
مجموعة الرقابة الفلسطينية



PALESTINIAN MONITORING GROUP

TREND ANALYSIS

ISRAELI SETTLER VIOLENCE AGAINST PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS AND THEIR PROPERTY, 1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2004

Background

Article 49, paragraph 6, of the *Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War* prohibits the occupying power from transferring parts of its own civilian population into occupied territory.

In its 9 July 2004 Advisory Opinion, *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the Occupied Palestinian Territory (paragraph 101). In particular, the ICJ ruled that: "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) have been established in breach of international law." (paragraph 120).

The establishment of Israeli settlements and the influx of Israeli settlers have severely altered the demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and threaten the economic and physical security of Palestinian civilians. As of October 2004, approximately 418,000 Israeli citizens live in more than 150 illegal settlements throughout the OPT. The construction of the Wall, coupled with Israeli settlements, is further altering the demographic composition of the OPT, as the ICJ affirmed in its decision (paragraph 133).

Israeli settlers routinely perpetrate acts of violence against Palestinian civilians and their property. The issue of Israeli settler violence against Palestinian civilians assumes special importance in the current period, as Palestinian civilians attempt to harvest this year's olive crop, which is expected to be the best in 20 years. Access to hundreds of *dunums* of

land cultivated with olive trees is currently prevented due to threats and acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and/or restricted, or denied, by the Israeli military authorities.

On 30 September, Israeli settlers and Israeli soldiers expelled Palestinian farmers from the village of Kafr Qaddum from their land and prevented them from harvesting their olives. Whereas Palestinian farmers from Kafr Qaddum estimate needing between 60 to 90 days to harvest their olive crop, the Israeli authorities have informed them that they will have access to their fields for only 1 day to harvest olives.

Palestinian residents of the villages of Azzun Atma, Sanniriya and Beit Amin in the Qalqiliya Governorate are denied access to approximately 825 *dunums* of land cultivated with olive trees that are trapped between the Israeli settlements of Sha'arei Tikva, Elkana and Etz Efrayim. A similar situation exists near the village of Janiya in the Ramallah Governorate, and the Israeli settlements of Dolev and Talmon.

On 9 October, a group of Israeli settlers from the settlement of Tappuah in the Salfit Governorate attacked Palestinian civilian land in the village of Yasuf near the settlement and expelled Palestinian civilians from their land as they were harvesting olive crops.

Though Israeli settlers are private actors and not official agents of the state, the Israeli government bears responsibility for their presence and actions in the OPT. It facilitated the transfer of these citizens into the OPT – by extending Israeli administrative and territorial jurisdiction to settlers and the areas they reside in, confiscating Palestinian land for the exclusive use of Israeli settlements, providing settlers with various subsidies and economic incentives to live there, and creating ease of movement through the construction of a network of settler-only bypass roads.

Settler violence against Palestinian civilians is an ongoing phenomenon that is not restricted to the period of the olive harvest. An examination of Israeli settler violence over an extended period of time reveals patterns of systematic settler violence that suggest a clear strategic objective. This Trend Analysis covers violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip against Palestinian civilians and their property, during the period 1 January – 30 June 2004. It features select information indicative of trends and represents only a portion of Israeli settler violence during that period. It is based on data compiled from Daily Situation Reports of the Palestinian Monitoring Group. The information reported through the PMG process only represents data available at the time of distribution.

Summary of Trends

During the first six months of 2004, Israeli settler violence against Palestinian civilians and their property occurred throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In many cases, Israeli soldiers offered protection to Israeli settlers as they attacked Palestinian civilians, or directly participated in attacks themselves. In only one incident reported during this period did Israeli soldiers intervene to protect Palestinian civilians from an Israeli settler attack.

Israeli settler violence frequently encompassed more than one type of attack, including: *physical attacks on Palestinian civilians*, including children and the elderly; *attacks on private Palestinian property*, including attacks on homes, businesses, vehicles and livestock, and destruction, levelling and confiscation of Palestinian land (including cultivated areas); and *attacks on religious sites*.

Data from the first six months of 2004 suggests that Israeli settler violence is strategic, designed to further the interests of the settlement enterprise. It generally takes place in areas adjacent to the Wall, or its planned route; areas adjacent to existing and planned settlements and outposts; and areas adjacent to existing or planned Israeli settler by-pass roads.

Israeli settler violence includes general violence directed towards Palestinian civilians and their property, as well as violence specifically targeting Palestinian land and livelihood activities. These two forms of violence operate in tandem; ongoing general violence terrorizes Palestinian civilians and creates an environment of fear, intimidation and lawlessness that facilitates a strategic objective of de-populating Palestinian areas and gaining control of additional Palestinian land.

