

UAWC's Report on Israeli Occupation Violations against Palestinian Farmers in the West Bank in June 2020



Uprooting Olive trees in Bardala\Jordan Valley

During June 2020, Palestinian LVC and agricultural committees documented more than 81 violations against farmers in various areas in the West Bank mostly classified as C. including, setting up fires where 55 dunums were burned, destroying and confiscating crops where 40 Stacks of wheat hay and 3 tons of fodder were stolen, Bulldozing More than 1080 dunums, cutting down more than 116 productive trees, and confiscating more than 50 dunums.

In order to impose more restrictions on farmers especially in Areas classified as C, Israeli Occupation Forces destroyed 22 constructions, water pipelines, tents, and livestock barns. The Israeli occupation authorities issued 11 orders against Palestinians citizens, ranging from demolition, and confiscation of more than 150 dunums owned by 40 farmers. As a continuation of Israeli restrictions policies, Israeli occupation forces bulldozed 200 dunums in 6 different locations in the Northern Jordan Valley; 15 Km of agricultural lands were used to construct streets to expand settlements, this has led to the bulldozing of more than 250 dunums.

Union of Agricultural Work Committees and its legal monitoring committee observed many Israeli violations against Palestinian farmers during June and it can be listed as the following:

- **Settler attacks:** 14 documented settlers attacks ranged between setting up fires, bulldozing and uprooting trees, invasions/incursions, demolitions, and destruction of agricultural facilities, and physical attacks against farmers and livestock breeders.

Setting up a fire to Qaryut: On 14/06/2020, at Nine PM, settlers attacked a 15 dunums land planted with olive trees located in the western area of Qaryut village; the land is located 300 meters from the Eli settlement which is established on the lands of Qaryut. The Emergency Committee Qaryut Residents managed to put out the fire, due to their presence in the place at the time of the attack.

Setting up a fire in Orif: On 12/06/2020, a group of 9 settlers stormed the southeastern area of Orif village and set fire to land owned by (R.S.), (M.S), (N.S.), (M.S). The land space is around 5 dunums planted with olive trees and one dunum is planted with summer vegetables. The attack resulted in the partial destruction of all the land due to the fire.

Crop theft: on 26/06/2020 Groups of settlers attacked the farmer (N.H)'s land in the village of Al-Mughayyer, east of Ramallah, after he harvested his crop and filled in the hay straw in the bales, settlers came and stole more than 50 bales of straw.

Destruction of wheat haystacks in Khirbet Al Twainin - Massafer Yatta: On 06/07/2020, a group of settlers attacked a farmer (B.M.)'s warehouse, broke the door, and destroyed 40 Stacks of wheat hay.

Bulldozing in Salman Mountain - Burin: On 06/08/2020 a group of settlers took over a 25 dunum land planted with figs and summer crops in Jabal Salman in the village of Burin, down the hill from Yitzhar settlement. The settlers plowed and seized the land, bulldozed it, then planted them with vine trees. They also constructed a 3 km agricultural road network.

Setting up a fire in Al-Mughayer: On 16/06/2020 settlers targeted a 2 dunum field planted with wheat, the land is owned by the farmer (FH). Al-Mughayer residents were able to extinguish the fire before it destroyed the crops completely.

Starting up fire East of Burin: on 27/06/2020 a settler from Givat Rounim one of the oldest settler outposts set up a fire inland east of Burin town, to the south of Nablus. The flames were on for hours despite the people and civil defense efforts to put it out, but it went out of control, burning down tens of dunums and dozens of Olive trees in Khalat Al-Jura'a and Hanoun areas to the east of Burin.

Cutting down Olive trees in Burin: On 04/06/2020 36 Perennial olive trees were cut down in the southern area of Burin village, south of Nablus, the trees were owned by Citizen (Q).

Bulldozing lands in Al-Malihat Bedouin community: On 06/06/2020, a settler bulldozed lands in the Bedouin community of Al-Malihat on the Al-Marajat road, northwest of Jericho, 150 dunums were impacted, the goal was to pave the way for constructing a street to expand the settlement. On the 17/06/2020, the land itself was razed to expand the settlement also and erect a separation wall.

Bulldozing lands in Huwwara: On 10/06/2020, Israeli occupation Forces bulldozers continued bulldozing and uprooting trees, to construct a settler-only road, " Huwwara Bypass", which is planned to be around 7 km long, and through which more than 400 dunums will be confiscated.

