

**The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ)
Reporting on
Israeli Activities in the occupied Palestinian territory**

December 2014



General Glance

The year 2014 is described to be the worst yet for Palestinians. Israeli violations in the occupied Palestinian territory remain to be the major obstacles to a safe a secure Palestinian society. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli relentlessly attack the 362 kilometer square area numerous and viscosly, the ultimate attack of happened between the months of July and august and resulted in the killing of more than 2147 Palestinians, and injuring more than 11000 others; causing to many of which permanent disability. In addition to that the war caused the destruction of thousands of houses and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people.

Still, Israel remained forced and more particulate about its activities in the West Bank; which it carried out through an issued series of military orders to impose its agenda and violation and to continue its land confiscation policy (7263 dunums), house demolition strategy (509, including structures and houses) and uprooting trees (10596 trees) but more than that it remained steadfast to its settlements' construction policy as it issued plans and tenders for some 16704 housing units in the West Bank and Jerusalem in particular in violation to the international law and the international pressure to seize it settlements related activities. Israeli also remained supportive of the Israeli settlers' attacks in the West Bank, as the Army and the State remain disregarding the settlers' organized attacks against the villages with 764 attacks registered throughout the West Bank.

The following chart 1 summarizes the Israeli activities all over the occupied territory during the year 2014.

Violation Type	Confiscated Lands/Dunums		Uprooted Trees		Demolished Houses		Threatened Houses & structures	
	West Bank	Jerusalem	W.B	Jerusalem	W. B	Jerusalem	W. B	Jerusalem
Month/2014								
January	0	0	1895	0	88	7	25	22
February	349	0	4145	0	5	20	19	31
March	400	0	1665	0	1	12	17	3
April	1584	0	987	0	43	4	10	27
May	40	0	1366	0	17	4	41	0
June	0	0	35	0	11	1	15	5
July	16	0	0	0	3	0	36	0
August	3816.12	0	80	0	18	7	12	5
September	0	0	10	0	12	9	14	0
October	182	5.4	353	0	7	12	17	1
November	221	49.252	10	0	28	6	56	11
December	600	0	50	0	4	14	16	54
Total	7208	55	10596	0	236	96	278	159
Grand Total	7263		10596		333		447	

Source: The Urbanization Monitoring Department. ARIJ, 2014

Israeli violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in 2014:-

Demolition of Houses

Year after year, and throughout the prolonged history of the Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian Territory, the Israeli authorities intensified its systematic campaign of demolishing the Palestinian houses and structures. It's no exaggeration if we pointed that the demolition operations are taking place on a daily basis.

In the year 2014, the Israeli Occupation demolished 333 houses 96 (22.5%) of which in the eastern part of Jerusalem comparing with 276 houses demolished in the year 2013. Moreover, and after Gaza war Israeli intensified its demolition campaign against the Palestinian houses in general and in East Jerusalem in particular where 46 houses out of

93 that demolished in Jerusalem were targeted after Gaza war in June 2014 as a collective punishment for the Palestinian residents.

The Israeli demolishing policy contradicts with the international law rules concerning right of housing and living adequate conditions:

Art. 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 states that: No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited.

Moreover, Israel's house demolition policy in the occupied Palestinian territory was never based on military necessities as indicated in Article 53 of the Convention but merely on vindictive reasons as collective punishment and in Jerusalem; house demolition is carried out to clear Palestinian houses for the illegally built Israeli settlements.

Chart 2 shows the number of Palestinian's houses demolished in the West Bank and Jerusalem over the designated period of this report.

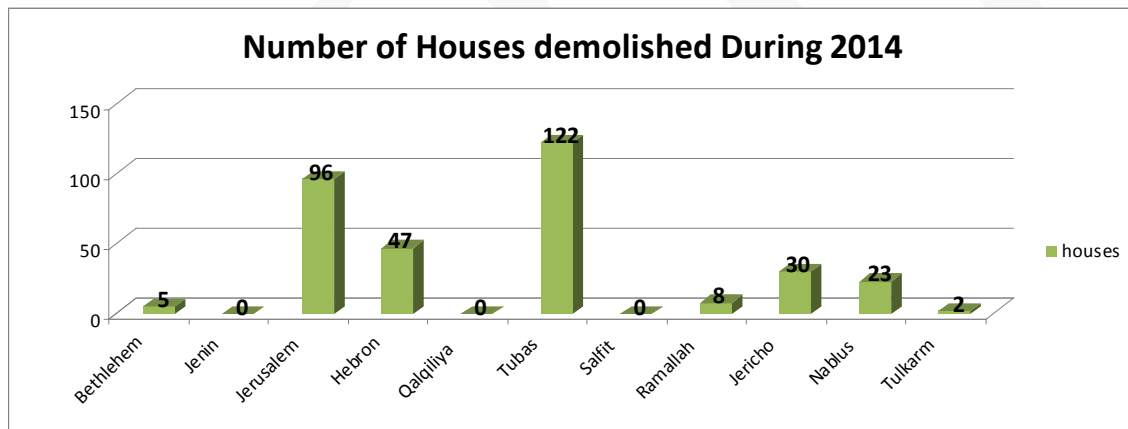


Chart 2: Demolished Palestinian Houses in occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem in 2014

Expropriation of Palestinian Lands

For Israel, there is no difference between the Palestine residents, their houses, lands trees, properties...etc, it's for Palestinian people and accordingly, constitute a legitimate target for the Israeli authorities to be targeted.

