

This report is prepared as part of the project entitled <u>ASSESSING THE</u> <u>IMPEDIMENTS BEFORE THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION</u> which is financially supported by the EU. However, the content of this presentation is the sole responsibility of ARIJ & LRC and does not necessarily reflect those of the donors.

# "A right-wing government sparks fear of more settlement escalation

# **Israeli Settlement Activities Report during 2022**

December 2022



## Preface

In light of the international condemnation of the Israeli settlement activities in the occupied West Bank, Israel is proceeding with the fiercest settlement expansion campaign ever in the occupied Palestinian territory; that is in addition to committing crimes against Palestinian citizens, their homes and properties, and confiscating and controlling their lands under various pretexts.

Additionally, the violations and attacks committed by Israeli settlers in the occupied Palestinian territory have had a great impact on Palestinians and their lives; as these attacks have become an integral part of the Palestinians' daily life, especially those (Palestinians) living in areas close to Israeli settlements and outposts, where they often confront settlers. The Israeli policy, in all its forms, clearly shows that Israel is not considered a partner with whom the Palestinians can achieve peace because, the Israeli settlements are considered the core issue of all negotiations aimed at ending the conflict in the Middle East and that any peace agreement in the future between the Israelis and the Palestinians is based on the regional settlement, It will require the evacuation and removal of most, if not all, of the Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The year 2022 witnessed unprecedented violations committed by the Israeli occupation army and settlers in the occupied West Bank, which witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of these violations in all their forms and kinds. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli violations during the year 2022

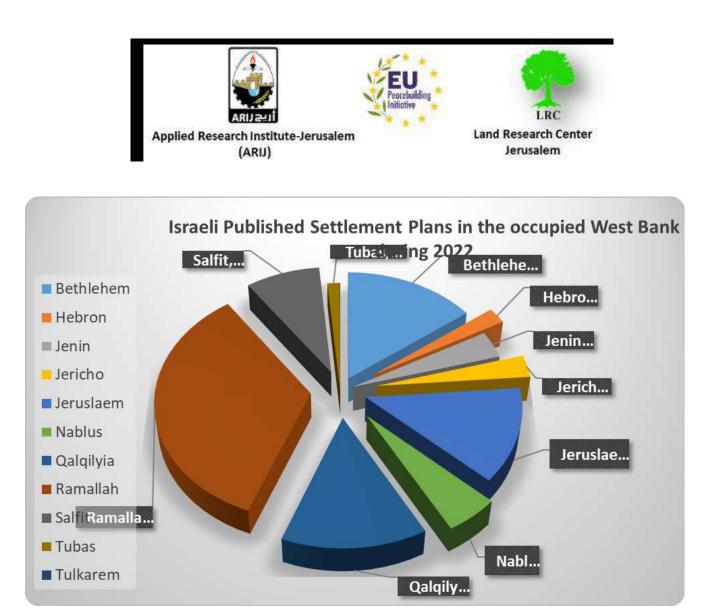
### Israeli Settlement Expansion in the occupied Palestinian territory during 2022

The issue of Israeli settlement program was and still one of the most prominent issues of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Since Israel occupied the Palestinian territory (the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip) in 1967, it rushed to impose facts on the ground, by commencing settlement construction on



lands it occupied in a programmed and systematic policy aimed at strengthening its presence as an occupying state on the Palestinian lands and eliminating any possibility of establishing an independent, geographically contiguous and sustainable Palestinian state.

