

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

Volume 30, January 2001 Issue

<http://www.arij.org>

January 1, 2001

- In Ramallah District, hundreds of settlers from Ofra settlement seized the Mevo Ofra hilltop overlooking Highway 60 from which the shots that killed Binyamin Kahane, and his wife Talia are believed to have been fired. The residents have vowed not to be moved from the new outpost, saying it was captured as part of Ofra's expansion plan and "as a fitting Zionist response to Palestinian terror". Jewish settlers erected tents and brought water containers, chemical toilets, food and generators to the outpost. According to an ARIJ *fieldworker*, the villagers fear that their lands may be expropriated in order to expand Ofra settlement. *Fieldworker, JPost & Haaretz*
- According to an ARIJ *fieldworker*, 6 dunums of land from Beit Ummar village, close to Karmi Zur settlement, in Hebron District were bulldozed by Israeli forces. The bulldozed land was planted with almond trees and belongs to Mousa 'Awar and Ibrahim Al Zaqaziq.

January 2, 2001

- In Ramallah District, Israeli occupation bulldozers under the protection of soldiers from the Israeli army, demolished the house belonging to Haitham Abdel 'Aziz from 'Ein Yabroud village, northeast of Al Bireh and close to Ofra settlement . The demolition order was apparently in retaliation for the killing of the Jewish extremist Binyamin Kahane. Israeli forces also demolished retaining walls belonging to Samir Al Khatib from the same village, seized another house owned by Abdel Fatah Al Qazan and a 24 apartment Palestinian building, which was turned into military

barracks. In addition, Israeli forces cut down more than 40 olive trees from the same area. *Fieldworker, Quds, PIC & Jadeeda*

January 3, 2001

- A report published by the Palestinian Land Defense Committee stated that Israeli authorities erected a new outpost at the hilltop near Umm Safa, 'Ajjul, and 'Arura villages, in Ramallah District. In Jericho District, Israeli occupation forces bulldozed a road in Deir Hajala village, which had recently been improved by the Palestinian Authority, in addition the Israeli army damaged machines used by Palestinian workers. *Quds*
- Israeli occupation forces, accompanied by Jewish settlers, attacked the 33-year-old Palestinian worker Thiab Moufid, while he was coming back from work in Israel. According to eyewitnesses, Moufid was found lying on the ground, with several injuries on different parts of his body, in a forested area by Al Jalama village, Jenin, close to the 1949 Armistice Line. *Quds*

January 4, 2001

- In Nablus District, Israeli occupation authorities re-enforced the closure on Beit Furik village. An Israeli bulldozer was placed at the entrance of the village, preventing the villagers from going to work. Students of the village cannot reach their schools in order to sit their semester exams. Also, the farmers of Beit Furik and Salim villages have been impeded from cultivating the fields that run alongside the by-pass road. *Quds*
- Israeli occupation bulldozers continue to damage wide areas of Palestinian agricultural land. In Shoufa village, Tulkarm District, they uprooted dozens of olive trees belonging to Tahaen Hamed and Abdel 'Aziz Al Droubi, in order to open a new settlement by-pass road close to Aveni Hefetz settlement. *Quds & Jadeeda*
- According to *Alhayat Al-Jadeeda* Newspaper, three Israeli bulldozers started to destroy tens of dunums of agricultural land cultivated with olive trees near Deir Ballut village, in Nablus District. The bulldozed land, which belonged to the Abdallah family, is to be used to expand the by-pass road connecting Peduel and Eli Zahav settlements. These settlements are built on the land of Deir Ballut and Kafr Al Dik villages. One landowner estimated that the bulldozing had caused the uprooting of more than 50 olive trees. *Jadeeda*

January 5, 2001

- A report was issued by the Palestinian Land Defense Committee showing most of the Israeli activities in the West Bank during December 2000. The report estimated that Israeli occupation forces uprooted about 6,896 olive and citrus trees and demolished at least 12 Palestinian houses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the last month. *Quds*

