

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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

Volume 32, March 2001 Issue

<http://www.arij.org>

March 1, 2001

- In Ramallah District, Jewish settlers confiscated more than 4000 dunums of agricultural land owned by villagers from Sinjil, north east of Ramallah. This land, cultivated with agricultural crops and vegetables, is located between the three Jewish settlements: Shilo, Eli and Maale Levona. According to the villagers, the aim of the confiscation is to establish a new settlement center that will include the three villagers in order to prevent the geographical continuity between Ramallah, Al Bireh and Nablus Districts. Jewish settlers tried to seize this land several times before but without any success. *Quds*
- Israeli occupation authorities continued to bulldoze Jerzeem Mountain, in Nablus District, for the fifth consecutive month, since the outbreak of Al Aqsa Intifada. The destruction comprised tens of dunums of forested land. *Quds*
- An Israeli military magazine unveiled a plan that the Israeli army is intending to dig a trench around Jenin city in order to enforce the blockade on it and to prevent the Palestinians from exiting the city. *Quds*
- Portable military roadblocks have been established at the entrances of 'Ein 'Arik, Beit Liqya, Kharbatha al Misbah, Beit 'Ur at Tahta and Saffa villages, in Ramallah District. ARIJ fieldworker

March 2, 2001

- An article appeared in *Al-Quds* newspaper stating that the Regional Council "Megilliot" is planning for a large project under the name of "Developing the Eastern area of the Dead Sea". The project includes the erection of an international airport, which will be called "Megilliot" and a tourist destination north of the Dead Sea.

- According to *Jerusalem Post* daily, PM Ehud Barak orders police to tell the Islamic Waqf (Muslim Religious Trust) to halt the alleged construction on top of antiquities on the Temple Mount, along the Eastern Wall.

March 4, 2001

- According to *Al-Ayyam* newspaper, a Jewish colonist ran over a Palestinian youth Ra'ed Ribhi Al Zakrawi, 27 years old, while he was walking in Hebron-Jerusalem road, near the crossroad of Beit Ummar village, north of Hebron. Al Zakrawi suffered severe wounds on his body, and he was sent to Hadasa Hospital.

March 7, 2001

- Jewish settlers accompanied by Israeli occupation army captured a hilltop in Ya'bad village, in Jenin District in order to establish a new Jewish settlement. According to Palestinian sources, the settlers set up six mobile houses in the area and uprooted a number of trees. The establishment of the new settlement came less than two hours after the new Israeli PM Ariel Sharon assumed power. *PIC*
- Israeli occupation army started to dig more than 200 m of Birzeit-Ramallah road in the location of 'Ein Al Sheikh Yousef, southeast of Surda village, and erected a new military post to prevent the passage of Palestinian cars. Moreover, a new roadblock was established on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road, and other roadblocks have been erected opposite Beit El military camp and settlement, near Nablus road. *ARIJ fieldworker*

March 8, 2001

- In Jenin District, a group of Jewish settlers erected two new mobile homes near Mevo Dotan settlement, south of Ya'bad village, where they also set up another two homes several weeks ago. *Quds*
- The Israeli Interior Ministry published a report in Jerusalem showing that the number of Jewish settlers in year 2000 increased by 8% (an increase of about 15,000 persons). Thus, the number of Jewish settlers at the end of December 2000 reached 203,064. In 1999, the colonist population increased 13.2%, amounting to 187,600 persons by year's end. Under Barak's tenure (June 1999-March 2001), the number of settlers increased by 12%, that is 33,419 persons.

