

# REPORT

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## Human Rights Violations and Popular Struggle in South Hebron Hills

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July August September 2018



Operation Dove

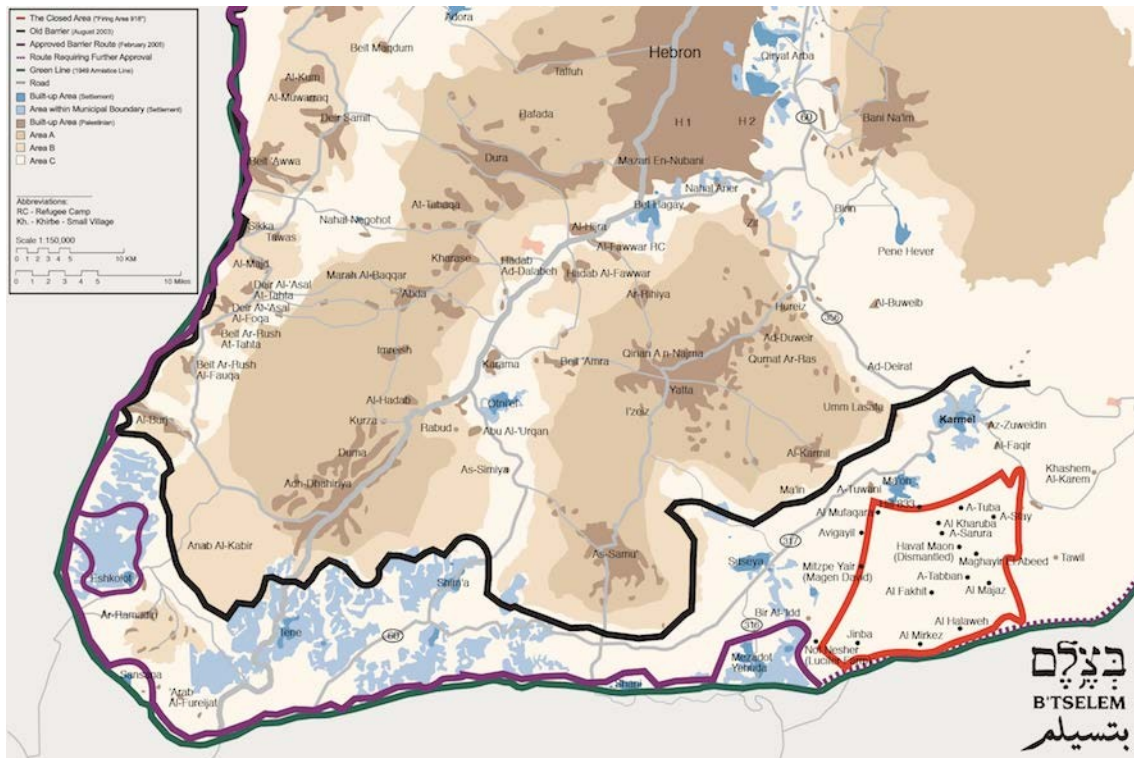
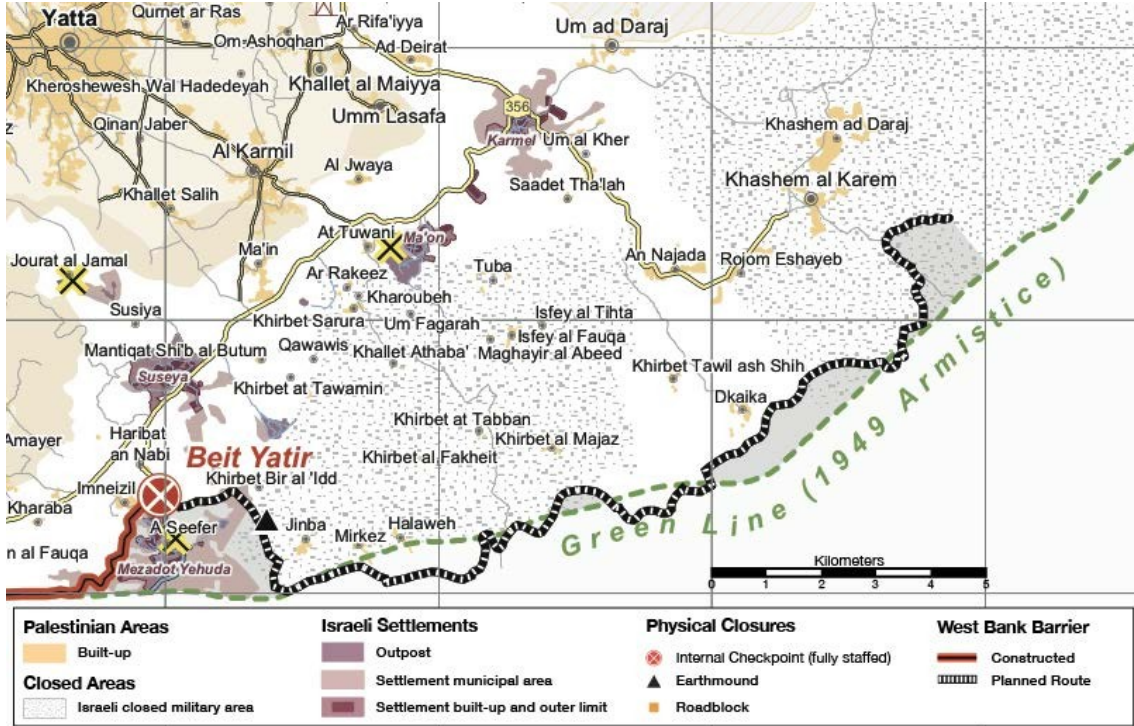
Nonviolent Peace Corps of Associazione "Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII"

[www.operationdove.org](http://www.operationdove.org)

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## OVERVIEW

During the months of July, August and September 2018, Operation Dove volunteers recorded 27 harassments by the Israeli armed forces (army, Border Police and police), 4 of which have been aggressions, with the use of physical violence, against Palestinian, Israeli and international activists. In the cases surveyed, the Israeli soldiers mainly prevented Palestinian shepherds and farmers from having free and full access to their land, limiting it to specific areas or denying it at all with the declaration of "closed" areas as an unfair solution for the frictions between Palestinian owners and Israeli settlers. In two cases Israeli soldiers present on the spot did not prevent the invasion of the Palestinian property and, even more serious, they did not intervene to prevent the brutal assault of Israeli settlers to a group of Israeli human rights activists. There have been 8 arrests involving Palestinians, internationals and Israelis. The "temporary detention" on the spot is a practice extensively used by the soldiers to intimidate the Palestinian shepherds who are used to graze in the Palestinian lands that are objective of the illegal expansion of settlements and outposts.

