

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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October 2, 1998

- Jewish settlers (settlers) set fire to 150 olive trees in Tell village in Nablus District.
- Jewish settlers (settlers) uprooted 250 olive trees in the villages of Al-Sawiya, Kafr Qaddum, Deir El Hatab, Beit Furik in Nablus District.

October 3, 1998

- The Gaza center of Law and Human Rights uncovered an Israeli plan to settle 1,400,000 Jewish settlers (settlers) in the West Bank by the year 2010.
- A study done by the general director of Forests and Pastures in the Ministry of Agriculture showed that the 17 settlements (settlements) constructed on Palestinian land swallowed 100,000 dunums in the Jordan valley.

October 4, 1998

- An Israeli company attempted to seize lands owned by Palestinians in Deir Ballut and Rafat villages 34 kilometers to the southwest of Nablus. The Palestinian owners affirmed that they have registered deeds proving their ownership of the land.
- The Israeli Authorities declared a scheme threatening to confiscate Palestinian owned lands in El Khader village and Wadi Rahal to the south of Bethlehem in order to expand “Efrat” settlement (settlement), one of the biggest Jewish settlements (settlements) in the West Bank.

- Jewish settlers (settlers) of Maale Hever near Hebron moved their settlement (settlement) fences to enclose and additional 30 dunums of confiscated land.

October 5, 1998

- An article published in *Al-Hayyat Al-Jadeeda* newspaper unveiled an Israeli plan to confiscate more Palestinian lands from Salfit and its surrounding villages in Nablus District.

October 6, 1998

- Prime Minister Netanyahu attended a cornerstone-laying ceremony in Tel-Rumeida, and declared Ariel settlement (settlement) a city.
- The Israeli government decided to replace the caravans in Tel-Rumeida with permanent housing structures. Tel-Rumeida is a Jewish compound in Hebron where seven families belonging to one of the most extremist groups live in caravans protected by heavy military forces.
- Ariel settlement (settlement) (located 16 km southwest of Nablus) is declared a city. It had only 15,000 Jewish residents, 5,000 short of the number necessary under Israeli law to qualify for the status of a city. But, Ariel's municipality put the population at more than 18,000. It will become the second settlement (settlement), after "Maale Adumim" east of Jerusalem, to become a city. Nearly 400 new houses are under construction, and a plan was put to build another 3,000 housing units.

October 8, 1998

- The Israeli Authorities laid the cornerstone of a new Jewish neighborhood in "Maale Mukhmas" constructed on Mukhmas village lands near Jerusalem and south of Ramallah. The project includes constructing additional 150 housing units, and it will be named "Maale Zfolon" after the dead minister of Heritage and Culture, Zfolon Hamer.
- The Israeli cabinet reached an agreement that the proposed Route 80 in the Jerusalem Desert will have to be moved in order to accommodate a Palestinian nature reserve east of Hebron. The reserve would be located east of Hebron between Maale Amos and Pnai Hever. Route 80 is incompleted, and is preferred as a transportation axis from Maale Adumim to Arad, set up as a tank route in case of war on the eastern front.

October 9, 1998

- Since October 2nd, the Israeli bulldozers have begun leveling the ground and uprooting several olive trees during olive harvest season for a new by-pass road measuring 7 km in length and connecting “Doleb” settlement (settlement) (which was constructed on confiscated lands of six Palestinian villages) to the west of Ramallah city and the main road. The by-pass road slices through the lands of E’in Arik and Deir Ebzea’ villages.
- Three Jewish colonist families took possession of a Palestinian house in the Muslem Quarter in Jerusalem’s Old City. This act was organized by Ateret Cohanim, a religious movement devoted to settle Jews in East Jerusalem. The property they captured includes a large house and a children’s playground.
- According to Prime Minister Netanyahu’s “Around Jerusalem” expansion plan, thousands of new houses will be constructed in settlements (settlements) east of the city. This scheme will create a ring of Israeli settlements (settlements) north and west of Jerusalem.