If we are talking about “Land”, we can easily notice the means, tools, measures, mechanism, that that occupation use to consolidate its capture of the Palestinian land in all parts of the Palestinian Territory including the Eastern part of the city of Jerusalem.

Certainly, the Segregation Wall that wrapping the Palestinian cities and communities considered as the main instrument fulfill its colonial and expansionist plans to expand the illegal settlements or to construct and increase the bypass roads network.

The year 2014 , witnessed an accelerated Israeli plans to expropriate as much as possible from the Palestinian lands , where during the year the Israeli occupation authorities confiscated 7263 dunums of Palestinian lands under several pretexts.

The pretexts for capturing more Palestinian lands varied between military purposes, security considerations and what is so-called “State Land”.

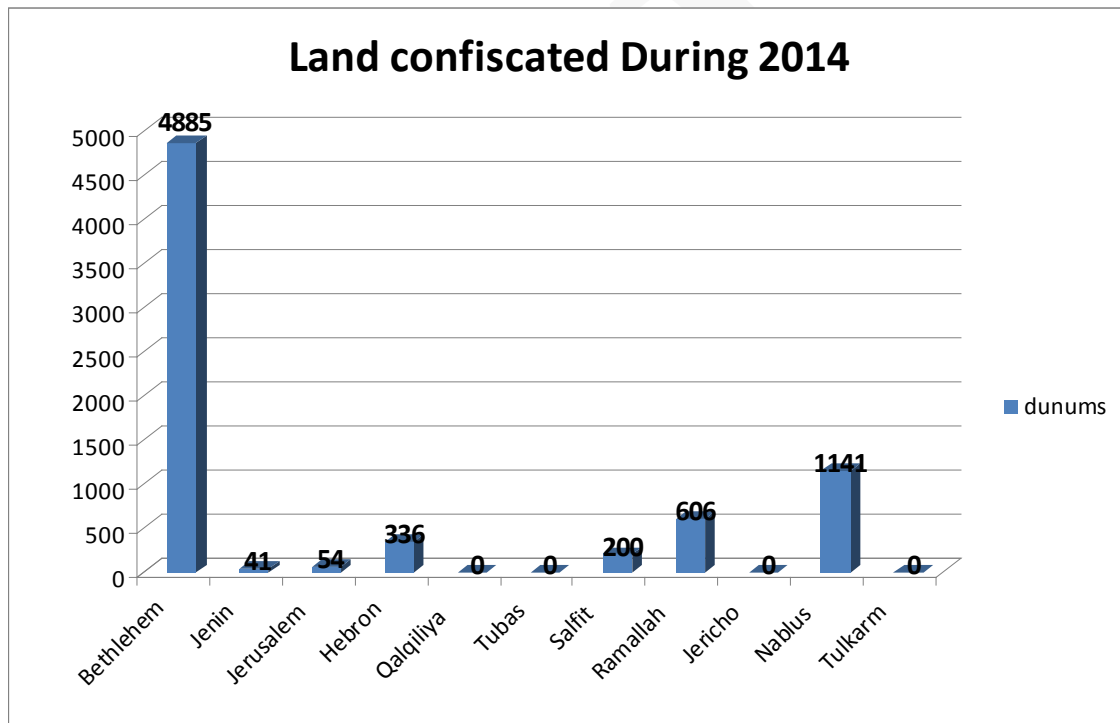


Chart 3: Confiscated Palestinian Land during the Year 2014

Uprooting of Palestinian Trees

The Palestinian trees and all kinds of plants were a legitimate target for the Israeli Occupation authorities, side by side, from the illegal Israeli settlers. The most significant Israeli persistence in destroying, setting fire and uprooting the Palestinian trees is what we can say that “Exchanging of roles” between the herd of the Israeli settlers and the Israeli Security and Military Bureau. The settlers wreaking havoc in the Palestinian agriculture lands, most often under the protection of the Israeli police or Army, with no legal consequences took place against the perpetrators.

In the year 2014, the Israeli Army uprooted 10596 trees.

