

**Land Research Center documents the continuous
expansions of Israeli colonies founded on Bethlehem
lands**

Prepared by:

Team of Monitoring Israeli Violations

Land Research Center

October 2015



Israeli colonies spread all over Palestinian lands as cancer:

A big number of Israeli colonies spread all over the areas of the West Bank and Jerusalem; locations are reported to be finely selected to have an overlooking positions and spectacular scenery. Noteworthy, the confiscated lands for colonial expansion are linking points between Palestinian villages and cities; Israel takes such lands to cut the geographic connection among Palestinian cities and small towns.

It should be marked that tens of checkpoints and watchtowers were established for the sake of protecting the existing colonies and maintaining their safety. Also, the apartheid wall was established in the same time to confiscate thousands of dunums and isolate others behind its structure. This made Palestinians unable to use their lands adjacent to colonies' peripheries and made it easy to colonists to take over such lands to be used for colonial expansion.

Colonies' expansion goes through a process of bids and tenders advertised in newspapers to build thousands of residential units. Such plans are most of the times approved by the government while Palestinians are still denied construction on their lands under "security purposes" claims. Noteworthy, Adhan "the call for prayer" was also denied in some areas under the claim of "causing noise".

The cancerous colonization is ripping the lands of Bethlehem out:

The team of Land Research Center documented the ongoing expansions on the colonies founded on confiscated lands from Bethlehem city. A total of 36 colonies including 16 outposts populating around 102,000 colonists are founded on 18,000 dunums from the lands of Bethlehem. Noteworthy, those lands are reported to be the most fertile in the area.

The occupation was reported to demolish houses in the villages of Za'tara, Tuqu', Husan, Al-Khadr and Junta. The Israeli occupation authorities have also threatened other residences of demolition in the villages of Um Salamuna, Beit Sahur, Za'tara and Tuqu' and ravaged lands in the villages of Al-Khadr, Wad Rahhal, Kisan, Husan and Beir 'Ueinih. It should be marked that lands' owners are banned from using their plots while colonists work day and night to implement the expansion plans ratified by the government to build on those lands.

The machineries of the occupation are working day and night to establish a number of buildings in the colony of Har Homa, which is founded on Abu Ghnaim Mountain in Beit Sahur village, northwest Bethlehem. Land Research Center documented the establishment of 7 buildings (eight floors each) and the ravaging of about 10 dunums.

The field research team made a comparison of colonial expansion by years (2013-2014-2015) in pictures as follows:



مستعمرة " فار حرماء" يجري فيها بناء بنايات مرتفعة واعمال تجريف متواصلة - جبل ابو غنيم في بيت ساحور



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Har Gilo colony

Har Gilo colony is also witnessing an ongoing expansion works; three building were reported to be under construction on confiscated lands from Beit Jala village. (See the expansion if photos below)



Gilo colony

Gilo is reported to undergo ravaging and leveling works on confiscated lands from Al-Walaja and Krimzan villages. Noteworthy, the lands of Krimzan (3500 dunums) are threatened to be annexed to Jerusalem borders and isolated by the apartheid wall for the favor of Gilo expansion. It should be marked that the ravaged area, southeastern side of the colony is estimated of 90 dunums until the date of preparing this report. (See the expansion if photos below)







Betar Illit

The colony of Betar Illit devours vast area of Wad Fukin village and is undergoing continuous and rapid expansion. A number of buildings were reported ready to be inhabited; other buildings are still under construction. The colony of Betar Illit is considered one of Bethlehem's biggest colonies in size. (See the expansion if photos below)