Confiscating a piece of land: On 24/06/2020, settlers' herds took over a large piece of land near Khan al-Ahmar near the main road connecting Jericho and Jerusalem.

Bulldozing lands in the village of Orif: On 21/06/2020, the Israeli bulldozers cleared lands in the eastern area of Orif village, the land is bordering Yitzhar settlement, where a road serving the settlement was constructed on the stolen land, 500 dunums of land were swept from the eastern side and another 500 dunams of Ainabus land were swept from the northwest.

Bulldozing and uprooting trees in Bardala: On 24/06/2020, the Israeli army bulldozers invaded Bardala and uprooted 80 Perennial olive trees between the ages 6 to 80 years which belong to four brothers, (A.R), (A.R), (H.R). (M.R.)

Destruction of facilities: Last June witnessed demolition cases for 22 constructions, which included tents, livestock barns and residential facilities in Palestinian communities owned by farmers and livestock keepers, the demolitions are listed as follows:

Demolition in Khirbet Al-Shifa Ghurya: On 16/06/2020 the Israeli occupation forces, reinforced with military equipment stormed Khirbet Al-Fajm Shifa Ghuriya and destroyed farming facilities of and livestock breeders.

Confiscating a piece of land: On 16/06/2020 Herds of settlers constructed bases to build a tent to the east of Ain al-Hilweh, near the Maskiot settlement.

Invading Hammamet Al-Maleh: On 15/06/2020 settlers stormed Al-Maleh, claiming that they were searching for a cow, and caused a sensation of terror in the area.

Repeated raids to the villages of Susia and Al-Tuwani: Last June witnessed repeated raids to the villages of Susya and Al-Twani, during which there were attacks on citizens and their properties.

A citizen from Wadi Al-Qalat was assaulted and beaten with batons: On 22/06/2020, 5 settlers attacked citizen (K.K.) a farmer and livestock keeper while he was grazing his sheep next to his place of residence, where they beat him on the head he was transferred to the hospital for treatment.

Orif and Jabal Salman (Mountain)

- Violations and restrictions imposed on farmers: 17 violations and practices aim to restrict farmer's movement and prohibit them from accessing their lands either by erecting flying checkpoints or by closing villages entries and of Palestinian communities.

On 27/06/2020 IOF closed the entrance to Bardala, north of Tubas, and checked citizens' identification cards while harassing them.

- The Israeli occupation authorities issued 11 orders against Palestinians citizens, ranging from demolition, confiscation, and suspension of work, as well as issuing the orders under the title of subversion of archaeological sites.

- Work suspension order: On 03/06/2020 Israeli Occupation Forces notified 3 citizens of livestock breeders in Birin - Bani Naim, (east of Hebron), the order was issued for three facilities.

Demolition Orders: 6 demolition orders were issued against residential facilities owned by livestock breeders in Birin - Bani Naim.

Demolition order in Al-Absiya: On 24/06/2020, Israeli occupation Forces notified Citizen (A.S) of the eviction of his land located in the Al-Absiya area, close to “Eliezer” settlement, in the town of Al-Khader - south of Bethlehem. The land is about 2 dunums planted with olive trees, which the farmers rehabilitated after the IOF leveled it previously.

Order for Homsa Al-Tahta: On 18/06/2020 citizen (KB) was notified, she is an animal livestock keeper in Homsa Al-Tahta, the order was listed under the category of “Destruction of Archaeological Sites” - referring to her mud and milk facility constructed 70 years ago. She owns two sheep tents next to the facility.

The Israeli occupation Forces and its military vehicles carried out 18 demolitions of established constructions, water pipelines, tents, and livestock barns in Palestinian communities, and they were as follows:

Demolition in Al-Abeed Caves: On 01/06/2020, four residential rooms built of blocks with a roof built out of tin were demolished, in addition to 3 residential tents belonging to farmers and livestock keepers in Al-Abeed Caves.

Demolition in Khirbet Fakhit: On 03/06/2020, Israeli occupation forces, reinforced with military equipment, invaded Khirbet Al-Fakhit in Musafir Yatta and demolished a tin sheep barn.

Demoliting a tent used as a residential in Al-Mufaqqara on 03/06/2020.

The demolition of the Beduin community of Ein Hajla: On 03/06/2020, reinforced Israeli Occupation Forces demolished the Ein Hajla community, to the east of Jericho city.