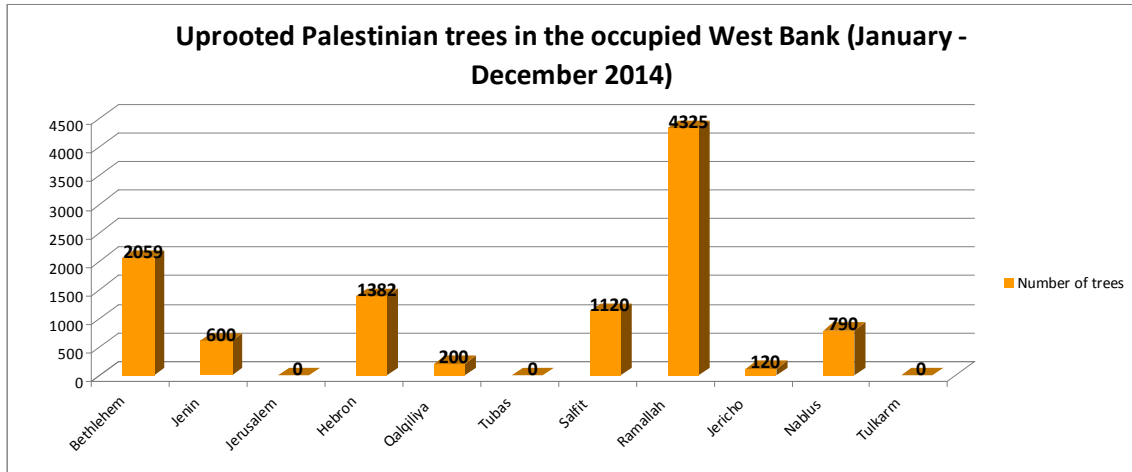


Chart 4: Uprooted Palestinian Trees in the occupied West Bank during the Year 2014

Israeli Military Orders - 2014 -

The inherent sin of confiscating the Palestinian owned lands, convicted by the Israeli Authorities as an occupation power, constitute a human and legal catastrophe. Seizing the Palestinian lands, whatever the justification is, contradict with the international law rules and human rights conventions.

During the year 2014, the Israeli authorities handed over the Palestinian residents in all parts of the West Bank 465 military orders stating the confiscation of 7262.8 dunums of Palestinian lands, most of which, for the interest of expanding the illegal settlements and legalizing new outposts. For the details of each confiscation refer to ARIJ daily reports. See chart 5 for State Land Confiscation:

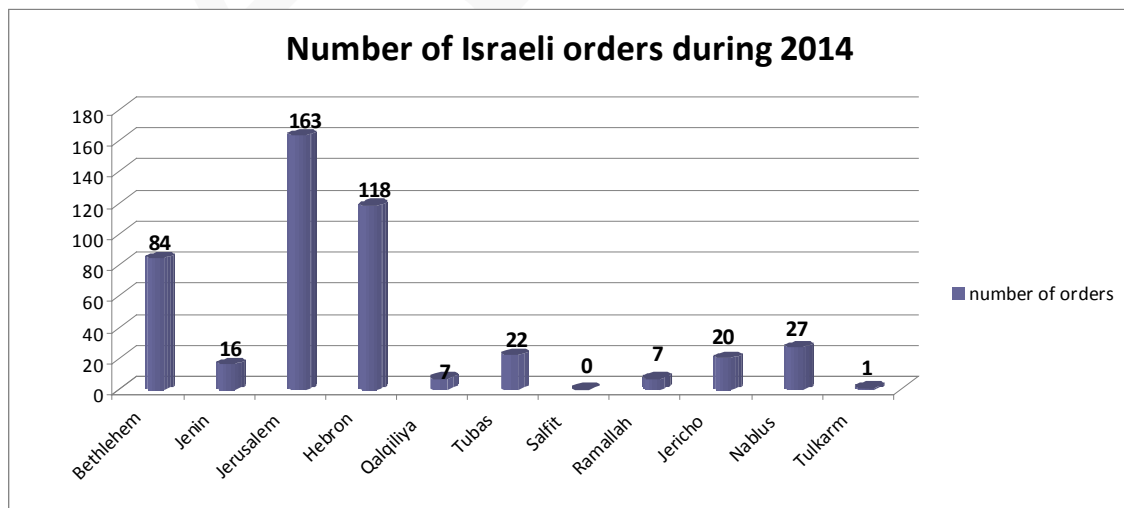


Chart 5: military orders issued according to Palestinian governorate during the Year 2014

Obviously, the “State Land” declaration raises the inquiry of Israel’s intention to reset the Segregation Wall route to the 2004 plan at the targeted location to expand its colonial plans

