

## **Semi Annual Report: Israeli Violations against the Palestinian Farmers- 2015**

The Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) followed up intensely the Israeli violations against the Palestinian farmers to expose the brutality of the occupation to the local and international world. In addition, UAWC supported the affected Palestinian farmers and their families to strengthen their resilience on land – the land of the parents and grandparents.

The violations mentioned in the report are just a part of the Israeli violations against the Palestinian agricultural sector for not all of the violations are reported and documented.

In the first six months of 2015, the Israeli army and Israeli settlers **uprooted more than 9910 trees** most of them were olive trees. In comparison the total number of trees uprooted in 2014 was 9400. Thus, there is a tangible increase in the number of trees uprooted in 2015.

Other statistics of the first six months of 2015 include: settler violence recorded reached **95 incidents**, Palestinian-owned structures demolished in the West Bank reached **280 structures**, and violations in Access Restricted Area (ARA) reached **at least 370 incidents**.

### **Damages to the agricultural sector & Violence against farmers**

#### **January**

- On 3 January, a group of 50 armed settlers tried to detain five Palestinian herders next to the settlement of Itamar (Nablus), sparking clashes; Israeli forces who arrived at the site fired live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas canisters at the Palestinians, injuring two of them.
- On 1 January, 5,000 2-3 year-old olive saplings were found uprooted in Turmus'ayya village (Ramallah).

Note: numbers and facts rely on the United Nations office for the coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' April weekly reports, unless stated otherwise.

- On 8 January, around 580 olive and almond trees were cut down by settlers near the villages of Qwawis and Ma'in (Hebron) affecting ten families.
- On 11 January, 36 olive trees were discovered cut down in Yassuf village (Salfit), in land near the settlement of Kfar Tappuah.
- On 18 January, two settler related incidents involved vandalism against 33 olive trees and saplings, including 12 in Assirah al Qibliye village (Nablus), and 21 in Al Mughayyir village (Ramallah).
- On 13 January, according to community sources in Turmus'ayya village (Ramallah), Israeli settlers from Shilo settlement entered a nearby agricultural farm and vandalized private property, including the main gate to the farm and furniture.
- On 14 January, an Israeli settler ran over two sheep belonging to a Palestinian herder from the village of Salim (Nablus), who was herding sheep on land near the settlement of Elon Moreh.

## February

- On 8 February, Israeli settlers from Asfar settlement uprooted 80 olive saplings that were planted the previous week near the village of Sa'ir on privately owned Palestinian land.
- On 5 February in the village of Kafr Qaddum (Qalqiliya), six trees were discovered burnt by chemicals presumably by settlers from the nearby settlement of Qedumim, on privately owned Palestinian land in an area to which access by Palestinians is restricted and requires prior coordination.
- A group of settlers from the settlement of Susya beat a 55-year-old shepherd from Qwawis while he was grazing his sheep near the settlement. In the same community, settlers cut down over 40 olive trees belonging to farmers from Yatta village.
- In Sa'ir village 550 olive saplings provided through a donor-funded project, were uprooted by settlers.

## March

- 17 Israeli settler attacks resulting in Palestinian injuries or property damage were recorded.
- Israeli settlers uprooted 74 olive trees in Burin (Nablus).
- Israeli settlers uprooted 72 olive trees in At Tuwani (Hebron).
- Israeli forces uprooted 492 trees and saplings planted by Palestinians next to the Majdal Bani Fadel (Nablus), Bidya (Salfit) and Adh Dhahiriya (Hebron) villages in Area C of the West Bank, on grounds that these areas were designated as “state land”.
- Israeli settlers uprooted 83 trees and saplings in the villages of Turmus’ayya and Deir Ndham (Ramallah) by settlers from the outpost of ‘Adei ‘Ad and the settlement of Halamish, respectively.

## April

More than six Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians and their property were recorded this month, including:

- Settlers from Bat Ayin (Hebron) cut of 100 trees in Al Jaba’.
- Settlement expansion resulted in the leveling near Migdal Oz (Hebron) and Sde Bo’az outpost (Bethlehem).
- Settlers from Emanuel settlement uprooted 430 olive saplings in Deir Istiya village (Salfit), reportedly by.
- Israeli settlers vandalized 165 olive trees and grapevines owned by Palestinians in two separate incidents near the settlement of Karnei Zur (Hebron) and the settlement El Azar (Bethlehem).
- According to [Al- Haq's report](#), On 14 and 17 April 2015, Israeli agricultural aircrafts sprayed the [buffer zone](#) area along east of Deir Al-Balah and east of Khan Younes with pesticides, affecting Palestinian agricultural lands nearby. As a result, some crops in these fields were burnt and damaged.

## May

- In two separate incidents in the Jordan Valley, Israeli authorities confiscated two kilometers of donor funded irrigation pipes in Al Jiftlik Abu al ‘Ajaj and Umm Al Obor.

- Israeli forces bulldozed 30 electrical poles and 3000 meters in cables that supply the village of Um Sidra, near Ar Ramadin (Hebron), with electricity, affecting the entire village (around 35 families).
- At least 3,000 meters of pipes were also confiscated; the pipes were used to rehabilitate two wells and a water network behind the Barrier in Habla village (Qalqiliya), as part of a donor-funded project.
- More than 18 Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians and their property were recorded this month, including:
  - Two physical assault incidents leading to the injury of three Palestinian men.
  - Property damage incidents included the vandalizing of seven trees in Husan village (Bethlehem) and the damage of a water network serving at least 40 Palestinian households in the Israeli controlled H2 area of Hebron city.
  - At least 959 trees and saplings were set on fire or uprooted by settlers from Palestinian lands to the east of al-Shyoukh village and Beit Ummar village (Hebron).
  - At least 235 Palestinian-owned trees were reportedly set on fire and vandalized in Salfit and Tulkarm, on lands located near settlements.

## **June**

- More than 8 Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians and their property were recorded this month, including:
  - Settlers from Susya settlement vandalized eight trees in Susiya village (Hebron).
  - Settlers from Enav settlement set fire to 20-dunums of land planted with wheat in Kafr al Labad village (Tulkarm).
  - Settlers vandalized 35 olive trees between Yassuf (Salfit) and Jamma'in (Nablus).

## Demolitions

During the first six months of 2015 at least 280 Palestinian structures (including animal shelters and residential tents) were demolished in many Palestinian communities (mainly East Jerusalem and Area C) according to the weekly reports of the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

## Gaza Strip

The first half of 2015 recorded at least 370 accidents where the Israeli naval forces opened fire at the fishermen approaching the Israeli-imposed six-nautical-mile fishing limits for Palestinians, forcing them to the shore, according to the weekly reports to United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Some incidents resulted in the injury fishermen, the seizure of fishing equipment and the detention of fishermen.