October 10, 1998

- *Maariv* newspaper unveiled a new colonization scheme near Bab El-Sahera (Herod’s Gate) in the Old City of Occupied East Jerusalem. The project organizer is Ateret Cohanim who intends to construct tens of colonization units in three buildings stretching over 7 dunums. This will be accomplished after an archaeological excavation on the site which will not be completed until 1999.
- The Israeli government is planning to construct a new neighborhood in The Etzion Block, Gush Etzion in Hebrew, consisting of 90 housing units near the Kibutz of Rosh Tzurim.
- The Israeli bulldozers began to bulldoze a Palestinian land in Halhul, Hebron in order to construct a new by-pass road which is meant to link between Karmeit settlement (settlement) and by-pass road no. 60.
- Jewish settlers (settlers) of Shilo constructed a farm on a hill located between Shilo and Maale Levona on Palestinian confiscated lands near the village of Sinjel in Ramallah District.

October 11, 1998

- A group of Jewish cofrom Rebebah settlement (settlement) set fire to tens of olive trees which were more than thirty years old owned by ‘Eli Zeidan, Abed Al-Hady Abu Hijleh of Deir Estiya in Nablus District.

October 15, 1998

- Israeli bulldozers began a large scale of leveling huge areas of land to construct another colonization outpost on Mountain hills in 'Eli valley near the settlements (settlements) of Shilo and Eileh which were constructed on Lubban lands in Nablus District.
- Radical Jewish settlers (settlers) of the “Moledet” party occupied a building in Al-Shiekh Jarrah, a Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem, claiming that it was a Jewish –owned synagogue before 1948. Four days later, a bulldozer started leveling an area next to the structure.
- The Israeli government is denying the construction of a new settlement (settlement) located below Herodion, a conical hill topped by a ruined palace of King Herod. Four teenagers installed sparse caravans perched on this West Bank desert hilltop. It appeared five months ago, when a colonist from Kiryat Arba 15 miles away, set up the site as a shelter to help young boys who grew up in ultra-Orthodox Jewish families but no longer want to follow a religious lifestyle to adapt to secular Israeli life. The settlement (settlement) is named after Kfar El-Dad which is more than a mile away. There is also a plan to construct an additional 2,500 houses at Kfar El-Dad where 40 Jewish colonist families now live, but they are waiting for the construction of a by-pass road which will slice through villages east of Bethlehem and prevent shepherds feeding their animals.
- On a hilltop about a mile from the settlement (settlement) of Alei Zahav in the West Bank, where 330 people (90 Jewish families live), workers added the finishing touches to a newly completed 1,200 housing units on land Israel captured in 1967.
- The Israeli Authorities gave Mohammad Dodeen 24 hours to evacuate his house at Khirbat El 'Alqa El Tihta near Dora village in Hebron District in preparation for its imminent demolition.

October 17, 1998

- The Municipality of Jerusalem is trying its best to hasten the planning of a scheme which includes the construction of a Jewish enclave in the Palestinian neighborhood of Abu Dis neighborhood, East Jerusalem. It's going to be constructed on 7 dunums of land. Only 1 dunum of land is owned by the Jewish millionaire Irving Moskowitz, the remaining 6 dunums are “Absentee Property”. The Municipality plans to construct 250 housing units on the site.