The number of Jewish settlers according to the Israeli Interior Ministry:

#	Name of Jewish settlement	December 1999	December 2000	Increase	%of Increase
1	Alfei Menashe	4,607	4,776	169	3.66
2	Oranit	4,626	4,920	924	6.35
3	Elkana	3,169	3,221	52	1.64
4	Efrat	6,360	6,556	196	3.08
5	Arial	15,414	16,511	1,097	7.11
6	Beit El	2,310	2,375	65	2.81
7	Betar Illit	12,662	15,779	3,117	24.61
8	Benyamin	24,608	26,684	2,076	8.43
9	Jordan Valley	3,291	3,355	64	1.94
10	Givat Zeev	10,193	10,469	276	2.7
11	Gush Etzion	9,078	9,927	849	9.35
12	Har Adar	1,429	1,482	53	3.7
13	Har Hevron	4,244	4,344	100	2.35
14	Hebron	450	479	29	6.44
15	Qiryat Arba	5,713	5,842	129	2.25
16	Gaza Beaches	6,607	6,971	264	5.5
17	Maale Adumim	24,922	26,104	1,182	4.74
18	Maale Efrayim	1,647	1,679	32	1.94
19	Emmanuel	3,600	3,537	-63	-1.75
20	Kadumim	2,758	2,874	116	4.2
21	Qiryat Sefer	12,540	16,075	3,535	28.18
22	Karne Shomeron	5,852	6,169	317	5.41
23	Shomeron	16,764	17,821	1,057	6.3
24	Megillot	886	923	37	4.17
Total		187,600	203,068	15,468	8.26

Source: Al-Quds newspaper, March 9th2001

- According to the report, the Israeli Ministry of Housing began construction on 1,943 new housing units in settlements in the year 2000. The Housing Ministry also revealed that, of the 2000 housing units on the Abu Ghneim Mountain (Har Homa settlement) that are on the market, 632 have been sold. *Quds*

March 9, 2001

- The Jerusalem Municipality endorsed a plan last week for establishing a new settlement neighborhood in Abu Dis. The Jewish millionaire Arveine

Mosckovitch in Jerusalem demanded to set up this neighborhood. The neighborhood, called Kidmat Tzion, will include the erection of 220 housing units on an estimated 63 dunums of Palestinian land, opposite Abu Deis University. *Quds*

- The Jerusalem Municipality is planning to intensify its policy of demolishing Palestinian houses that were built without permits in East Jerusalem. The plan includes the demolition of about 21 Palestinian buildings at the first stage. According to data released by the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories “*Btselem*,” 21 Palestinian houses were demolished in East Jerusalem during 1999 and 9 houses were demolished in 2000. Moreover, according to estimates from the Municipality, there are about 700 demolition orders in East Jerusalem for houses that have no permits. *Quds*
- The Israeli Ministry of Construction and Organization in Jerusalem endorsed a plan to build 120 new housing units on the southern hills of the Gilo settlement, opposite Beit Jala village, in Bethlehem District. The project is going to be established on tens of dunums of land. Moreover, several construction plans are being reviewed to erect about 300 housing units in Gilo and a further 1500 units in the same place at a later date. *Quds*
- In Nablus District, The settlers of Rachel, which erected on Jalud and Qaryut village land, commenced to bulldoze wide areas of land in preparation to seize them. Also, Israeli occupation forces accompanied by Israeli Border Police started to damage hundreds of dunums from ‘Atouf village and imposed concrete blocks at the entrance of the village to prevent the passage of the Palestinians. In Tulkarm District, the settlers of Aveni Hefetz built on Shoufa village land, prohibited Palestinian farmers from working on their land that is close to the settlement. Eyewitnesses mentioned that a group of settlers protected by Israeli army impeded Tahseen Hamed and his family and other villagers from cultivating their lands in Al ‘Akda and Khillet Al Sheikh hamlets. *Quds*
- In Bethlehem District, Israeli occupation bulldozers began to damage wide areas of land in Abu Sard hamlet, in Al Khader village, which is classified as Area C. According to the villagers, the Israeli army started to lay down cement materials on the ground and paved the bypass roads in order to link them with road # 60. In addition, Israeli army demolished a Palestinian commercial shop in Al Eskan hamlet in Beit Jala village owned by Khaled Ma’ali. Also the Israeli bulldozers demolished the retaining walls located in front of the shop. *Jadeeda*

