

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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August 1, 1998

- The Israeli government announced a plan to initiate a campaign to expand the settlements in the southern part of the West Bank.

August 3, 1998

- Settlers from Maale Adumim initiated the first stage of the new neighborhood in the settlement which consists of 40 housing units. The overall project consists of 90 housing units.
- The Israeli authorities refused to allow Palestinian residents from Hebron to renovate quarters in the old sector of the city allegedly for being too close to the Israeli settlers' neighborhood.

August 4, 1998

- For the second time, the Israeli army demolished a house in Anata, east of Jerusalem. The house which was demolished last month, was rebuilt earlier this month by Palestinians and Israeli peace activists.
- In Nablus District, the Israeli army is leading an ethnic cleansing campaign on the Azazemeh tribe who inhabit the lands of Burqin village adjacent to the Israeli settlement of Burqan. The land is allegedly classified as a closed military area.

August 5, 1998

- A new bypass road is being constructed south of Fraidees village, southeast of Bethlehem District. The road extends from the Etzion Block south of Bethlehem and all the way to Jerusalem.
- The Israeli authorities demolished a warehouse in Al-Tur in Jerusalem District for building without a license.

August 6, 1998

- The Israeli army resumed bulldozing the lands of Sanerya and Azoun-Atmeh villages in Qalqilyah District. Some 600 hundred dunums had previously been expropriated from the same villages. Tens of trees were uprooted in the bulldozing process which aims at expanding the nearby settlements; particularly, Arneet settlement.

August 7 & 8, 1998

- A Jerusalemite family renounces attempts made by Jewish groups to purchase their house in Silwan village in Jerusalem District. The Israeli groups efforts to purchase properties in Silwan, the Old City and other Palestinian neighborhoods are all a part of a program supported by the Israeli government to take-up as much Palestinian property as possible.

August 10, 1998

- *Ma'ariv* daily reports the construction of two dwellings at a site outside the master plan boundary of the West Bank settlement of Yitzhar. The wooden buildings were constructed less than 48 hours after the August 4 killing of two Itzhar settlers.

August 11, 1998

- Residents of Burin village in Nablus District are concerned with Israeli plans to expropriate thousands of dunums of their land to expand Yitzhar settlement.

August 12, 1998

- The Palestinian daily, *Al-Quds* alarmed Palestinian Jerusalemites with the news that the Israeli Ministry of Interior is planning to abolish the use of travel permits, and replace them with the Israeli "Laissez-passer".

- Settlers from Raha'l, placed 20 mobile homes on land belonging to residents of Jalud village in Nablus District.

August 13, 1998

- The Israeli government initiates construction plans regardless of the fact that there are more than three thousand housing units vacant in the West Bank settlements.
- New settlement is under construction in Jenin District over lands belonging to UM-Alrehan village.
- Jerusalem Municipality Mayor Eyhuda Olmert pledged his support to the efforts of the Jewish radical group Ateret Cohanim which aims to raise funds to buy houses in the Old City.
- Peace Now reports 5,892 new units under construction and 2,888 empty dwelling units in West Bank and Gaza settlements, a vacancy rate of almost 7 percent of 42,000 existing units.

August 15, 1998

- Jerusalem Municipality and the Israeli Housing Ministry are considering a plan to construct a neighborhood for the religious Jews in the area that lies between the settlements of Naveh Yacoub and Pisgat Ze'ev. The anticipated settlement will be comprised of more than one thousand housing units.

August 18, 1998

- A Palestinian resident of Deir Al-Hatab, east of Nablus District, filed a complaint at the District Coordination Office (DCO), against settlers from Alon Moreh for cutting down one hundred trees.

August 19, 1998

- A house was demolished at Qattanna village in Jerusalem District for the second time for allegedly being built without a license.

August 20, 1998

- The Israeli army demolished eight Palestinian houses in Hebron District, seven houses in Samu' and one house in Baq'a valley for allegedly being built without a license

August 21, 1998

- The Israeli army demolished a Palestinian house in Arranah village in Jenin District for allegedly being built without a license.

August 22, 1998

- Jerusalem Municipality notified three houses in Qattanna village in Jerusalem District with demolition orders for allegedly building without a license.

August 23, 1998

- The Netanyahu cabinet decided to replace the seven mobile caravans housing settlers of the Tel Rumeida in Hebron with permanent structures after the killing of a colonist on August 20. The permanent housing will cost approximately \$3 million.

August 24, 1998

- The Israeli army intensified the security arrangements for twenty West Bank settlements. The new arrangements involve installing wire fences and doubling the number of security guards.

August 25, 1998

- Itzhar settlers escalate their attacks on Burin village residents in Deir Al-Hatab in Nablus District. The assaults involved physical aggression against the residents, and uprooting trees.
- Settlers from Elon- Moreh uprooted hundreds of trees from Deir Al-Hatab village in Nablus District after they failed to buy Palestinian land. In a similar incident, settlers from Raha'l settlement uprooted 200 trees from Jalud village in Nablus District.

August 26, 1998

- Settlers from Avni Hefetz bulldozed more than five hundred dunums from Kafr Al-labed village in Tulkarem District. This act is a part of a plan which aims to seize more than two thousands dunums of land to expand the settlement.

August 27, 1998

- The Israeli army bulldozed tens of dunums from Um-Al-Rehan and Al-Zawieh villages in Jenin District in preparation to construct two new settlements, resulting in the uprooting of thousands of fruit trees.
- A group of Israeli settlers uprooted more than seven hundred trees in Al-Nabi Samuel village in Jerusalem District.

August 28, 1998

- Israel demolished three houses north of the West Bank, allegedly for building without a license. Two of the houses were in Sarta village in Nablus District and one house in "Area B" of Qalqiliya District.
- Residents of Qasrah and Jawareesh villages in Nablus District held a demonstration because of Israeli bulldozers which covered over 500 dunums of their villages to expand the Israeli settlement of Magdoleen.
- The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem gave its approval for the construction of 132 housing units in the heart of the Palestinian neighborhood of Ras Al-Amoud in Jerusalem District.

August 29, 1998

- The Israeli army evacuated a military base in Beit El in Ramallah District in order to construct a settlement consisting of 200 housing units .

This report is based on information compiled from local and international daily press.