These plans come in light of the relentless Israeli efforts to control more Palestinian land and impose facts on the ground through building and expanding settlements, legalizing settlement outposts, constructing bypass roads and other settlement facilities, most specifically in areas classified as "C" in the occupied West Bank (which constitutes about 61% of the WB are and under Israeli control). The Israeli government and its various ministries (the Israel Lands Administration, the Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing, the Israeli Ministry of Interior and the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem) issued 158 settlement plans for the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, targeting 78 Israeli settlements. These plans included the construction of 13,000 new settlement units in the aforementioned settlements on an area of 15,200 dunums of Palestinian land. It should also be noted that the Israeli settlement plans have largely targeted Israeli settlements located in the area that has become known as the "Western Segregation Zone" in the occupied West Bank (located on the western side of the wall, between the armistice line of 1949 and the route of the Segregation Wall) with 10,370 settlement units (on 11,290 dunums). The Israeli settlements located east of the wall were also targeted with construction plans, with 2,600 settlement units on an area of 3,900 dunums.



Graph 1: Israeli expansion plans in the occupied West Bank during 2022

# Demolished Palestinian homes in the occupied West Bank during the year 2022

During the years of the Israeli occupation, the Israeli occupation authorities carried out a systematic campaign to demolish Palestinian homes territory, with a particular focus on East Jerusalem. Following the signing of the Oslo II Accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1995, Israel escalated its campaign against Palestinian homes, especially those located in areas classified as "Area C" (according to the Oslo Accords, which are still under the full Israeli



control) under the pretext that these homes were built without a permit issued by the competent Israeli authorities.

Following the outbreak of the second Palestinian Intifada (Al-Aqsa Intifada) in September 2000, Israel intensified its House Demolition campaign in the occupied West Bank, reaching unprecedented levels while continuing to carry out its illegal expansion activities in Israeli settlements and outposts throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in occupied East Jerusalem. Moreover, the Israeli Civil Administration imposed severe conditions on Palestinians who applied to obtain building permits on their lands located in Area C. The same applies to Palestinians living in the city of Jerusalem. The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem prohibited Palestinians from building and development in the city of Jerusalem and imposed high fees on those applying for a permit, which prompted the Palestinians to build without a permit because of their urgent need for housing to keep up with the population growth increase and their inability to pay the fees imposed on them by the Israeli authorities.

During the period of January and December 2022, the Israeli occupation authorities demolished 302 homes in the occupied West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, where Jerusalem governorate accounted for the largest number of demolitions followed by Jericho, and Hebron governorates.



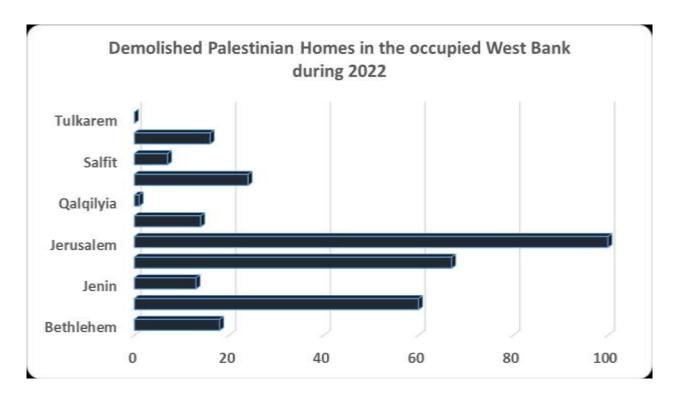
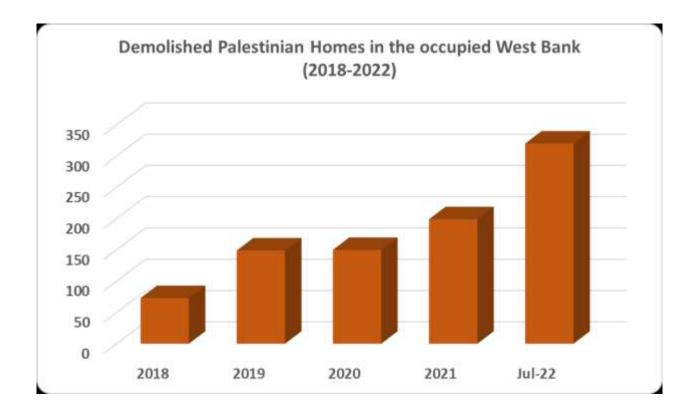