March 10, 2001

- In Bethlehem District, Israeli occupation authorities began to open a new 400 m bypass road between the Palestinian schools and road #60 in Al Khader village in order to protect Jewish settlers in the area. Israeli occupation forces continued to bulldoze Palestinian land in Al Khader village close to the Israeli military camp. This action had prevented many Palestinian farmers from reaching their land (See also 9th March, 2001). Moreover, in Hebron District, Israeli occupation forces burned tens of dunums of agricultural land in which they sprayed the crops with toxic materials and confiscated 40 heads of sheep owned by Abdel Rahman At Tamizi from Idhna village.
- The Israeli Civil Administration sent confiscation orders to Palestinian lands located on the borders between Jenin and Moukibla close to the Green Line (Armistice Line 1949). The warnings include the confiscation of wide areas of agricultural lands located in parcel #5, plot 1/11, west of Al Jalama village, in Jenin District. The Civil Administration claimed that the aim of the expropriation is to establish a permanent separation between Jenin and the Green Line. However, the villagers were surprised with these decisions and refused to accept them. Meanwhil, in Ya'bad village, Jenin, Israeli occupation authorities established a new Jewish settlement on hundreds of dunums of confiscated Palestinian land where they set up six new caravans. They also opened a new by-pass road in Arraba village in order to connect the new settlement with Shaked and Rehan settlements. *Quds*
- The Hebron Municipality protested against the construction work that is taking place in Tel Rumeida settlement, in Hebron District, and where Jewish settlers had erected a number of permanent mobile homes on the site few days ago. *Quds*
- A group of Jewish settlers from Givat Hamatos stormed the Palestinian house of Al Hajeh Shiha Salah from Beit Safafa neighborhood, in Jerusalem District and set fire to it and a farm next to the house. Large amounts of wheat, barley and bran were burned in addition to a livestock shed that contained 20 head of sheep, all killed in the blaze. *Quds*
- According to *ARIJ fieldworker* in Ramallah District, Israeli bulldozers of Dolev and Talmon block settlements continued to damage wide areas of Al-Janiya village and started to cultivate it with grapevine trees; Almost all the farmers from Al-Janiya own parts of the 500 dunums of land destroyed in the action. In addition, Israeli bulldozers accompanied by Israeli soldiers began to open a new settlement by-pass road that will connect Talmon group with road # 455, west of Ras Karkar village. The opening of this by-pass road required the uprooting of more than 60 fully-grown olive trees belonging to seven Palestinian villagers.

March 11, 2001

- Itamar settlement, which is established on Palestinian lands of 'Awarta, Roujib, Yanun and Beit Furik villages, is undergoing an expansion campaign in which the Israeli army has bulldozed and confiscated wide areas of agricultural land. Israel confiscated about 12,000 dunums from 'Awarta village, which is about 60% of its total area, for the construction of Itamar settlement. *Quds*
- Today, the Israeli army imposed a total siege on Palestinian villages within the Occupied Territories, adding 90 new, armed roadblocks and checkpoints to separate Palestinian cities from those under Israeli control. The siege was especially tightened on Ramallah District, one of the main cities of the West Bank. 25 Palestinian villages and their 65,000 residents have been affected by this closure. They have dug a trench that is about 150 meters in length and imposed a blockade beginning from Surda village up to Birzeit town. The siege affected particularly the villages of El Mazra'a El Qibliya, Abu Qash, koubar and Abu Shkheidem. Thus, this total siege prevents any access to or out of the areas by vehicles; *Haaretz & Islamic Association for Palestine*
- In Hebron District, Israeli occupation authorities captured a Palestinian house in the Old City of Hebron owned by the brothers Yassin and Mahmoud Abu Sneneh. They transformed it into a military barrack and erected a post on its roof. *Jadeeda*

March 12, 2001

- In Jerusalem District, Israeli occupation bulldozers demolished the retaining walls belonging to Ismael Al Qawasmi from Wadi Qaddum hamlet in Silwad village, under the pretext of being built without a permit. *Quds*
- Jewish settlers accompanied by Israeli Border Police destroyed wide areas of agricultural land in Al Khader village, Bethlehem District, and chopped down about 200 vine trees belonged to Palestinian farmers from khillet Al fahm and Salman hamlets (See also 9th & 10th March, 2001). *Jadeeda*
- According to *ARIJ fieldworker* in Ramallah District, the Israeli army uprooted 150 olive trees belonging to eight Palestinian families from 'Abud village, in Al Bayiad hamlet.
- Israeli occupation authorities issued a military order to confiscate 15 dunums of land from Beit Kahil village, in Hebron District, for security purposes. *ARIJ fieldworker*

