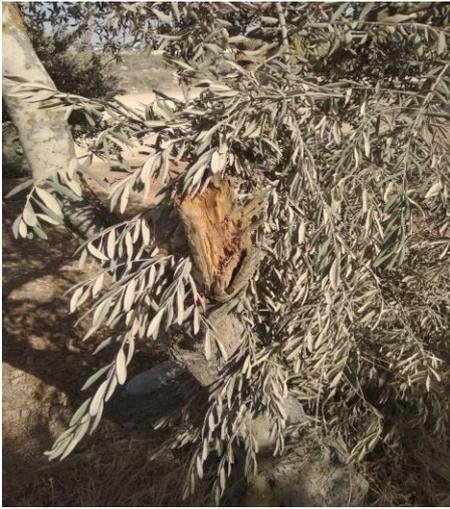




Report on the Attacks of the Israeli Occupation Forces and Settlers on the Palestinian Agricultural Sector in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

November \ 2020



A group of settlers uprooted tens of olive trees aged more than 60 years in Jaloud Village\Nablus

The attacks and violations of the occupation forces and settlers during the month of November in the Palestinian territories led to dozens of shooting cases on farmers, fishermen and agricultural lands in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In addition to the confiscation and eviction of farmers from their lands: this included uprooting and destroying trees and agricultural properties. In this report, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) and its agricultural committees monitored the attacks, detailed below.

The legal, humanitarian, and human rights aspects of this report are constructed on various International Declarations, Conventions, and Covenants of Human Rights. First, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is the basic stone of other declarations and conventions. Second, The Fourth Geneva Convention (GCIV) Related to the Protection of Civilian Person in the Time of War. Third, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Fourth, International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Fifth, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), and last but not least, the related articles of the Palestinian Basic Law.



Basic legal articles in relation to peasants' and frames' rights:

- 1- **The international definition of the “Peasants” as it defined in article 1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). Paragraph 2 of article 1 states” a peasant is any person who engages or who seeks to engage alone, or in association with others or as a community, in small-scale agricultural production for subsistence and/or for the market, and who relies significantly, though not necessarily exclusively, on family or household labour and other non-monetized ways of organizing labour, and who has a special dependency on and attachment to the land” (p 4, 2018).**
- 2- **The protected persons according to paragraph one of article 4 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states” Persons protected by the Convention are those who at a given moment and, in any manner, whatsoever, find themselves, in case of a conflict or occupation, in the hands of persons a Party to the conflict or Occupying Power of which they are not nationals”(p 8, 1994).
It’s important to clarify that all of the violation cases in this report are representing violations of article 3 of the UDHR, the article states” Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person” (p2, 1948).**

A: Violations to Legal and Human Rights Aspect

Similar cases of inhuman violations repeated in various Palestinians cities, villages, towns and camps. These cases are in explicit violation of the Palestinian rights as humans, and in particular as farmers. In the beginning, shooting fire at the farmers is a clear violation of the Human Rights to Life; this right is an integral part of most human rights and international law conventions and declarations. For instance, the **first paragraph of article 6** of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states” Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life” (p 4,1966). These cases in particular are violating **article 6** of the UNDROP, which states” Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person” (p7,2018). Furthermore, peasants are suffering from the restriction of peaceful activities to protect their rights of sovereignty over the land and natural resources. The previously mentioned cases are violated **article 21** of the Palestinian Basic Law, which emphasized the rights of freedom of movement and residence; this means that the Israeli occupying forces are violating **article 64** of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which stipulates that the occupying power must adhere to the partial legislation of the land it occupies. Furthermore, attacking peaceful activities



of farmers is a violation of **Article 21** of the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights, as the article states that “The right to peaceful assembly is recognized. It is not permissible to place any restrictions upon exercising this right except those that are broken in accordance with the law.

They constitute necessary measures, in a democratic society, for the maintenance of national security, public safety, public order, protection of the public good or public morals, or protection of the rights and freedoms of others "(p. 10, 1966). On the other hand, paragraph two of **article 8** of the UNDROP emphasizes peasant’s right to peaceful assembly by saying: “Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right, individually and/or collectively, in association with others or as a community, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms” (p7, 2018).