Chart 2: Demolished Palestinian Homes in the occupied West Bank during 2022

It should be noted that the houses that were targeted during the year 2022 exceeded those that were demolished in previous years, which shows the clear and systematic Israeli policy in targeting the Palestinians through the demolition of their homes, which not only constitutes a serious violation of the Palestinian right to adequate housing, but rather it is an application of the collective punishment policy as affirmed in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949; Article 33, which states, "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. Pillage is prohibited. Also, the Israeli demolition policy in the occupied Palestinian territory was never based on military necessities and security needs, as stated in Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, but rather came for political reasons and in favor of building Israeli settlements. Article (147) of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 states



that "the destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity, on a large scale, in an unlawful and arbitrary manner" is a grave violation of the Convention. The following chart shows the increased targeting of Palestinian homes in 2022 compared to previous years.



#### Chart 3: Demolished Palestinian Homes in the occupied West Bank 2018-2022

Moreover, the Israeli occupation authorities demolished 593 structures in the occupied West Bank, where the governorates of Hebron, Jerusalem and Bethlehem, respectively, were among the most affected governorates in terms of the number of structures that were demolished during the year 2022.



The attached figures show the systematic campaign led by the Israeli occupation municipality in occupied East Jerusalem against Palestinians and their properties. Jerusalem is the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and now, Israel has shifted its systamitic campaign against Jerusalem with the intention of eliminating the Palestinian presence, and pressure the Palestinians to leave their city; while on the other hand, Israel is intensifying settlement construction in the city and publishing new settlement plans. Additionally, the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem intends to implement a network of new bypass roads in the city, which would hamper the geographical and demographic balances of the city, create a bitter reality for the Palestinians that is difficult to change, and undermine the two-state solution.

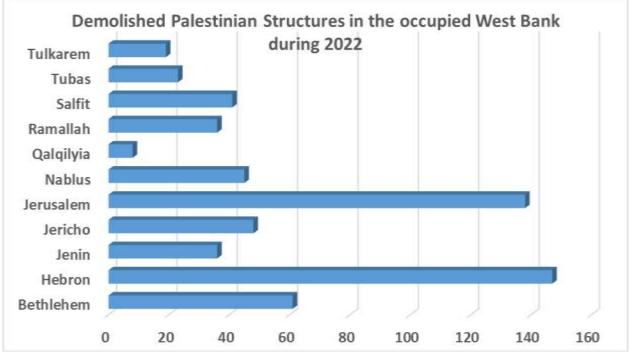


Chart 4: Demolished Palestinian structures in the occupied West Bank during 2022



### Israeli settler attacks in the occupied West Bank during 2022

In light of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, and the world's attention is directed towards it, Israeli settlers intensify their settlement activities and their attacks against Palestinian citizens and their properties in the occupied West Bank; while the Israeli occupation army forces stand silent against most of the attacks carried out by settlers and they do not take any punitive measures against them. Israeli settler attacks increased dramatically in the past years as there is no deterrent that prevents settlers from committing their crimes against the Palestinians.

The Israeli settlers' attacks against Palestinian citizens, their lands and properties were clearly evident throughout the occupied West Bank, as the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ) recorded 1,525 attacks during the year 2022 at the hands by Israeli settlers and in various areas of the occupied West Bank. Graph 2 shows the Israeli settler attacks during the year 2022 in the occupied Palestinian Governorates:-