OD volunteers monitored 3 flying checkpoints, installed by the Israeli army on the road that connects the city of Yatta to the village of At Tuwani, the main gateway to the "Massafer Yatta area". In this area there are a dozen of Palestinians villages that lives under the risk of eviction because they are located inside the so called "Firing Zone 918". All the limitations of the freedom of movement of the Palestinian population in the area are concentrated in this direction: isolation and attrition of the communities of the "Massafer Yatta". Another road leading to the area was indeed closed by Israeli bulldozers in three different points.

Between July and September 2018 the Israeli Civil Administration delivered 3 demolition orders and 1 stop working order to Palestinian structures under construction. There have been 9 demolitions and in 7 confiscations of removable structures or building materials. The most serious demolition involved the school in the village of Khamat Atthaba, where Palestinian women tried to prevent the destruction of the two rooms that made up the school.

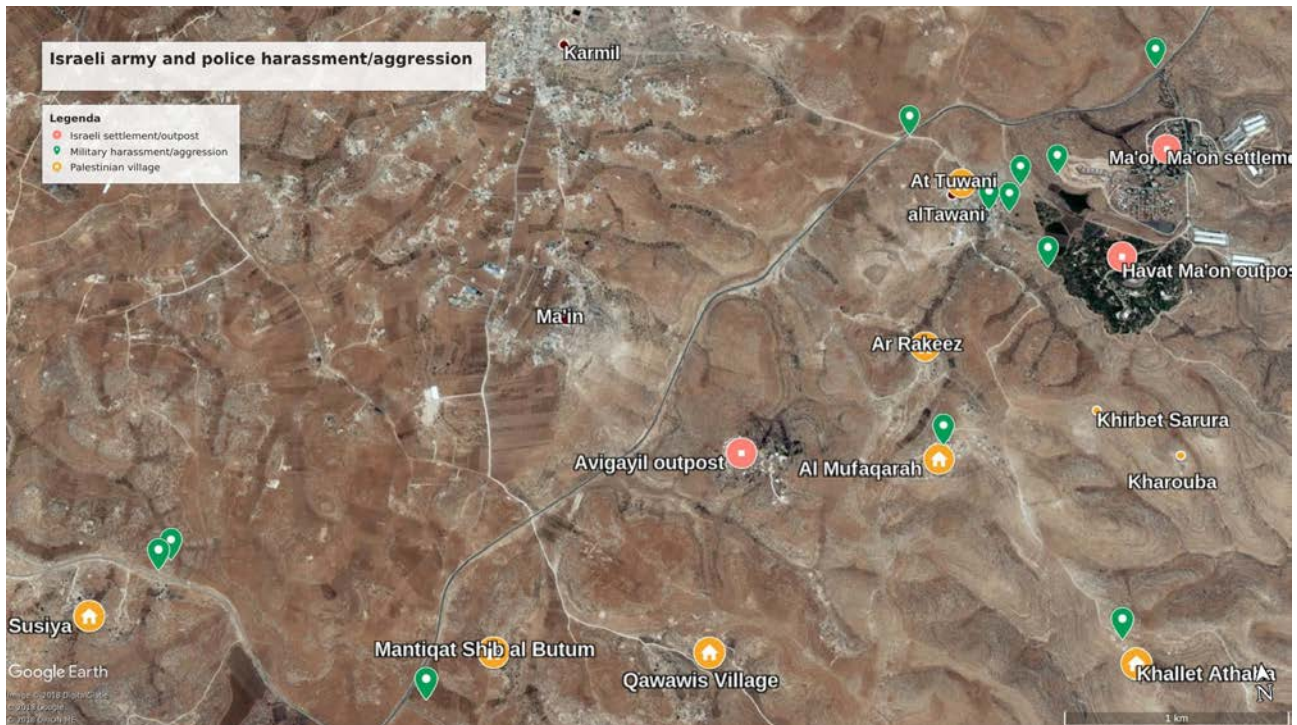
Speaking about Israeli settlers violence in the south Hebron hills, Operation Dove volunteers recorded 26 settlers harassment, 5 of which resulted in physical assaults. The most serious events have been the throwing stones at the women in a Palestinian house, the wounding of a group of Israeli activists, the occupation and damage of Palestinian houses, the stone throw attack of two Palestinian boys accompanied by two OD volunteers. There have been 22 olive trees cut in three different attacks in At Tuwani village. On September 25, two hundreds of Israeli settlers, escorted by Israeli army and police, raided the historic site of the ancient pool in the Palestinian village of Karmel.

The Palestinian schoolchildren from Tuba village and two OD volunteers have been attacked by an Israeli settler coming from Havat Ma'on who tried to prevent the group from reaching the school in At Tuwani village. In this case the Israeli soldiers for the Palestinian children showed up late, exposing the children to the settler violence and showing that the military escort is not the solution for guarantee the safety of the Palestinian children.

In the south Hebron hills there have been 5 nonviolent demonstrations against the illegal expansion of Israeli settlements on Palestinian lands. In all the cases the Israeli forces prevented the protesters from reaching the spot and carrying out the actions.

# ISRAELI ARMY AND POLICE

## Military harassment and aggression



On July 7, at 10:30 AM, some Palestinians gathered in the area of Al-Hamra, in a Palestinian private land, for a peaceful demonstration against the illegal expansion of the settlement of Pnei Hever, supported by International and Israeli activists. At around 11 AM two Israeli army jeeps (#252171; #534203) arrived in the place and declared it "closed military zone". The Israeli forces started to push all the demonstrators out of the area and arrested eight people (two Palestinians, five Israeli activists and one international activist) who were trying to continue the nonviolent demonstration. The soldiers continued to push violently the protesters outside the area until around 14:30 PM when all the people had forced to leave the place. Some Israeli settlers, despite the order of closed military area, remained in the spot, looked after by the Israeli forces.

