Report on the Attacks of the Occupation Army and Settlers on Palestinian Agricultural Sector in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

October 2020

The attacks of the occupation army and settlers during October, which coincides with the commencement of the olive harvest season in the Palestinian territories, led to burning, uprooting and destruction of more than 1,600 olive trees, in addition to confiscation and expulsion of shepherds from their lands. October also recorded dozens of shootings at fishermen and agricultural lands in the Gaza Strip. In this report, the agricultural committees monitored attacks committed in October.

Military Orders, Confiscations and Demolition of Facilities

Confiscation of a Bulldozer in Furush Beit Dajan / Nablus.

- On 5/10/2020, Israeli occupation forces confiscated a bulldozer while it was digging a water reservoir for irrigation of crops in the village of Furush Beit Dajan in the Nablus District.
- On 8/10/2020, Israeli occupation forces confiscated a tractor and a 4 Cubic Meters water tanker it was pulling, in the Al-Jiftlik area, north of Jericho.
- On 8/10/2020, the occupation forces confiscated a bulldozer that was working on rehabilitating an agricultural road in the village of Ain Al-Baida in the northern Jordan Valley.
• On 10/13/2020, Israeli occupation forces confiscated a bulldozer in the municipality of Al-Zawiya, west of Salfit, detained its driver, while working to facilitate a dirt road, to allow citizens to reach their lands to pick the olive harvest, and released him at approximately 11:30 pm.

• On 13/10/2020, Israeli occupation authorities issued a notification to stop construction four agricultural rooms in the town of Al-Khader, south of Bethlehem, under the pretext that the builders do not have construction permits.

• On 15/10/2020, Israeli occupation forces stormed the village of Al-Hama, in the northern Jordan Valley, southeast of Tubas District, in the northern West Bank. They confiscated a bulldozer and a truck, which were parked beside a road that was being rehabilitated on an agricultural road for the aforementioned village.

• On 18/10/2020, the occupation forces demolished four facilities in the Al-Fakhit area, east of Yatta / Hebron. Those included a 20 m² tent, used as a fodder store, a 2.30 m² residential room made of bricks and insulated tin, a 130 m² cabin made of rocks and tin sheets housing 100 heads of cattle, an 80 m² pen made of a tent and rocks.

• On 19/10/2020, Israeli settlers set up a livestock shed outside the "Maskiot" settlement, south of Ein El-Hilweh, in the Jordan Valley, which means that they are controlling more lands.

• On 20/10/2020, Israeli occupation forces, accompanied by a military bulldozer, moved into Qalqilya. They demolished a 500 m² vegetable stall (Basta), which consisted of a greenhouse and a stone floor.