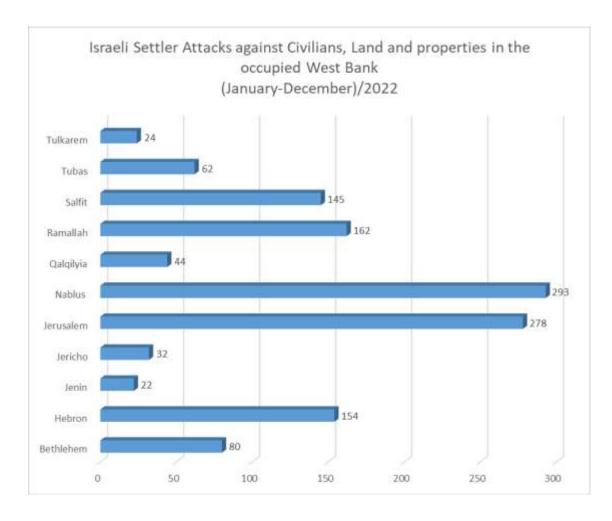


Chart 5: Israeli settler attacks in the occupied West Bank during 2022

#### Targeted Palestinian trees in the occupied West Bank during 2022

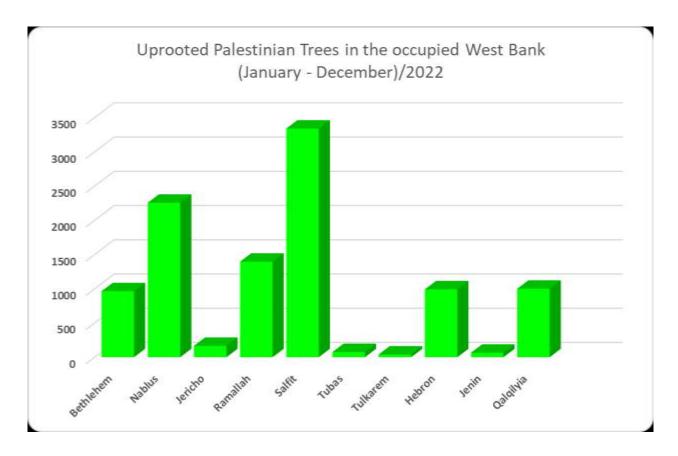
Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially those working in the agricultural sector, are subjected to a systematic Israeli campaign targeting their agricultural lands and trees, especially the olive trees, with the aim of seizing the largest possible area of Palestinian land under various pretexts. During the year 2022, the Palestinians witnessed the deliberate uprooting, burning and vandalism



of their trees and the looting of their fruits, in addition to assaulting Palestinians themselves while they were trying to protect their lands and trees from the devastation, destruction, and unjust policy committed by Israeli settler groups living in nearby settlements and the Israeli occupation army. Settlers usually target fruit trees, especially the olive trees, with the aim of inflicting the largest possible loss on Palestinian farmers.

As for the Israeli occupation army, the justification given for the uprooting of Palestinian trees is "violating Israeli orders" issued by the state of Israel after its occupation of the Palestinian territory in 1967, through which, it illegally and unilaterally controlled Palestinian lands, by declaring them with "state lands", or "nature reserves", "firing zones" or "closed military areas", or appropriating lands for public purposes, or classifying them as "absentee property" and many other pretexts. Analysis conducted by the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ) of the Israeli violations against Palestinian trees in the occupied West Bank , showed that during the year 2022, more than 12,500 trees were either uprooted, razed, confiscated or burned, most of which were noticed in the governorates of Salfit, Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah and Bethlehem. Most of the trees that were uprooted or damaged were olive trees (85%). The following chart shows the governorates most affected by the uprooting of trees in the occupied West Bank.