Israeli settler violence during the first six months of 2004 occurred simultaneously as the Israeli government expanded settlements, announced the construction of new settlements, proceeded with construction of the Wall, and continued to expand the network of bypass roads that connect Israeli settlements with each other and to the territory of Israel. In many areas, there was a correlation between these government activities and Israeli settler violence, suggesting that the latter complements activities of the Israeli authorities. In some cases, Israeli settler violence directly fulfilled Israeli government objectives. For example, while the Israeli government pledged to the United States that it will not expropriate more land for settlement expansion, Israeli settlers continue to confiscate or forcibly assume control of Palestinian land.

The occurrence of official Israeli settlement activity, combined with Israeli settler violence, in some areas, and the failure of Israeli authorities to address acts of settler violence, results in a consistent pattern of intimidating and physically harming Palestinian civilians and their property, clearing Palestinian land, and/or displacing Palestinian civilians and further altering the demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Types of Attacks

Israeli settlers carried out individual attacks on Palestinians and their property as well as carried out repeated, organized group raids of Palestinian areas, attacking Palestinian civilians, opening fire, setting fire to vehicles, buildings and cultivated land and engaging in other forms of property destruction.

Many Palestinian areas were the target of repeated attacks. In the Nablus Governorate, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Yizhar carried out at least 6 known attacks on surrounding Palestinian villages and abducted a 15 year old Palestinian boy. In the Salfit Governorate, Israeli settlers targeted the Palestinian village of Yasuf with raids and attacks seven times during the first six months of the year.

Forms of Israeli Settler Violence

Forms of general violence include physical attacks, vandalism, verbal harassment, including racist epithets, and destruction of property. Incidents occurring in the first six months of 2004 included:

- abduction of three Palestinian children and one adult
- Palestinian civilians run over by Israeli settlers
- beating of Palestinian civilians and other physical attacks
- opening fire on Palestinian civilians, their vehicles and homes
- torching and vandalizing vehicles
- hot water thrown at Palestinian civilians, including children
- stoning of Palestinian civilians, their cars and homes
- paint thrown on Palestinian civilians
- garbage thrown at Palestinian houses

Israeli settler violence specifically targeting Palestinian land and livelihood activities during the first six months of 2004 included:

- confiscation of Palestinian land
- levelling of Palestinian land, including cultivated areas
- destruction of cultivated Palestinian land, including setting fire to Palestinian fields
- uprooting olive and fruit bearing trees
- destruction of crops
- restricting access of Palestinians to their land, including agricultural land
- attacks on and killing of Palestinian livestock
- erection of fences and other barriers on Palestinian land
- forced occupation of Palestinian homes and other buildings

Frequency of Attacks

Israeli settler violence occurred most frequently in the Hebron Governorate. Other areas affected by acute levels of Israeli settler violence include the Nablus, Bethlehem, Salfit and Qalqiliya governorates.

The two months preceding the Likud party's 2 May referendum on the "unilateral disengagement" plan witnessed the highest frequency of Israeli settler violence. Around 44 per cent of attacks during the first six months of 2004 occurred in March and April.

The lowest frequency of violence – less than 10 per cent – occurred in February, when the case concerning Israel’s construction of the Wall in the OPT was being heard by the International Court of Justice.

Israeli settler violence in the Hebron and Nablus governorates was highest in April, when 33 and 34 per cent of reported violence occurred respectively. During the same period, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon travelled to Washington, DC, where United States President George W. Bush gave support for “unilateral disengagement” and the maintenance of West Bank settlements.

Violence peaked in Bethlehem (43.7 per cent) and Jerusalem (28.5 per cent) in March. In the Salfit Governorate, the highest months for violence were March (25 per cent), May (21.8 per cent) and June (21.8 per cent). Violence was highest in the Qalqiliya Governorate in June, when 54 per cent of all reported violence occurred.

A. TYPES OF ISRAELI SETTLER VIOLENCE

1. Physical Attacks on Palestinian Civilians

Israeli settlers carried out 130 physical attacks on Palestinian civilians during the first six months of 2004. **Israeli settler violence killed two Palestinian civilians** in March: On 1 March, Dheeba Amin Adi, a 65 year old female from Beit Ummar in the Hebron Governorate was killed instantly after being hit by an Israeli settler vehicle. On 9 March, 15 year old Khaled Musa Hadib, from Jerusalem, was killed instantly when an Israeli settler ran over him in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood.

At least 22 other Palestinian civilians were severely beaten by Israeli settlers, including 3 children, a 67 year old and a 75 year old man. Israeli settlers physically assaulted dozens of other Palestinian civilians, including female elementary school students, worshippers and teachers.

Israeli settlers abducted three Palestinian children and ran over three children. On 19 January, an Israeli settler ran over a five year old boy, near the town of Huwwara, and then fled the scene. On 19 June, an Israeli settler vehicle, travelling on an Israeli settler by-pass road in the town of Beit Ummar, ran over a family of three (father, mother, and child) and fled without transporting the injured to the hospital.

Additionally, Israeli settlers opened fire on Palestinian civilians; stoned men, women and children; attacked farmers and shepherds and prevented farmers from reaching their land by force.

