

## 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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#### November 1, 1998

- The Israeli government has authorized the paving of 14 by-pass roads to serve Jewish settlers in the West Bank, including one that will stretch from an area near Hebron, passing by El-Aroub refugee camp to Jerusalem. For the paving of this by-pass road, the Israeli government would have to expropriate land in areas already under Palestinian control. The creation of the El-Aroub by-pass road would take away some of Beit Ummar's best agricultural land and upset the functioning of El-Aroub's agricultural and technological school. The new road would be built only a few meters from the existing road. Two hundred and fifty million NIS were allocated for the construction of this road. The following are some of the newly planned by-pass roads:
  1. From Ariel to Eileh, by-passing the Tapuah Junction in the Nablus District;
  2. From Talmon to Givat Zeev in the Ramallah District;
  3. From Mevo Dotan and Hermesh to Hadera;
  4. From Elon- Moreh to the Jordan Valley ;
  5. From Adam to Mt.Scopus in the Jerusalem District;
  6. From Maale Adumim to Teqoa;
  7. A road west of Bethlehem.
- Jewish settlers resumed work at a planned Jewish settlement (settlement) site, Ras Al-Amoud neighborhood in East Jerusalem after a 14- month freeze. Protected by Israeli police, the settlers erected a fence around the compound. They vowed to begin house construction

after a required examination by state archaeologists. Irving Moskowitz, a backer of Jewish settlement in Arab parts of Jerusalem, has municipal and ministerial approval to build 132 housing units for settlers at the site.

- Already, officials from the Bailiff's Office have given eviction orders to the Al-Ghazlan family at Silwan to leave their houses, which are to be handed over to two settlement agencies, Keren Kemet, and Al'ad.

## **November 2, 1998**

- Construction continued on the expansion of Kiryat Arba settlement (settlement) near the town of Hebron. Eighty dunums of land have been bulldozed for commercial complex and 200 extra housing units.
- The Ministry of Housing submitted construction plans to the Israeli District Committee for the construction of a new settlement (settlement) near the northern part of the city of Jerusalem. The plan involves the construction of 1,300 housing units that will lie between Pisgat Zeev and Neve Ya'coub settlements (settlements).
- The Israeli Authorities confiscated the property of Taher Hamdan, and Hamdan Taher (plot 582, 583, 584, & 628) from the village of Kafr El Labad in the Tulkarm District.
- Construction work has been witnessed in the Tel Rumeida neighborhood in the old city of Hebron where the settlement (settlement) of Ramat Yashai is located.
- In the Abu Ghneim area, work is underway to complete the construction of a by-pass road to link the settlement (settlement) to the main motorway #20. This is part of the plan for a by-pass road link for the settlements (settlements) around Hebron and Bethlehem, to which the Israeli government has allocated the sum of US \$60 million. The first by-pass road will link the settlements (settlements) of Atnael and the settlement (settlement) of Karmim, a distance of 18 kilometers. The road is expected to affect the houses near the route, which are likely to be demolished to make it possible. Work started on November 1st is underway on a second by-pass road and is expected to swallow up thousands of acres of agricultural land owned by Palestinians in the villages of El Khader, Artas, and the Wadi Rahal.
- Leveling is underway on land owned by the 'Asira El Shemalieh residents in the Nablus District. The work will lead to the construction of a by-pass road linking the settlement (settlement) of Ibal with the settlements (settlements) in the Jordan valley.

- In the Gaza Strip, in Al-Mawassi area, near Khan Younis, Jewish settlers confiscated Al Fareh family land under the protection of Israeli forces.
- A military order was issued for the confiscation of 400 dunums near Beit Ummar for the construction of a by-pass road connecting Karmeit settlement (settlement) with Road 60.
- Three hundred dunums were confiscated by military order of the Al Ramadeen Bedouin Tribe land, near El Thahiriya, south Hebron.
- More land was confiscated from Sarta village in the Nablus District to enlarge the Trans-Samaria Road.

### **November 3, 1998**

- The Israeli Ministry of Interior confiscated 265 identity cards from Palestinian Jerusalemites during the past two months.

### **November 6, 1998**

- Olmert's Municipality plans to construct four thousand housing units for Jewish settlers in Occupied East Jerusalem.

### **November 7, 1998**

- The Israeli military is constructing a new by-pass road six kilometers long in the southern part of the Hebron District. The road is to connect the Jewish settlement (settlement) of Tina with the Israeli military camp Ash Kalit. The road is illegal because the Israeli military is taking the land for the road by force and never announced the appropriation publicly in the newspaper to allow the land owners a chance to object.