On July 23, at around 11 AM a group of around 60 Palestinians carried out a nonviolent action in the Al-Hamra area which has been occupied by a group of settlers. When the group of demonstrators arrived in the spot, there was already a Israeli Civil Administration (DCO)'s car (#8179986) blocking the road. After a few minutes of discussion between the Palestinians and the DCO, the group managed to pass and reach the spot closed to the Israeli settlement of Pnei Hever, where there were already the Israeli Army (#534136).

Shortly after the Palestinians started to plant the trees, the Israeli forces declared the area closed and kicked the whole group of Palestinians and Internationals out of the area. Some of the demonstrators refused to leave the area immediately, still planting the trees. The Israeli Army attempted to arrest some protesters without success. The soldiers continued to push, even violently, the Palestinian and Internationals outside the area until around 12:45 PM when all the people went away.

On July 27, at around 5:45 PM, two Palestinians shepherds were grazing their flock in Khelly valley, a private Palestinian land between At-Tuwani Palestinian village and Ma'on Israeli settlement, when a car of Israeli army (#281686) arrived on the spot. The soldiers got closer to the shepherds forcing them to leave the area. The Palestinian shepherds refused, claiming that they were inside their own land. After few minutes another Israeli army jeep (#655408) reached the spot. The soldiers speak each other and then the two military jeeps continued to patrol the area. At around 6:25 PM the Civilian Security Coordinator of Ma'on settlement arrived on the area with his car (#4360713) he stopped for a while and then he left. At around 7 PM all the Palestinians left the area.

On July 30, at around 12 PM a group of about 30 Palestinian and International human rights activists gathered in Al-Hamra area to support the owner of a land beneath the Israeli settlement of Pnei Hever which has been occupied by a group of settlers. Two jeeps of the Israeli Army (#655625, #534203), one of the Border Police (#65556) and a car of the DCO (#42140) were already waiting the Palestinians on the spot. Despite the large presence of Israeli forces the Palestinians succeeded in reaching the area closed to the Israeli settlement of Pnei Hever but the Israeli army immediately declared closed military area, allowing the protesters to stay just in the valley. The Israeli armed forces stood in line in front of the illegal Israeli buildings and checked the passports of the Internationals. The soldiers kept the Palestinian and internationals outside the area until around 13:00 PM when all the people went away.

On August 6, at around 9 AM, an Israeli army jeep (#534157) and the civilian security coordinator of Susya Israeli settlement arrived in Wadi Sued area, close to Qawawis Palestinian village, where one Palestinian shepherd were grazing his flock. The Israeli soldiers told the shepherd, who suffers from disability, that he was not allowed to be there. A few minutes later, the father of the shepherd and three Palestinian activists arrived, claiming that the area was private Palestinian land. After this pressure the Civilian Security Coordinator left the spot and the soldiers allowed the shepherd to go back home without consequences.

On August 7, at around 9:10 AM, an Israeli army jeep (#534157) stopped in the vicinity of the entrance Ma'on Israeli settlement. On the other side of the Israeli bypass road 317 eight Palestinians shepherds from the village of Jawaya were grazing their sheep on their own fields. Two of the four soldiers in the jeep reached the shepherds and told them to move away from the road. To avoid troubles the shepherds to move the flock away in the direction of their village. After about ten minutes the Israeli soldiers left the spot.

On August 11, at around 9:20 AM, while some Palestinians were plowing their private land next to Pnei Hever Israeli settlement, four Israeli soldiers arrived and intimidated them to

leave. One soldier hit twice the head of one Israeli activist present on the spot. Then, the other soldiers took him back and slowly left the area, provoking again the Palestinians. The soldiers remained at the entrance of the land for half an hour and after they moved up the hill where they remained for another hour.

On August 31, at 6:50 PM, an Israeli army jeep (#534157) stopped on the bypass road 317 close to Khelly Valley, in At Tuwani village, where a Palestinian shepherd were grazing his flock. The Israeli soldiers intimidated the Palestinian shepherd to leave the area in spite of he was in a private Palestinian land.

On September 4, at around 6:19 PM, while some Palestinian shepherds were grazing in Khelly valley, Palestinian private land, an Israeli army jeep (#281686) arrived on the spot. After having checked the maps of the area, they ordered the shepherds to move away from the hill, allowing them to stay only in the valley. When the army left, the Civilian Security Coordinator of the Israeli settlement of Ma'on arrived and he started taking pictures of the shepherds.

On September 26 at 2:15 PM, on the Palestinian road along Humra valley, in At Tuwani village, a group of Israeli soldiers stopped a Palestinian while he was going home. The soldiers told the Palestinian he can't be on the road over the valley and had to go walking inside the olive tree field down the valley. A young Palestinian activist reached them to have an explanation about the closure of the road. When he asked to see an official order about the closure of the road the soldiers refused to show it. The Palestinians so decided to leave the road and walk on the side of the valley.

On September 26, at about 9 AM, some Israeli soldiers put an Israeli flag on the road that connects the Palestinian villages of At-Tuwani and Carmel. The soldiers stopped near the flag questioning some Palestinians that were walking on the road. After the Israeli soldiers left the area.

On September 27, at around 1 PM, 3 Israeli soldiers, after have spoken with an Israeli settler from the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on, stopped 2 Palestinian men that were walking on the road above the Palestinian valley of Humra, in At-Tuwani village. According to the soldiers the road was forbidden for Palestinians and internationals because is located on settlers private land. When the Palestinians refused to change the road and asked to see the closure order of the road the soldiers told them to wait the Israeli Civil Administration. In the meanwhile an Israeli settler reached the spot with his car (#1912678) followed by two Israeli army jeep (#281686, #790052). Then, another Havat Ma'on Israeli settler reached the spot. After have spoken with the settlers for half an hour the soldiers let the Palestinians walk on the Palestinian road to came back home. When the Palestinians were in the entrance of At-Tuwani village the Israeli soldiers stopped the Palestinians another time to identify them, checking their ID cards. After some minute an Israeli police car arrived (#42120) and the Israeli soldiers said that the settlers told them that one of the Palestinians threw something to him. Some inhabitants of At-Tuwani village arrived on the spot. At About 2 PM the Israeli forces let the Palestinians go without any consequences.



## Checkpoints and closures



On July 3, at about 12:15 PM, the Israeli army closed the road that leads from the Palestinian village of Susya to the city of Yatta. When the OD volunteers arrived on the spot, a truck was working in the middle of the road while Israeli soldiers and DCO were monitoring the works, preventing anyone to get closer. When the volunteers left, the Israeli forces were still on the place and the road was still closed.

