

# REPORT

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

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July August September 2019



Operation Dove

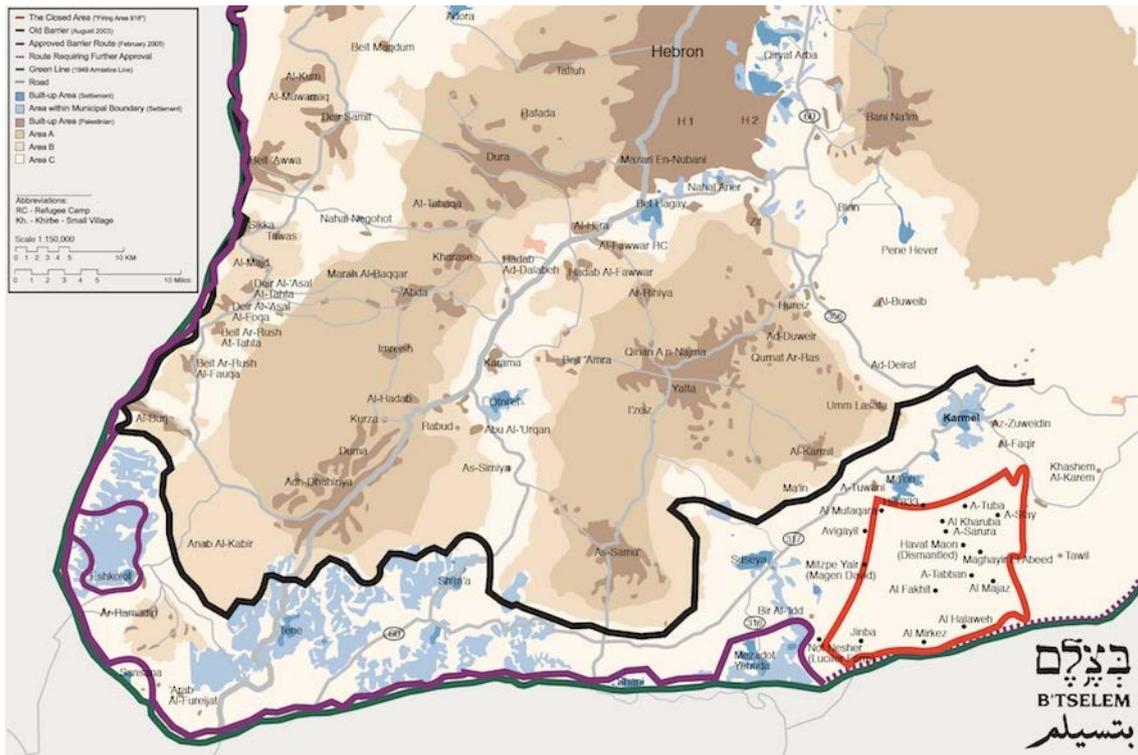
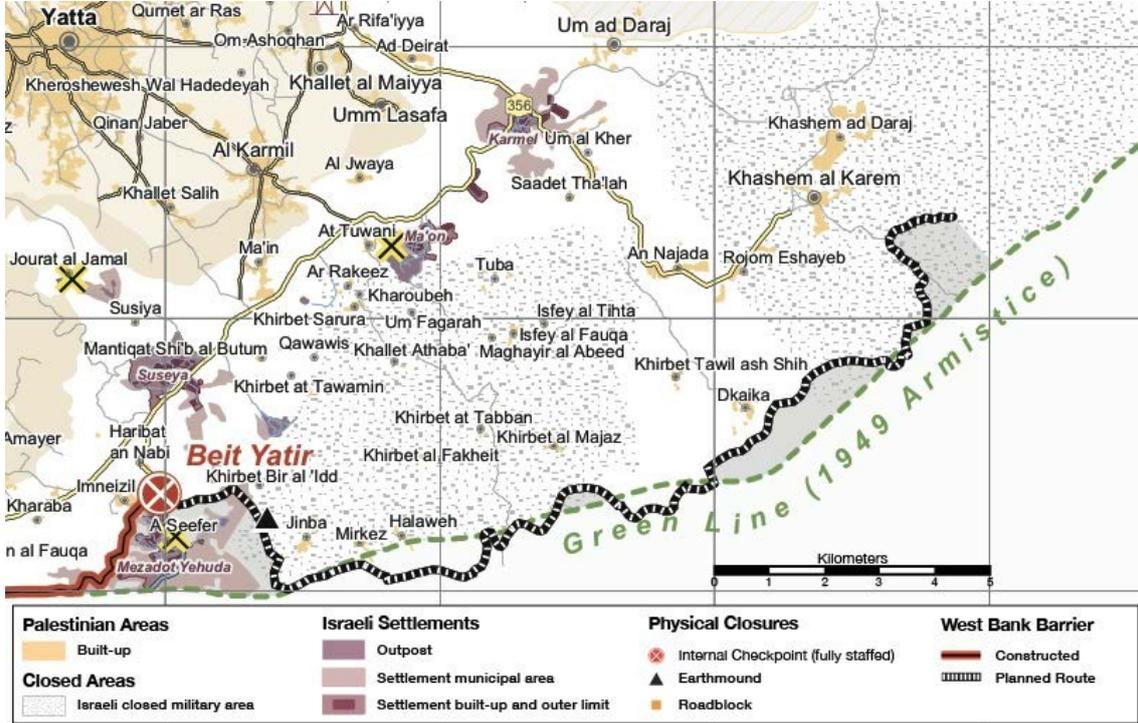
Nonviolent Peace Corps of Associazione "Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII"