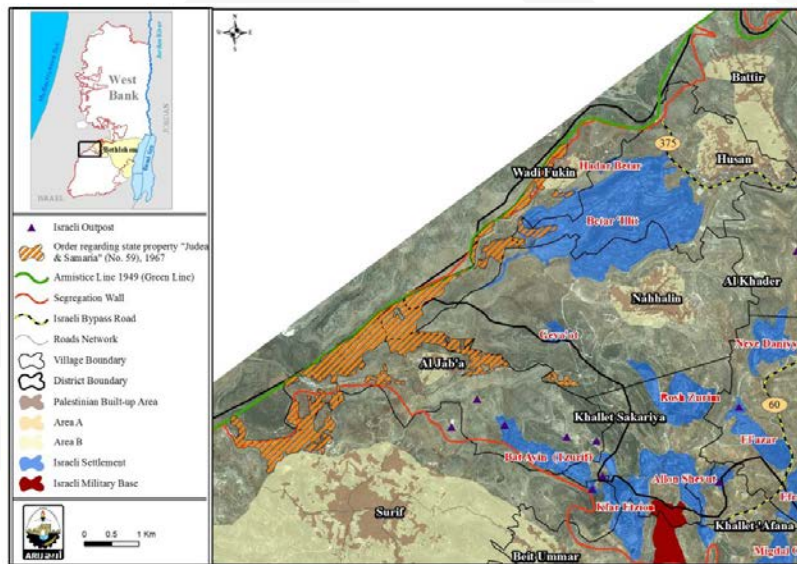
Israel recognizes 4,000 dunam in Gush Etzion as state land. The Settlement of Giva’ot now declared part of Israeli land in West Bank; The IOF claimed that there was no Palestinian claim on the area in question, but those against the decision could file their objections within 45 days. Giva’ot, located at the western part of Gush Etzion settlement bloc, is officially considered part of the settlement of Alon Shvut.

The military order was issued by the so-called “The Custodian of Absentee property & Israel Land Authority of Judea and Samaria” attached to the Israeli Ministry of Defense/Civil Administration , Yousi Sigal, on the 25th of August 2014 and seizes 3799 dunums from five Palestinian villages in Hebron and Bethlehem Governorates, Wadi Fukin, Husan, Nahalin, Surif and Jab’a.

According to the military order, the "Custodian of the Absente Property” based in his decision to an illegal Israeli law issued following the Israeli military Occupation of the Palestinian Territory in 1967- (Order Concerning State Property (Judea & Samaria) (No. 59-1967)) - in which it considers the targeted land (3799 dunums) as state land. Palestinian land owners get to submit their petitions against the aforementioned order within 45 days at the Israeli objections committee in Ofra camp, Ramallah Governorate which hears the appeals concerning decisions of the Custodian of Absentee Property (amended by M.O.406 and others) and other land appropriation judgments of the Israeli Military and Government. See photocopy of the military order in Hebrew and the attached map :



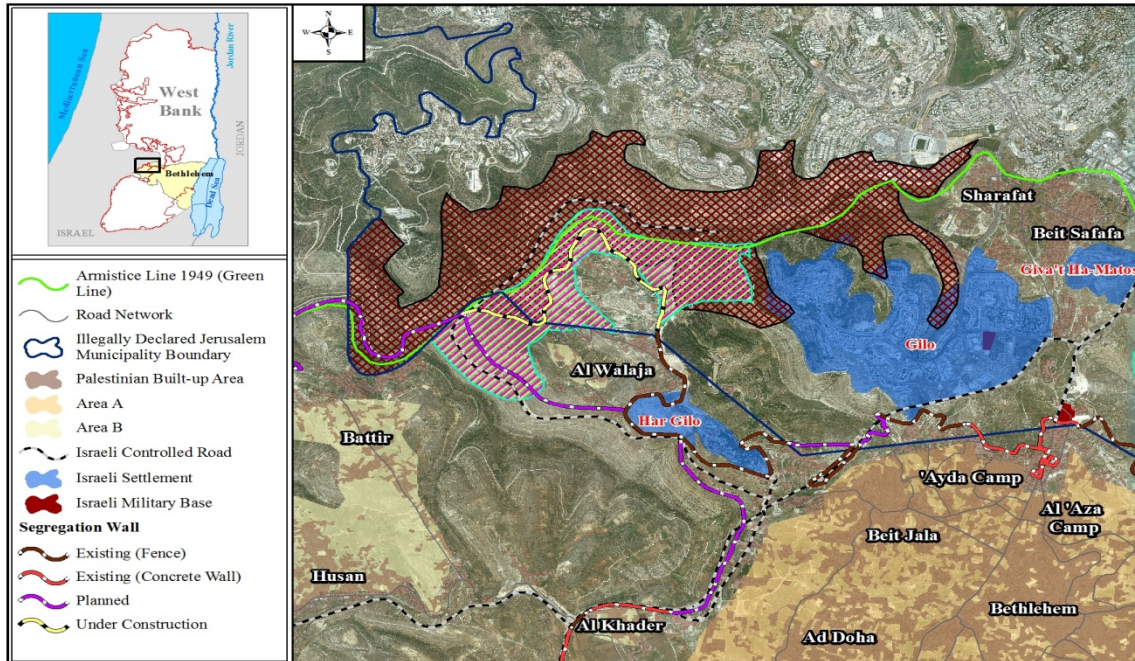
Copy of the military order



(Absentee property- Judea & Samaria -59/1967)

Confiscation for Military/Security Purposes:

On the 10th of December 2014, the Israeli Occupation Authorities handed Palestinians in Ein Arik, Beit Ur Al Fuqa villages and Betunyia town in Ramallah Governorate a new military order titled 88/06/T (extension No. 2 & border amendment) and signed by Netzan Alon, head central command in the Israeli occupation Army in the occupied West Bank. The order states to extend the confiscation of 321 dunums of land in the aforementioned communities for security purposes.