A-1: Offenses of shooting and violation of the right to physical integrity and peaceful assembly for agricultural purposes:

- 1- a peaceful march began in front of the village council in the town of Beit Dajan, northeast of Nablus to call for protection of the lands under the threat of being confiscated in Al-Marhan and Al-Masif area- northeast of the of Beit Dajan. The Israeli occupation forces immediately suppressed the demonstration, and fired live bullets, metal bullets, stun grenades, and tear gas canisters at them. This led to the injury of several participants and suffocation of others as a result of tear gas inhalation, and they were treated in the field.
- 2- On Saturday, October 31, 2020, The Israeli occupation forces prevented farmers from the town of Beit Ummar, north of Hebron, from accessing their lands located in the Abu Rish area to harvest their olive trees. This land is adjacent to the settlement of "Beit Ein", so the occupying forces fired tear gas canisters at farmers while they were in the agricultural fields. As a result, many of farmers suffocated as result of tear gas inhalation
- 3- On Thursday, November 12, 2020, one of the Israeli occupation soldiers attacked an elderly citizen, 74 old year’s man, from the town of Beit Ummar, north of Hebron, while he was with his children on his land in the area of Wadi Abu Al-Rish, to pick olives, he suffered from various bruises.
- 4- On Friday, 20 November 2020, and for the third consecutive week a peaceful protest took place in Beit Dajan village, northeast of Nablus, which started from the village Council heading to the lands under threat of confiscation east of the village. IOF suppressed the protest and fired live and rubber bullets, sound bombs and tear gas canisters at the protestors. As a result, many civilians suffocated due to teargas inhalation and received treatment on the date.
- 5- a peaceful protest took off in Kafr Malik town, eastern Ramallah; the protest was called towards the lands threatened of confiscation in the Bedouin community, Ras



el-Tin, near Ein Samia spring, Israeli force who proceeded with shooting live and rubber bullets, as well as stun and tear gas grenades at the protestors. As a several protestors suffocated due to tear gas inhalation.

- 6- On Saturday, November 28, 2020, 3 Palestinians were wounded with rubber-coated metal bullets, and dozens of others were suffocated during the occupation's suppression of an anti-settlement march in the Ain Shamiya area, east of Ramallah governorate.

A-2: Attacks on fishermen and agricultural lands in Gaza:

- 1- On Thursday, October 29, 2020, the Israeli occupation forces fired shots at agricultural land east of Khuza'a town. The forces are located within the border strip, east of Khan Yunis. And there were no injuries were documented.
- 2- On Thursday, November 5, 2020, the Israeli occupation forces chased the Palestinian fishermen's boats, which were located at a distance of about 3 nautical miles, through gunboats stationed at sea off the Al-Waha area, in the northern Gaza Strip. And its machine-gun fire was opened extensively, this caused fear and panic among the fishermen, who were forced to flee, but no injuries were reported.
- 3- On Sunday, November 8, 2020, the Israeli occupation forces stationed inside the border, east of Khan Yunis, fired shots at agricultural land and the vicinity of a sewage vehicle east of the town of Abasan al-Kabirah, without reporting any injuries.
- 4- On Monday morning, November 16, 2020, Israeli occupation soldiers stationed inside the border strip east of Maghazi – Gaza opened fire with their machine guns towards agricultural lands. No injuries were reported.
- 5- On Wednesday, November 18, 2020, the Israeli occupation forces, positioned within the border fence, east of Khan Yunis, fired shots at agricultural land east of Al-Fokhari town. Without reporting any injuries.
- 6- On Wednesday, November 25, 2020, the Israeli occupation forces stationed on the border strip east of Deir El-Balah in the Central Governorate opened fire with their automatic weapons towards the adjacent agricultural lands, without reporting any injuries.

B: The Second Legal and Human Rights Aspect and the Violations that were Monitored in this Aspect:

This policy of destruction and shoveling of land is violating **article 53** of the Fourth Geneva Convention, states” Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or co-operative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations” (p 25, 1994). In addition to that, destruction policy is depriving Palestinian of their rights of self-determination and



economic growth; paragraph three of **article 1** from ICESCR states” The States Parties to the present Covenant, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations” (p1,1966). The Humsa village case is violating **paragraph 2 of article 17** of the UDHR that states” No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property” (p 5, 1948). Moreover, these cases of violation are contradicted peasants right of being protected from unlawful displacement; according to **paragraph 4 of article 17** of the UNDROP:” Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to be protected against arbitrary and unlawful displacement from their land or place of habitual residence, or from other natural resources used in their activities and necessary for the enjoyment of adequate living conditions. States shall prohibit arbitrary and unlawful forced eviction, the destruction of agricultural areas and the confiscation or expropriation of land and other natural resources, including as a punitive measure or as a means or method of war” (p 12,2018). And a final important point to be raised is that the destruction policy is violating **article 21** of the Palestinian Basic Law, especially paragraph 2, 3, and 4 that advocates for freedom of economic development, how the private property should not be threatened, and no confiscation of land except with a court ruling.

