of dunums of land from Haris village, and uprooted dozens of olive trees belonged to the families of Suleiman and Souf. These actions are the final stages of the Trans-Samaria road project, which began one year ago and has lead to the confiscation and bulldozing of hundreds of dunums cultivated with olive trees.

February 27, 2001

- In Hebron District, Israeli occupation forces sprayed tens of dunums of Palestinian agricultural crops adjoining the Green Line (Armistice Line 1949), southwest of Hebron with toxic chemical materials. According to villagers from Sikka, that this action caused the damage of large amounts of the agricultural crops. They also added that the destruction affected wide areas of Deir al 'Asal, Beit ar Rush and Beit Mirsim villages that lie close to the Green Line. In addition, Israeli forces destroyed wide areas of

agricultural land from Ma'in, and Al Karmil villages, southeast of Yatta village. Quds

February 28, 2001

- In Ramallah District, Israeli occupation bulldozers demolished a 3-story Palestinian building without previous notification, which belonged to Hasan Al Tirawi from Rafat village, under the pretext of being built without a permit. Later on, Israeli bulldozers moved on to demolish a livestock farm owned by Mustafa Habbas. Moreover, Israeli bulldozers damaged tens of dunums of agricultural land cultivated with olive trees located between Rafat and Al Judera villages and owned by Rafat villagers. *Ayyam*

District	Land Confiscated	Land Threatened	Uprooted/ Confiscated/burnt/ razed Trees	Houses Demolished	Threatened Houses
Jerusalem	0	0	0	3	0
Nablus	420	0	2500	0	0
Hebron	46	50	800	2	5
Bethlehem	500	0	0	0	0
Ramallah	400	300	0	3	0
Total	136	350	3300	8	5

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 reflects ARIJ's opinion