The Geopolitical Status for Al-Walajeh

Cremisan via Beit Jala Section

Israel's Segregation wall route entails a separation between the Salesian Convents and their surrounding agricultural lands:

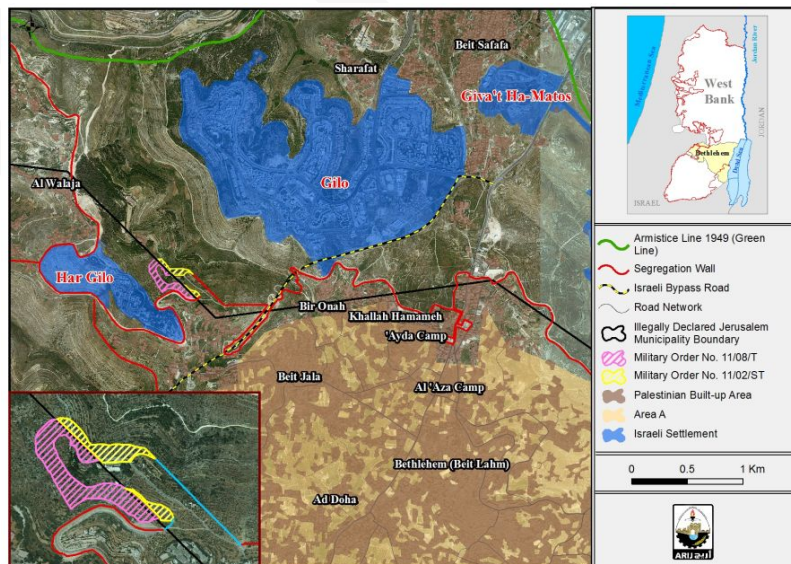
The Israeli security allegations clearly aim at redrawing the boundaries of Jerusalem city and annex the whole area, illegally and unilaterally, into Israel. Not forgetting to mention that the Israeli settlement plans in the Cremisan area will eventually cut the contiguity of the Palestinian communities; at the same time, will allow for the geographical expansion of the existing Israeli settlements in the area and link these settlements with others surrounding them from the north and the south. For more details, click on the following link: [Israel comprises Cremisan Rights camouflage its aggression on the occupied Gaza Strip.](#)

The Council for Peace and Security presented to the Israeli court a new proposal of the route of the Israeli Segregation wall in the Cremisan area 90% of the land threatened of confiscation and isolation in the Cremisan Valley area (due to the current wall route as presented by the IOA) will stay on the Palestinian side of the wall (if endorsed and implemented) and Palestinians will continue to access it as before.

Israeli Ministry of Defense has presented to the Supreme Court on September 4th, 2014 a proposed alternative route on the separation wall in the Cremisan valley, by which both Salesian Convent and Monastery will be on the Palestinian side of the wall, whereas the

agricultural lands surrounding them will be left on the Israeli side of the wall, and access to these lands by both religious order and land owners will be through agricultural gates.

Actually, the recent suggestion is based on the Israeli Supreme Court decision delivered after the hearing of August 4th, 2014 on the route of the segregation wall in the Cremisan valley, by which the Court asked the state of Israel to consider other possibilities to its suggested route so that both Salesian Convent and Monastery be on the Palestinian side of the wall