Israeli settlers in the old city of Hebron repeatedly attacked Palestinian civilians there during the first six months of 2004. On 12 January, Israeli settlers threw stones towards civilian houses in the neighbourhood of Wadi al Nasara near the settlement of Kiryat Arba, injuring a 5 year old Palestinian civilian, Hamza Da’na. On 25 January and

22 February, Israeli settlers attacked civilians on their way to pray at the Ibrahimi mosque. On 9 March, a group of Israeli settlers in the old city of Hebron severely beat a female Palestinian civilian. She was hospitalised for injuries sustained during the attack. On 14 March, a group of Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian civilians with stones on Al Shuhada Street and in the area surrounding the Ibrahimi Mosque. On 28 March, a group of Israeli settlers threw hot water at Palestinian civilians in the old city of Hebron. On 15 April, a group of Israeli settlers severely beat 2 female, Palestinian civilians in Tel Rumeida in Hebron. On 22 April, a group of Israeli settlers in the old city of Hebron severely beat Rana Suleiman Jabir, a 10 year old Palestinian girl, who was hospitalised for injuries sustained during the attack. On 17 May, a group of Israeli settlers in the old city of Hebron poured hot water over an 11 year old Palestinian boy, Barakat Khadr Abdul Jabbar, who was hospitalised for treatment of burns sustained during the attack.

2. Attacks on Religious Sites and Worshippers

Israeli settlers carried out **at least 10 raids or attacks on religious sites and worshippers** during the first six months of 2004. On 24 January, around 250 Israeli settlers, under the protection of the Israeli army raided the city of Nablus and conducted prayers at Josef's Tomb. On 4 March, Israeli soldiers and Israeli settlers again raided Nablus and positioned themselves near Josef's Tomb.

On 8 April, a group of Israeli settlers raided Al-Aqsa Mosque in the old city of Jerusalem during the Passover holiday and patrolled the mosque compound. On 28 April, Israeli settlers patrolled the area surrounding the mosque compound, harassed Palestinian civilians and chanted slogans calling for the killing and deportation of Palestinians.

In the old city of Hebron, on 8 and 12 April, Israeli settlers raided the Al Aqtab Mosque and destroyed contents within the mosque. On 3 May, Israeli settlers, under the protection of the Israeli army, took over Al Kayaali Mosque in the old city of Hebron.

3. Attacks on Property

i. General attacks

Israeli settlers **opened fire** on Palestinian homes and communities; **stoned** cars, homes and businesses; **vandalised** and/or **set fire** to vehicles; **threw garbage** at Palestinian residences; attempted to set fire to homes; **destroyed public infrastructure**, such as water pipes and tanks; raided and/or **occupied private homes**; and **stole and/or destroyed Palestinian property**, including contents of private homes.

General attacks occurred most frequently in the old city of Hebron. On 14 March, 28 March, 8 April, 24 April and 2 May, Israeli settlers repeatedly attacked Palestinian civilians and their property with stones. On 11 February, Israeli settlers threw garbage at civilian houses in the old city. On 6 March, Israeli settlers raided a house in an attempt to occupy it and posted pictures of Baruch Goldstein, responsible for the massacre of worshippers in the Ibrahimi Mosque in 1994. On 18 April, a group of Israeli settlers raided

the old city and forced open a number of shop gates that had been previously sealed by the Israeli army. On 28 April, Israeli settlers raided a Palestinian civilian apartment compound, destroyed furniture and stole property.

ii. Attacks on farmers and livestock

Israeli settlers **opened fire** at Palestinian shepherds and herds of livestock, injuring shepherds and killing some livestock; **prevented Palestinian farmers** from reaching their fields and shepherds from tending to their flocks; **destroyed livestock feed**; and forced farmers, under threat of violence, to destroy their crops.

On 5 February, Israeli settlers physically attacked and injured Palestinian shepherds near the town of Tubas in the Jenin Governorate. On 26 April, a group of Israeli settlers opened fire towards Palestinian shepherds and farmers in the village of Al 'Auja, in the Jericho Governorate, preventing them from reaching their land.

iii. Destruction of olive trees, vineyards and other cultivated land

During the first six months of 2004, **Israeli settlers uprooted or otherwise destroyed** over 500 individual trees and at least 28 *dunums* (7 acres) of land cultivated with olive and fruit bearing trees, and **set fire to, or otherwise destroyed**, over 125 *dunums* (31.25 acres) of cultivated land.