March 13, 2001

- Israeli occupation army seized pieces of land on Isbeh Mountain, east of the crossroad of Za'atara in Nablus District. The Palestinian villager Dr. Moussa Abdel Mou'ti Al Bitawi owns the land. *Quds*
- In Hebron District, Israeli occupation forces demolished two Palestinian houses from Beit Ummar village, 9 kilometers north of Hebron. The first 160-m² houses which belonged to Wajih Hmeid Abu Mariya shelters 12 members and received the order in previous time. The other house is owed by Nasim Al-'Alami and houses eight persons. Palestinian sources reported that the demolition took place in the early morning without previous warnings. According to eyewitnesses from the village, the Israeli army also demolished an agricultural nursery that belongs to Al-'Arrub Agricultural Institute. *ARIJ fieldworker, PIC & Jadeeda*
- Israeli occupation authorities issued a military order to confiscate 15 dunums of land from Beit Kahil village, in Hebron District for security purposes. *Fieldworker*

March 14, 2001

- In Ramallah District, Israeli occupation forces captured a four-floor Palestinian building in Rafat village that belonged to Shawkat Moustafa 'Omar and transformed it into a military barrack. According to 'Omar, the Israeli forces set up a tent on the roof of the building in addition to a number of sacks of sand. *Quds*
- A group of settlers from Yizhar demolished a Palestinian stable owned by Jihad Hamdan from Huwwara village, in Nablus District. According to Hamdan, the settlers tried to demolish it one month ago but the villagers succeeded in impeding them. However this time they were protected by Israeli army and carried out the order. Moreover, Israeli bulldozers continued to dig more trenches at the entrances of Beit Furik, Beit Dajan, Salim, 'Azmut and Deir Al Hatab villages, Nablus District. *Jadeeda*
- In Qalqiliya District, Palestinian villagers of Sanniriya confronted and obstructed Jewish settlers and Israeli bulldozers that tried to bulldoze wide areas of the village, in an attempt to annexed the land to Etz Efrayim settlement . The lands area is estimated at 80 dunums and is planted with olive trees belonging to Ahmad Sa'ed and Jamal Younes. *Jadeeda*
- A report published by the Palestinian Land Defense Committee revealed that the Israeli occupation forces destroyed about 370 dunums of land cultivated with agricultural crops in the Tammun plain that separates Tubas from the Eastern Valleys. The bulldozed land is owned by tens of Palestinian villagers from Tammun village.
- According to Palestinian sources, a group of Jewish settlers accompanied by the rightist Knesset member, Beni Eiyaloun, captured a Palestinian

house in East Jerusalem. The house's Palestinian owners died ten years ago, and a Palestinian villager from Hebron came and settled there until the Israeli police came and expelled him from the house. *Jadeeda*

- According to *ARIJ fieldworker*, Israeli occupation authorities set up a new caravan in the Jewish outpost of Magan David, located 3 km east of Susiya settlement, in Hebron District.
- Israeli occupation authorities accompanied by Jewish settlers from Kharsina, east of Hebron set up electrical poles around Palestinian land owned by Ayyoub Jaber from Al Baq'a village. They also confiscated 100 dunums of land that is owned by Ayyoub Jaber and other villagers from Yatta one month ago. *ARIJ fieldworker*
- Israeli occupation authorities seized a 30-dunum piece of land cultivated with 150 olive trees in Beita village, south of Nablus. The confiscated land belonged to Dr. Moussa Abdel mou'ti Al Bitawi, who stated that he has documents proving his ownership to the land. *Jadeeda*

March 15, 2001

- An article appeared in *Al-Quds* newspaper stating that Israeli bulldozers began to raze a 2-dunum plot of land in Wadi Al Joz village, north of the industrial area, in an attempt to confiscate it. The land belonged to Mohammad and Zuhair Siam. Eyewitnesses said that Israeli forces confiscated other pieces of land from Lifta village owned by the Hams, 'Aqel and Jaber families and also confiscated construction materials.