B-1: Military Orders, Confiscations, and Demolition of Facilities: Including the Uprooting of Trees and the Leveling of Lands:

- 1- On Tuesday, November 3, 2020, the Israeli occupation forces moved into Khirbet Bzeiq in the northern Jordan Valley, east of Tubas governorate. The force stormed citizens' homes in Khirbet and confiscated 9 agricultural tractors, 5 water tankers, 5 towed vehicles, and two cars belonging to citizens. To empty the land inhabitants and expel them from it.
- 2- On the evening of the same day, the Israeli occupation forces carried out a large-scale destruction operation of citizens' properties in Khirbet Homsa al-Fawqa in the northern Jordan Valley, east of Tubas Governorate. The sweeping, which lasted about 6 hours, affected 70 homes and facilities, and led to the displacement of 60 civilians, most of them children, and the destruction of livestock pens. This comes intending to implement ethnic cleansing plans and expel Palestinians from their lands, in favor of annexation and settlement expansion plans.
- 3- In the evening hours of Thursday, November 5, 2020, the Israeli occupation authorities notified a Palestinian citizen, to evacuate his land in Khalil al-Luz village, southeast of Bethlehem, to seize it, on the pretext that it belongs to the State of Israel.
- 4- In the morning hours of Monday, November 9, 2020, the bulldozers of the Israeli occupation demolished an agricultural room of a Palestinian citizens, between the



- villages of Jourat Al-Shamaa and Wadi Al-Nis, south of Bethlehem, under the pretext of not being licensed.
- 5- On Monday, November 9, 2020, the vehicles of the Israeli Nature Authority crews, under the protection of dozens of occupation soldiers, stormed the Wadi al-Rababa neighborhood in Silwan town, south of the Old City of Occupied East Jerusalem. Eyewitnesses reported that the people of the neighborhood confronted the occupation mechanisms, and clashed with them by hand, trying to counter the bulldozing operations. While the occupation soldiers fired tear gas and sound bombs towards the residents. The occupation forces use force in bulldozing operations. The pretext is that this land is the property of absentees, while there are Palestinian homes and a mosque there. The aim of bulldozing is erecting settlement projects, especially "national parks".
 - 6- On Thursday, November 12, 2020, the Israeli occupation forces demolished a retaining wall, and bulldozed an agricultural street in the Ain al-Juwaizah area, north-east of Al-Walaja village of Bethlehem, under the pretext of not permitting.
 - 7- On Friday morning, November 13, 2020, the Israeli occupation authorities began paving a new settlement road that extends from the bypass road (60) through the citizens' lands in the village of Ma'in, to the "Avigal" settlement built on confiscated Palestinian lands east of Yatta, south of Hebron Governorate. The swept lands belong to the Al-Hamamda family.
 - 8- On Friday, November 13, 2020, the Israeli occupation forces seized an agricultural tractor. Then forced its owner to leave his land in Tuqu 'town, east of Bethlehem, at gunpoint.
 - 9- On Sunday, November 15, 2020, the Ministry of Construction and Housing, with the Land Authority in Israel published a tender for the construction of 1257 settlement units in the settlement of "Givat Hamatos" on the lands of the town of Beit Safafa, south of occupied East Jerusalem, which would link the Gilo settlements and Har Homa, in the settlement of Tal Bayut. The establishment of these units means isolating the city of Bethlehem from the town of Beit Safafa, and imposing more restrictions on the movement of citizens and their arrival to their land. Consequently, the Israeli announcement is not merely adding housing units in a settlement as it appears, but will be seen as the first new Israeli neighborhood in East Jerusalem to be built on the "Green Line" in 20 years.
 - 10- On Monday, November 16, 2020, the bulldozers of the Israeli occupation forces demolished an agricultural barrack, and a water well, in Artas village, south of Bethlehem, under the pretext of not being licensed.
 - 11- On the same day, the same force headed to the nearby village of Frosh Beit Dajan in the Central Jordan Valley, and the bulldozer began to bulldoze an agricultural water pool, with a capacity of 250 Cubans, which is provided by the European Union and has been in this land for more than 15 years. The demolition was carried out under the pretext of illegal construction in the area.