In the Salfit Governorate, on 11 May, a group of Israeli settlers from the settlement of Eli Zahav set fire to land cultivated with olive trees located between the villages of Kafr ad Dik and Bruqin. Civilians were prohibited by the Israeli settlers, under the protection of the Israeli army, from extinguishing the fire. On 14 May, a group of Israeli settlers from the settlement of Daniel uprooted over 300 olive trees and grape vines in the town of Al Khadr in the Bethlehem Governorate.

iv. Land confiscation and levelling

Israeli settlers **levelled, confiscated or forcibly assumed control of over 700 *dunums* (175 acres) of Palestinian land** during the first six months of 2004. On 4 March, Israeli settlers from Allon Shevut in the Bethlehem Governorate cut down 110 trees and confiscated 25 *dunums* (6.25 acres) of land from the village of Khirbet Sakariya, which is completely surrounded by Israeli settlements. In the Hebron Governorate, on 17 March, Israeli settlers from Migdal Oz enclosed 13 *dunums* (3.25 acres) of land belonging to the village of Beit Ummar with a fence, for the purpose of constructing new settlement housing units. On 30 March, an armed Israeli settler from the settlement of Hallamish in the Ramallah Governorate forced residents off their land near the settlement, enclosed the area of land with a fence, erected a tent and used the land to graze sheep.

v. Environmental pollution and health hazards

On 26 February, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Ariel in the Salfit Governorate drained sewage onto several *dunums* of agricultural land belonging to the village of Marda. As of 23 May, Israeli settlers from Ariel continued to drain sewage onto these lands, creating a health and environmental hazard. On 23 June, an Israeli factory near the settlement of Hallamish dumped around 50 truckloads of waste in the area located between the town of Beit Rima and the village of An Nabi Salih in the Ramallah/El-Bireh Governorate, and then burnt the waste causing environmental pollution.

B. ISRAELI MILITARY OR POLICE PARTICIPATION IN ISRAELI SETTLER VIOLENCE, OR PROTECTION OF ISRAELI SETTLERS DURING ATTACKS ON PALESTINIANS

During the first six months of 2004, **Israeli soldiers directly participated, or provided protection to Israeli settlers**, in at least 15 acts of settler violence targeting Palestinian civilians. In one incident, Israeli police officers participated with Israeli settlers in perpetrating violence. In at least four cases, Palestinian civilians were punished by the Israeli army following an Israeli settler attack, either by being arrested or having curfew imposed on their town or village. In only one incident reported during the first six months of 2004 did the Israeli army intervene to protect Palestinian civilians from an Israeli settler attack.

Participation or protection of the army was highest in the Jerusalem and Nablus governorates, with three incidents each. Two such instances occurred in the Salfit, Jericho and Bethlehem governorates each. One instance each occurred in the Hebron and Qalqiliya governorates of the West Bank and the Khan Yunis Governorate of the Gaza Strip.

On 8 January, Israeli police and Israeli settlers severely beat 3 Palestinian labourers near the settlement of Ma'ale Adummim and detained them for several hours. The labourers were transferred to a hospital for treatment of injuries sustained during the attack. On 1 April, a group of Israeli settlers, protected by the Israeli army, raided and occupied two apartment blocks consisting of 14 apartments in Silwan neighbourhood. Confrontations with the Israeli army and Israeli settlers took place, as Palestinian civilians refused to leave their apartments, resulting in 10 Palestinian civilian injuries and 6 arrests.

On 17 May, the Israeli army imposed curfew on the town of Huwwara in the Nablus Governorate after Israeli settlers from the settlement of Yizhar physically assaulted civilians and destroyed property in the town.

On 24 March, a group of Israeli settlers and soldiers kidnapped a Palestinian farmer from the village of Bardala in the Jericho Governorate, took him to an uninhabited area near the village, and severely assaulted him. On 25 March, Israeli settlers, supported by the Israeli army, physically assaulted civilians south of the village of 'Ein al Beida in the Jericho Governorate.

On 10 May, the Israeli army, accompanied by a group of Israeli settlers, raided the area of Abu Haddaf, east of Al Qarara in the Khan Yunis Governorate of the Gaza Strip, and surrounded a number of tents erected for civilians whose houses had been demolished by the Israeli army. The Israeli army ordered several residents to evacuate their houses located south of the road leading to the settlement of Kissufim, opened fire, including tank shelling at civilian houses, setting fire to one house. The house burnt down completely as crews from the Palestinian Civil Defence were not able to reach the area in time to extinguish the fire. The Israeli army subsequently demolished seven houses.

C. ISRAELI SETTLER VIOLENCE RELATED TO SETTLEMENT EXPANSION AND BYPASS ROAD AND WALL CONSTRUCTION

1. Jerusalem Governorate

Israeli settlements exist within and between Palestinian residential areas inside the Israeli-defined municipal borders of Jerusalem, as well as in all directions surrounding the city. These Israeli settlements are intended to isolate Palestinian neighbourhoods within the city from each other and from Palestinian locales in other areas of the West Bank. The area is further divided by a network of Israeli settler bypass roads. Existing and approved segments of the Wall, and current and planned bypass road construction and settlement expansion, intensify this division, cut off Jerusalem's Palestinian residents from other parts of the West Bank, **deny Palestinian civilians the land necessary for urban growth and further alter the demographic composition of the city of Jerusalem.**

On 9 March, the Israeli Settler Society of Elad began construction of a commercial/tourist centre in the area adjacent to Al Maghariba Gate. Also on 9 March, Israeli settlers attacked and injured six civilians in the old city of Jerusalem, and an Israeli settler ran over and killed a 15 year old boy. On 7 April, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Adam, located on land belonging to the village of Jab'a, began settlement expansion on additional village land.