### **November 8, 1998**

- Israel set ultimatums to expropriate 150,000 dunums in the Jenin District

### **November 9, 1998**

- After signing Wye River Agreement, Jewish settlers have seized dozens of strategic hilltops to keep land out of Palestinians hands. The outposts are on hilltops near existing settlements (settlements), in areas

that are likely to become subject to negotiation in final status talks.  
Colonizing activities have been spotted at:

1. A hill near Doleb and the Talmonim settlements (settlements), northwest of Ramallah. Jewish settlers grabbed an area northwest of Ramallah to create Gavot Horshon settlement (settlement), near the existing settlements (settlements) of Doleb and Talmonim.
  2. A hill near Alon Shvut in Gush Etzion. settlers from Gush Etzion took over land southwest of Bethlehem near Alon Shvut to construct a settlement (settlement) called Givat Hahesh. Seven mobile homes were set up on a hill one kilometer east of the Alon Shvut settlement (settlement).
  3. A hill east of Shilo and north of Ramallah. settlers took control of Hill 759 which is located east of Shilo and Shabat Rachel settlements (settlements).
  4. A hilltop west of Shilo, near the Eileh settlement (settlement). settlers seized Hill 7 for development between Nablus and Ramallah Districts. Two greenhouses and three homes were set up on top of that hill, located 2 kilometers west of the Eileh settlement (settlement).
  5. A settlement (settlement) like Givat Harel, set up three weeks ago. It consists of three prefab homes on a hill south of the Palestinian town of Nablus. The site was picked because it's at the center of an empty area surrounded by three other Jewish settlements (settlements)-Eileh, Shilo and Maale Levona.
  6. A hilltop east of Ramallah.
- At least three other new footholds - near Alfei Menesheh, Avnei Hefetz, and Bracha- have gone up since Wye.
    1. Mobile homes were installed near Alfei Menesheh settlement (settlement), east of Qalqiliya.
    2. The Israeli bulldozers started bulldozing large tracts of 2,000 dunums of confiscated land to the west of Avnei Hefetz settlement (settlement). Seventeen mobile homes were set up on top of a hill located north of the Avnei Hefetz settlement (settlement) in the Tulkarm District.
    3. Four mobile homes were installed 300 meters east of the Bracha settlement (settlement).

- Three mobile homes were put on Palestinian land near Maale Mukhmas (settlement (settlement) near Jerusalem and south of Ramallah) for the settlement (settlement) of Metzpe Dume.

### **November 11, 1998**

- Israeli officials unveiled a new Israeli plan to confiscate 5,000 dunums from the Palestinian villages of Jin Safut, 'Azoun, Kafr Thulth, Kafr Laqif, Senneria, Deir Estiya, and Misha all located in the Qalqiliya District to expand nearby Jewish settlements (settlements).

### **November 12, 1998**

- The Israeli government advertised for tenders to construct a controversial Jewish housing project at Abu Ghneim (Har Homa) in Occupied East Jerusalem. The scheme involves building 6,500 houses for Jewish settlers. It is estimated that the actual construction will begin six months from now.
- In the Nablus District, the Israeli authorities confiscated an estimated 20 dunums of the Kafr Qaddum village to construct a gas station.

### **November 14, 1998**

- The Israeli authorities started bulldozing 1,600 dunums of Al- Mawassi lands owned by Zu'rub and Najjar family as a preparation to link them to nearby settlements (settlements).

### **November 15, 1998**

- Israeli bulldozers began clearing the way for a by-pass road with a length of 3,800 kilometers and a width of 35 meters connecting Efrat settlement (settlement) to the tunnel road between Hebron and Jerusalem, even though Efrat already has a perfectly good road. One thousand dunums are slated to be confiscated from El Khader and Artas villages in order to construct that road.
- Paving of Road 70, designed to link the settlements (settlements) of Almon and Kfar Adomim, has begun. The road cuts through land belonging to Palestinian residents of the villages of Anata and Hizma. The confiscation of this land was carried out by military order 70-98 / 4. It is expected that the construction of the road will require the demolition of 20 houses along its route. The owners of these houses have already received demolition notices.

## November 16, 1998

- The Israeli Foreign Minister, Sharon incited Jewish settlers to grab hilltops and expand their settlements (settlements).
- A group of some 30 Kedumim settlers responded to Sharon's call and set up two mobile homes on the hill near the settlement (settlement) of Kedumim in the north of the West Bank. They also brought an electrical generator and other equipment. They are embarking to seize 150 hectares of land outside Kedumim that they claim belong to Jewish families. The settlers recently established "patrol units" charged with maintaining a presence on the vast areas between Kedumim, Avnei Hefetz and Kokhav Yair. They opened a 13-kilometer road toward Nahal Te'enim for easier access to the hills.
- Jewish settlers placed seven new caravans near Efrat settlement (settlement).
- The Civil Administration issued six military orders announcing the expropriation of Palestinian land for new by-pass roads and for military purposes in the Hebron District. Also, one stop-work order was issued on a house in the Baq'a valley and two demolition orders were issued on homes in Beit Ummar.