- Tens of Jewish settlers (settlers) forcefully attempted to enter Al-Ghazlan family house in Silwan neighborhood, East Jerusalem. The house consists of 5 apartments in which 28 Palestinian people reside.
- Three new settlements (settlements) are under construction:
 1. One will be called “Eli Zahab”. Five hundred housing units will be constructed on 400 dunums of Kafr Ed Diek and Deir Ballut villages in Nablus District
 2. Another is being erected on Qaryut lands between the settlement (settlement) of Eli and Maale Levona.
 3. third settlement (settlement) called Tel Menesheh is under construction on 212 dunums of Ya’bad lands near the Green Line. It is planned to construct 400 housing units.
- In Nablus District, the people of Awarta, Beit Furik, and Deir El Hatab were overwhelmed when Israeli lorries installed eight new mobile houses on Palestinian agricultural lands in the Al-Sharawdeh area which the settlers (settlers) seized to create a new settlement (settlement) called “Gad’unim”.
- While the Palestinian-Israeli summit was in progress in Maryland, construction of 1,300 housing units was begun in “Kokhav Yacob” settlement (settlement) near Ramallah city, and others will be added to the settlement (settlement) of Maale Adumim near Jerusalem.
- The Municipality of Jerusalem is planning to construct 132 housing units in the Ras Al-Amoud neighborhood of East Jerusalem.
- Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Land Defense committee reported that 2000 dunums are being bulldozed in the north of Hebron District for the expansion of the Gush Etzion settlement (settlement).
- A new by-pass road is planned to go from Atnimil (an Israeli military camp) parallel to Road #345 all the way to the border between the West Bank and Israel.

October 18, 1998

- An Israeli scheme was unveiled to construct a by-pass road connecting the south of Hebron to Abu-Gheim Mountain (Har Homa).
- A Jewish colonist forcefully attempted to occupy a Palestinian house in Tel-Rumeida in Hebron.
- A report published by *Al-Quds* newspaper stated that in the past ten years, 28 Palestinians were killed as a result of explosive mines left by the Israeli army.

- Two firebombs were thrown at a Palestinian house in Al-Shiekh Jarah neighborhood in Jerusalem.
- Radical Jewish settlers (settlers) from Elon-Moreh settlement (settlement) cut down 200 olive trees in the village of Deir El Hatab of Nablus District, just before Palestinian owners picked their olives. The trees owned by Rayek Abdul Kareem Hassan, Nadir Omran, and Salman Mustafa.
- Land Defense Committee cartographer, Abdel Hadi Hantash, stated that Jewish settlers (settlers) put a tent on a hill east of Susya settlement (settlement) south of Hebron. The settlers (settlers) are preparing the 400 dunums they seized with concrete to put in caravans.
- A military camp (Nahal Nagahot) in Hebron District brought in settlers (settlers) to live in four caravans as a first step to transform the military camp into a civilian settlement (settlement).

October 19, 1998

- According to data released by the Israeli Interior Ministry, 346 Jerusalem identity cards have been confiscated from Palestinian Jerusalemites in the period January-August 1998. Two hundred seventy of these cards belonged to Palestinians living abroad.

October 20, 1998

- The Israeli military forces occupied the terraces of three Palestinian houses in Hebron city. They were transformed into military bases. As a result, many Palestinian residents were wounded in confrontations with Israeli soldiers.
 - The Finance Ministry asked the Knesset Finance Committee to allocate ten million shekels for construction works in Tel-Rumeida Jewish compound in Hebron.
- After nine days of intense negotiations at Wye River Plantation in Maryland, the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority have signed a deal to help bring peace in the Middle East. The Wye Agreement says, "Recognizing the necessity to create a positive environment for the negotiations, NEITHER SIDE SHALL INITIATE OR TAKE STEP THAT WILL CHALLENGE THE STATUS OF THE WEST BANK AND THE ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERIM AGREEMENT".
The Unilateral Activities After Wye Agreement

October 23, 1998

- Israeli forces bulldozed several Palestinian lands cultivated with olive trees in Nablus District to expand “Ariel” and “Megdolin” settlements (settlements).
- For five consecutive days, the Israeli Authorities in cooperation with the Municipality of Jerusalem continued their campaign of collecting property taxes (known as Arnona) against Palestinian merchants' stores within the walls of the Old City.

October 24, 1998

- A structural plan (116/2) was declared by the Israeli Authority. This plan resulted in the expropriation of thousands of dunums of the Kafr Thulth, ‘Azoun and Bidya villages in Tulkarm District for the benefit of “Maale Shomron” settlement (settlement).