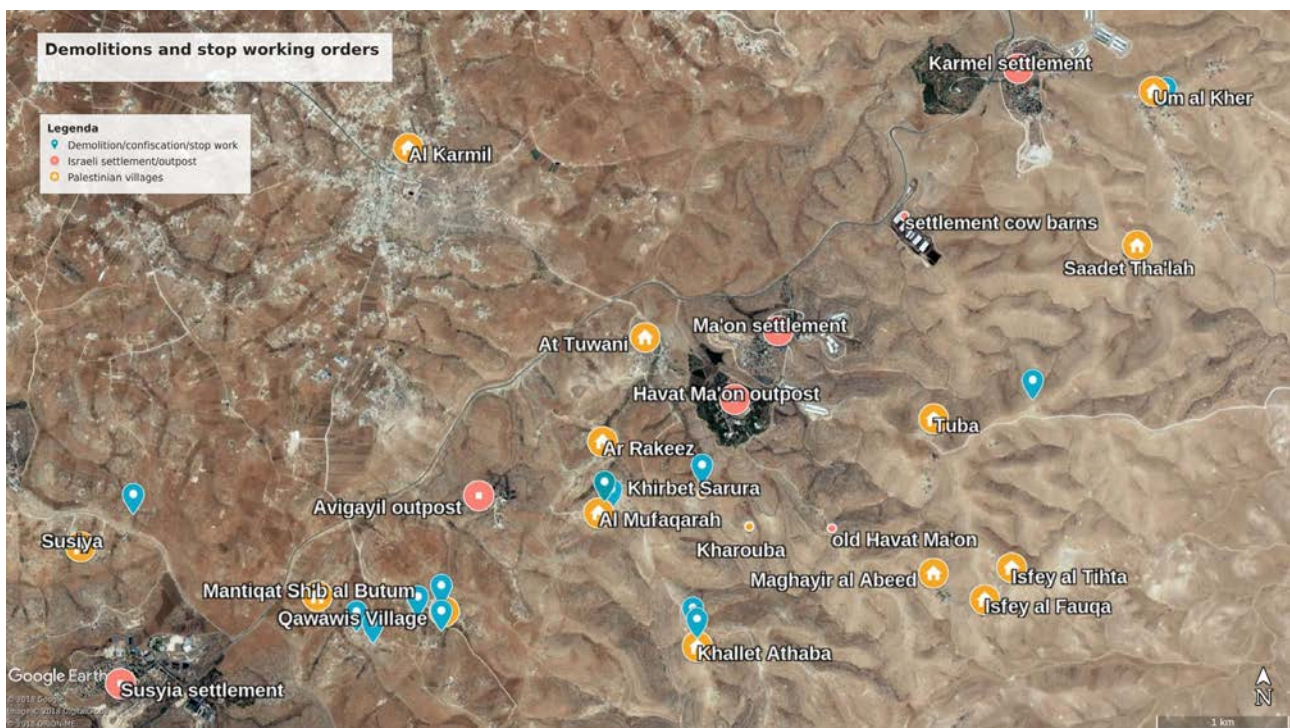
On July 9, at around 9 AM, an Israeli army jeep (#281686) set up a checkpoint at the entrance of the Palestinian village of At-Tuwani. When the OD volunteers arrived on the spot the soldiers were inspecting a car of a Palestinian man. During the checkpoint the soldiers stopped 15 people, searching 2 men and 3 cars. At 10 AM a Border Police car (#42125) arrived but it left a few minutes later. At 10:32 AM the Israeli army jeep left the place.

On July 11, at around 4:33 PM, the Israeli army and Police closed the road that connects the Palestinian villages of the "Massafer Yatta" area, inside the so called Firing Zone 918 to Shabel Butum village and then the city of Yatta. When the OD volunteers arrived on the spot, one Israeli bulldozer was closing the road in three different points, while Israeli soldiers (#274023) and two cars of DCO (#8179986; #9957334) were monitoring the works. The Israeli forces left the area at 5:15 PM.

On August 6, in the evening, the Israeli army (#281686) established a checkpoint on the road that connects the bypass road 317 to Al Birkeh village. The OD volunteers reached the spot at 6:10 PM when the Israeli army had already started to stop cars. The soldiers stopped 2 cars and 3 Palestinians who were walking on the road. At around 6:30 PM, the army removed the checkpoint and subsequently identified the three OD volunteers present on the spot. After that, the army stayed on the road for one more hour, without stopping anyone, and left at around 7:20 PM.

On August 19, at around 11.30 PM, 2 Israeli police cars, 1 Israeli army jeep and some civilian Israeli cars, probably secret police, stopped at the entrance of the Palestinian village of At-Tuwani. Israeli forces set up a closure/checkpoint in the entrance of the Palestinian village, claiming they were looking for stolen cars. The policemen stopped one Palestinian car, but after searching they let him pass. The closure lasted about 2 hours and around 1.00 AM all the Israeli armed forces left the village.

## Demolitions and stop working orders



On July 1, the Israeli Civil Administration DCO delivered a demolition order for a bathroom in Sarura Palestinian village. A car of Israeli Civil Administration (#9957334) and an army jeep (#281686) arrived at around 9:30 AM. They first had a look at the bathroom, they took pictures and hung the paper of the order. Then they went inside one cave to take more pictures. Israeli forces left Sarura village at 9:40 AM.

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On July 5, at around 8:30 AM, a convoy of Israeli armed forces composed by two army jeep (#534157, #655655), one border police (#665567), four cars of the Civil Administration (#6406086, #3305037, #9957334, #2870434) and a big truck to store confiscated material (#7452752) reached the Palestinian village of Susya where they demolished a tent, which was used by shepherds while grazing their flocks. Then the convoy moved to Al Mufaqara Palestinian village where they demolished a structure and confiscated its components. The structure had already been partially demolished (its upper part) on June 26. The DCO, the Israeli army and Israeli border police arrived in Al Mufaqara at around 10 AM. A tractor was also used to carry out the demolition work. The Israeli border police identified both the OD volunteers and two Israeli activists and prevented anyone to get closer to the spot of the demolition. The Israeli forces left the area at 10:35 AM.

On July 9, at around 11 AM, the Israeli Civil Administration delivered a demolition order for a house in the Palestinian village of Khallet Atthaba.