On 10 April, the Israeli army raided the neighbourhood of Silwan in Jerusalem and searched houses near a building that had been recently occupied by Israeli settlers. On 15 June, a group of Israeli settlers occupied one building in the neighbourhood of Al Musrara in the city of Jerusalem, changed the locks on its doors and windows and shouted anti-Arab slogans calling for the deportation of all Palestinians.

On 3 May, a group of Israeli settlers, under the protection of the Israeli army, raided two houses in the town of Abu Dis. The settlers brought with them a power generator and electricity cables and claimed ownership of the houses, along with 80 *dunums* (20 acres) of land surrounding the houses. Both houses are located 100 meters from the building intended to house the Palestinian Legislative Council.

On 9 June, the Israeli authorities began construction of a road and infrastructure in preparation for construction of a new settler outpost in the Israeli settlement of Ma'ale Adummim, in the area located between the settlement and the Palestinian villages of Az Za'ayem and Al Isawiya.

2. Villages of Far'ata, Kafr Qaddum and Jit (Qalqiliya Governorate)

The Palestinian villages of Far'ata, Kafr Qaddum and Jit are located along the perimeter of the segment of the Wall designed to incorporate the Israeli settlement of Kedumim. **Israeli settler violence has repeatedly targeted Palestinian farmers and destroyed cultivated land in the area.**

For two consecutive weeks in March, armed Israeli settlers from the settlement of Kedumim prevented Palestinian landowners from Kafr Qaddum from accessing their fields. On 15 April, armed Israeli settlers from Kedumim forced Palestinian farmers to leave their farmland under the threat of violence. On 8 May, Israeli settlers set fire to olive groves in Kafr Qaddum, destroying 40 *dunums* (10 acres) of olive trees. On 17 May, less than 1 km away, another fire destroyed 60 *dunums* (15 acres) of olive trees located on lands belonging to the Palestinian village of Jit, located between the village and the Israeli settlement of Kedumim. Both fires occurred along the route of the planned Wall in that area.

On 6 June, Israeli settlers from the settlement outpost of Gil'ad, located near the village of Far'ata, opened fire towards several Palestinian shepherds tending their sheep, killing several sheep. Confrontations took place between Israeli settlers and Palestinian civilians, during which the Israeli army intervened and arrested 2 Palestinian civilians. On 28 June, the Israeli army levelled 150 *dunums* (37.5 acres) of Far'ata land cultivated with olive trees, north of the built up area of the village, along the planned route of the Wall. A group of Israeli settlers, protected by the Israeli army, attacked Palestinian shepherds as they were tending their sheep, injuring several of the shepherds.

3. Villages of Kafr Thulth and 'Isla (Qalqiliya Governorate)

The villages of Kafr Thulth and 'Isla are located between segments of the current Wall to the southeast of Qalqiliya and the approved path of the Wall that will run west of the Shomron settlement bloc.

On 15 March, the Israeli army levelled 150 *dunums* (37.5 acres) of olive groves in the village of Kafr Thulth in preparation for construction of a road connecting the settlement of Ma'ale Shomeron with a newly established Israeli settler outpost built on village land. On 25 June, a group of Israeli settlers from Ma'ale Shomeron uprooted dozens of olive trees for settlement expansion. On 30 June, Israeli settlers from Ma'ale Shomeron attacked several citizens – injuring one elderly Palestinian civilian – who were demonstrating against the levelling of land in Kafr Thulth for settlement expansion.

On 3 June, the Israeli army levelled around 50 *dunums* (12.5 acres) of land in the village of ‘Isla, to the east of the Israeli settlement of Alfe Menashe for the construction of roads, a water tank and infrastructure for expansion of the settlement. On 25 June, the Israeli army levelled dozens more *dunums* of land from ‘Isla for the expansion of Alfe Menashe.

4. Town of Huwwara and Villages of Asira al-Qibla, Burin, Einabus, and Urif (Nablus Governorate)

During the first six months of 2004, Palestinian locales located near the Israeli settlements of Yizhar and Har Bracha faced **systematic attack by Israeli settlers**, particularly those from Yizhar. The affected areas include the Palestinian town of Huwwara and the Palestinian villages of Asira al-Qibla, Burin, Einabus and Urif. Palestinian locales in the Nablus Governorate faced similar attacks in 2003.

The area surrounding the settlement of Yizhar has been “thickened” since February 2001, with the establishment of at least 4 new settlement outposts to the north and south. Additionally, two new outposts have been established east of the Palestinian villages of Madama and Burin, north of Yizhar, in order to expand the settlement of Har Bracha.

During the first six months of 2004, **Israeli settlers from the settlement of Yizhar carried out at least six known attacks on nearby Palestinian villages**, including kidnapping a 15 year old boy, opening indiscriminate fire on Palestinian civilians, stoning a house and civilian vehicles, destroying personal property, raiding homes, and setting fire to dozens of *dunums* of cultivated land.