Demolition in As-Sawahrah: A greenhouse in Al-Sawahrah Al-Sharqiyyah, owned by Farmer (A.H).

Demolition in al-Muntar Community: On 09/06/2020, Israeli Occupation Forces conducted 5 demolitions in the al-Muntar gathering (east of Sawahrah) constructions

demolished were owned by 5 citizens (A.Z.), (A.H.), (H.E.), (H.S). , (K A.), IOF used the excuse “building without a permit” to carry the demolitions without handing over the owners prior demolition orders, forcing citizens to evict the area by force.

The Demolition of a Sheep tent in Umm Al-Qiba area: On 15/06/2020, IOF demolished a sheep tent containing 180 sheep owned by (A.K) who is a livestock keeper; the tent is distant 5 km from his residence. IOF also chased him and his sons and 9 shepherds who were nearby the area at the time of the attack.

Destruction of facilities in Khirbet Al-Fajam: On 16/06/2020, Israeli Occupation Forces demolished constructions owned by 6 livestock owners: (A.M), (YM), (M.M), (AM), (ZA), (F.M.).

Destruction of a water pipeline: On 12/06/2020, Israeli Occupation Forces tanks destroyed a water pipeline after they stormed Bardala.

Destruction of water pipelines in Khirbet al-Tawamin: Herds of settlers attacked water tanks water pipelines in Khirbet al-Tawamin in Yatta, owned by the farmer (B.M.) and cut them longitudinally to make sure they were destroyed, the farmer had to resort to the filling tanks due to the settlers sabotaging two water wells In the previous.

The arrest of 8 farmers from Al-Jaftlak and the detention of several herders in Umm Al-Quba:

On 07/06/2020 Israeli Occupation Forces continued to harass farmers in Khirbet Al-Jiftlik and detained more than 8 farmers for a week arguing that the reason for the detention was them using water openings, and then imposed fines amounting to 50,000 NIS.

Israeli Occupation Forces harassed several herders in Umm al-Quba on 16/6/2020.

- 4 Militant training in farmer’s lands: Militant trainings continue to take place in Palestinian lands, the month of June witnessed Militant training at the entrance of Fasayel, Al-Aqaba, Tayaseer, Umm al-Quba, and Bardala where it caused lots of damage to the citizen's property and land.

- Israeli Occupation Forces continue to construct roads in different areas of the West Bank, where they constructed 4 roads, at the expense of Palestinian farmers' lands.

-Construction of a road to the west of the Hamra settlement in the Jordan Valley, on 10/06/2020.

-Construction of a road serving the settlement of Yitzhar on 21/06/2020, eating up lands belonging to Orif and Einbous villages.

-Construction of a road running from the Furush Beit Dajan, 4 km wide, to the Itamar settlement on 10/06/2020.

- 7 incursions carried out by the Israeli Occupation Forces that targeted: Khamlet Makhoul, Al-Jiftlik, Khirbet Al-Hodeidah, Bardala, Susiya, and Fasayil during June, during which attacks were carried out on citizens and their properties.
- 21/06/2020 Two intrusions carried out by the Civil Administration and the Organization where they roamed and took photos and filmed residential facilities in Aqaba and Al-Furosh: The Civil Administration photographed facilities that had been notified in previous years, it could be the beginning and indication of a coming demolition operation.
- 21/06/2020 The Civil Administration and the Organization, along with Israel Antiquities Authority roamed Homsa Al-Tahta.

Violations Summary

Number	Violations Type	Losses	Number of Violations
1	Sitting up fire	55 dunmus were burned	4
2	Destroying and confiscating crops	40 Stacks of wheat hay and 3 tons of fodder	2
3	Bulldozing agricultural lands	1080 dunums	5
4	Cutting down trees	116 trees	2
5	Confiscating lands	50 dunums	2
6	Demolition and destroying of agricultural constructions and infrastructure	22 constructions, water pipelines, tents, and livestock barns	22
7	Raids into Palestinian farmers residential areas in area C	25 areas and agricultural locations	25
8	Orders against Palestinians farmers	11 orders for 150 dunums owned by 40 farmers.	11
9	Military practices in area C	Bulldozing 200 dunums in 6 different locations in The Northern Jordan Valley during the military practices	4
10	15 km were paved Bulldozing 250 dunums.	constructing streets to expand settlements	4

81 Violations	Total	81
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