

The Issue of At-Tuwani and South Hebron Hill's

Before talking about the issue of South Hebron Hills, it is necessary to briefly explain about the area.

The most affected areas by the occupation and settlement in the south of Hebron Hills, is the area southeast of Yatta, which extends south to the Green Line, separating this area from the town of Yatta, a bypass road named 317, which was constructed in the early eighties.

More than 20 Hamlets and about 2000 people live in these communities, the majority live in caves and tents.

The nature of the population: - *In general they are simple peasants,* and have very strong ties due to occupation displacement policy, and their income depend mainly on livestock, especially sheep and goats, and farming and cultivation of cereals, mainly wheat, barley, lentils and also cultivated olive trees, grapes, figs and almonds.

They Rely entirely on rain in agriculture .

There are no basic services in this region specially electricity lines, water or telephone.

There are a coed primary school in the village of At-Tuwani, was built in 1998 to serve these communities and was sentenced a demolition order from the military authorities in the same construction year.

There is a clinic in the village of At-tuwani to serve these communities, was built in 2005 and it lack of basic equipment and medical staff.

At-Tuwani Village is considered the main gateway to the region and also to gain access to the town of Yatta.

What are the events that occurred and still occur in south of Hebron Hill's?

Since 1967 until today, and this area is under full military control of the occupation and is now C Area by the Oslo agreement, the occupation has drawn programmed policy of displacement for simple Palestinian communities by making life difficult and impossible, and therefore, migration, in the early eighties the military administration began implementing this policy and was in effect by:

1 - land confiscation policy under the pretext of different arguments, fire zone, closed military areas, or state land and arrest any Palestinian who enters these lands and put them in prison and the imposition of high fine's against them and building military bases and settlements on this confiscated land.

2 - killing and injuring several Palestinian shepherd's because of the remnants of the army of bombs and explosives on pastoral land.

3 - demolition policy: - the demolition of home's and caves, tents, water wells and toilet's even the mosque of At-Tuwani was demolished in 1990 claiming that it was built without a permit, which is impossible to issue such permits and licenses.we rebuild it again 2007

4 - eviction and forced displacement of Palestinians, as happened in the end of 1999, all of these Hamlet's has been expulsion with their families and their flocks from place of residence with the exception of the At-Tuwani village .

5 - road closures and barriers to the entrance of the At-Tuwani village which is the main gate to this region and the brutal practices of the Israeli soldiers there.

6 - building the law separation wall, which was created in 2006, up 80 cm, along the bypass road 317 and was aimed at full control on the free movement of Palestinians between the sides of the road, was removed after less than a year of its creation by the demonstrations and rallies organized by the popular committees,with solidarity of Israelis and international activists .

These were military occupation practices, but what about the settlers in south hebron hill's

the implementation of expulsion and displacement policy that I have mentioned is the mission of the military administration and the settlers, there is full coordination among themselves how to control the land, was still the law of ownership transfer of land for state, this law work by the coordination and implementation of the military administration and the settlers, The settlers use their weapons and bloody assaults against the Palestinians on their land and bring the army to impose on it as a closed military zone and expel the Palestinians from their land, and the settlers remain to take control of the land and maintain to prevent Palestinians from entering a period of 6 years, so according to this law the territory becomes sate land, recently this law was changed for 4 years only, and all crimes committed by settlers against Palestinians were covered by the Israeli army and police, despite the existence of incriminating evidence against them.

What are the crimes that did and still carried out by settlers against Palestinians

For information, the settlers who live in the four settlements established on the mountains south of Hebron are orthodox Jews who believe that they have right to this land, nor the right of the Palestinians and believe that the murder and using violence and harming, the Palestinians will be forced them to leave their land, so the violence was against all humans, young, old, women, children and animals, plants and trees.

1 – attacking terrorizing the communities near the settlements

shooting them during the night and terrorize them and force them to leave their communities as happened to the Hamlet's Om Zaytoonah, Khroba, Bir El ed, old Susia, Sarora, Aqoawess, Atwamin, the Khroba, Sarora and Aqoawess been restored by intensive action's that organized by the popular committee's and other Hamlet's still under the control of the settlers.

2 - direct shooting toward peasants, shepherds and brutal bloody attacks by batons and iron chains and some of them were dead and others suffer from disabilities.

3 - phesical attack's on At-Tuwani school children, peace activists and Israelis by beating, abusing and chasing.

4 - poisoning the drinking water wells, and poisoning sheep

5 - cutting trees and the theft and **burning** of agricultural crops.

We in the People's Committees in At-Tuwani and the south Hebron Hill's , firmly believe in the justice of our cause, which is an integral part of the Palestinian major cause and believe that there is community, justice and international legitimacy and international law and the texts has given us the right to resist occupation by forms of resistance, but the Israeli occupation and during the long history of armed and peaceful Palestinian resistance succeeded in displaying the facts and changing the reality of this resistance and demonstrate to the world that is not Palestinian terrorism, but resistance to the occupation, exposing of the strength of this false Zionist propaganda in the world and persuaded many of the peoples of the world and gain support for the occupation crimes at the expense of the blood of the martyrs and the suffering of the Palestinian people wherever they are located.

We recognize and well aware that the goal of the occupation is to expel and force us to leave our villages, our land and by pushing us forcefully to respond to the violent means and methods so they get excuses and therefore the implementation of schemes of eviction and displacement.

We in the People's Committees in At-Tuwani and the south of Hebron Hill's see that violence creates counter-violence and from what I said earlier we have chosen and committed to the principle of peaceful popular resistance as a way and most effective means to resist occupation and to restore our rights. but we must increase our effort's to encourage more and more Israelis ,and the international people ,who believe in justice to come and see the reality of the occupation ,therefore, more solidarity more pressure's on there government's to accept and to implement the UN security council resolution's that belong to our palesinian cause

On behalf of At-Tuwani and the South Hebron Hill's would like to thank all organizations peace movements, Israeli and international solidarity, we never forget your solidarity,advocacy and support, your involvement in activities, events and marches that we have there is clear evidence of your refusal of injustice and occupation,and thank's to CPT and Operation doves who have permanent presence in At-Tuwani and south hebron hill's since 2004 we appreciate you all very much.

Together and jointly to put an end to the occupation.

***Representative Of At-Tuwani and South Hebron Hill's
Hafez Hreini***