Uprooting Trees and Leveling of Lands

Cutting down 300 olive trees in Al Jab’a / Bethlehem.
• On 4/10/2020, ten (10) olive trees were uprooted in Kafr El-Deek village, west of Salfit.
• On 5/10/2020, settlers uprooted about 12 olive trees in the town of Kafr al-Dik, west of Salfit.
• On 7/10/2020, settlers from “Leshem” settlement, which is built on citizens' lands in the town of Deir Ballut, west of Salfit, set fire to 50 olive trees.
• On 7/10/2020, forty (40) olive trees were destroyed in Qawais, east of Yatta, in the Hebron District.
• On 7/10/2020, thirty (30) olive trees were burnt down by firing of tear gas canisters at demonstrators in the village of Burqa / Ramallah, during clashes that erupted after settlers attacked farmers while picking olives.
• On 7/10/2020, 450 olive trees in Ya`bad were burnt down by settlers from "Mevo Dotan" settlement.
• On 9/10/2020, hundreds of trees were burnt down behind the wall in the village of Safa / Ramallah.
• On 12/10/2020, a group of settlers from “Ait Ephraim” settlement, which is built on citizens' lands belonging to Masha village, west of Salfit, stole the crop of six olive trees, and broke branches of about 60 olive trees on an area of 120 dunums, in the area of Wara'a al-Humus, located behind the Annexation Wall, in the aforementioned village.
• On 14/10/2020, settlers uprooted 300 olive trees in the lands of Al Jab'a village, west of Bethlehem.
• On 17/10/2020, settlers crashed and destroyed 25 olive trees in Qaryut village, northeast of Ramallah.
• On 19/10/2020, a group of settlers from “Alon Moreh” settlement, set up on the lands of the villages of Salem, Azmout and Deir Al-Hatab, northeast of Nablus, pumped wastewater (sewage) from inside the settlement to the citizens' lands planted with olive trees in the eastern side of the village of Deir Al-Hatab, coinciding with harvesting olive, causing a great loss for farmers due to pollution resulting from this wastewater.
• On 25/10/2020, settlers continued to fence off the residents' lands one km east of the residents' tents in Khallet Makhoul, in the Jordan Valley.
• On 26/10/2020, Israeli occupation forces levelled three dunums of land in the Al-Marahat area of the city of Salfit, and uprooted about 60 olive trees, whose age ranged between three to one hundred years, planted in the aforementioned area, and seized a number of them. The stone chains surrounding the ground were also completely destroyed.
• On 26/10/2020, settlers uprooted 100 olive trees in Al-Mughayir village, east of Ramallah district, whose ages range from 30 to 70 years. It should be noted that this area is located near the "Adi Ad" settlement outpost.
Attacks on Farmers, their Livestock and their Property

- On 6/10/2020, settlers chased shepherds in an attempt to expel them in Masafer Yatta in Hebron.
- On 9/10/2020, a group of settlers, who call themselves "Pay the Price" groups, attacked from "Bracha" settlement, southeast of Nablus, the eastern region, from the village of Burin. Settlers attacked Palestinian homes with stones.
- On 14/10/2020, the occupation army chased shepherds in the Sakot area in the Jordan Valley, and held them for more than an hour, while they chased the shepherds' cattle and cattle.
- On 14/10/2020, the occupation army chased shepherds in the Al-Burj and Al-Atheem area in Al-Malih in the Jordan Valley, while conducting training exercises on the site and expelled shepherds from the area.
- On 18/10/2020, settlers blocked roads before livestock breeders east of Khallet Makhoul in the Jordan Valley, blocking hundreds of dunums of land.

Attacks on Fishermen and Agricultural Lands in Gaza

- On 2/10/2020, Israeli occupation forces chased, using gunboats stationed at sea, west of Khan Yunis, south of the Gaza Strip, Palestinian fishermen's boats that were sailing within the permitted fishing range, and opened their machine gun fire around them. No injuries were reported.
- On 2/10/2020, Israeli occupation forces, stationed inside the border strip with Israel, east of Khan Yunis, fired bullets at agricultural land east of the town of Khuza’a, opposite the aforementioned strip. No injuries were reported.
- On 5/10/2020, Israeli occupation forces, stationed inside the border strip with Israel, east of Khan Yunis, fired bullets at agricultural land east of Al-Qarara village, opposite the aforementioned strip. No injuries were reported.
- On 5/10/2020, Israeli gunboats stationed at sea, opposite Al-Sudania area, west of Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip, chased Palestinian fishermen's boats, which were located between 3 and 5 nautical miles, and opened their machine guns intermittently around the fishermen boats. It also fired a number of lighting bombs into the sky, but no injuries were reported.
- On 6/10/2020, Israeli occupation soldiers stationed inside the border strip, east of Al-Maghazi camp, in the central district, opened fire with their machine guns at the adjacent agricultural lands of citizens. No injuries were reported.
- On 6/10/2020, Israeli occupation forces chased Palestinian fishermen boats, located at a distance of about 3 Nautical miles, and fired their machine guns intermittently at their surroundings. This caused fear and panic among the fishermen, who were forced to flee, but no injuries were reported.
• On 7/10/2020, Israeli gunboats stationed at sea, chased Palestinian fishermen’s boats, located at a distance of about 3 miles, opposite Al-Sudania area west of Jabalia, and Al-Waha area, northwest of Beit Lahiya. Freely, and opened heavy machine gun fire, in addition to firing a number of sound bombs in their vicinity. This caused fear and panic among the fishermen, who were forced to flee, but no injuries were reported.