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

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# MAPS



## OVERVIEW

During the months of July, August and September 2019, Operation Dove volunteers recorded several incidents of harassment and physical aggression by the Israeli armed forces (Army, Border Police and Police) against the Palestinian inhabitants of the south Hebron hills.

In 5 cases the Israeli soldiers tried to chase away Palestinian shepherds and farmers from their own land located close to the Israeli settlement or illegal outpost. The soldiers intimidated the Palestinian ordering them to leave their land without any official order or legal base.

The Israeli army raided Tuba Palestinian villages for three times (August 13, 14 and 22), arresting 4 Palestinians inhabitants. On September 10 Israeli soldiers and DCO entered in the village of KHALLET ATTABHA to take pictures. The soldiers have been very aggressive with the Palestinians who were trying to understand the reason of the invasion of their property. On September 20, 3 Palestinian men were arrested in Ar Rakeez village after the Israeli soldiers stopped a group of Palestinian guests who were visiting in the area.

During the night of September 11, the Israeli army burst into the villages of Al Mufaqarah, KHALLET ATTABHA and QAWAWIS. For hours the Palestinian inhabitants were forced to wait outside while the soldiers were searching inside their houses. The soldiers damaged some furniture and confiscated personal items during the operation.

OD volunteers recorded 8 flying checkpoints, set up by the Israeli army on the road that connects the city of Yatta / Al Birkeh village to the village of At Tuwani, the main gateway to the "Massafer Yatta area". The checkpoints lasted around 6 hours and half, with a total of 64 Palestinian vehicles stopped and checked. The Israeli army closed with big stones two roads that connects the Bypass road 317 to the Palestinian village of Jawwaya (July, 8) and one road that leads to the Palestinian city of As Samu' (July, 28).

During the period surveyed the Israeli armed forces demolished 16 Palestinian structures, among which houses, caravan, animal shelters and water wells. Furthermore Israeli bulldozers destroyed water pipes in Jawwaya village (July, 31) and two gardens in Umm Al Kheir (July, 3) and Dkeika (July, 4) villages where they cut around 400 Palestinian olive trees.