On 29 May, Israeli settlers from Yizhar set fire to dozens of *dunums* of cultivated land belonging to residents of the town of Huwwara and the village of Einabus and prevented fire trucks from reaching the area to extinguish the fire. On 2 June, Israeli settlers from Yizhar set fire to seven *dunums* (1.75 acres) of land cultivated with wheat and grape vines in Asira al Qibliya.

Israeli settlers attacked the town of Huwwara seven times – three attacks occurring within ten days in March. Israeli settlers ran over a 59 year old Palestinian woman, raided the town, opened indiscriminate fire, set fire to the local mosque, stoned civilian homes, destroyed private property, and set fire to dozens of *dunums* of cultivated land.

Israeli settlers attacked the village of Urif three times. On two occasions the village was raided, during which private property was destroyed, cultivated land torched, Palestinian homes raided, indiscriminate fire opened, teargas grenades fired, two vehicles destroyed and curfew imposed. Israeli settlers also attempted to set fire to several Palestinian homes. Separately, Israeli settlers set fire to fields of wheat and straw.

Israeli settlers attacked the village of Burin twice, attacking civilian houses, destroying private property and setting fire to cultivated land.

5. Villages of Yasuf and Iskaka (Salfit Governorate)

The Palestinian villages of Yasuf and Iskaka are located to the east of the planned East Ariel Finger of the Wall, between the Israeli settlements of Ariel, Tappuah and Rechelim, and in the vicinity of numerous settlement outposts. This area is the site of settlement bypass road construction that is designed to connect the settlement of Ariel to other area settlements and to settlements in the Jordan Valley, through construction of the Trans-Samaria Highway. This road will run across the West Bank, from the Jordan Valley to Israel. An existing Israeli settler bypass road lies to the east of the villages. The existing configuration, and planned Wall and bypass road construction, **denies the villages of Yasuf and Iskaka the land needed for urban expansion and will create intense overcrowding in the future.**

On 3 January, the Israeli authorities allocated USD 225,000 for construction of an Israeli settler bypass road connecting the settlement of Ariel with the outpost of Tappuah West in order to annex the outpost to the settlement of Ariel. On 28 May, the Israeli army issued Military Order # 04/45/T confiscating 267.4 *dunums* (66.85 acres) of land located between the city of Salfit and the settlement of Ariel, near the planned route of the Wall.

On 15 June, the Israeli army began levelling land located west of the village of Iskaka and north of the city of Salfit in preparation for construction of a fence around the settlement of Ariel as part of the Wall. This activity was subsequently suspended by an Israeli High Court order. On 29 June, the Israeli army levelled large areas of land surrounding the checkpoint, on the Za'tara road junction, for construction of the Trans-Samaria highway.

The village of Yasuf was the target of Israeli settler violence at least seven times during the first six months of 2004. Israeli settlers vandalized two vehicles and set fire to a third, stoned Palestinian civilians in vehicles, opened fire in the direction of the village, raided the village and opened indiscriminate fire, and set fire to wheat crops. On 30 May, confrontations took place between Palestinian civilians and Israeli settlers who had raided the village. The Israeli army intervened and forced the settlers to leave the area and imposed curfew over the village. On 5 June, the Israeli army and a group of Israeli settlers raided the village. Confrontations took place between the Israeli army and Israeli settlers and Palestinian civilians, after which the Israeli army imposed curfew and detained two Palestinian civilians.

6. Ramallah/El Bireh Governorate

On 1 January, the Israeli army continued to fence the parameters of the settlement of Hallamish. The fence cuts into land belonging to residents of the neighbouring village of Deir Nidham. On 19 January, Israeli settlers erected a new settlement outpost near Hallamish. On 19 January, Israeli security personnel from the settlement of Hallamish **abducted two Palestinian children** who are residents of the village of Deir Nidham. On 19 January, Israeli settlers from Hallamish burned tires on the road to Beit Illu and set fire to a bus.

On 9 February, the Israeli army began installing a barbed wire fence as part of the Wall beginning at the settlement of Huron, on land belonging to the village of Beit Ur al Foqa, extending to the north and west, separating the villages of Safa and Bil'in, and continuing west towards the Green Line. On 11 February, Israeli bulldozers began levelling agricultural land along the Israeli settler bypass road in preparation for construction of the Wall west of Beituniya.

On 24 March, Israeli settlers placed 4 new caravans in the settlement of Ateret. On 12 April, a group of Israeli settlers, protected by the Israeli army, set up a new settlement outpost near the settlement of Eli on agricultural land confiscated from the village of Sinjil. On 18 May, an Israeli settler opened fire towards a Palestinian civilian in the village of Al Janiya, injuring the civilian. On 27 June, an Israeli settler opened fire towards Palestinian civilians in the village of Sinjil, injuring one civilian.