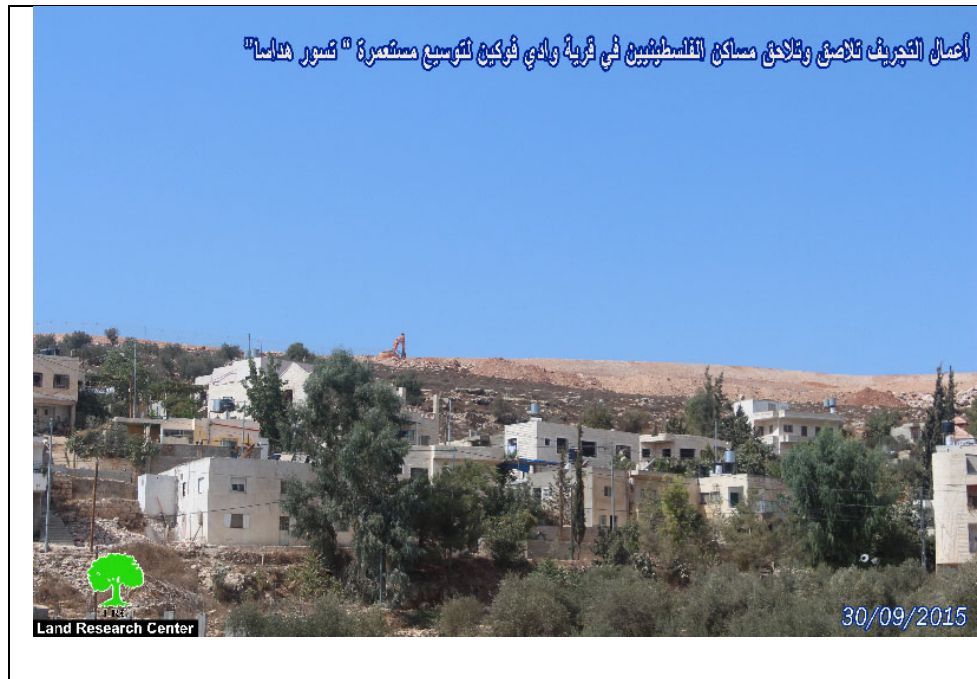






Zur Hadasa colony

It is located atop of a hill in face of Betar Illit colony. This colony is undergoing massive expansion and is taking over a whole mountain to achieve this end. Explosives were used in the expansion process; many adjacent Palestinian houses sustained cracks and damage. An area of 60 dunums is being ravaged to complete the expansion on. It should be marked that the village of Wad Fukin is trapped between Betar Illit from the east and Zur Hadasa from the west.



Expansion through the years of 2013-2014-2015 in pictures:

مستعمرة "نابلس" تتوسع على اعتكاف جبل كامل من أراضي وادي فوكين الزراعية والسكنية





Construction works in the middle and at the edges of El'azar colony were noticed. A new outpost at the top of the hill is reported to be under construction.



Outposts:



A new outpost relative to El'azar colony

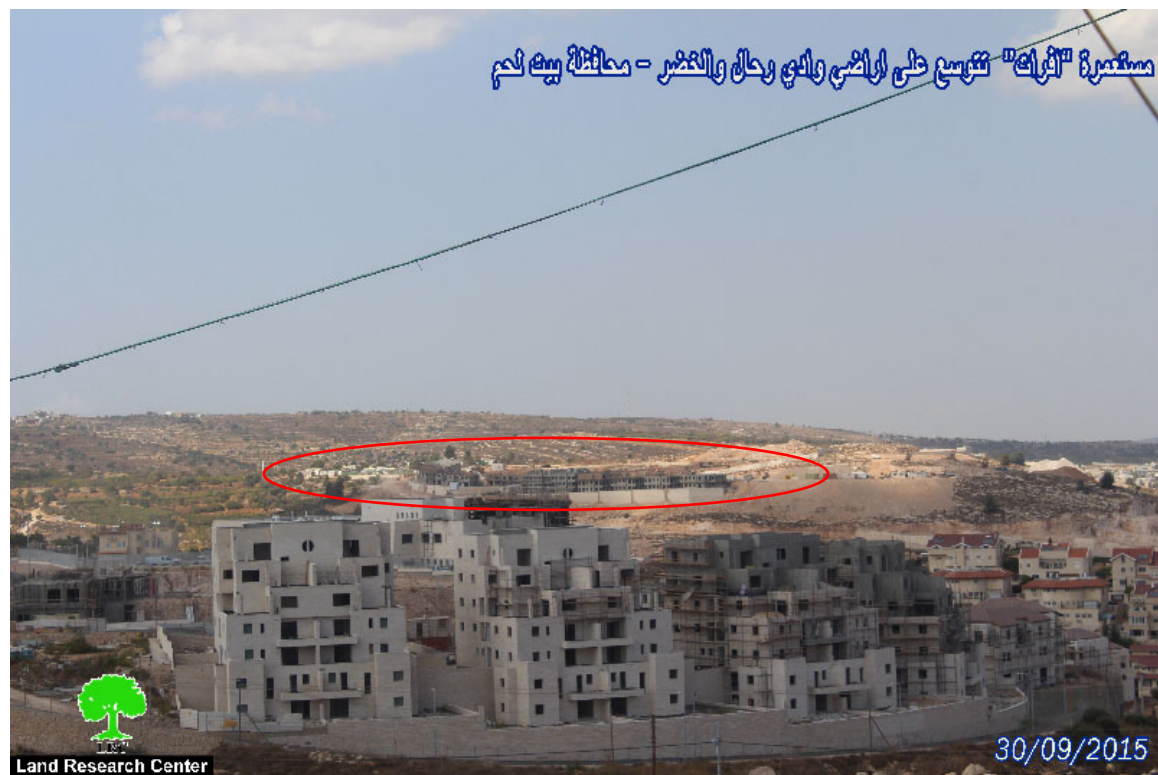


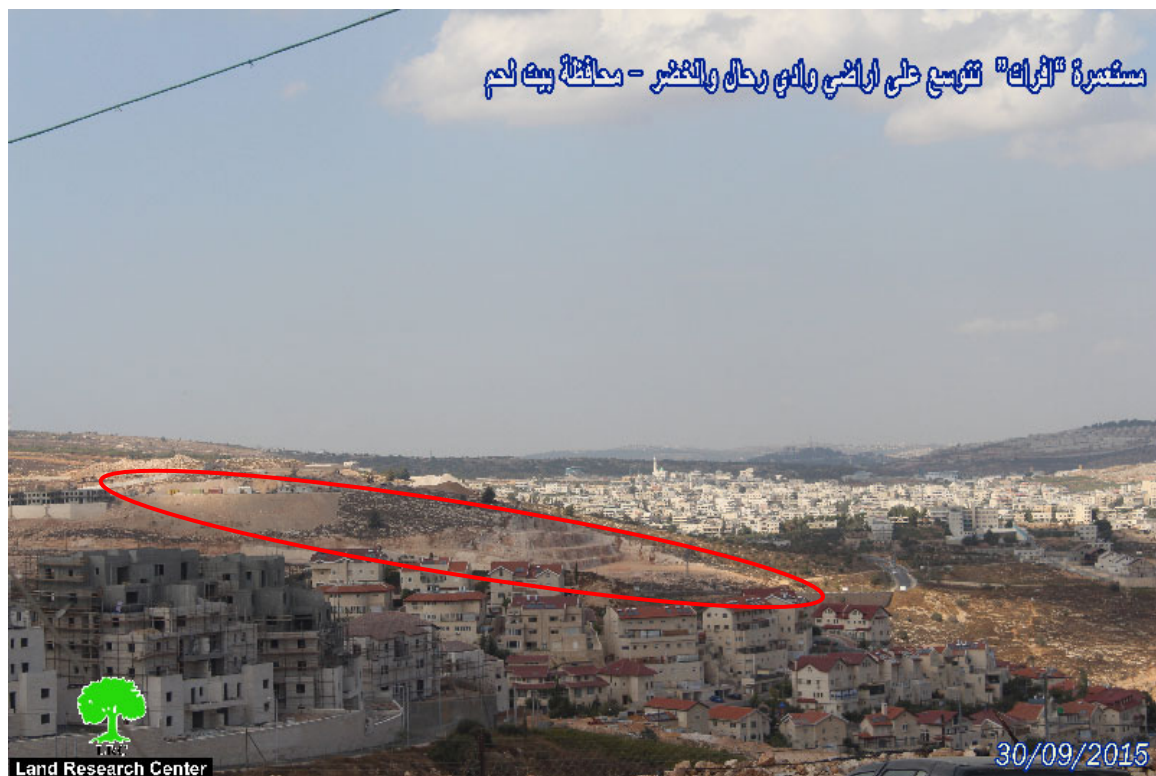
Sidi Boaz outpost on the lands of Al-Khadr village

Efrat colony:

Is one of the biggest colonies in the bloc of Gosh Zion; it is undergoing an expansion from the northeastern side. An area of 25 dunums is reported to be ravaged for the favor of establishing new buildings. Residents of Al-Khadr and Wad Rahhal villages are melancholically seeing their lands being taken over forever. (See the expansion if photos below)







Side of the expansions during the years of 2013-2014-2015:





Tal Hatamar- Gavaot colony:

It should be marked that an area of 550 dunums from Wad Rahhal, Artas and Al-Khadr villages is being ravaged for the favor of expanding an outpost relative to Gavaot colony. The location is very strategic and is nearby Solon Pools site, which is a historical Palestinian archeological site. (See the expansion if photos below)