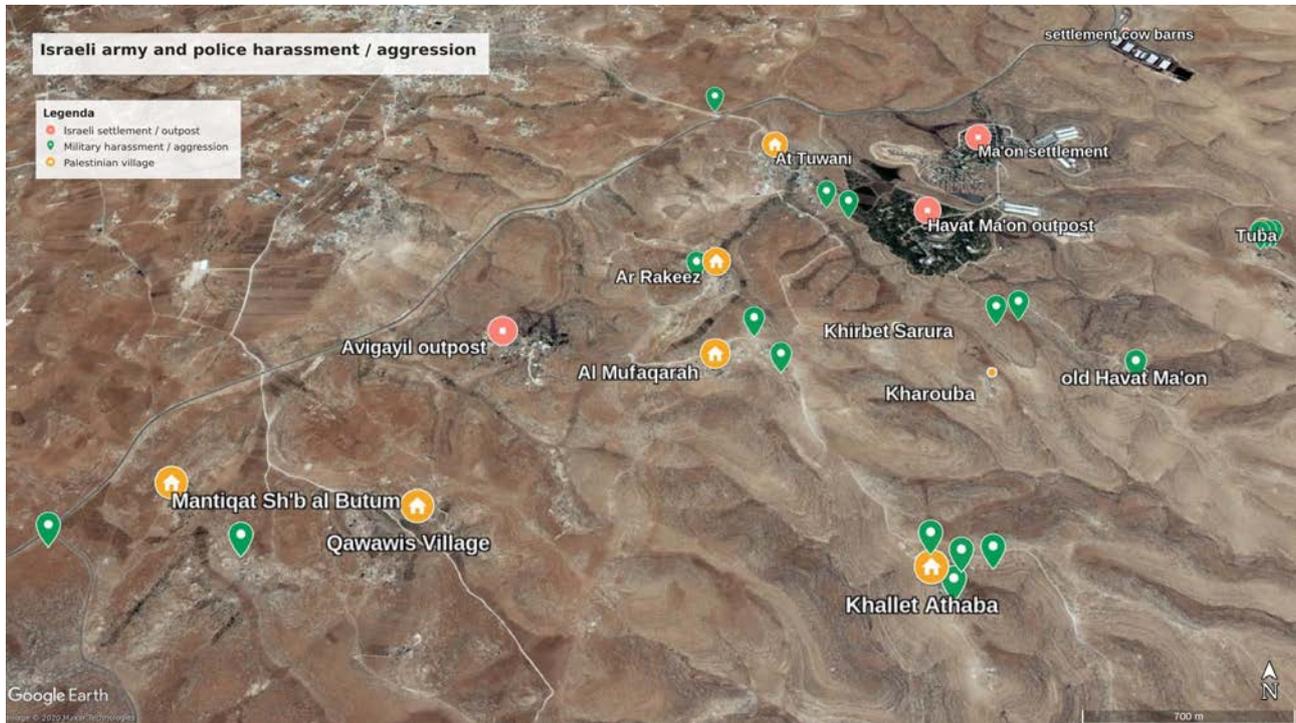
Israeli settlers attacked 9 times Palestinian shepherds and farmers: usually running after them with sticks or throwing stones. In three cases (Shuweika July 7, Susiya July 11 and 24) Palestinian owners found their olive trees cut or damaged. In one case the act of vandalism was accompanied with anti-Arab slogans painted in the rocks nearby.

In this three-month period OD volunteers recorded ongoing expansion works the Israeli settlement of Ma'on, Carmel, Susiya and in the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on.

In two cases (September 1 and 8) the Palestinian schoolchildren from Tuba and Maghayir Al Abeed villages have been harassed by Israeli settlers on their way to school: the Israeli military escort did not show up, putting in danger the young Palestinian students who walked alone in the dangerous road between Ma'on settlement and Havat Ma'on outpost.