March 16, 2001

- According to official sources, The Israeli Local Committee for Planning and Construction in Jerusalem is going to endorse (on March 19, 2001) a plan for the construction of 2832 housing units in the new neighborhood of Abu Ghneim Mountain (Har Homa settlement). This is in addition to 2,334 housing units already slated for construction by the committee (See also 8th March 2001); *Quds*

March 18, 2001

- Israeli bulldozers, protected by Israeli Border Police and Jewish settlers, bulldozed pieces of lands located between Wadi ar Rasha and Ras at Tira villages, in Tulkarm District, in preparation to open a new by-pass road leading to Alfei Menashe settlement. This action resulted in the uprooting of dozens of olive trees belonging to a several villagers. The villagers of Ras 'Atiya and 'Azzun attempted to impede this step, but failed. *Quds*

- According to eyewitnesses, the Israeli authorities started to expand Shavei Shomron settlement located between Jenin and Nablus, close to Deir Sharaf village, in Nablus District. The witnesses reported seeing a number of lorries carrying 18 portable housing units that are to be installed in the settlement. *Quds*
- The Jerusalem city council rejected an appeal against the establishment of a Jewish neighborhood in the Abu Dis village, east of Jerusalem. The new settlement neighborhood will be established close to the Palestinian parliament building in the village. The new plan involves the construction of 200 new settlement -housing units and will be set up on private land owned by Jews and by the Jewish National Fund. A small portion of the area belongs to the Jewish millionaire Irving Moskowitz. *Haaretz*
- In Hebron District, the Jewish settlers of Bet Iyen attacked Palestinian farmers in Jab'a village while they were reclaiming and cultivating their lands, opening fire on them. They also destroyed the main water lines that supply Halhoul Palestinian villagers and prevented the Municipality from fixing it. *Jadeeda*

March 19, 2001

- Jewish settlers, protected by Israeli Border Police, expelled the 35-year-old Palestinian villager Mohammad Abu Shamleh while he was reclaiming and cultivating his land that is located south of Ya'bad village, in Jenin District. Israeli forces intend to confiscate his land and expand the newly erected settlement there. According to eyewitnesses, the new settlement, which is inhabited by six families, is currently living in caravans. *Quds*

March 20, 2001

- Israeli occupation forces are escalating their aggressive policy against Palestinian lands in Hebron District. They started to open a new 18 km road close to the crossroad leading to As Samu' village, south of Hebron. At the same time, Jewish settlers accompanied by Israeli border police cut down more than 200 olive trees from Al Jab'a village, close to Kfar Etzion settlement, south of Bethlehem. According to villagers, about 100 dunums of land cultivated with citrus and olive trees were bulldozed in these two days by the Israeli army. The bulldozed land belonged to the following villagers: Yousef Abu 'Eideh, Mohamed Swelem, Ayyoub Al Zouwedi and other farmers from the Ad Da'our and 'Akasheh families. *Ayyam*
- In Tulkarm District, Israeli heavy machinery bulldozed a piece of land in Shoufa village, close to Aveni Hefetz settlement that is owned by the Hamed family in an attempt to expand the settlement. Meanwhile, Israeli

bulldozers damaged wide areas of land and uprooted trees along the by-pass road that connects Mehola settlement with Maale Efrayim, south of An Nassariya village, in Nablus District. Eyewitnesses mentioned that Israeli bulldozers uprooted dozens of olive trees located on both sides of the by-pass road. In addition, Israeli bulldozers completed the digging of the 5-km length trench in Al Baqi'a Plain, Jenin. Bashar 'Owdeh, the Mayor of Tammun village in Nablus District, stated that the trench isolated more than 40,000 dunums of land in the Eastern Valleys and damaged about 7,000 dunums of planted cropland. In Ramallah District, Israeli bulldozers commenced to destroy Palestinian land in Ras karkar village in order to open a new by-pass road that will lead to Talmon settlement. Part of the bulldozed land belongs to the Islamic Waqf. According to the Palestinian Land Defense Committee in Bethlehem District, the settlers of Gavaot, which is constructed on land of the Gab'a hamlet (close to Nahhalin village, south of Bethlehem) destroyed about 15 dunums of land located towards the east, and they cut down about 200 olive nurslings that belonged to Nabil Hamdan. *Quds*