## November 17, 1998

- Jewish settlers occupied a hill near Hajja village in the Nablus District. Also, three by-pass roads are under construction in Salfit and Ramallah Districts.
- An Israeli study states that Israel has confiscated one third of East Jerusalem since its occupation in 1967.
- Work started on three of the fourteen by-pass roads that will be constructed in order to allow settlers to avoid Palestinian villages and in violation to the peace agreements. The roads included a stretch from the Tapuah Junction to Rehelim, Peduel to Alei Zahav and near Anata
- Work on Kfar Tapuah by-pass road began linking the settlement (settlement) of Kfar Tapuah with the settlement (settlement) of Eileh to the south of Nablus. The road will slice through the villages of Yatma and Al-Sawiya.
- Settlers in Otniel and Beit Haggai announced that they will take over the Israeli military forces base "Adurayim" in the Hebron Hills that is being dismantled for the coming withdrawal.
- The Israeli Authorities demarcated the land for a new by-pass road measuring 7,180 meters long that will cut through the land of the

Palestinian villages of Kafr Ed Dik, and Deir Ballut in Nablus District. The new by-pass road is called Kafr Ed Dik road, and it will link the settlements (settlements) of Maale Levona, Eileh, and Shilo. The construction of the road will involve the confiscation of an estimated 1150 dunums of land, of which 600 dunums are currently olive groves.

### **November 18, 1998**

- The Da'is extended Bedouin family in the Jiftlik area of the Jordan valley witnessed a massive raid by the Israeli army and the semi-military Israeli border guards who went on a rampage of destruction. They demolished the Bedouins' tents and confiscated them, as well as the inhabitants' meager belongings; ruined the cattle-pen and confiscated the goats; confiscated also the Bedouins single truck; and to cap it all, destroyed the water tank and spilled its contents into the sands. Sixty people- men, women, and children- were left under the open sky, with literally nothing left to them.

### **November 19, 1998**

- The Israeli Authorities are rushing to change the legal status of 10 % (50,000 hectares) of the West Bank in order to expand the size of Jewish settlements (settlements) in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. The targeted territory is currently classified as "survey land". Israel wants to declare the areas "state land" which could then be allocated by the government for the expansion of existing Jewish settlements (settlements) or the creation of new settlements (settlements). The government's aim is to complete the confiscation procedure to create more facts on the ground before the conclusion of the final status negotiations.
- Israeli bulldozers and mechanical shovels ripped a swath of a West Bank village Yatma in Nablus District, and uprooted Khalil Eid's olive grove. Also, his neighbor Ahmad Najjar, lost 50 trees.

### **November 20, 1998**

- Approximately, 80 housing units will be constructed in each settlement of Shaked and Henanit, 5 kilometers east of Jenin.
- The Israeli government plans to build a new entrance in the wall of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in East Jerusalem's Old City. This act comes after 800 years in which the church has only had one entrance. Government officials claim that many pilgrims are expected to come to

Jerusalem in 2000 and this necessitates the construction of an emergency exit in case of fire or a security alert. The Christian community strongly opposes a new opening because the Church of the Holy Sepulcher is included in the arrangement for preserving the status quo at the holy sites formulated by the Turkish sultan back in 1852. The arrangement stipulates that no changes are to be made in the church's structure.

### **November 21, 1998**

- Jewish settlers occupied two Palestinian houses in East Jerusalem's Al-Shiekh Jarah neighborhood. They started doing the necessary renovations.
- Two Israeli police stations will be opened in Occupied East Jerusalem. One of them will be opened near St. Stephen's Gate, while the other near the Holy Sepulcher.
- Five new caravans were placed on the southern edge of Beit Haggai, a Jewish settlement (settlement) south of Hebron. The settlement (settlement) has bulldozed roads encircling two nearby hills and has laid the foundation on one of the hills for six new caravans. The stolen hills belong to the Palestinians living in the nearby village of Arihiyya.

### **November 22, 1998.**

- New Israeli military orders were issued to confiscate 900 dunums in Jaba'a, and the eastern hills of Yatta in the Hebron District.
- Today is the deadline set to the family of the Al- Ghazlan of Silwan village to vacate their home. The courts of Israel had awarded ownership of the house to the KKL (Jewish National Fund) on the basis of a title-deed from the 1920's (Arab title-deeds from before 1948 are considered invalid by the same courts). The Ghazlan family is determined to hold on to their home.
- Jewish settlers seized a hilltop near the Israeli settlement (settlement) of Bat Ayin in Bethlehem, erecting three mobile homes.
- Thirty Jewish settlers, mostly high school students from a nearby settlement (settlement) (Shavei Shomron) raised Israeli flags over a long-abandoned railroad station in the town of Sebastia near Nablus and demanded government permission to establish a religious seminary, a museum, and an art center for the study of settlement movement.