January 6, 2001

- Israeli authorities have begun to adopt a new scheme to unilaterally separate Israel from the Palestinian Authority. Opening new by-pass roads, blocking Palestinian villages and roads and moving checkpoints eastward, are all first signs of a separation plan being put in place. Today the Israeli newspaper “*Ha’aretz*” reported that Israeli occupation forces have moved at least seven checkpoints east of the Armistice Line into the West Bank. The locations are Oranit (Nablus), Rantis, Qiryat Sefer and Makkabim (Ramallah), Betar (Bethlehem), Tene “Omarim” and Shima (Hebron). However, the movement of checkpoints has been defended by the Israeli army as being for security purposes.
- In Ramallah District, Israeli occupation authorities positioned at Beit El settlement, close to El Jalazon Camp, started digging two ditches along the main road that connects the camp and the villages of Jifna, Dura El Qare’ and ‘Ein Sinya. These ditches, which are about two hundred meters apart, have forced the villagers to use bumpy, dirt tracks. *Quds*
- In Ramallah District, Dolev and Talmon settlers uprooted more than 53 (around 100 year old) olive trees from Ras Karkar village, belonging to the Palestinian families of Samhat and Noufel. The settlers have threatened to uproot other trees from the same village. *Fieldworker & Jadeeda*

January 7, 2001

- The Palestinian Land Defense Committee reported in *Al-Quds* that Israeli bulldozers accompanied by ‘Ateret settlers began a few days ago to erect a new settlement outpost on Al Ras Mountain, near ‘Ateret settlement, northwest of Ramallah. The groundwork is aimed at confiscating the mountain, in an attempt to expand the nearby settlement. The source reported that the bulldozers started to open a by-pass road leading to the land that belonged to villagers from Umm Safa, A’tara and A’arura villages. At the same time, Israeli bulldozers embarked on opening a new by-pass road that will link Kohav Ya’acov with Beit El settlement.
- In Nablus District, Israeli bulldozers began to damage tens of dunums of agricultural land in Al ‘Aziz hamlet, west of Salfit, close to Ariel

settlement as a preparation to expand the Israeli military camp that is erected at the western entrance to Salfit. *Jadeeda*

- settlers have chopped down more than 600 olive trees from Burin village southwest of Nablus. According to Israeli sources, the settlers intended to establish a new settlement outpost on land located near the crossroads at Beit Dajan village, in Nablus District. *Jadeeda*

January 9, 2000

- According to a report in the *Ha'aretz* newspaper, a new plan is under discussion to set up five new terminals in several locations close to the Armistice Line, in order to oversee the movement of goods between Israel and the West Bank. The details of the locations of these terminals are still somewhat unclear, though the plan mentions five areas, north of Jenin, west of Tulkarem, southwest of Ramallah, northeast of Bethlehem and Tarkumiya, west of Hebron.
- An article appeared in *Al-Quds* daily stating that Eli settlers, in Nablus District, have recently erected a wire fence around the settlement in addition to paving a road in the area. The report also stated that Israeli occupation authorities destroyed a piece of land estimated at two dunums owned by 'Ata Jaber from Hebron in order to establish a military camp by road no. 60 overlooking Qiryat 'Arba and Kharsina settlements. Moreover, Israeli authorities seized a Palestinian house belonging to Abdel Halim Jaber from Hebron under the pretext of its being needed for military purposes. *Quds&Jadeeda*
- The Israeli Civil Administration delivered notification orders to demolish or close 30 Palestinian commercial stores in Al Jalama village, Jenin District, which lies on the Armistice Line. *Quds*
- *Al-Quds* newspaper published a report concerning Israeli violations on olive trees in the West Bank. Israeli occupation authorities chopped down more than 1,000 30-year-old olive trees from Aqraba village, south of Nablus, owned by a number of Palestinian families from the village. Israeli authorities closed off (ostensibly for security purposes) 85% of Aqraba land, which has a total area of 144,000 dunums. The Palestinian Land Defense Committee reported that the settlers of Eli, which is constructed on the land of Manjdal Bani Fadil, Qaryut and Jalud villages, continued their policy in stealing olive trees from these villages for the fifth consecutive day. According to the report, the series of robberies have affected about 150 dunums of land, with more than 1200 fully-grown olive trees. Villagers have confirmed that they have seen the trees being taken away on Lorries. It is thought that these trees are being replanted in settlements and in towns within Israel. Villagers from Baqa Al Gharbiya, a