- 12- On Tuesday, November 17, 2020, Israeli occupation forces, accompanied by a vehicle belonging to the Israeli Construction and Organization Department in the (Civil Administration), stormed the Masafer area of Yatta, south of Hebron Governorate. The employee of the Planning Department delivered four military notices bearing No. 1797, to demolish a facility within a period of (96), claiming unlicensed construction. Two of the notifications included an agricultural room and a water network.
- 13- On Thursday, November 19, 2020, the occupation forces demolished an agricultural facility in Al-Walaja village in Bethlehem governorate.
- 14- On Friday, November 20, 2020, the occupation forces swept agricultural areas from the lands of the villages of Laban and Qaryut, south of Nablus.
- 15- At approximately 3:15 am on Sunday, November 22, 2020, the Israeli warplanes fired three missiles at rooms, greenhouses and agricultural lands in the former settlements area, southwest of Khan Yunis. This resulted in extensive damage to about 5 dunums of greenhouses planted with vegetables. Note that the mentioned land is governmental. Pepper land was also damaged in the area.
- 16- On Sunday, November 22, 2020, the occupation forces prevented the process of building a water well and seized a drilling machine in Al-Khader in Bethlehem Governorate.
- 17- On Monday, November 23, 2020, the occupation raided the village of Al Awsaj in the Jordan Valley, and bulldozed and destroyed Palestinian property with the aim of settlement expansion.
- 18- On Tuesday, 24 November 2020, an Israeli force backed by several military vehicles and accompanied with a Civil Administration vehicle and a bulldozer stormed Ras al-Zaytoun area, south of Ras Karkar village, northwest of Ramallah. The bulldozer leveled an agricultural land owned by a Palestinian civilian, as they claimed plans to construct a sewage line from “Talmon” community settlement established on the Ras Karkar lands.
- 19- On Tuesday, November 24, 2020, the occupation expelled more than 6 families from the Al-Bureij and Al-Mouta areas in the Jordan Valley, under the pretext of military exercises.
- 20- On Wednesday, November 35, 2020, the Israeli occupation forces stationed at the border strip east of Deir El-Balah in the Central Governorate opened fire with their automatic weapons towards the adjacent agricultural lands, without any injuries reported.
- 21- On Wednesday, 25 November 2020, IOF backed by several military construction vehicles and accompanied with 2 Civil Administration vehicles, a bulldozer, and a digger stormed Masafer area in Yatta, south of Hebron. The bulldozers demolished 9 small structures, including rooms and lavatories under the pretext of illegal construction in Area (C).



- 22- On Wednesday, November 25, 2020, the occupation forces continued to construct a settlement road in Zanuta, one of the villages in Hebron Governorate.
- 23- On Wednesday, 25 November 2020, IOF backed by several military vehicles and accompanied with a Civil and Administration vehicle, a bulldozer and a truck, stormed the eastern area of Al-Lubban ash-Sharqiya village, northwest of Ramallah. The bulldozer demolished a barrack built of bricks and steel on an area of 30sqm used for grazing sheep. IOF claimed the demolition was under the pretext of illegal construction.
- 24- At approximately 11:00, IOF backed by several military vehicles and accompanied with a Civil and Administration vehicle, a truck-mounted crane, and 2 bulldozers, stormed Fasayil village in Jordan's northern valleys, north of Jericho. They demolished 3 houses and a group of barracks built of steel and bricks used for grazing sheep. These barracks also include 2 health facilities, 4 water tanks, a cement oven, and a steel fence. IOF claimed the demolition was for illegal construction.
- 25- On November 27, 2020, the occupation demolished barracks of sheep for a Palestinian citizen in the Jericho area.
- 26- On November 27, 2020, the occupation confiscated 70 dunums of Salfit land for the purpose of expanding the settlement of "Karne Shimron".
- 27- On Monday, November 30, 2020, the occupation bulldozed large areas of the Al-Ras area, to implement the settlement plan in Salfit.
- 28- On Monday, November 30, 2020, the occupation closed three water wells in Jalameh and Arana, northeast of Jenin, under the pretext of not being licensed.