On July 11, at around 8:30 AM, four cars of Israeli DCO (#9957334, #25834101, #8179986), two army jeeps (#655655, #534157), two trucks (#7384252, #9936673) and a bulldozer arrived in Khallet Atthaba Palestinian village to demolish two structures which constituted the school of the village. At around 9 AM, the Israeli army and border police declared the area “closed military area”, without showing any official paper testifying it, and physically pushed the Palestinians and Internationals away from the school. Then the DCO proceeded with the dismantlement of the school. Throughout the whole works, the level of tension between the Palestinians and the Israeli forces was very high; the latter used force against Palestinian adults and minors and threw sound bombs to disperse the crowd, which wounded two Palestinian kids who were then assisted by paramedics. At around 11 AM, one Israeli police car (#665567) joined the other Israeli forces on the ground. The dismantlement finished at around 12 PM. While the trucks were carrying the two structures away, the Palestinians and Internationals on the ground received an update from the lawyers which did not allow the DCO to confiscate the school. The Palestinians tried to stop the confiscation by standing in front of the trucks. The Israeli forces pushed them away from the road using force, and the trucks eventually left with the structures. At around 12:20 PM, the Israeli armed forces convoy left the village.

On July 30, at around 9:40 AM an Israeli forces convoy (DCO: #9957334, #8179986; Border Police: #655655, #665567) arrived on the Palestinian area of Ishraif to demolish an animal shelter used by shepherds of the villages around. After few minutes from the beginning of the demolition another jeep of Israeli soldiers arrived on the spot (#534157). At around 10:35 AM the convoy left the place and went inside the Israeli settlement of Carmel.

On August 23, according to a Palestinian witness, an Israeli settler from the settlement of Carmel called the Israeli forces because the inhabitants of Umm Al Khair Palestinian village were working to expand a tent closed to the settlement. At around 9:40 PM an Israeli forces convoy (DCO: #6406086; Army: #281698; Police: #42120) reached the spot.

Without any written order they told them they couldn't work during the night but only during the day. After that they went away.

On August 25, at around 11:00 AM, an Israeli forces convoy (DCO and two jeeps of the Army #281698 #534203) arrived to the Palestinian village of Qawawis. After having pushed the Palestinian family away, the Army confiscated several working tools, seeds and other materials without showing any confiscation order. After that, the Israeli forces left the spot.

On September 3, at around 4:00 AM, an Israeli forces demolished a house in the Palestinian village of Qawawis. Israeli soldiers didn't show any demolition order to the activists who were on the spot.

On September 3, at around 5:47 AM an Israeli forces convoy (DCO #9957334, #1957334; Army #534203, #184334, #252186, #700756; Border Police #885562, #8179986) arrived in the Palestinian village of Zwaeden to demolish one building used like bathroom and tool storage, without showing any demolition order. After some minutes, the Israeli forces left the spot.

On September 4, at around 10:30 AM, Israeli forces (#9957334) confiscated a tent in the the Palestinian village of Qawawis.

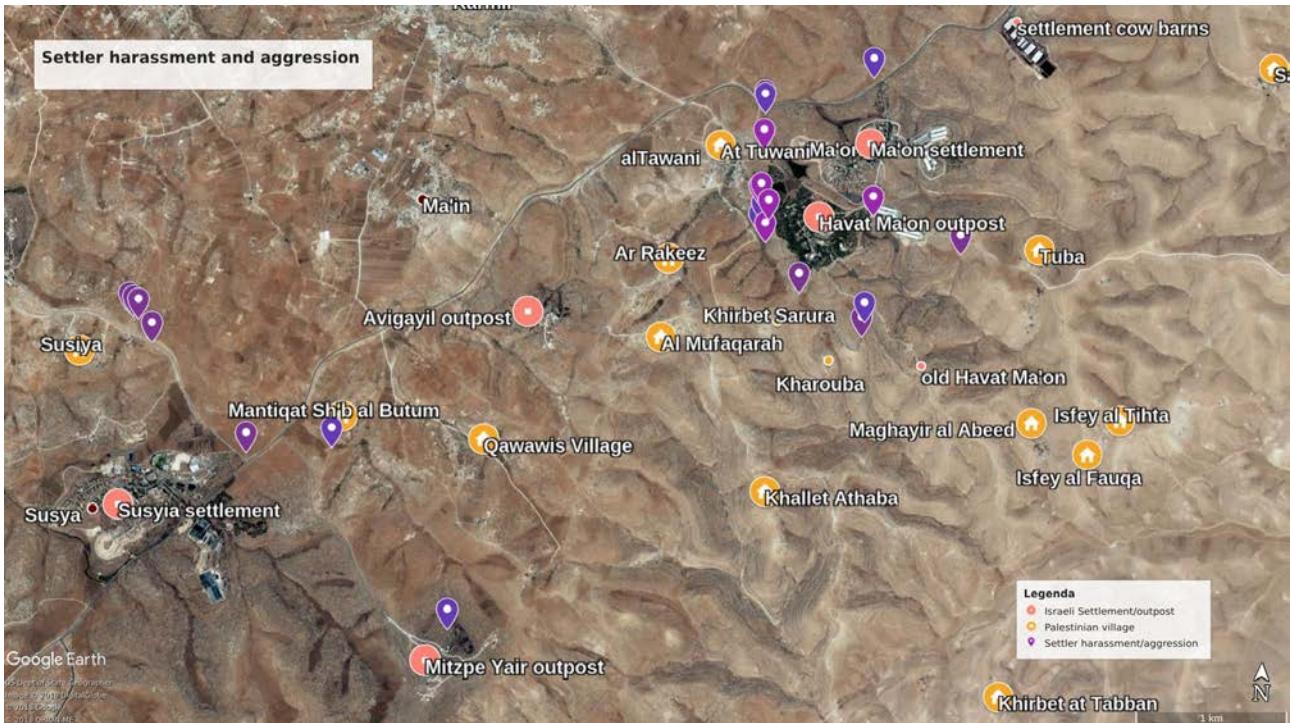
On September 21, at around 6 PM, a group of Israeli forces (Army: #184789, #790052, #239512; DCO: #9296278) reached the Palestinian village of Shabel Butum to confiscate a water tank used during some construction works. The Israeli soldiers threatened the Palestinian owner of the water tank to destroy his tractor if he would refused to drive the tractor with the water tank inside the Israeli military base of Susiya. The Palestinian following the orders and drove his tractor to the base where Israeli army confiscated the water tank. At around 6:40 PM the Palestinian man went out with his tractor from the Israeli military base and returned to Shabel Butum Palestinian village.