Palestinian village inside the 1948 areas, reported seeing mature olive trees arrive and be planted west of the village close to Khadera. *Quds*

- In Hebron District, Israeli occupation bulldozers damaged a 150-dunum plot of land, belonging to the Jaber family, in Al Baqa' village. The move is seen as a preparation to expanding Kharsina settlement. *Fieldworker & Quds*
- The settlers of Talmon bloc and Nahliel destroyed about 15 dunums of land owned by the villager Yousef Ishriteh from Al Mazra'a El Qibliya, in Ramallah District, in order to open a new settlement by-pass road connecting the two settlements with the Haresha outpost. This outpost is erected on lands belonging to El Janiya, Ras Karkar and Al Mazra'a El Qibliya villages. *Fieldworker & Jadeeda*

January 10, 2001

- In Nablus District, Israeli occupation authorities started to pave a new settlement by-pass road, in Salfit, close to Haris village. Villagers informed *Al-Quds* daily, that until yesterday this road was used as a byway for Palestinian cars since the beginning of the blockade on Palestinian villages. *Quds*
- Shilo and Ma'ale Levona settlers took advantage of the blockade on Palestinian villages and started to bulldoze wide areas of land from Sinjil village, northeast of Ramallah, in an attempt to open a new by-pass road linking the two Jewish settlements together. *Fieldworker & Jadeeda*

January 11, 2001

- Israeli occupation authorities issued a notice for the demolition of a Palestinian house (under construction). The house is sheltering a 6-person family and is owned by Mahmoud Sha'ban from Al Jalama village, in Jenin District. The pretext used was that the house was being built without a permit. *Quds*
- In Jericho District, Israeli occupation forces destroyed the goods on a Palestinian lorry carrying more than 15 tons of tomatoes after confiscating the driver's ID card. The incident took place at the eastern entrance to Jericho, close to the by-pass road. *Quds*
- In Nablus District, the settlers of Yakir, Revava and Nofim uprooted 1,250 olive and citrus trees from Palestinian lands owned by villagers from Deir Istiya and Qarawat Bani Hassan. Eyewitnesses stated that the settlers chopped down 750 olive trees from Qarawat Bani Hassan and 500 citrus trees from Wadi Qana, west of Deir Istiya village, as a preparation to expand Yakir and Nofim settlements. *Jadeeda*

January 12, 2001

- In Ramallah District, the residents of the two new outposts from Beit El and Ofra settlements received eviction orders and orders declaring the two sites closed military zones. The outposts were established due to the recent shooting attacks in the Palestinian territories. However, Ofra settlers said that the outpost was in fact an expansion of the settlement where they plan to construct a new settlement neighborhood, and they did not intend to leave it willingly. Beit El settlers announced that they planned to remain at their outpost until Israeli forces took over the site. *Ha'aretz*
- The Israeli Construction and Organization Committee in Jerusalem last week endorsed a plan to erect a new bridge on the old road leading to Pisgat Ze'ev settlement, in Ramallah District (road no.13). The bridge will be erected between the two roads of Yekutiel Adam, Shedrot Moushe Dayan. Several weeks ago, the Jerusalem Municipality endorsed a confiscation order of 178 dunums from Shu'fat village, under the pretext of expanding the road networks leading to Pisgat Ze'ev and Neve Yaacov settlements. There is a threat that more land will be confiscated from the village. *Quds, Jadeeda & Ayyam*
- In Ramallah District, Israeli occupation bulldozers destroyed Palestinian land from Turmas A'yya village owned by Al Asmar family in order to expand the Shilo settlement boundary southwards, in addition about 13 olive and fig trees were uprooted. *Fieldworker*
- According to an ARIJ *fieldworker*, Israeli forces bulldozed more than 270 dunums of Palestinian land adjoining the 1949 Armistice Line between belonging to, and lying between, Budrus and Ni'llin villages, in Ramallah District.