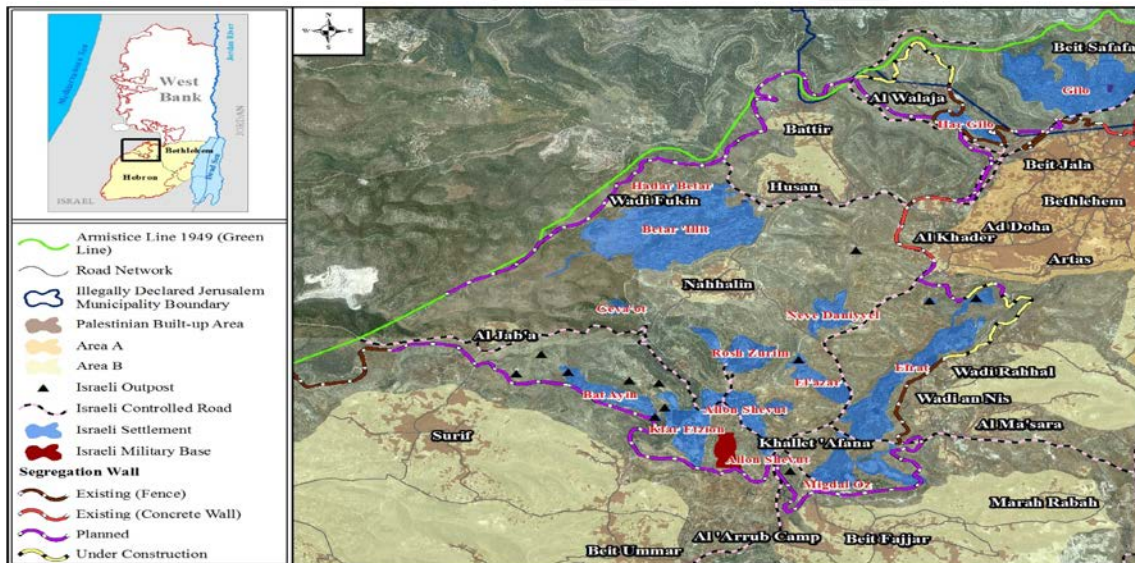


Battir Section

Confirming the route of the Wall in Battir village, west of Bethlehem:

On September 21, 2014, the Israeli Government stated: “Pursuant to the Supreme Court's July 29, 2014 decision regarding the route of the security fence in the area of Battir and UNESCO's June 20, 2014 decision, the cabinet did not see fit to change its previous decisions.” But it did not take the extra step of voting to affirm it” “The intention from the outset was to confirm the route, but not its construction.”

Senior Israeli “defense” official on the route of the wall in Battir village, west of Bethlehem acknowledged: “ Building a three-kilometer stretch of the security barrier near the West Bank Palestinian village of Battir is “not a priority” at present, there is no operational reason to build it,” he explained. The IDF’s goal here is to preserve its right to build the barrier in that area in the future, even though it has no intention to construct it at this time, the official said.“



The Israeli Segregation Wall in the oPt , is considered a clear and explicit breach of the signed agreements, most specifically, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which was Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 entry into force 3 January 1976, in accordance with article 27, which Recognizes that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his economic, social and cultural rights, as well as his civil and political rights. The Covenant also considers the obligation of States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and freedoms.

Israeli Settlers' Violence

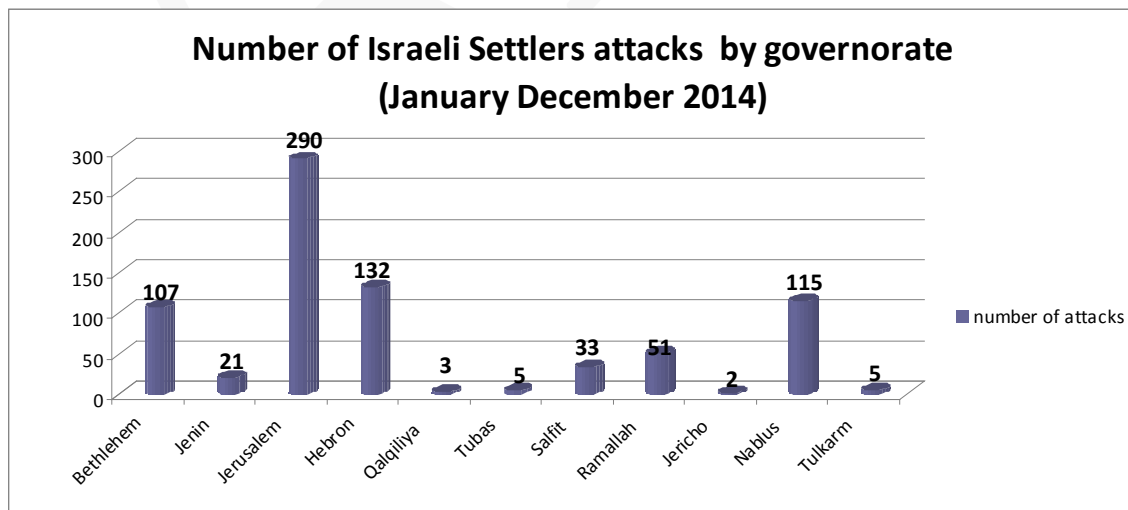
As nothing new, Israeli settlers continued their systematic attacks against Palestinians and their properties, uprooting trees, houses; all under the protection of the Israeli Army.

Associated with hostility and ideological fraught, the herds of the Israeli settlers in the most parts of oPt, intensely, steadily, and encouraged by the current extremist right-wing government conducting their attacks against what is Palestinian.

The year 2014, witnessed an escalation in the Israeli settlers attacks against the Palestinian. Indeed, the Israeli settlers' attacks became more aggressive and dangerous especially after the abduction and killing of the three settlers in Hebron Governorate in June 2014 where the Israeli response was launching a military operation against Gaza Strip, while the settlers killed a Palestinian teenager and burn him alive as a response of the killing of the three settlers.

As a matter of fact, +700,000 Israeli settlers living in 196 illegal settlements and 232 outpost occupying an area of 196 km square is enough to fretting for the two state solutions to reach a dead-end.