## Graph 6: Targeted Palestinian trees in the occupied West Bank during 2022 Israeli confiscation orders issued in 2022

Since its occupation of the Palestinian territory in 1967, Israel has used a complex legal and bureaucratic mechanism to control a vast area of the Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. These lands were later used to build Israeli settlements, establish outposts and military bases, and other areas that were reserved for settlement expansion in the future. The main tool that Israel used to control the Palestinian land was "military orders" under various pretexts, such as military purposes, "absentee property", expropriation for public needs, Nature Reserves, military areas and many other pretexts. During the year 2022, Israel issued militray orders targeting more than 29,000 dunums of Palestinian land for



various settlement purposes. The following is a detailed description of the Israeli military orders that were issued during the year 2022– :

## Israeli confiscation orders issued in 2022

- Confiscation order: On the 28th of March of 2022, the Israeli occupation authorities issued the military order No. h'/37/82, which confiscates an area of 0.508 dunums of land belonging to the village of Umm Safa in Ramallah governorate to construct a dirt road to serve Ateret. Settlement.
- Confiscation order: On the 12th of April 2022, the Israeli occupation authorities issued Israeli Military Order No. h'/2/22 (Order Concerning Land Law (Appropriation for Public Interest) (Judea and Samaria) (No. 321, 5729-1969). The military order confiscates an area of 4,954 dunums of Palestinian land belonging to the village of Majdal Bani Fadel to establish a bypass road that will link a settlement outpost with the settlement of Ma'ale Ephraim.
- Confiscation order: On the 24th of April 2022, the so-called "Coordination Unit of Government Actions" in the Occupied Palestinian Territory published an order declaring 21,959 dunums of Palestinian Land as "Nature Reserve." The targeted Palestinian lands are located south of the Israeli settlement, Almog, in Jericho Governorate in the Jordan Valley. The declaration came under the order titled "Order Concerning the Protection of Nature (Judea and Samaria) (No. 363), 5730-1969 - declaration of a Nature Reserve "Nahal Og" (Wadi Muklek), and was signed by the head of the Israeli Civil Administration in the occupied West Bank.
- Confiscation order: The so-called "Legal Advisor to Judea and Samaria region" in the Israeli Civil Administration, published on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2022, a new Israeli settlement plan to legalize an existing settlement outpost in Nablus governorate in the northern West Bank. The legalization of the outpost comes through the Israeli military order "Order Concerning the Administration of Regional Councils (Judea and Samaria) (No. 783), 1979 (Amichai Jurisdiction Area Border Amendment) (Benyamin Regional



Council) - 5782, 2022." It stipulates the confiscation of 1,480 dunums of Palestinian lands in Nablus governorate, in the area surrounding "Adi Ad" settlement outpost. The military order also stipulates that the targeted Palestinian lands have been classified as "Settlement Jurisdiction Area" and have become an integral part of the Israeli settlement of Amichai, which was built several years ago on lands belong to the villages of Jalud, Al-Mughayer and Turmusaya, and they will be confiscated under this pretext "Settlement Jurisdiction Area".

- Confiscation Order: Order Concerning Land Law (Land Ordinance: Acquisition for Public Purposes) (Judea and Samaria) (No. 321, (5729-1969) Decision Concerning Appropriation and Taking the Right to Dispose of ("The American Road North" Az Zaytoun Junction Judea and Samaria Region) Order No. H/22/0, issued on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, 2022, targeting Palestinian lands belonging to Al-Zayem town, east of occupied Jerusalem, to construct a section of the Israeli bypass road known as the "American Road".
- Confiscation order: The Israeli occupation army issued a military order to seize lands in Masafer Yatta, south of Hebron, for security purposes. The order holds number (10/22/T) and is titled "Order Concerning Confiscation of Lands." The order seizes an area of (58 dunums) of citizens' lands in the village of Jenba. The military order was issued on May 17, 2022, and states that "the right of disposal" of the lands be transferred from their original owners to the so-called commander of the Israeli occupation army in the West Bank. The military order stated that the purpose of seizing lands comes for purposes of constructing a section of the Israeli segregation wall that cuts through the area. The length of the section referred to in the military order is 2,700 meters, and it will pass near the western and southern sides of the village of Janba.