January 13, 2001

- Israeli occupation forces have reached an agreement with Beit El and Ofra settlers concerning the two outposts mentioned on 12 January. The Israel army has erected military outposts at both sides and the settlers have been evacuated. *Ha'aretz*

January 14, 2001

- A unilateral separation plan has been prepared by Israeli PM Ehud Barak the plan indicates that a unilateral separation on the part of the Israelis will involve the setting up of a line of defense around the settlement blocs in the West Bank, which are supposed to be annexed to Israel under a final

agreement. The settlements and a wide security zone in the Jordan Valley will be kept under Israeli control. According to Barak, the separation plan would come into effect only in one **of the following three scenarios**:

- As a result of a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood;
 - Under an acute security threat;
 - As a result of an agreement with the Palestinian authority.
- The settlement blocs mentioned in the separation plan are Ma'ale Adumim, Etzion Bloc, Givat Ze'ev, Ariel, Karnei Shomron bloc, the Kiryat Sefer bloc and settlements along the Armistice Line, such as Alfei Menashe, Har Adar, and Beit Horon. The goal of the plan is to protect the settlers from the Palestinians by means of mobile military forces and obstacles such as concrete blocks and ditches. The plan also included the paving of "separation roads" that do not pass through Palestinian villages. The separation plan does not outline a proposal for the evacuation of isolated settlements . Ha'aretz.

January 15, 2001

- Israeli occupation forces set up a number of military posts on lands belonging to Palestinian villagers from Beituniya, Beit 'Ur at Tahta and Beit 'Aur al Fauqa. The posts were erected between Givat Ze'ev settlement (which is constructed on Al Jib village land) and Modi'in Bloc (near Beit Sira). The Israeli forces uprooted dozens of olive trees in order to open a new road leading to these posts. *Quds*
- *Al-Quds* newspaper published a report announcing that the Israeli Minister Mossi Raz gave permission for 1,184 settlement housing units to be constructed in Jewish settlements during the first ten month of year 2000. Among these, 529 permits were issued for building new units in Jerusalem.

January 16, 2001

- In Nablus District, a group of settlers accompanied by a number of Israeli soldiers used electric saws to cut down more than 200 fully-grown olive trees from Al Luhuf hamlet west of Huwwara village and close to Yizar settlement . The uprooted trees belong to a number of Palestinian families from the village. *Jadeeda & Quds*
- The Israeli army began to use a large stretch of land behind Herodian Mountain in Bethlehem District as a training ground. The only road to a small hamlet runs through this ground. When the soldiers are training, it

is impossible for the residents to reach the nearest village. At times, these activities have resulted in the hamlet having their electricity cut off.

Fieldworker

- In Jericho District, Israeli occupation bulldozers started to dig a ditch running eastward along the by-pass road (south of the Palestinian iron works) towards Nuwei'ma village. *Quds*
- In Tulkarm District, the Israeli occupation army began to harass Palestinian owners of agricultural lands located around Ghishori factory (for chemical materials). The army destroyed the irrigation networks and all their crops as a preparation for confiscating the 250 dunums of land. *Quds*

January 17, 2001

- According to an ARIJ *fieldworker*, Har Gilo settlement, northwest of Bethlehem, is undergoing an expansion campaign; by Israeli occupation forces who have begun to bulldoze wide areas near Al Walajeh village that is owned by Palestinian villagers from Beit Jala. They also began to erect a large wall around the land and began to prepare the infrastructure for the area, aiming to expand the settlement.