- Israeli occupation authorities declared the confiscation of more than 20 dunums of land from Beituniya village, in order to expand Ofer military camp; *Fieldworker & Quds*

March 21, 2001

- The executive director of the Palestinian Hydrology Group Dr. Ayiman Al-Rabbi announced that the Palestinian water sector is facing difficult conditions since the outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada. Al-Rabbi reported that about 20% of the Palestinian built-up areas are suffering from a hard water shortage, due to the Israeli actions that cut off water from a number of Palestinian cities and villages. He also pointed out that Jewish settlements play a major role in polluting the Palestinian ground water by throwing toxic waste in water basins. The report showed that about 80% of ground water resources are dominated by Israeli, leading to a water shortage in the Palestinian territories. *Quds*
- In Nablus District, Israeli bulldozers began to build new military barracks on Jerzeem Mountain near Nablus city. At the beginning of Al-Aqsa Intifada, Israeli forces set-up a military post on the mountain that later became a military base used to bombard Nablus city and its surrounding villages with heavy missiles (See also 1st March 2001). *Quds*

March 22, 2001

- The Israeli occupation forces installed a new watchtower on the previously bulldozed security road running alongside route 60 in Al Khadr village; A stretch of land belonging to Dr. AL-'Araj family was bulldozed by the Israeli army in Beit Jala village, approx. two days earlier.
- The Israeli Planning and Construction Committee in Jerusalem approved the second stage of the building project in Abu Ghneim Mountain (Har Homa settlement) southeast of Jerusalem that involves the construction of 2800 new settlement -housing units (see also 8th & 16th March). *Quds*
- In Jenin District, Israeli heavy machines started to bulldoze lands owned by Palestinian villagers from Al- Jalama village. The 11.5 dunums of bulldozed land that belongs to the Abu Farha family had been declared confiscated land by the Israeli authorities on March 1, 2001. At the same time, Israeli forces cut down 200 fully-grown olive trees (with electrical saws) from Biddya & Kafr Al- Dik villages, in Nablus District. This was meant as punishment for the burning of two caravans that were set-up in the area for colonization activities. Furthermore, in Bethlehem District, Israeli occupation authorities escalated its policy of damaging the agricultural crops cultivated in Al-Khader village, adjoining Efrat, Daniyyel and Elazar settlements (See also 9th, 10th & 12 March 2001). They also bulldozed and uprooted a number of grape vines from Husan village close to Elazar settlement. Landowners reported that 700 vine trees were completely chopped down. Of these trees, 600 belonged to Talha Da'dou' and 100 to Moussa Nafe'. *Quds*.

March 23, 2001

- An article appeared in *Ha'aretz* newspaper stating that the Israeli Housing Ministry has recently issued a master plan for the construction of a new Jewish settlement in the West Bank that will be called Gavaot. The new settlement , which is planned to hold 6,000 new settlement -housing units, will be established on Nahalin village land, located in the Gush Etzion Block (south of Jerusalem) between Betar Illit and Allon Shevut settlements . The Ministry also plans to offer a detailed project proposal for the building of 2,000 housing units in Gavaot settlement as a first stage, which they hope to be accepted in the near future (See also 20th March). *Ayyam, Jadeeda & Haaretz*

March 24, 2001

- Israeli occupation army uprooted a number of olive trees belonging to a number of Palestinian villagers from Bidyya, in Salfit District. The villagers reported that the army carried out this step during the night

(using electrical saws) in reaction to the burning of two mobile houses that had been set up in the area for colonization purposes. *Quds*

March 26, 2001

- In Tulkarm District, Israeli heavy machinery continued to expand Aveni Hefetz settlement that is constructed on Shoufa village land. According to the villagers, Israeli bulldozers opened new by-pass roads on Palestinian village land cultivated with olive and almonds trees and owned by Abdel 'Aziz Droubi and Abu Baker Hamed in addition to the beginning of adding new housing units in Na'im Hanoun's land. Furthermore, Israeli occupation authorities increased its effort to confiscate more Palestinian land and open new by-pass roads in Al-Khader village, in Bethlehem District. They bulldozed wide areas from Al Seder hamlet in order to erect a new military camp besides the existing one that was established earlier on the western side of Al-Khader village adjoining road #60 (See also 9th, 10th, 12th & 22nd March 2001).