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- Confiscation order: the so-called "Custodian of government and absentee property in Judea and Samaria" issued on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 a militray order granting "planning authority" for 90.13 dunums of Palestinian lands belonging to the village of Kafr Malik In Ramallah governorate to expand the Israeli quarries area in the village.
- Confiscation order: On the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2022, the Israeli Occupation Army issued a military order to seize a plot of land located at the entrance of Al-Tuwani village, east of Yatta, south of Hebron, for security purposes. The military order holds No. (14/22/T) and was signed by the commander of the occupation army in the West Bank, in which it stated that a plot of land of 178 square meters will be seized for "security" purposes".
- Confiscation order: the announcement of the intention to modify the "Jurisdiction area" of Eli settlement in the Salfit governorate: The announcement was issued on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, titled "Declaration of the intention to modify the Jurisdiction area of Eli settlement," which states the confiscation of additional area of land in Nablus Governorate for the purpose of expanding the borders of Eli settlement in the northern occupied West Bank. The military order stated that "the Civil Administration intends



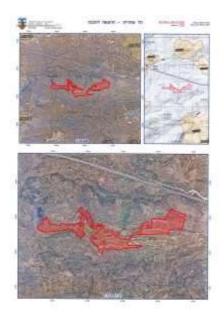
to amend the jurisdiction area of Eli settlement, as specified in the map attached to the military order. Analysis of the Israeli military order showed that an area of 616 dunums of Palestinian lands belonging to the villages of Qaryut and Al-Sawiya in Nablus governorate will be seized for the purpose of expanding the settlement's jurisdiction area.

 Confiscation order: 'Order Regarding the Administration of Regional Councils' (Judea and Samaria) Number 783 of 1979-Shomron Regional Council - issued on October 28, 2022: targeting lands belonging to the village of Khirbet al-Nabi Ismail - Burin / Kafr Qilil in the governorates of Nablus and Salfit. The order expands Bracha settlement, where the order will confiscate an area of 30 dunums under the pretext of increasing the area of what the occupation calls "Israeli areas of influence".

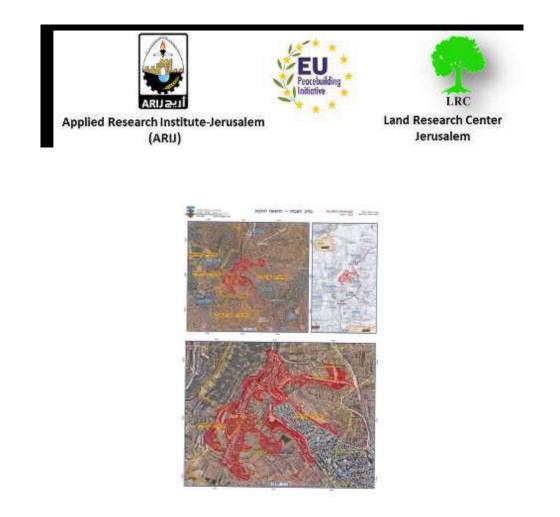




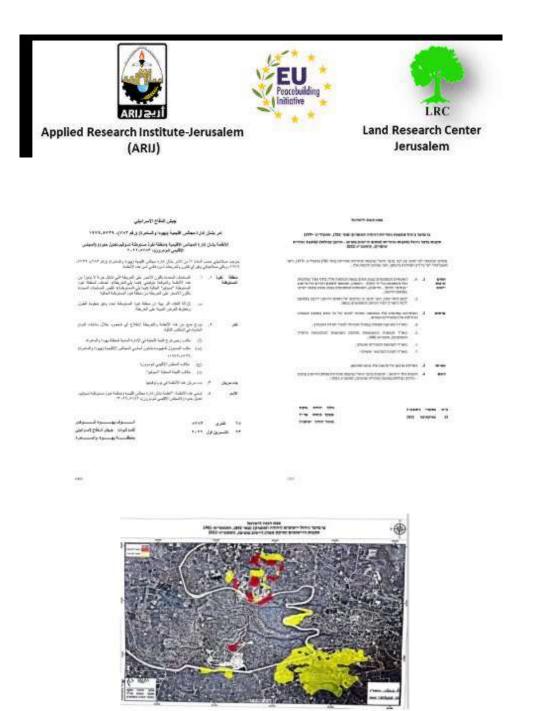
Confiscation order: The so-called "Custodian of government and absentee property" in the occupied West Bank published, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2022, an announcement aiming to seize 360 dunums of land in Salfit governorate in the northern occupied West Bank under the pretext of being classified as "absentee property". The so-called "Custodian of government and absentee property" announced his intention to give planning permission on the lands mentioned in the Israeli announcement, as stated by the source. The new Israeli announcement targets Palestinian lands belonging to the villages of Bidya and Kafr Al-Dik in Salfit Governorate.