7. Villages of Khirbet Sakariya and Al Khadr (Bethlehem Governorate)

At least 5 outposts have gone up in the area of the villages Al Khadr and Khirbet Sakariya since Feb 2001. Khirbet Sakariya is surrounded by Israeli settlements and **located to the west of the Wall's approved path.**

On 19 January, Israeli settlers destroyed land belonging to the village of Khirbet Sakariya, destroyed water pipes, chopped down 100 grape vines, and smashed the glass of a public vehicle. On 11 May, Israeli settlers from Kfar Etzion severely beat one Palestinian civilian, Ibrahim Ali Atallah, while he was in his house in Khirbet Sakariya. He was hospitalised for injuries sustained during the attack. On 4 March, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Allon Shevut forcibly seized 25 *dunums* (6.25 acres) of land from Khirbet Sakariya and cut down 110 trees. On 30 April, a group of Israeli settlers confiscated 18 *dunums* (4.5 acres) of land belonging to Imad Ali Salah west of the village of Al Khadr. On 14 May, a group of Israeli settlers from the settlement of Daniel uprooted over 300 olive trees and grape vines in the town of Al Khadr, provoking confrontations between Palestinian civilians and Israeli settlers.

8. Vicinity of Town of Tuqu' (Bethlehem Governorate)

The town of Tuqu', located to the south of the city of Bethlehem, **is enclosed on three sides by Israeli settlements and Israeli bypass roads.** The Israeli settlement of Teqoa is located to the northeast of Tuqu'. A new Israeli settler bypass road is being constructed to the east of Tuqu', extending from the Israeli settlement bloc of Teqoa, north to the Israeli settlement of Har Homa and other Israeli settlements in Jerusalem.

On 9 February, Israeli settlers attempted to confiscate land belonging to the town of Tuqu', provoking confrontations with Palestinian civilians. On 1 March, Israeli bulldozers, supported by the Israeli army and Israeli settlers, levelled land in the area of Jurun al Maniya, south of the village of Tuqu', and placed caravans in the area between the village and the Israeli settlement of Ma'ale Amos, in preparation for the establishment

of new Israeli settlement outposts. On 13 March, an Israeli settler ran over 4 year old Asma Hussein in Tuqu'. On 21 March, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Teqoa attacked and injured three Palestinian shepherds tending their sheep. On 26 March, Israeli settlers opened fire towards civilians and at water tanks in Tuqu'. On 29 March, Israeli settlers confiscated 15 *dunums* (3.75 acres) of land from Tuqu'. On 31 May, a group of Israeli settlers from the settlement of Teqoa severely beat one Palestinian civilian as he was tending his sheep, resulting in several broken bones. On 18 June, the Israeli army levelled agricultural land near the junction of Za'tara town to open a bypass road connecting the settlement of Har Homa with the settlements south of the district, over a distance of 22 kilometres

9. Village of Husan (Bethlehem Governorate)

The approved route of the Wall has slated the village of Husan, west of Bethlehem, to become a "semi-enclave" – an area encircled by the Wall with only one entry/exit point. Such a configuration **denies Palestinian civilians the land needed for urban expansion and will cause intense overcrowding in the future.**

On 16 March, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Betar Elite, protected by the Israeli army, cut down trees covering an area of 5 *dunums* (1.25 acres) located west of Husan. The Israeli army prevented the Palestinian owners from reaching their land. On 24 March, the Israeli army issued a confiscation order (# T/31/04) for an area of land from Husan and Wadi Abu Harith, measuring 2,305 meters in length and 2 meters in width, for construction of a settler bypass road and the Wall. On 1 June, an Israeli settler vehicle ran over 16 year old Diya Mar'a Hamamra in the town of Husan.

10. City of Hebron (Hebron Governorate)

During the first six months of 2004, Israeli settler violence against Palestinian civilians occurred at the highest frequency in the Hebron Governorate, with the majority of settler violence occurring within the city of Hebron.

Israeli settlements exist within and around the Palestinian city of Hebron. Israeli settlers have established settlements within Palestinian residential areas, and then attempted to link those settlements together, and to settlements just outside Hebron, such as Kiryat Arba. There is a strong correlation between settler violence and settlement activities by the Israeli authorities in the area. This correlation suggests an **attempt to clear land of Palestinian presence and displace Palestinian civilians.**

During the first six months of 2004, the Israeli army issued land confiscation orders, as well as demolition orders for Palestinian houses – including historic buildings – for the construction of an Israeli settler road from the Israeli settlement of Kiryat Arba, east of Hebron, to the area of the Ibrahimi Mosque in the old city of Hebron.

On 1 January, Israeli bulldozers continued to level land belonging to Palestinian civilians near the settlements of Kiryat Arba and Harsina in order to expand the two settlements

and build a wall around them. On 5 January, approximately 100 armed Israeli settlers destroyed vineyards belonging to Palestinian residents in the Wadi al Nasara neighbourhood, near Kiryat Arba.