January 18, 2001

- In Qalqiliya District, Israeli occupation forces accompanied by the Israeli Civil Administration uprooted 100 olive saplings owned by the Qa'dan family from Al 'Owqda hamlet, in Jayyus village. Abdel Rahman Qa'dan, one of the owners stated that the goal behind the uprooting is to expand the Israeli quarry, which is established on land, belonging to Palestinian villagers. *Jadeeda*
- In Nablus District, Israeli occupation forces captured a Palestinian house, which is still under construction east of Salim village, owned by Isma'el Abdel Qader, and turned it into a military post. *Quds*

January 19, 2001

- The Israeli Housing and Construction Ministry presented a plan to Jerusalem Municipality to build a new settlement neighborhood in Wadi Ha'azeem" located on Beit Iksa village, Area B in Jerusalem District. According to the plan, 2,000 settlements -housing units are going to be constructed on the land. *Quds*
- Israeli occupation authorities continued to cut down more olive trees from Ramallah District. They uprooted 200 olive trees from Ras Karkar village,

owned by the families of Samhat and Noufel, in order to expand Talmon bloc (see also 6th January). *Fieldworker*

January 20, 2001

- In Nablus District, Eli settlers uprooted a further 40 olive trees from Qaryut village (see January 9th), which are considered their main source of income. The Palestinian villager Roushdi Ishtiya told Al-Quds newspaper, that he was aggressively approached by an Israeli military patrol, while he was grazing his sheep near the by-pass road that leads to Elon Moreh settlement. Although he was able to run away, the Israeli forces ran over one of his sheep. *Quds*

January 21, 2001

- PM Ehud Barak ordered the police to halt the excavation work being carried out on the raised portion of the Temple Mount [Haram al-Sharif], in the Dome of the Rock by the Waqf (Muslim Religious Trust) and the Israeli Islamic Movement. The police instructed the Waqf to close the ditch, which had been dug in the area recently. The Waqf accepted but refused to make any commitments about future work in the same area. *Ha'aretz*

January 24, 2001

- Jewish settlers, under the protection of Israeli occupation forces, continued to damage wide areas from Qaryut village, south of Nablus, in order to expand Eli settlement (see January 9th and 20th). *Jadeeda*
- In Hebron District, Jewish settlers started groundwork on Tel Rumeida settlement, close to the caravans. Eyewitnesses said that concrete pillars and a large amount of metal was seen arriving in the area. *Quds*
- In Nablus District, Israeli occupation authorities set up 3 military posts on hilltops by Salim village. These posts overlooking Deir Al Hatab, Beit Furik, Beit Dajan and 'Azmut villages. They started bulldozing more than 15 dunums from Al Haraf hamlet, east of the village, with the aim of establishing a settlement outpost there. *Quds*

January 25, 2001

- The Israeli Construction and Organization Committee in Jerusalem discussed new plans today to increase the Israeli colonization activities at Har Homa settlement (Abu Ghneim Mountain) near Jerusalem. The

committee is going to study an expansion plan towards Bethlehem, and Saint Elias Church. The scheme endorses the construction of 400 new housing units in addition to the 1500 units which have been built recently.

Quds

- Jewish settlers bulldozed about 20 dunums of land from El Nabi Saleh village, Ramallah, belonging to the villager Mouhamad at Tamimi, in an attempt to expand Hallamish settlement. *Fieldworker*

January 26, 2001

- The Israeli Transportation Ministry decided to open a new tunnel in Jerusalem, which will be called “Ashkol Tunnel”. The 500-m length tunnel will pass under road no.1 and is going to start from Mount Scopus road, pass by Six-Day War cross point, Shedrot Levi Ashkol and will end up at the Police Headquarters in the Sheikh Jeirah neighborhood. *Quds*
- A new plan has been issued by Israeli Civil Administration to continue expanding Har Adar settlement, northwest of Jerusalem. The plan includes the construction of 700 new settlement housing units in addition to the 300 existing units. *Quds*

January 28, 2001

- Israeli occupation authorities continued to bulldoze Jerzeem Mountain, which is located on the southern side of Nablus city. This action seems aimed at expanding the existing military position. *Jadeeda*
- In Ramallah District, an ARIJ *Fieldworker* reported that Israeli authorities bulldozed 40 dunums of land from the southern side of Deir Nidham village, belonging to Saleh Mouhamad, Ahmad Moustafa, and Saleh Al ‘Araj. Israeli bulldozers also leveled about 20 dunums of land owned by Jadallah Nassar from Al Nakakir hamlet, near El Janiya village.

