



6.

LAND AND SETTLEMENT

The existence of Israeli settlements in the WBGS violates both international law; Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention prohibits to transfer civilians of an occupying power to the territory occupied.

With the signing of the Oslo Accords the Palestinians agreed to defer all difficult issues, incl. settlements, to a later stage in exchange for an Israeli commitment to disengage from the OPT and preserve the territorial integrity of the WBGS. However, Israel has continued to take unilateral actions, all of which are aimed at creating more irreversible facts on the ground in violation of not only International Law but also Art. V, 4 of the DoP (*The two parties agree that the outcome of the permanent status negotiations should not be prejudiced or preempted by agreements reached for the interim period*) settlement policy is facilitated by the Oslo II Accord (Art. 12, 1), according to which Israel retains power over the settlements, military installations, Israeli civilians, internal and external security, and public order in the settlements. The Abu Mazen-

n denied for five years and which was only published in Sept 2000), stipulated the following:

Article V: Israeli Settlements

1. Subsequent to the establishment of the Independent State of Palestine and its recognition by the State of Israel as described in Articles I and III of this agreement:

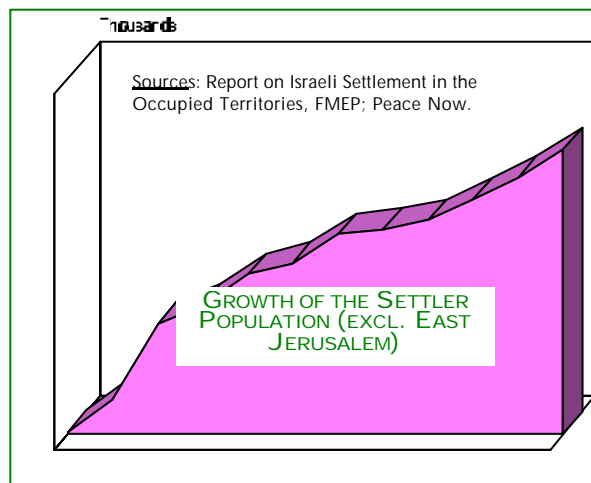
- a. There will be no exclusive civilian residential areas for Israelis in the State of Palestine.
- b. Individual Israelis remaining within the borders of the Palestinian State shall be subject to Palestinian sovereignty and Palestinian rule of law.
- c. Individual Israelis who have their permanent domicile within the Palestinian State as of May 5th 1999, shall be offered Palestinian citizenship or choose to remain as alien residents, all without prejudice to their Israeli citizenship.
- d. Within the agreed schedule for the withdrawal [3 to 5 years] of Israeli forces from Palestinian territories as described in Article IV and Annex Two to the Final Status Agreement, the Israeli Government and its security forces shall maintain responsibility for the safety and security of Israeli settlements outside the areas of Palestinian security jurisdiction, pending the transfer of said areas to full Palestinian rule.
- e. The SCC [Israeli-Palestinian Security Coordinating Commission] shall establish the mechanism for dealing with security issues relating to Israeli citizens in Palestine and Palestinian citizens in Israel.

► **SETTLER POPULATION**

Figures regarding the settler population in the WBGS vary according to source. Reliable and consistent over the years are the numbers provided by the Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMEP).

Since PM Barak took office, the number of settlers in the WBGS has increased by 7.5% (or 13,600) to almost 200,000 (approx. 6,500 of them in Gaza). This number does not include the 180,000 settlers in East Jerusalem.

The Israeli CBS, likewise, stated that in 1999, the settler population grew by 7.5% (in contrast, the population of Israel as a whole increased by 2.4%).



increase in the settler population in the West Bank,

which will reach 310,000.



Settlers attacks against Palestinian life and property in the WBGS have increased considerably since Oct. 2000; the Israeli army does nothing to discourage such assaults, and the Israeli govt. rarely pursues or tries the perpetrators.

Settler Population by Settlements (Settlement Blocs), as of Dec. 1999

Regional Council	Population	Regional Council	Population	Regional Council	Population
Alfei Menache	4,900	Emmanuel	3,900	Kiryat Arba	5,900
Ariel	16,100	Etzion Bloc	9,200	Kiryat Sefer	13,000
Benyamin	25,050	Gaza	6,600		25,200
Bet Arie	2,500		10,500		1,700
Bet El	4,000	Har Adar	1,500	Mt. Hebron	4,500
Betar Illit	13,500	Hebron	480	Oranit	4,800
Dead Sea	900	Jordan Valley	3,400	Shomron	15,400
Efrat	6,600	Kadumim	3,000		
Elkana	3,300	Karne Shomron	6,000	Total WBGS:	193,680

(Source: Yesha Council, 2000)