On September 22, according to Palestinian and Israeli witnesses, the Israeli DCO, escorted by Israeli soldiers, confiscated some working materials in the Palestinian village of Shabel Butum.

On September 23, at around 11:20 AM, an Israeli forces convoy (army: #239841, #703235; DCO: #6406086) reached the Palestinian village of Al Mufaqrara and confiscated one generator, one truck and some panels used during some construction works. The Israeli soldiers forced the Palestinian owner of the truck to drove the truck inside the Israeli illegal outpost of Avigayil, where he left the truck. At around 1 PM arrived the Israeli truck for the confiscation (#7294867) followed by some Israeli workers who help the DCO officers during the demolitions (#25834101). The Israeli soldiers confiscated also an unmounted wall of a container. All the Palestinian properties seized were moved inside the Israeli illegal outpost of Avigayil. At around 13:22 PM all the Israeli forces and the confiscation truck left the area.

# ISRAELI SETTLERS

## Settler harassment and aggression



On July 3, at around 5:30 PM, one Palestinian shepherd was leaving Kharrouba valley, near At-Tuwani village, after grazing his sheep to go back to Tuba Palestinian village. Two Israeli settlers coming from the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on drove their car (#7102623) towards the Palestinian shepherd, who succeeded to run away. The settlers stopped on the top of Old Havat Ma'on Hill, looking for the shepherd. After a few minutes, the settlers drove back and stopped in Meshaha hill. They took pictures of the OD volunteers and of the two Palestinians who were leaving the place too. According to Palestinian witnesses, at around 5:50 PM, after everybody had left the area, the army arrived on the spot.

On July 14, at around 7.30 PM three Israeli settlers, a man and two women, coming from the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on, harassed two Palestinian shepherds from Tuba Palestinian village, while they were grazing their sheep and camels in Shabel Shamsti hill. The Israeli man was carrying a gun with which he threatened the two shepherds; he called the Israeli army and police who reached the area when the Palestinian shepherds had already left.

In the afternoon of July 14, a large group of Israeli settlers started walking from the Israeli settlement of Susiya until very close to the Palestinian village of Susiya, they stepped on Palestinian private fields, which are closed for Israeli citizen. When the Palestinians asked the Israeli soldiers that were escorting the settlers, to move away, the soldiers not only ignored the request but also prevented the Palestinians to enter in their own land.

On July 19, at around 10 PM, a group of around 10 Israeli settlers broke into a Palestinian tent in the village of Susiya. The the settlers used some tools they have found in the tent and damaged the structure. When the Palestinian owners arrived at their tent the settlers were making coffee and eating the Palestinian family's food; the settlers threatened the family and intimidated them to leave. The Palestinians responded to the threat saying that they would have called the police in case they had not left the place. The Israeli settlers then left the tent.

On July 20, at around 7:30 AM, a group of 15 Israeli settlers, one of them armed, parked their ten cars (#8350461, #9779131, #4436364, #6238014, #9806286, #2363660, #7315165, #5343735, #2214768, #2132833) in front of a property of a Palestinian family in the village of Susiya. The settlers, the same group who harassed the Palestinian family in the same place the night before, started to do a religious ritual next to the Palestinian tent. At 7:50 AM, one of the settlers broke into the private property of the family to take pictures of them, their car and their tent. While the settlers were praying, at 8:10 AM an Israeli army jeep (#534157) reached the area. The soldiers pushed the Palestinians and Internationals inside the Palestinian property and encouraged the Israeli settlers to move outside. At 8:40 and 9 AM respectively another three army cars (#274020, #790463, #534203) reached the place. The army then pushed the group of Palestinians, except for the owners of the tent, and Internationals on the other side of the road, outside the area of the settlers' invasion that was declared "closed military area". At 9:05 AM also a car of the police (#42125) joined the other Israeli forces present on the spot. The police identified the OD volunteers. At 9:30 AM, a few minutes after the Israeli settlers had left the area, the Israeli army left as well. The police stayed on the spot until around 9:50 AM; they stopped a Palestinian car to check the driver's ID. They then left the village.

On July 20, at around 4:10 PM two settlers, masked and armed, went out from the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on and walked on Meshaha hill, towards a Palestinian shepherd who was grazing his sheep in Meshaha valley. The shepherd, alerted by phone to to the danger, decide to run away with his flock to prevent to be attacked. When the settlers did not see the shepherd anymore, they left and went back to the outpost, at around 4:30 PM.

On July 21, at around 3 PM, a group of young Israeli settlers broke into a Palestinian private property in the Palestinian village of Susiya. They sat on the ground, took pictures and refused to leave when the owner of the property asked them to. When the OD volunteers arrived on the spot, the Israeli army (#281686, #790463, #274020) and Israeli police (#42140, #42125) were already there. At around 3:30 PM, the army pushed the Israeli settlers, Palestinians and Internationals outside of the property, except for the owners of the property who were allowed to stay inside. The Israeli police and army

identified most of the internationals present on the spot. A few minutes later, the army declared the area “closed military area” even if the Israeli soldiers refused to show the paper testifying the closure of the area. The two groups left the spot at around 4 PM.

On July 23, at around 4:15 PM two workers of an Israeli company were working in a private Palestinian land near the Palestinian village of Susiya. The company was using a machine to dig into the soil taking water from reservoir for the close settlement of Susiya. Alongside the workers there were three Israeli soldiers with an Army jeep (#281686). Two Palestinian activists arrived on the spot showing to the Israeli soldiers the certificate of ownership of the land. After that at around 5:00 PM the Israeli soldiers and the Israeli workers left the area.

On July 27, at around 5:00 PM three Palestinian shepherds were attacked by two Israeli settlers coming from Ma'on settlement while they were grazing their sheep in Khelly valley, Palestinian land in At Tuwani village. The settlers threw rocks at the shepherd and at their flock, pushing them away from the area. Then, the settlers called the Israeli army (#281686) who arrived at around 5:14 PM. The Palestinian shepherds were forced to leave the place.