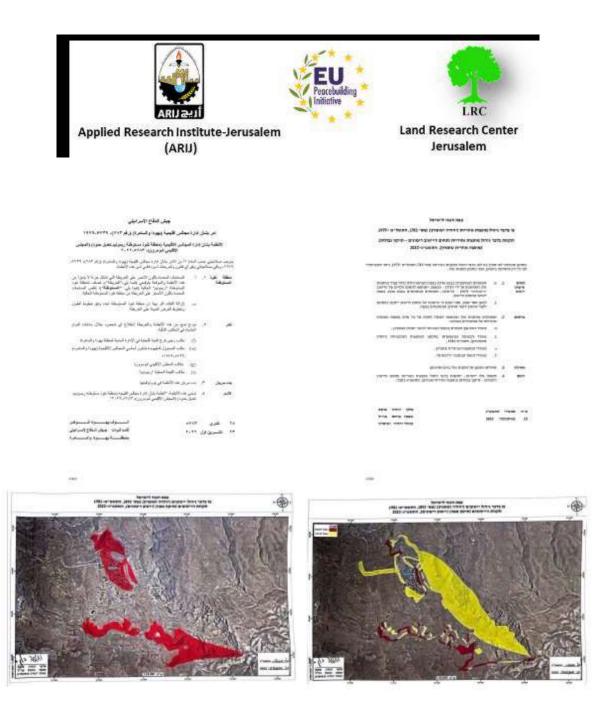
• Confiscation order: 'Order Regarding the Administration of Regional Councils' (Judea and Samaria) Number 783 of 1979, Shomron Regional Council - Tzufim Settlement: Issued on October 23, 2022, targeting the lands of Jayyus/Falamia in Qalqilya governorate to increase the Israeli so-called "Jurisdiction Area". The targeted lands are located to the north of Tzufim settlement and east of the Israeli segregation wall route in Qalqilya Governorate.



• Confiscation Order: 'Order Regarding the Administration of Regional Councils' (Judea and Samaria) Number 783 of 1979, Shomron Regional Council - Tzufim Settlement: Issued on October 23, 2022, and targeting the lands of Jayyus/Falamia in Qalqilya governorate to increase the area of the so-called "Jurisdiction Area". The targeted lands are located to the north of Tzufim settlement and east of the segregation wall route in Qalqilya Governorate.



• Confiscation order: 'Order Regarding the Administration of Regional Councils' (Judea and Samaria) Number 783 of 1979- Shomron Regional Council - Rimonim Settlement: The order was issued on 23 October 2022 and targeted lands belonging to the village of Ramon, south of Rimonim settlement and parallel to the Israeli bypass road No. 449 in Ramallah governorate. The military order states the confiscation of 815 dunums of land to increase the area of what Israeli classifies as "Jurisdiction area".



 Confiscation order: 'Order Regarding the Administration of Regional Councils' (Judea and Samaria) Number 783 of 1979, Har Hebron Regional Council - Kiryat Arba settleme. The military order was issued on 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022 and targeted 17 dunums of Palestinian Land belonging to Al-Bouira area, east of Hebron, north of Kharsina settlement.