On 11 January, the Israeli army raided Palestinian civilian houses located near Kiryat Arba, searched the houses and interrogated residents. The following day, Israeli settlers threw stones towards civilian houses in Wadi al Nasara, injuring five year old Hamza Da'na, and uprooted 5 *dunums* (1.25 acres) of vineyards.

On 20 February, the Israeli army warned three families in the city of Hebron that their houses will be demolished due to their proximity to Kiryat Arba and Harsina. On 30 March, Israeli settlers from Harsina levelled 4 *dunums* (1 acre) of agricultural land and cut down trees and grape vines in the area of Al Buweira.

On 15 April, Israeli settlers re-established the settlement outpost Ghiborim by placing a caravan in the area near Kiryat Arba. On 20 April, the Israeli army levelled 5 *dunums* (1.25 acres) of land east of Hebron in Wadi al Gharous to construct a settler road to Kiryat Arba. Confrontations took place between the Israeli army and Palestinian civilians protesting against the land levelling. The Israeli army arrested three protestors, all of whom own a portion of land in the area being levelled.

On 29 April, the Israeli authorities issued 2 military orders for the construction of an Israeli settler bypass road connecting Kiryat Arba to the Ibrahimi Mosque (Military Order # T/1/0/4, to demolish 2 houses in the old city of Hebron; and Military Order # T/36/4, confiscating 700 square meters of land). On 3 May, Israeli settlers from Harsina in the Hebron Governorate confiscated 18 *dunums* (4.5 acres) for construction of a road and expansion of the settlement. On 24 May, the Israeli army notified 10 home owners near Kiryat Arba and Harsina that their houses will be demolished.

On 26 June, Israeli settlers from Kiryat Arba attacked with stones civilian houses in Wadi Al Nasara. On 28 June, Israeli settlers cut down 16 *dunums* (3 acres) of olive trees and grape vines in the area of Al Sha'abi, near Harsina, and placed rocks and dirt over the destroyed land.

11. Vicinity of Town of Yatta (Hebron Governorate)

Palestinian areas along the approved path of the Wall in the southern Hebron Governorate, to the south and east of the Palestinian town of Yatta, have been the site of intense settler violence. An Israeli settler bypass road, linking the Israeli settlement of Kiryat Arba, near the city of Hebron, with areas south and southeast of the Wall's approved path creates a settlement "finger" extending into Palestinian areas.

In areas that fall south of the Wall's approved route, the existence of Palestinian civilian hamlets is threatened by construction of the Wall, affecting several thousand Palestinian civilians. Israel does not recognize many of these hamlets, such as Jinba. Israeli military activity in the area results in the destruction of Palestinian cultivated land. Israeli army

and settlement activity, approved Wall construction, and settler violence suggests an **attempt to clear Palestinian land and force its Palestinian inhabitants from the area.**

On 15 March, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Bani Hever seized over 60 *dunums* (15 acres) of land from the town of Yatta and enclosed the area with a fence, preventing landowners from accessing their land, and threatened to attack anyone approaching the area. On 8 April, twenty new caravans were added to Bani Hever. On 22 March, the Israeli army warned civilians residing in the village of Al Buweib, east of Yatta, to stop construction of their houses and notified house owners that the land of the village will be confiscated for settlement expansion. The Israeli settlement of Bani Hever and the Palestinian village of Al Buweib are in the vicinity of the settlement “finger” created by the Israeli bypass road linking Kiryat Arba with areas outside of the approved Wall southeast of Hebron.

On 25 January, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Suseya, which lies south of the Wall’s approved path south of Yatta, raided Palestinian agricultural land and allowed their livestock to graze on the land. On 6 April, Israeli settlers from Suseya severely beat a 75 year old Palestinian civilian, and physically assaulted two female Palestinian civilians. On 12 April, Israeli settlers from Suseya destroyed 14 *dunums* (3.5 acres) of agricultural land including trees and wheat crops. A female Palestinian civilian tending her sheep was injured by dogs released by the settlers. On 26 April, Israeli settlers from Suseya physically assaulted a Palestinian civilian as he was harvesting his crops and stole his tractor.

On 26 April, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Ma’on, located southeast of the Wall’s approved path, prevented Palestinian Civil Defence fire trucks from extinguishing a fire that was set to agricultural land, resulting in the destruction of 35 *dunums* (8.75 acres) of cropland and a tractor. On 12 May, Israeli settlers from Ma’on set fire to vast areas of land cultivated with wheat.

On 17 March, Israeli settlers from the settlement of Karma’el, located southeast of the Wall’s approved path east of Yatta, erected several cement barricades in preparation for the establishment of a new Israeli settler outpost nearby. This followed the levelling of approximately 10 *dunums* (2.5 acres) of land belonging to Yatta by Israeli settlers. On 8 April, Israeli settlers from Karma’el added an additional eight caravans to the settlement for settlement expansion. On 2 June, Israeli settlers from Karma’el expanded the settlement by laying cement foundations for permanent houses and placing caravans on Palestinian agricultural land.