C: The Third Legal and Human Rights Aspect and the Violations that were Monitored in this Aspect:

These attacks represent a violation of the International Environmental Law (IEL). Which is a branch of public international law that was created to regulate and solve problems occurred between states. According to the United Nations IEL "is a foundation for environmental sustainability and the full realization of its objectives is ever more urgent vis-à-vis growing environmental pressures. Violations of environmental law undermine the achievement of all dimensions of sustainable development and environmental sustainability". Besides that, settler's attacks violate **article 12** of the UDHR that states" No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, or attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks" (p4, 1948) Furthermore, cutting the olives trees deprives peasants of sustainable enjoyment of their lands and trees, which are natural resources; this means violating paragraph 1 if **article 19** of the UNDROP, and it states" (d) The right to save, use, exchange and sell their farm-saved seed or propagating material" (p13,2018). All of these inhuman actions are threatening the environment of the current and future Palestinian generations. This reflects how settlements violate **article 33** of the Palestinian Basic Law that states" the cleaned and balanced environment is a human right. Environment protection for the current and the future generations is a national responsibility" (p 9,2003).



C-1: Settlers' attacks on farmers of agricultural lands:

- 1- On Sunday, November first, 2020, three settlers traveling in a car attacked the Eylol nursery (plantation), which is located at the southeast of Nablus, in the northern West Bank. According to what the nursery's video cameras have documented, the settlers uprooted many seedlings, attacked some pots, and destroyed them.
- 2- On Tuesday morning, November third, 2020, some citizens went to their land in the Al-Soumaa area, north of the town of Huwara. Upon their arrival on their 7 dunums of land planted with olive trees, they found out that the settlers of the "Yitzhar" settlement near their land cut down 25 trees over 30 years old. They also found that settlers placed on the ground an iron fence three meters long and three meters wide, a meter high, containing two sheep and two bananas. In preparation for the seizure of the land to expand the mentioned settlement.
- 3- On Monday, November 10, 2020, a group of settlers detained a citizen on his land in the village of Beit Dajan, east of Nablus. they searched his mobile phone, then interrogated him and released him at a later time.
- 4- On Friday, November 13, 2020, a group of settlers who called themselves "Sons of the Hills" attacked from the new settlement outpost established east of the town of Taybeh, northeast of Ramallah. Settlers infiltrated Brix of cattle and sheep, settlers stole about 20 heads of sheep, ranging in age from 6 months to two years, which belong to the citizens of the Kaabneh; Arabs who live in the eastern outskirts of the aforementioned town.
- 5- On Thursday, 19 November 2020, settlers from the group of "Paying the Price" moved from "Homesh" settlement, south of Jenin (a settlement that was evacuated in 2005, but settlers threw stones at a civilian house, smashing the windows glass in addition to his vehicle's windshield.
- 6- On Friday morning, 20 November 2020, a group of Israeli settlers from "Nahal" settlement established on lands of Kisan village, settlers leveled lands for a number of civilians from Ghazal family that are adjacent to the settlement in a preamble to annex it to the settlement.
- 7- On Friday, November 20, 2020, settlers erected a tent and water tanks on the lands of the village of Jalud, south of Nablus, in preparation for establishing a new settlement outpost.
- 8- On Saturday, 21 November 2020, a group of Israeli settlers from "Havat Ma'on" settlement outpost raided a house in Kherbat al-Rakiz, which is adjacent to the abovementioned settlement that was established on confiscated lands from the area. Settlers attempted to raid a house owned by Hatem Mahmoud Makhmrah (36) and verbally insulted the house residents. In the meantime, a number of residents from



Kherbat al-Tuwana nearby arrived at the area, which forced settlers leave the area under IOF's security.

- 9- On Sunday, November 22, 2020, settlers set up caravans in Burin, south of Nablus.
- 10- On Thursday, November 26, 2020, settlers uprooted a number of olive trees in Broqin, west of Salfit.
- 11- On Monday, November 30, 2020, settlers burned agricultural lands in Salfit on an area of fifty dunams planted with olive trees.

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