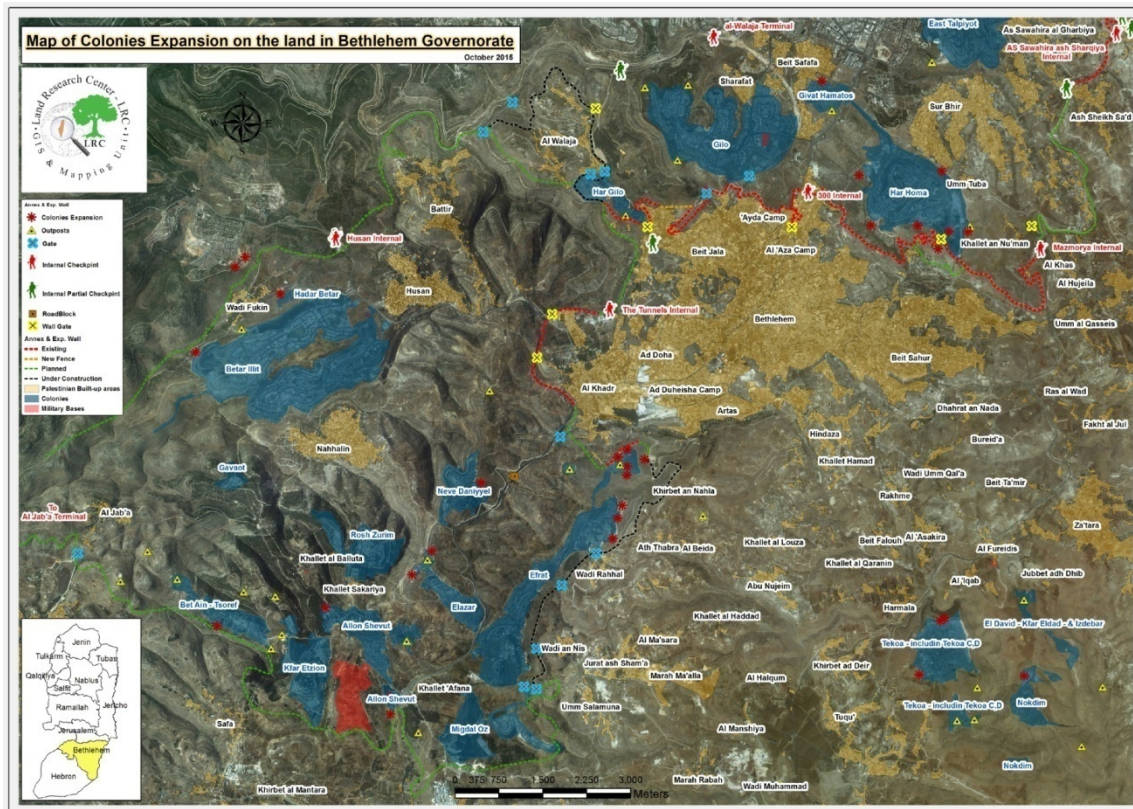




A new outpost relative to Efrat colony on lands from Wad Rahhal village

The Israeli occupation is racing time in the process of colonial expansion, which is to take over as much area of Palestinian lands as possible. The governorate of Bethlehem is witnessing a rapid cancerous expansion, which is devouring vast areas of lands of its villages. The following table shows information about the villages of Bethlehem and colonial expansion on:

Colony	Confiscated Palestinian location	Targeted dunums	area\
Har Homma	Beit Sahur- Gabal Abu Ghnaim	10	
Har Gilo	Beit Jala	5	
Gilo	Walaja	90	
Betar Illit	Wad Fukin	10	
El'azar	Al-Khadr and Husan	10	
Efrat	Al-Khadr and Wad Rahhal	25	
Gavaot	Artas, Wad Rahhal and Al-Khadr	550	
Total		700	



Land Research Center sees Israel continuous expansion on colonies in the West Bank and Jerusalem at the expense of Palestinian and lands a flagrant violation of Human Rights and all international laws and conventions, which prohibit disposition of public properties in occupied countries.

UN Resolutions

UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967: calls for

- the Withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;
- Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force." [\[4\]](#)

UN Security Council Resolution 449 of 1979: the Security Council determined:

- "that the policy and practices of Israel in establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 have no legal validity and constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East"

UN Security Council Resolution 452 of 1979: states that

- "the policy of Israel in establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories has no legal validity and constitutes a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949" and "calls upon the Government and people of Israel to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem."

UN Security Council Resolution 465 of 1980:

- It expressed concern at Israeli settlement policy in the Arab territories and recalled resolutions [237](#) (1967), [252](#) (1968), [267](#) (1969), [271](#) (1969) and [298](#) (1971). It further called upon the State and people of Israel to dismantle such settlements. The resolution calls on all states 'not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in the occupied territories'.

UN Security Council resolutions in regard to Israeli colonies:

UN Security Council resolution 446, article 3 " Calls once more upon Israel, as the occupying Power, to abide scrupulously by the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, to rescind its previous measures and to desist from taking any action which would result in changing the legal status and geographical nature and materially affecting the demographic composition of the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and, in

particular, not to transfer parts of its own civilian population into the occupied Arab territories;"

- ✓ *Un Security Council resolution 452, article 3"Calls upon the Government and people of Israel to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;"*
- ✓ *Un Security Council resolution 465, Strongly deplores the continuation and persistence of Israel in pursuing those policies and practices and calls upon the Government and people of Israel to rescind those measures, to dismantle the existing settlements and in particular to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;*

Calls upon all States not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connexion with settlements in the occupied territories;

- ✓ *Un Security Council resolution 242, Affirms that the fulfilment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles:*

(i) Withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;

(ii) Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force;

Prepared by

[The Land Research Center](#)

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