Confiscation order: It was issued on December 6, 2022, and targeted an area of 3,492 dunums of Palestinian land belonging to Aqraba village under the pretext of being classified as "State Property." The new military order aims to expand the jurisdiction area of Yafit settlement from its southern and western sides.



#### **Israeli Evacuation Orders**

Evacuation order: On the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, the Israeli Civil Administration notified residents of "Khalet al-Qamh" area, located to the north of Kafr al-Dik, with an eviction order holding No. 1227 and states the evacuation of 2 dunums of agricultural land planted with 60 trees.





- Evacuation order: The Israeli occupation army (IOA) accompanied by the so-called Israeli Antiquities Inspector of the Israeli Civil Administration, stormed the village of Kafr al-Dik on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2022, and placed a military notice holding number (880) which stated the evacuation of a 10-dunum plot of land and return it to its former state. The order was issued under the pretext of attacking what Israel classifies as "Israeli antiquities".
- Evacuation order: On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, the Israeli occupation authorities notified the evacuation of a plot of land in Al-Rakeez village in Masafer Yatta, south of Hebron Governorate. The notice was issued by the so-called "Civil Administration and holds number (01059). The notification demanded that the targeted 3-dunums land be evacuated.



Evacuation order: On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2022, the so-called "Israeli Civil Administration handed an eviction notice holding No. 001675 targeting an agricultural land of 1.5 dunums in Al-Jaba'a village in Bethlehem governorate



under the pretext of being classified as "state land". The targeted land area is 1.5 dunums and is planted with 30 olive trees.

Eviction order: On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2022, the Israeli occupation authorities handed residents of Hajjah village in Qalqilya governorate a notice targeting a 70-dunum plot of land planted with about 1,000 olive saplings. The military notification holds number "1228" and demanded that residents vacate the land, under the pretext of attacking what the occupation describes as "state land."

Evacuation order: On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2022, the Israeli occupation authorities notified the evacuation of two plots of land with an area of 32 dunums in Khallet Al-Dabaa village in Masafer Yatta, south of Hebron, under the pretext that the lands are classified as a "nature reserve".

Evacuation order: On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2022, the Israeli occupation authorities issued a notice to vacate a plot of land, in "Sondas Mountain" area, south of Hebron, under the pretext that it was classified as "state land." The notification holds number (001087) and targets a one-dunum plot of land.

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• Evacuation order: On the 25th of April 2022, the Israeli occupation authorities notified the evacuation of a plot of land of 5 dunums in Al-Taybeh area, east of Tarqumiya town in Hebron Governorate, under the pretext that it was classified as "state lands." The evacuation order holds number.(001054)





- Evacuation order: On the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, the Israeli occupation army handed residents of Wadi Fukin village in Bethlehem governorate an order to evacuate a 43-dunum land planted with 250 fruit trees. The Israeli military order holds number No. 390702 (6/15) and states the evacuation of the land under the pretext of being classifies as a military zone, where Palestinians are forbidden to access or utilize under any circumstances.
- Evacuation order: On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, the Israeli occupation authorities notified the evacuation of lands in the village of Birin, south of Hebron, under the pretext that they are classified as "state land," and gave Palestinian land owners 45 days to vacate them. The notice holds "No. 001315" and targets a plot of land of about (3.4 dunums) planted with 340 trees. Likewise, Order No. 001313 targets a plot of land of about 1.5 dunums, and includes the removal of retaining walls and barbed wires with a length of about 180 meters, in addition to 208 seedlings that were planted recently.



• Evacuation order: On the 23<sup>RD</sup> of June, 2022, the so-called Israeli Civil Administration handed residents of "Al-Hardash" area in Khirbet Al-Taybeh, east of Tarqumiya, in Hebron Governorate, a notice to evacuate a 90-dunum plot of land planted with 200 trees. The notification holds number and it demanded Palestinian land owners to evacuate their lands within (72 hours) from the date of issuance of the notice.



