

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

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March 1, 2000

- The Israeli Civil Administration endorsed a plan to construct an industrial zone on 200 dunums of land near Migdal Oz in the Gush Etzion settlement. In addition, the Administration approved the construction of a new female university in Migdal Oz. According to Palestinian sources, six Jewish organizations were making concerted efforts at "rebuilding the Temple" on the site of Muslims holy places in Jerusalem. They created a fund, called the Temple Mount Fund, for financing preparations for the building of the Jewish temple.

March 3, 2000

- The Orient House confirmed that the area of the industrial zone project in Gush Etzion settlement would be built over 5268 dunums of land expropriated by Israel from the three Arab villages of Al Khadr, Beit Fajjar, and Beit Ummar. An article appeared in *Al-Quds* daily stating that Ultra Jewish groups move secretly to build a Jewish neighborhood on part of Abu Dis land near Alquds University, in an attempt to disconcert the transfer of lands in Jerusalem to Palestinian Authority.

March 6, 2000

- In Hebron District, the Jewish settlers tried unsuccessfully to interfere with work by Palestinians on a gas station the Palestinians intend to reopen on the city's Shouhada Street, which has been a frequent location of confrontations between the sides.

March 8, 2000

- The Israeli bulldozers destroyed wide areas of agricultural land belonging to Al Jib and Beit Ijza villages as a preparation to be annexed to Givat Hadasha settlement, northwest of Jerusalem. The policy of demolishing houses in East Jerusalem continued as bulldozers of the Jerusalem Municipality demolished the house of a Palestinian inhabitant named Abdallah Al Salaima at Wad Kaddum village in east Jerusalem under the pretext that the house was built without a permit.

March 9, 2000

- ARIJ field workers spotted the expansion of Maon settlement (Hebron district).

March 10, 2000

- According to *Al-Quds* daily newspaper, Extremist Jewish Associations are seeking to build a new settlement neighborhood near Gilo tunnel, between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, by constructing 2000 housing units over 253 dunums of land.

March 11, 2000

- Jewish settlers of Shvut Rahel prohibited a Palestinian inhabitant named Moussa Ahmad (73 years old) from Qaryut village near Nablus, from entering his land, in an attempt to expand their settlement.

March 12, 2000

- Abdel Hadi Hantash of the Palestinian Land Defense Committee in Hebron District reported that the Israeli authority delivered eviction orders to Palestinian citizens from the villages of Yatta and Idhna.

March 14, 2000

- Israel and the Palestinian authority agreed on maps detailing the upcoming Israeli redeployment in the West Bank. The two sides agreed to carry out the redeployment, which will cover over 6.1% of the West Bank.

March 15, 2000

- The security cabinet approved the map of the next IDF withdrawal in which 6.1% of the West Bank will be transferred to full Palestinian control (Area A)- 5.1% that is currently under Israeli security control (Area B) and 1 % that is under complete Israeli control (Area C).The areas to be transferred to the Palestinians include:
 1. The area of the village of salfit, south of the city-settlement of Ariel.
 2. The town of Halhoul, north of Hebron.
 3. The area of the village of Bani Na'im, east of Hebron.
 4. An area inhabited by tens of thousands of Palestinians in the southern Mount Hebron area around the villages and towns of Dura, Dahariya, Yatta and Sumua.
 5. The villages of Al 'Ubeidiya, Dar Salah, and Ash Shawawra, near Bethlehem.
 6. The town of Beitunia, near Ramallah.
 7. Some villages from Jenin District.
- So, the Palestinian Authority fully controls 18.2% of the West Bank (Area A) and has civil controls over 24,7% (Area B). Meanwhile, PM Ehud Barak has decided that the Palestinian village of Anata, which borders Jerusalem, will not be transferred to full Palestinian control as part of the next IDF withdrawal in the West Bank. Several notices were dispatched to Palestinian families in 'Izbat at Tabib village, in Qalqiliya District. The notices warned demolition of eight Palestinian houses under the allegation that they had been built without a permit.

March 19, 2000

- Jewish investors are planning to build some 5,000 housing units on the land (estimated at 1,200 dunums) of Walajeh village on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem. About half of the land, falls within the jurisdiction of the Jerusalem municipality, while the other half is in the West Bank Territory designated as Area C, under full Israeli control.
- In Nablus District, the settlers of Bracha accompanied by Israeli border police destroyed scores of dunums of fertile land near Khillet Al Samery hamlet. Also, according to Israeli surveyors, a new military order has been issued to expropriate 600 dunums of land from Bidya village, southwest of Nablus.

March 20, 2000

- The Israeli government issued a demolition order to the Palestinian inhabitant Khaled at Tabib's house in Izbat at Tabib village in Nablus District.

March 21, 2000

- Israel handed over 6.1% of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority as part of the final stage of the second withdrawal. The territories involved include a large chunk of territory around Hebron, and slivers of areas near Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus, Jericho, Tulkarm, and Jenin.

March 23, 2000

- The Israeli Civil Administration announced that hundreds of dunums had been confiscated from Palestinian lands in Ramallah District, in an attempt to open a settlement by-pass road linking Beit El settlement with Ofra.

March 24, 2000

- The Jerusalem Municipality approved a major plan to confiscate 700 dunums belonging to Palestinian citizens in Arab East Jerusalem. The land seizure will be used for constructing a by-pass road connecting West Jerusalem and settlements located East of Arab Jerusalem, so as to separate East Jerusalem from the rest of the Palestinian land.

March 25, 2000

- The Israeli government commenced work for the extension of an 8-km long sewage pipe at Wadi Qana, west of Salfit. The sewage pipe which starts from Immanuel settlement, near Derestia village, to inside the Green Line threatens to damage over 13,000 dunums of Arab land in Salfit and Qalqiliya Districts.

March 26, 2000

- According to an article appeared in *Al-Ayyam* daily stating that the Israeli Housing Ministry are planning to build 1600 settlement housing units in Mod'in settlement , in order to expand the settlement .

March 27, 2000

- An article appeared in *Al-Quds* daily stating that Bethlehem City and its nearby villages are currently exposed to a fierce settlement campaign aimed at imposing a new defacto position as the final-status is being launched, whereas, Jewish settlers are building one hundred housing units at Daniel settlement, near Bethlehem. While in Beit Jala, another 200 housing units are under construction.

March 28, 2000

- The Israeli High Court of Justice ordered the state to allow 700 Palestinian cave dwellers expelled in November by the army, to return to their homes in the south Hebron Hills.

March 29, 2000

- Just after the decision of the Israeli High Court on returning the 700 Palestinian cave dwellers near Yatta, to return to their home, Jewish settlers from Maon, erected two tents at a hilltop in Hebron District, in an attempt to settle there.

March 30, 2000

- The Israeli Interior Ministry reported that 411 ID cards were confiscated from Palestinian Jerusalemites during the period of July 1999 - March 2000. Of these ID cards, 121 were revoked because their holders had moved to the West Bank and Gaza, and 290 were found living abroad. According to Palestinian sources, Jewish Associations are planning to purchase a hotel only few meters away from the church of the holy Sepulcher in the old quarters of Jerusalem, as a preparation to establish a new Jewish settlement in Jerusalem.

District	Land Confiscated	Land Threatened	Uprooted Trees	House Demolished	Threatened House
Hebron	0	200	0	0	0
Jerusalem	0	700	0	1	0
Qalqilyia	0	0	0	0	0
Nablus	600	0	0	0	1
Total	600	900	0	1	9

The Monthly review 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.

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