▶ **LAND CONFISCATION & SETTLEMENT CONSTRUCTION** 1 dunum = acre or 1000 m²

- ◆ Before the **War of 1948**, Palestinians owned about 87.5% of the total area of Palestine (26,323,000 dunums or 26,323 km² owned by the British Mandate. (British Government, *A Survey of Palestine*, 1945-1946).
- ◆ **Since June 1967**, the Israeli occupation authorities have expropriated some 79% of the WBGS territory.
- ◆ During **1999**, Israel confiscated 40,178 dunums of Palestinian land (19,691 dunums were used for settlements, 3,830 declared confiscated and 16,657 used to build new bypass roads). (LAW Annual Report 1999).
- ◆ By **Aug. 2000**, in 11 of the 17 outposts frozen in 1999, new structures were built and added.
- ◆ Notwithstanding the Oslo Accords of 1993, all Israeli governments, have continued to expand settlements; since the signing of the DoP in **Sept. 1993**, the settler population in the WBGS has doubled to 200,000 in 2000 (excl. some 170,000 settlers in East Jerusalem).
- ◆ As of **11 Sept. 2000** the number of settlement housing units tendered by the Israel Land Authority during the Barak admin. had reached 3,499 (Peace Now). Since Barak took office in July 1999, work on 1,924 residential units began (of which 1,384 in Jerusalem), as opposed to 1,845 in 1998 and 1,160 in 1997!
- ◆ In **2000**, settlements comprised 13% of state-sponsored construction, which is three times more than in cities of Tel Aviv, West Jerusalem and Haifa.
- ◆ In the **second quarter of 2000**, there were 740 new building starts in the settlements, compared with 490 for the same period the previous year. **Private construction** increased by 123% (290 starts this year compared with 130 last year), while **public building** increased by 25% (450 vs. 360 starts). The total settlement building in the first half of 2000 increased by 44% over the same period last year, with 1,790 vs. 1,240 starts. (Peace Now, Oct. 2000)



- ◆ According to Palestinian figures, there are **194 settlements** according to Peace Now there are 145 settlements, 125 of which are designated as being National Priority A.

► **BYPASS ROADS**

- ◆ Bypass roads circumvent Palestinian towns and villages and link the various Israeli settlements to one settlers. For each 100 km road, some 10,000 dunums (2,500 acres) of land is confiscated, often fertile agricultural land. dozens of Palestinian houses have been demolished and, in 1999 alone, some 15,180 trees were uprooted by Israel for the same purpose (LAW, 1999).
- ◆ The total value of ongoing transportation projects under construction in the WBGS is estimated at \$198 million (Peace Now, 7 Nov. 2000).

► **ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SPENDING**

- ◆ Government expenditure includes - besides high security costs - low purchase prices, mortgage grants for up to 95% of the cost, the inclusion of many settlements in the Priority A category (for state-subsidized benefits and incentives such as tax breaks, free schooling and school busing, and businesses grants); the 2001 budget suggest that settlers will receive a 7%-income tax break, amounting to approx. \$62 million).
- ◆ **2000 budget** allocated NIS 27 million for the opening of bypass roads, NIS 120 million for settlement expansion, and NIS 216 million for the confiscation of Palestinian lands (Peace Now, 26 Oct. 1999). For the 2001 budget, the Israeli govt. proposed to give Jewish settlers \$300 million, to be transferred to settlers primarily through the Min.s of. Transport (\$41.7 million = 14% of the total investment in transportation projects in Israel, not incl. bypass roads!), Construction & Housing (\$123.5 million), Agriculture (via the Settlement Dept. \$23.2 million), Trade & Industry (\$4.8 million), and the Israel Land Authority (\$51 million). (Peace Now, 7 Nov. 2000).

► **PALESTINIAN (PA) TERRITORIES**

TOTAL AREA AND LAND PER INHABITANT (L/I) OF PALESTINIAN GOVERNORATES

Governorate	Total Area (km ²)	L/I (m ²)	Governorate	Total Area (km ²)	L/I (m ²)
Jenin	578	2,846.8	Ramallah	850	3,978.1
Tubas	221	6,037.5	Jerusalem	338	1,029.4
Tulkarm	244	1,828.3	Jericho	544	17,078.9
Qalqilya	165	2,292.8	Bethlehem	625	4,578.1
Salfit	205	4,216.8	Hebron	1,015	2,509.8
Nablus	848	3,244.3	Gaza Strip	370	356.5

(Source: PCBS, *Population Census*, 1997.)



LAND USE

	Total km2	Cultivated	Forest	Palestinian Built-up	Israeli settlements	Other **
WB	5,632.8	1,351.1	258.6	285	85.1	3.653
GS	369.8	134.5	4.9	41.5	6.2	182.7
Total	6,002.6	1,485.6	263.5	326.5	91.3	3,835.7

(Source: PCBS, 1999.)

** Incl.: meadows, pastures, fallow and heath lands.

TOTAL AUTONOMOUS AREAS

As of March 2000, the Israeli-Palestinian interim accords have given the Palestinians self-rule in some 60% of the Gaza Strip and about 37% of the WB (17.2% Area A and 23.8% Area B).

Oslo II, 1995

Wye River, 1998

Sharm El-Sheikh, 1999