October 25, 1998

- A new Jewish quarter of 55 housing units is currently under construction in the Jordan valley settlement (settlement), “Tomer”.
- Jewish settlers (settlers) from Ateret Cohanim erected barriers around a site they occupied in the Palestinian neighborhood of Ras Al-Amoud in East Jerusalem as a means of encircling the Old City with Jewish settlements (settlements). This comes as a provocation designed to undermine talks due to start in November on the City’s final status. One hundred thirty-two residential units have been proposed to be built within few months.

October 27, 1998

- Israeli bulldozers were digging up on the lands of ‘Anata village near Jerusalem in order to construct a large reservoir for “Almon” settlement (settlement) and the Israeli military camp known as “Anaton”. This project would result in the confiscation of hundreds of dunums of land in ‘Anata village. Also, the Palestinian owners will not be allowed to access their land without a special permit from the Israeli Authorities.
- Jewish settlers (settlers) continued their efforts to construct a new settlement (settlement) in the area of “Um-Akhouas” at the southern part of Hebron near the town of Yatta and to the east of “Susya” settlement (settlement). About 4,500 dunums of land are under the threat of confiscation and 100 dunums which have already been

confiscated are now the core of the new settlement (settlement) where three caravans have been placed and construction started.

October 28, 1998

- The people of Artas and El Khader villages at Bethlehem District received notification orders that Road 60 which will lead to the Efrat settlement (settlement) will cut through their property. The people were informed about the intention to construct a road, but were not shown any maps.
- Israeli police allowed four extreme-right members of the Israeli Knesset to plant two posts and a 15-meter length of fence on a site in the Palestinian neighborhood of Ras Al-Amoud, East Jerusalem where Jewish settlers (settlers) are hoping to build a new settlement (settlement). The site is sensitive since it is the last Palestinian neighborhood linking Islamic neighborhoods in the Old City to the city's Palestinian suburbs.
- Two settlers (settlers) of Shilo installed two mobile caravans and a generator on a hilltop few miles away from the settlement (settlement) without getting a permit from the Civil Administration.
- The leader of the Israeli military forces signed an order to seize Palestinian lands near 'Asira El Shemalieh in Nablus District.

October 30, 1998

- The Civil Administration gave demolition orders to Palestinian houses in Khirbat Ed Dirat near Yatta in Hebron District for allegedly building without a permit
- The Israeli government allocated nearly \$60 million for the purpose of constructing approximately 10 by-pass roads for Jewish settlers (settlers) in the West Bank to reach their residential areas without passing through Palestinian-controlled towns. Work on the by-pass road at El Arroub village, east of Bethlehem, and along the Trans-Samria (the West Bank) highway is to start on November 1st .
- The Israeli government declared an allocation of approximately five million shekels for maintaining new security measures at Jewish locations in East Jerusalem.

October 31, 1998

- The Israeli Authorities confiscated 4,367 dunums from the areas of Ya'bad, Kh. Um El Rihan, Turrah Algarbieh, Nazlit Al-Shiekh Zaid to

expand settlements (settlements) in Jenin District. The Palestinian owners who have registration deeds from the Ministry of Finance are not allowed to appeal without topographic site maps prepared by a licensed surveyor with a detailed description of the land.

- The Civil Administration began confiscating land to pave by-pass roads and the northern entrance of Efrat. The confiscated land runs from Givat Hazayit hilltop, past Solomon's Pools and the village of Artas to the main Jerusalem-Hebron highway. The work is expected to begin on November 2nd.
- For the second time, the Israeli Authorities gave a demolition order to a Palestinian resident in El Walajeh area in Bethlehem District for allegedly building without a permit. His house was demolished by the Israeli Authorities last June 1998, but Palestinian residents and Israeli peace activists rebuilt the house. Another 18 demolition orders were given to people living in the same village.
- The Israeli government announced that three settlements (settlements) in Hebron (Talim, Adora, and Karmeit Tzur) will be expanded.

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