January 29, 2001

- Ultra-orthodox Jews under the protection of Israeli soldiers occupied a commercial store with an area of 20 m² in Al Wad St. in the Old City of Jerusalem, in an attempt to set up a new settlement outpost. The extremists claimed that the store was owned by Jews a long time ago and they threatened to seize other stores from the same area, to establish a commercial center. *Ayyam*
- A colonist’s plan was unveiled to set up 100 mobile houses in different settlements in the West Bank during the Israeli election’s night. These

settlements were known to include Hallamish, Talmon Bloc, Ofra, Rimmonim and Kohav Hashahar. *Fieldworker*

- In Nablus District, Ariel settlers bulldozed dozens of dunums of agricultural land owned by members of Hussein Yousef's family from Iskaka village. Eyewitnesses confirmed that the settlers intended to confiscate the land in order to annex it to the settlement. *Quds*

January 30, 2001

- According to an ARIJ *Fieldworker*, Israeli authorities bulldozed wide areas of land from Al Luban Al Gharbi village, Ramallah District, in order to open a new settlement by-pass road linking Beit Arye and Eli Zahav settlements.
- A report published by the Palestinian Land Defense Committee in Nablus stated that Israeli occupation authorities uprooted about 8,364 olive trees from villages in Nablus District between the outbreak of Al Aqsa Intifada and 10th January, 2001. *Quds*
- A group of settlers from Ma'ale Shomeron and Ginnot Shomeron, in Qalqiliya District began to build a new settlement outpost on Kafr Thulth village land. According to the Mayor of Kafr Thulth Hussein Al Seiffi, the settlers started to bulldoze the land, set up a number of caravans in addition to opening two settlement by-pass roads in the village that will connect the two settlements with the new outpost. He also pointed out that the settlers endeavored to establish a settlement outpost in the same area last year but they failed. *Quds*

January 31, 2001

- In Ramallah District, Israeli occupation bulldozers damaged another site in Ras Karkar village, where they uprooted 16 olive trees belonged to Samahat and Noufel families (see also 6th and 19th January). Furthermore, Israeli bulldozers continued to open new by-pass roads on Jibiya village, Ramallah, as a preparation to expand the new outpost near Hallamish settlement. *Fieldworker*
- Jewish settlers started to confiscate and survey plots of land in a number of Palestinian villages in Nablus District. The settlers of Shvut Rahel, which is constructed on Qaryut village land, expropriated a 50-dunum plot of land owned by Al Haj Moussa Ahamd. Ahmad stated that the settlers began immediately to cultivate it with fully-grown olive trees and extensive water networks, enclosing the land with a wire fence. He also added that the settlers of Shvut Rahel seized another 50 dunums from his land in Al Mabshar hamlet last year. While in Kafr Laqif village,

Qalqilyah, Karne Shomron settlers accompanied by the Israeli forces surveyed 3-dunums land (to be confiscated) owned by the villager Yasser Qadura in order to be annexed to the nearby settlement. Moreover, Israeli surveyors started to survey about 700 dunums of land from Az Zawiya village, in Nablus district. *Quds*

District	Land Confiscated	Land Threatened	Uprooted/Confiscated/ razed/burnt Trees	Houses Demolished	Threatened Houses
Hebron	158	0	210	0	0
Ramallah	365	0	322	1	0
Nablus	65	700	2140	0	0
Jenin	0	0	0	0	1
Tulkarem	0	250	0	0	0
Qalqilyah	0	3	100	0	0
Total	588	953	2772	1	1

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.