Even more; the attacks carried out by Israeli settlers included defacing religious sites including churches, mosques, burning and writing profound graffiti. it is without doubt that the Israeli settlers find their courage, support, and motivation to carry out their attacks on the Palestinians with the Israeli government and army as the latter spare no effort to protect them, in fact the Israeli army provide cover for their attacks, which are carried out throughout the West Bank governorate especially in Nablus, Jerusalem, Hebron and Bethlehem. See Chart 6.



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Chart 6: Israeli settlers' attacks by governorates

2014 -The year of Settlement Inflation

The year 2014 was the year of settlement auction where the Israeli Premier as well as his right wing government coalition acting like they were competing for intending their ideological-extremist audience and courting, the Israeli settlers on the expense of the Palestinians and their fortunes.

On such thought Israel issued construction and plans approvals for 16,704 housing units in 33 Israeli settlements, the bulk of which were in settlements in Jerusalem governorate (6029 units--36%), followed by Bethlehem (5973 units—35.7%) then Salfit with (2849 units- 17%). The following identifies the housing units and sorts its location according to which side of the wall:

Israeli Settlements Plans in the oPt during the year 2014.

Month	Settlement	# Housing Units	Palestinian Governorate
January	Beitar Illit	24	Bethlehem
January	Beitar Illit	484	Bethlehem
January	Efrat	227	Bethlehem
January	Gilo	708	Bethlehem
January	Giv'at Hatamar (Efrat)	208	Bethlehem
January	Har Homa	389	Bethlehem
January	Har Homa	146	Bethlehem
January	Har Homa	50	Bethlehem
January	Har Homa	172	Bethlehem
January	Har Homa C	223	Bethlehem
January	Giv'at Hamatos	2561	Bethlehem
January	Har Homa	71	Bethlehem
February	Har Homa	660	Bethlehem
February	Har Homa	50	Bethlehem

February	Almog	31	Jericho
February	Adam	75	Jerusalem
February	Givat Zeev	55	Jerusalem
February	Talpiot	1800	Jerusalem
February	East Talpiot	350	Jerusalem
February	Giv'at Ze'ev	56	Jerusalem
March	Giv'at Ze'ev	155	Jerusalem
March	Giv'at Ze'ev	381	Jerusalem
March	Kfar Adumim	19	Jerusalem
March	Kochav Yaakov	38	Jerusalem
March	Kochav Yaakov	60	Jerusalem
March	Kochav Yaakov	38	Jerusalem
March	Neve Brat	256	Jerusalem
March	Neve Yaakov	102	Jerusalem
March	Neve Yaakov	136	Jerusalem
April	Pisgat Ze'ev	40	Jerusalem
May	Pisgat Ze'ev	24	Jerusalem
May	Pisgat Ze'ev	36	Jerusalem
June	Pisgat Ze'ev	159	Jerusalem
June	Ramat Shlomo	400	Jerusalem
June	Ramat	734	Jerusalem
June	Ramat Shlomo	600	Jerusalem
June	Ramat	244	Jerusalem
June	Ramat	28	Jerusalem
June	Ramat	243	Jerusalem

June	Shavei Shomron	65	Nablus
June	Shevut Rachel	353	Nablus
June	Alfei Menashe	78	Qalqilyah
June	Alfei Menashe	25	Qalqilyah
June	El Matan - Ma'aleh Shomron	40	Qalqilyah
June	Elkana	283	Qalqilyah
June	Karnei Shomron	86	Qalqilyah
June	Karnei Shomron	22	Qalqilyah
June	Ma'aleh Shomron	43	Qalqilyah
June	Oranit	10	Qalqilyah
September	Elkana	169	Qalqilyah
September	Emanuel	102	Qalqilyah
October	Beit El	296	Ramallah
October	Ofra	250	Ramallah
October	Ariel	50	Salfit
November	Ariel	76	Salfit
November	Bruchin	550	Salfit
November	Eli	640	Salfit
November	Alei Zahav	694	Salfit
December	Ariel	839	Salfit
Total	*****	16,704	*****

Source : ARIJ Database 2014

Valediction of 2014 with New Settlement Plans

Israel insisting on moving forward with its colonial and expansionist plan to expand the illegal settlements days before the end of the year 2014:

Legalization of Eil Mattan Outpost

The Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon, and on December 30, 2014 has begun the procedures to promote the legalization of the illegal outpost of "Eil Mattan" in Salfit Governorate to be part of what is so-called "Shomron regional council".

El Matan, is an illegal Israeli outpost built in the year 2001 ,located in Wadi Qana in Deir Istya village in Salfit and in an area classified by the Israeli authorities as "Nature Reserve".

Furthermore, Ya'alon also ordered an immediate approval of the expansion of the access road to El-Matan, so that the road will be wider, safer, and have greater security.

Therefore, the final approval to legalize El-Matan illegal outpost, thereby providing the outpost with proper infrastructure and a safe road with two lanes and a correct visual field along the entire route.