On August 8, at around 9 PM, six Palestinian shepherds were grazing their sheep in Khaled Adara area, a Palestinian land in front of the entrance of Ma'on settlement when an Israeli settler reached the spot and started to push away the sheep claiming that this was his land. Meanwhile, another Israeli settler joined the action. The the two settlers stopped an Israeli police car, after which an army car (#281686) stopped as well. Three Palestinian activists came and spoke with the army and the police, while four more settlers were coming from Ma'on settlers. The Israeli police and army decided to leave the spot, leaving the Palestinians and OD volunteers alone with the Israeli settlers. Two of them first walked to the Palestinian activists car and then one settler pushed the Palestinian sheep away. Another Israeli police car came and after a while the policemen reaffirm the Palestinian property of the land.

On August 10, around 8:40 AM, two Palestinian shepherds were stopped by the Civilian Security Coordinator of Ma'on settlement, accompanied by Israeli soldiers (#281686). The shepherd were kept under detention. At 9:10 AM arrived the Israeli police (#42147) and after a while another two Israeli “security” cars. At 9:40 AM a Palestinian human right activist reached on the place and at around 10:05 AM the Israeli DCO arrived, followed by another Israeli army vehicle (#534157). After consultations the Israeli forces decided to free the shepherds and left the spot.

According to a Palestinian witnesses, on the afternoon of August 10, two Israeli settlers, riding a quad, drove several times from the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on to the Palestinian villages of Al Mufaqrara and Sarura in order to scare the Palestinian inhabitants.

On August 20, at around 8 AM, eleven Israeli settlers raided the Palestinian village of Qawawis. In the beginning of the raid an Israeli army jeep was waiting on the nearby Israeli bypass road 317. The settlers arrived next to a Palestinian building under

construction where they started to pray. When the Palestinian owners arrived on their building site, the settlers moved more close the building, followed by three Israeli soldiers. Two settlers entered in the Palestinian building and, standing on the door, pushed the Palestinians away and insulted them. Then, the settlers went out the building and, when the Palestinians entered, the Army forced them leave. In the meantime, some settlers harassed the other people present on the place and then they left the area. After some minutes another Israeli army jeep and border police jeep arrived next the building. After half an hour, an Israeli DCO car (#9957734) arrived on the place and suddenly started to push the Palestinians. Some Israeli soldiers moved around to the building, ordering everyone to leave and declaring closed military area. In the meantime, the DCO workers started to dismantle a tend next to the building in construction, seizing the mattresses in it and most of the work equipment present on the field. Palestinians and OD volunteers tried to approach again the building but the Israeli soldiers stopped them, threatened them of arrest. After the confiscation all the people left the area.

On August 21, at around 6 PM, a group of around 10 Israeli settlers coming from Havat Ma'on outpost headed to a Palestinian shepherd who was grazing in Kharrouba valley, between Sarura and At-Tuwani village. The Palestinian shepherd decided to run away with the flock in the direction of Old Havat Ma'on hill. The group of settlers, in the meanwhile reached by two cars, ran after the shepherd, stopping in the top of Old Havat Ma'on hill. The settlers continued to look for the Palestinian shepherds for some minutes and then came back to the outpost walking in Meshaha valley, private Palestinian land.

On August 24 at around 1 AM, a group of settlers from the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on harassed 3 Palestinian guys while they were walking from At-Tuwani to Sarura Palestinian village. The Palestinians ran away in a safe area but the settlers remained in Humra valley, hiding themselves among the Palestinian olive trees. The Palestinian owners of the land called the Israeli police but it didn't show up. When Israeli settlers went back to the outpost also the Palestinians left the spot.

On August 25, at around 1 PM, six Israeli human rights activists were attacked by several masked settlers coming from Israeli outpost of Mitzpe Yair while they were documenting the illegal expansion of the outpost. The Israeli soldiers present on the spot did not intervene. When the ambulances arrived, the Israeli army (#274020, #534031, #281686) declared the area a closed military zone pushing away the Israeli activists and the other international volunteers arrived on the spot. Around 3 PM, when the Israeli wounded activists were evacuated to the hospital, all the other activists and the Israeli forces left the area.

On August 29, at around 5.30 PM, three Israeli settlers coming from the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on went to graze their sheep inside a Palestinian fields near Humra valley. Three Palestinians arrived on the spot to speak with the settlers. The Israeli settlers called the army and an Israeli army jeep (#534157) arrived at 5:50 PM. The soldiers spoke with the Palestinians and the settlers to understand the situation. After which the soldiers left the spot. Palestinians left the spot as well.



On September 6, at around 1:30 PM a settler from the illegal Israeli outpost of Havat Ma'on reached the backyard of a Palestinian house, in the village of At Tuwani, throwing stones against the Palestinian women who were in the house. When other inhabitants of the village arrived on the spot, the settler left. After a while, the Civilian Security Coordinator of Ma'on settlement reached the spot, followed, after a couple of minutes, by two Israeli army jeeps (#702857, #281686). The soldiers spoke with the settler and then declared the area "closed military zone" for Israelis and internationals. The Palestinians informed the soldiers about the attack. The soldiers did not take any measures against the settler and left the spot.

On September 7, at around 12:58 PM, two masked Israeli settlers from the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on attacked throwing stones against two Palestinians and two OD volunteers while they were walking from the Palestinian village of Tuwani to the Palestinian village of Tuba, in Humra valley. When the two Israeli settlers went back to the outpost of Havat Ma'on, one Army jeep (#790386) arrived patrolling the area.

On September 8, at around 5 PM, Israeli settlers from the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on cut nine Palestinian olives trees in Humra valley, in At-Tuwani village.

On September 8, according to a Palestinian witness, at around 6 PM, a settler from the Israeli settlement of Ma'on threw stones against three Palestinian shepherds. After that one jeep of Israeli Army (#274020) and a car of Police (#42120) arrived on the spot asking the Palestinians who reached the spot to identify themselves.