March 27, 2001

- The settlers of Itamar, built on the land of Beit Furik, Salim, 'Azmut and Beit Dajan villages, in Nablus District, bulldozed about 200 dunums of Palestinian agricultural land near the settlement, They uprooted 200 fully grown olive trees belonged to farmers from Beit Furik. The villager Abdel Latif Khatabteh was surprised as Israeli army accompanied by the settlers destroyed his 40-dunum piece of land and prevented him from entering it. The action is meant to expand Itamar settlement on Beit Furik land. *Quds*
- Israeli occupation forces set up a number of mobile homes on the hilltop of Jerzeem Mountain near Nablus City, its eastern villages and camps. Moreover, Israeli bulldozers continued to damage wide areas of the Mountain for the sixth consecutive month. This post has been used as a military post for the Israeli bombardment (See also 1st & 21st March). *Quds*

March 28, 2001

- In Hebron District, extremist Jewish settlers burned more than 12 commercial shops, a number of Palestinian houses, and two fire engines belonging to the Hebron Municipality in the Old City of Hebron. *Jadeeda & Ayyam*
- According to *ARIJ fieldworker* in Hebron District, the settlers of Qiryat Arba returned for the second time to about 200 dunums of Palestinian land

north of Kharsina settlement and erected a tent there. Israeli authorities seized this land by the master project plan issued in 1998. They are also planning to establish a tourist hotel and construct about 200 settlement housing units on the site in order to develop a suburb of Kharsina settlement .

March 29, 2001

- The Israeli Military Administration in the West Bank issued a military order to confiscate 100 dunums of land planted with olive and almond trees southeast of Qalqiliya, in order to open a new military by-pass road that will start from a military post near Alfei Menashe settlement and will end close to the District Coordination Office (DCO). The new by-pass road will be 1.5 km long and 80 m wide, and will be opened on Palestinian land that belongs to a number of Palestinian villagers from Qalqiliya. *Quds*
- In Hebron District, Jewish settlers captured a 200-dunum plot of land from Al-Bwreh hamlet and erected a tent on the land. They also expropriated hundreds of dunums of agricultural land located in Wadi Al-Semsem hamlet, close to Adh Dhahiriya village, in preparation to expand Tene settlement. *Quds*
- The settlers of Revava and Yakir, constructed on Palestinian land of Salfit village, confiscated 65 dunums from Deir Istiya village, in Salfit District, aiming to open a new 1300 m long by-pass road for Jewish settlers. The expropriated land belongs to the Islamic Waqf (Muslim Religious Trust). *Jadeeda*

March 30, 2001

- The Israeli Construction and Organization Committee in Jerusalem is going to discuss on April 1st 2001 a new plan to build 392 new housing units on 25 dunums of land close to St. Elias Church, near Bethlehem city. The land is within the southern boundary of Jerusalem and close to Abu Ghneim Mountain (Har Homa settlement). Israeli sources claimed that the land was bought from a Palestinian resident ten years ago and is now under an Israeli ownership. *Quds & Haaretz*

District	Land Confiscated	Land Threatened	Uprooted/Confiscated/ Burnt/razed trees	Demolished Houses	Threatened House
Ramallah	4520	0	210	0	0
Jerusalem	2	63	0	0	0
Bethlehem	115	0	1300	0	0
Hebron	215	0	0	2	0
Qalqilyah	100	80	3500	0	0
Nablus	270	0	550	0	0
Jenin	11.5	0	0	0	0
Salfit	65	0	0	0	0
Total	5298.5	143	5560	2	0

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