- A third batch of settlers moved to bulldoze more land at Qisra village, south east of Nablus as a first step towards annexing it to an army camp built 20 years ago and consequently to a settlement (settlement).
- In the Qalqiliya District, Jewish settlers annexed from Jayous village scores of dunums.
- In Deir Qiddis, Ramallah, one thousand dunums were confiscated to build a new road. Moreover, tracts of Palestinian land will be damaged by a by-pass road linking Qalandia with Ben Gurion Airport.
- In Ramallah District, the road which passes near the villages of Jeder, Bitunia, Bit Aur Foka, Teeri, Bit Aur Tehta, Saffa, and Belein, damaged thousands of dunums planted with olive and fig trees. The uprooted trees were transported in Lorries to nearby Jewish settlements (settlements).
- At Itamar settlement (settlement) which is constructed on Awarta's confiscated land east of Nablus city, Jewish demonstrators from the Jerzeel valley took possession of one of the hills east of the settlement (settlement), setting up tents and declaring that they are expanding Itamar.
- Settlers expropriated a hill one kilometer from the Elon-Moreh settlement (settlement) near Nablus, and installed a caravan there. The site is close to an Islamic shrine near the Al Hatab area known as the Shrine of Shiekh Billal.
- The Israeli military demolished a house belonging to Akram Maswadi near Hebron where two leading members of the Islamist group "Hamas" were killed by Israeli commandos in September.
- The Israeli government has approved a plan to build a high -tech industrial centre as well as an engineering school intended for some 700 graduates of traditional Talmudic religious schools at Kiryat Arba settlement (settlement) on the edge of Hebron city.

### **November 23, 1998**

- Israeli helicopters sprayed green fields at Jaba'a village with toxic materials.

### **November 24, 1998**

- The Israeli bulldozers started bulldozing large scores of land near Doleb settlement (settlement) to the west of Ramallah city.

- The Israeli court ordered Al-Ghazlan family out of their house in Silwan in East Jerusalem. Jewish settlers will be able to move into their house after their compulsory eviction order.

### **November 25, 1998.**

- In Jenin District, thousands of dunums of Burqin's best agricultural lands were being confiscated to create a by-pass road for the use of settlers . As a result, thousands of olive trees were uprooted.

### **November 26, 1998**

- The Municipality of Jerusalem is threatening to expropriate a Palestinian house owned by Rafiqa Al-Salaymeh in Aqabat As-Siraya in the Old City of Jerusalem.
- In Hebron, settlers from the Sinsana military settlement (settlement) began bulldozing roads around a nearby hill.

### **November 27, 1998**

- A Palestinian Jerusalemite submitted an appeal to the Israeli High Court to get his 7 dunums piece of land back which was confiscated in 1968. The land lies in Al-Shiekh Jarah neighborhood. The Municipality of Jerusalem is intending to hand that land to Ateret Cohanim (a Jewish religious institution) to construct a religious school.

### **November 28, 1998**

- A new Israeli military order was issued for the confiscation of 35 dunums at Rummana village, near Jenin. The plot lies near "Salem" military outpost 13 kilometers west of Jenin, erected during the first months of the Palestinian Intifada.

### **November 29, 1998**

- In Hebron District, a military order was issued to expropriate 40 dunums of land so as a new by-pass road to be constructed. The Israeli Authorities have started the construction of a 7- kilometer by-pass road stretching from kfar Etzion settlement (settlement) to the north of Hebron passing by Beit Ummar's and Halhul's best agricultural lands to the Road 60.

- Jewish settlers of Senania near the Green Line captured a 50 dunums agricultural hill owned by Salem Al-Zagharneh. They also leveled a 200- meter by-pass road to link the settlement (settlement) to the hill.
- The Israeli army captured a hill in Arab Al Ramadeen area near Hebron to build a new military outpost.
- The house of Sharif Ahmad Muhammad Abdallah was demolished by the Israeli army in Beit Hanina, East Jerusalem. The owner of the house had tried to obtain from the Jerusalem Municipality a permit to build, but it was denied on the basis that the area of Beit Hanina is a "green area" and therefore restricted to development.
- Jewish settlers from Beit El, a settlement (settlement) located just northeast of the Palestinian -ruled city of Ramallah, took over control a house outside Ein Yabrud village in the West Bank. The house belongs to Riad Arafat from Ein Yabrud.

### **November 30, 1998**

- The Israeli military forces demolished a house belonging to Daoud Aturshan, in Sur Baher which lies to the south-east of Jerusalem. The demolition was ordered because the property was built without planning permission.
- Settlers from Itzhar expropriated the hills of Huwara and Ein Yabous in Nablus District.
- Caravans were set up on the borders of the Halmesh settlement (settlement), located near the town of Bir Zeit (Figure 8).

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