Significant Colonial Plans during the Year 2014

The Israeli extremist right-wing government, approved a new expansionist plans to expand the illegal settlements additional legalize illegal outposts, promoting of bypass roads public buildings water projects with the aim of fortify its colonial settlement project in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

On December 17, 2014, the Israeli daily newspaper "Haaretz" revealed on a new plans approved b y the Israeli Minister of Defense "Moshe Ya'alon" to evacuate three military bases to allow the expansion of three illegal adjacent settlements. Furthermore, Ya'alon has also ordered to promote new bypass roads and public buildings in settlements as we aforementioned above.

According to the newspaper the evicted military army bases should be moved to private Palestinian lands that will be seized for military use under security pretexts!

The idea behind the Israeli Ministry of Defense' procedures is to claim that it was all about military constrains and that it might be hard to convince the court that it was actually for settlements. According to the reports there are three Military bases that are planned to be moved for the expansion of the settlements:-

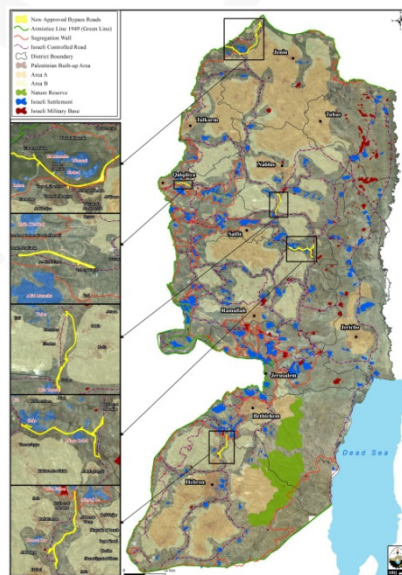
"Ashmoret Yizhak" military base near Kiryat Arba settlement- Hebron: couple of years before, what is so-called Israeli Ministry of Housing and Construction built 36 housing units near the settlement of Kiryat Arba' on lands that were expropriated from their Palestinian owners and declared as "State Lands" and used by the Israeli "border police" for years while the settlers have been pushing for years to "return" the compound to their hands. The reported order of Ya'alon to evict the place could mean that we will see the

settlers replacing the soldiers in the near future. The base located outside o the buildup area of Kiryat Arba, and establishing the settlement there will expand the settlement to a new area and will affect the private Palestinians lands between it and the settlement.

Military Base in Alei Zahav settlement – like in many other settlements, inside the settlement of Alei Zahav, there is a small Military base occupying an area of approximately 4 dunums. Moving the base out will allow the development and expansion of the settlement, although it will not constitute a major change in the settlement.

The Border Police base near Beit El – as part of the agreement between Netanyahu and the settlers following the eviction of the 5 buildings in the illegal outpost of Ulpana, Netanyahu ordered to promote the eviction of the base to allow a new outpost for Beit El. According to the Civil Administration regarding the status of the lands on which the army base is built: on the one hand the confiscation order from the 1970's for the establishment of the military base includes the lands of the Border Police base, which means that the lands were privately owned by Palestinians. On the other hand, , the lands are marked as registered as “State Lands”.

For the other developing plans to be implemented for the interest of settlers and illegal settlements it would be as follows: Establishment of 12 by pass roads for the benefit of the settlers, also conducting of surveys of Palestinian lands in order to declare them as State Land for the retroactive legalization of illegal outpost . Moreover, the government sanctioned the renovation of the “Cave of the Patriarchs” in Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, building new "Students Villages” – cheap housing for students in settlements, Water infrastructure projects.



Map 1: the bypass roads to be built and developed

Jordan Valley.....The Essence of Suffering

On December 9, 2014, the Israeli daily newspaper “Haaretz” published a report indicated that the so-called Israeli Civil Administration (ICA), a vital branch of the Israeli occupation Army (IoA), allocated 35,000 dunums from the Palestinian lands declared by for the IoA as fire zones for the interest of Israeli illegal settlements and outposts expansion in the West Bank. The targeted lands are located mostly in the Jordan Valley area, and south of Hebron Governorate nearby the illegal settlement of Ma’on and in the northwestern part of the West Bank in Salfit Governorate for the interest of Beit Arye, Peduel, Eli Zahav and ‘Ofra settlements.

The total area classified as a firing zone amount to 998,185 dunums and constitutes 17.6 % of the West Bank total area and nearly the same area classified as area “A” and falls under the control of the Palestinian Authority where some 70% of the Palestinians in the West Bank live.

The targeted lands were originally designated as State Land and turned over to the Army’s use as a firing and practice areas following the Israeli occupation and early 1970’s. However, and following the lunch of negotiations in the early 1990’s the IOF disused much of the firing zones areas that it became abandoned but remains under full control of the IoA.

In 1999, the ICA employed an internal unit known as the “Blue Line Team” to identify and reconfirm the boundaries of areas identified as State Land using advanced digital methods and so far they completed charting some 260,000 dunums, of which 35,000 dunums located within the firing zones declared area. Table/ map below show locations and related information to firing zones areas.