On September 21, at around 3 PM, according to a Palestinian witness, one Israeli settler reached the Palestinian village of Sarura riding a motorcycle. The Palestinians present on the spot went toward the settler trying to preventing him to enter inside the area of the village. The Israeli settler went away toward the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on. After a while the security chief of the Israeli illegal outpost of Avigayil arrived in Sarura village with another Israeli settler (#8624728), escorted by a jeep of Israeli Army (#790052). The soldiers tried to arrest some Palestinian boys accused of throwing stones toward the settler. After a while the Israeli soldiers called the police. Before the arrival of the Israeli police the settler went away because one Palestinian recognized him as the settler who injured with his quad motorbike a Palestinian young man on March 2018. At 3:42 PM one car of Israeli police (#42120) and a jeep of Israeli Army (#703235) arrived on the spot. In the meanwhile some other Palestinians from the nearby village of Al Mufaqara arrived. At 3:53 PM the Israeli chief of security of the Israeli illegal outpost of Avigayil came back and moved toward the cave in Sarura, Palestinian village, alarming the Palestinians. Some of the Palestinian boys and one Palestinian girl tried to prevent him to enter inside the cave. The Israeli settler accused the girl to had harmed him and asked to the Israeli police to arrest her. Another Israeli Army jeep arrived (#239512) and more Palestinians from the nearby village of Tuwani reached the area. The Israeli soldiers tried to arrest the Palestinian girl but the other Palestinian women present prevented them to touch the girl. At around 4:20 PM the Israeli forces went away without arresting any Palestinian.

On September 22, around 7 PM, 5 Israeli settlers coming from the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on tried to enter in At-Tuwani village. Two Palestinians tried to stop them and the Israeli soldiers present on the spot ordered the Palestinians to step back. When other Palestinians of the village reached the area, after a verbal confrontation, the Israeli soldiers asked the settlers to go back to the outpost and leave the area. Around 7:15 PM the settlers went back to Havat Ma'on.

On September 25, at about 10.15 AM, a convoy of Israeli forces arrived at the Palestinian village of Karmel. Their target was to monitor the area around and inside the Karmel swimming pool because the arrival of a big amount of Israeli settlers on the spot. The Israeli army block the streets around the area checking the Palestinian cars passing and then they tried to close the entrance of the swimming pool. At about 1 PM, the Israeli settlers started to arrive and the Israeli forces closed completely the Palestinian roads. During the afternoon several buses of Israeli settlers arrived for a total of about 200 settlers. Meanwhile around 45 Palestinians, among men and children, were present. While the settlers entered in the Palestinian building without any controls even if armed with machine gun, the Israeli soldiers searched all the Palestinians prior to permit them to enter. At about 5.30 PM the settlers and the Israeli forces left the spot.

On September 25 six olive trees were cut during the night in Humra valley, Palestinian private land in At Tuwani village, near Havat Ma'on Israeli illegal outpost.

## SCHOOL PATROL

On September 2, the children from the Palestinian villages of Tuba and Maghayir Al-Abeed began the first semester of the 2018-19 school year with Israeli soldiers escorting them to their school in the nearby Palestinian village of At-Tuwani. This is the fifteenth continuous year that these children have needed a military escort in order to reach the school safely. To get to school the children must walk along a road which once provided easy travel between the villages, but which now runs between the Israeli settlement of Ma'on and the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on. For the past fifteen years violent behavior by settlers from the outpost, the existence of which is illegal under both Israeli and International law, has made the road inaccessible to Palestinians. Even escorted by Israeli soldiers the schoolchildren continue to face the possibility of violence, harassment and intimidation as they walk to and from school. Under Israeli Knesset Committee for Children's Rights order, the military escort is responsible for protecting the children from settler violence and intimidation throughout their walk to school in the morning, and their return trip home in the afternoon. Operation Dove volunteers documented multiple instances in which the military escort failed to provide protection to the children, leaving them vulnerable to settler violence on several occasions during the first month of the 2018-2019 school year. Here below are the most serious cases recorded.

On September 9, in the morning, the Israeli army did not show up. The OD volunteers walked until the meeting point for reaching the schoolchildren that were waiting there almost 40 minutes. Once arrived on the spot, one Havat Ma'on Israeli settler stopped with his car at the beginning of the road trying to impede the children and the volunteers to walk back to the school. The Palestinian children did not stop their walk. The settler followed the children first walking and then with his car. He settler tried to stop the children a second time, driving the car in front of the children to stop the group. Finally the army arrived at 8:19 AM when the children were almost at the end of the path. The Israeli soldiers managed to stop the settler, letting the children arrived at school.

On September 12, in the morning, the Israeli army arrived 40 minutes late at the meeting point with the Palestinian schoolchildren. While the children were waiting the soldiers, an Israeli Havat Ma'on settler started to shout against them. The settler entered in a car that drove close to the children few minutes later and then she left. After a while another Israeli settler arrived on the spot with his car, stopped the car, got out and walked towards the children, shouting against them. The Palestinian children, very scared, decided to run back toward Tuba village. They waited there for 10 minutes and then they went back to the meeting point once the settler left. At about 8.10 AM the Israeli military escort arrived.

## PALESTINIAN POPULAR STRUGGLE

On July 7, OD volunteers took part in the nonviolent demonstration in a Palestinian land located under the Israeli settlement of Pnei Hever. Several Israeli, Palestinian and International human rights activists attended the action that was stopped shortly after the beginning by the Israeli army who declared “closed military area”. Eight people were arrested (five Israelis, two internationals and one Palestinian) and released the same night. During the demonstration, the Palestinian landlord managed with his tractor to plow his own fields.

On July 25, a group of young Palestinians, in collaboration with the Heritage Project, organized a training about nonviolent resistance in Sarura Palestinian village with the participation of Palestinians and Internationals.

On August 4, a Palestinian family organized a nonviolent action in their own land close to the Israeli settlement of Pnei Hever. OD volunteers and some Israeli activists accompanied the Palestinians family to work on their olive trees. A troop of Israeli soldiers stood for all the time behind the fence of the settlement observing the works.

On September 1, Palestinian inhabitants of the villages of Tuwani, Susiya and Umm Al Khair organized a nonviolent demonstration in solidarity with the Israeli activists brutally attacked by settlers of Mitzpe Yair outpost on August 25. When the group arrived in Wadi Sued area the Israeli forces block the road preventing the protesters to reach the Palestinian lands close to the outpost.

On September 29 at around 12 AM, Palestinians and Israeli activists walked along the road from Kharrouba valley to At-Tuwani village to protest against the Israeli soldiers conducts in the previous days that tried to prevent Palestinians to walk on this road in different occasion. A lot of Israeli forces reached the spot (Army: #534203, #6406086, #8179986, #281686; Border Police: #655655, #655562) but this time they didn't prevent anyone to walk on the road reaffirming that the road has no specific restrictions. Around 1 PM the Palestinians and Israelis left the spot and came back to At-Tuwani village.