• Israeli occupation soldiers stationed inside the border with Israel, east of Al-Shuka town, east of Rafah district, near the Sufa military outpost, fired their automatic weapons at the adjacent agricultural lands. No casualties were reported.

• At approximately 23:00 local time, Israeli gunboats, stationed at sea, off the Sudania area, west of Jabalia, and the Al-Waha area, northwest of Beit Lahyia, in the northern Gaza Strip, chased Palestinian fishermen’s boats, which were located at an estimated distance of about 4 nautical miles, and opened TAFtheir machine gun fire intensively in their vicinity, and fired lighting bombs in the sky. This caused fear and panic among the fishermen, who were forced to flee, but no injuries were reported.

• On 10/10/2020, Israeli gunboats, stationed opposite the Al-Sudania area west of Jabalia, and the Al-Waha area northwest of Beit Lahiya, north of the Gaza Strip, chased Palestinian fishermen's boats, which were located at an estimated distance of about 3 nautical miles. They opened their machine gun fire extensively in their vicinity. This process continued from time to time, until around 9:50 the same morning. This caused fear and panic among the fishermen, who were forced to flee, but no injuries were reported.

• On 11/10/2020, Israeli gunboats stationed at sea, off the Sudania area west of Jabalia, and the Al-Waha area northwest of Beit Lahyia, north of the Gaza Strip, chased Palestinian fishermen’s boats that were located at a distance of about 4 nautical miles. They opened their machine gun fire extensively in their vicinity. This caused fear and panic among the fishermen, who were forced to flee, but no injuries were reported.

• On 10/14/2020, Israeli gunboats stationed at sea off the Sudania area west of Jabalia, northwest of Beit Lahiya, north of the Gaza Strip, chased Palestinian fishermen’s boats, which were located at a distance of about 4 nautical miles, and opened their machine gun fire sporadically in their vicinity. This caused fear and panic among the fishermen, who were forced to flee, but no injuries were reported.

• On 10/18/2020, Israeli gunboats stationed at sea off the Sudania area west of Jabalia, northwest of Beit Lahyia, north of the Gaza Strip, chased Palestinian fishermen's boats, which were at a distance of about 4 nautical miles. They opened their machine gun fire massively in their vicinity.

• On 20/10/2020, Israeli gunboats stationed at sea off the Sudania area west of Jabalia, northwest of Beit Lahyia, north of the Gaza Strip, chased Palestinian fishermen's boats, which were at a
distance of about 4 nautical miles. They opened their machine gun fire intermittently in their vicinity and fired lighting bombs in the sky as well.

- On 10/21/2020, Israeli occupation forces stationed inside the border strip with Israel, east of Khan Yunis, fired bullets at agricultural land east of the town of Khuza’a, opposite the aforementioned strip, but no injuries were reported. At approximately 2:30 pm, similar shooting was repeated east of Al-Qarara, but no injuries were reported.

- On 25/10/2020, Israeli occupation forces stationed inside the border strip with Israel, east of Khan Yunis, fired bullets at agricultural land east of the town of Khuza’a, opposite the aforementioned strip, but no injuries were reported.

- On 26/10/2020, Israeli gunboats stationed at sea off the the Al-Waha area northwest of Beit Lahiya, in the northern Gaza Strip, chased Palestinian fishermen’s boats, which were at a distance of about two nautical miles, and opened heavy machine gun fire in their vicinity and fired lighting bombs in the sky as well. This caused fear and panic among the fishermen, who were forced to flee, but no injuries were reported.

- On 10/28/2020, Israeli occupation forces stationed inside the border strip with Israel, east of Khan Yunis, fired bullets at agricultural land east of Al-Qarara village, opposite the aforementioned strip, but no injuries were reported.

Source:

- Agricultural committees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

- Palestinian Center for Human Rights.