# ISRAELI ARMY AND POLICE

## Military harassment and aggression



On July 18, at around 4 PM, an Israeli army jeep (#790369) drove towards Old Havat Ma'on Hill, where it turned and stopped in the hill of Meshaha, where a Palestinian shepherd was grazing his flock. Following that, the shepherd moved in Kharrouba valley, Palestinian land. Three Israeli soldiers came out from the jeep and reached the shepherd, then they asked him to identify himself. After having intimidated him to do not graze the flock upon the hill, they left the spot at 4:12 PM.

On July 23, at about 4 PM, a Palestinian shepherd was grazing his sheep on Meshaha hill, At Tuwani village, when a settler on a white jeep (#7102623) went out from the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on. He reached Meshaha hill and the Palestinian shepherd moved in Kharrouba hill. The Israeli settler went out from his car and filmed the Palestinian. Few minutes later an Israeli Army jeep (#281686) arrived on the spot, and the soldiers talked with the Israeli settler. The Israeli settler came back to Havat Ma'on outpost, and the Army jeep moved to Kharrouba hill, where there were three OD volunteers. Three Israeli soldiers walked towards them and asked them their passports. At about 4.30 PM they left, entering inside Havat Ma'on outpost.

On July 27, at around 5:47 PM, a Palestinian shepherd found two flash bombs at the entrance of the Palestinian village of At Tuwani, Humra valley side. After the call of an Israeli activist to the Army, the jeep of Army (#281686) arrived on the spot at around 6:18 PM. After a check, the soldiers took away the two objects. The Army left the spot at around 6:28 PM.

On July 30, at around 6:30 PM, according to Palestinian witnesses, an Army jeep stopped on the road that connects the Bypass road 317 to the Israeli illegal outpost of Mitzpe Yair. The Israeli soldiers reached two Palestinian shepherds which were grazing closed to the road. After having forced them to move far away, they left the spot.

On August 9, at about 1 PM, a Israeli army jeep stopped two young Palestinians and two OD volunteers in the Palestinian land of Humra valley, at the beginning of the road that connects At Tuwani to Kharrouba, alongside the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on. The soldiers told them that the road was private and they couldn't walk there. No official order or map was shown to support this prohibition. Therefore, the two Palestinians and two OD volunteers changed their way and walked down the road. The soldiers kept looking at them, and then, at around 1:15 PM, they left.

On August 13, at around 4 PM, Israeli border police raided in the Palestinian village of Tuba. The border police entered in all the houses of the village and forced the families to wait outside. They checked among personal belongings and then they moved away.

On August 14, at around 4 PM, the Israeli forces (Army: #275064; Border Police: #655655) and a civilian car (#2106737) raided in the Palestinian village of Tuba. The Israeli forces arrested two Palestinian men without explaining them the reasons of the arrest. They required also the telephone numbers to other three Palestinians inhabitants of the village and asked them to go to the police station the following days. The Israeli forces left at 4:30 PM, taking the two Palestinian arrested to Kiryat Arba Israeli police station.

On August 22, at around 8:55 AM, Israeli Border Police raided the Palestinian village of Tuba. They forced a Palestinian man to get inside the jeep. They asked information on his two brothers threatening him to arrest the other members of his family. Once they found his two brothers they arrested them and they released the Palestinian man. The two Palestinians were taken to the Israeli prisons where they spent six days.

On September 9, at around 3:51 PM, one Israeli army helicopter arrived in the Palestinian village of KHALLET ATTHABA. The helicopter didn't land but it kept flying few meters from the ground just above the Palestinian village. After a few minutes it went away.

On September 10, at around 12:30 PM, the Israeli army (DCO #9957334; Army #790386) arrived in the Palestinian village of KHALLET ATTHABA to take pictures of a new house. The DCO chief started talking aggressively with Palestinians, and ordered them to move away without showing any written order. The Israeli soldiers left the area at 12:42 PM.

On September 11, at around 12 AM, over 50 Israeli soldiers and one jeep of Israeli border police burst into Al Mufaḡara Palestinian village. The Israeli soldiers pushed the inhabitants outside their homes and begun searching inside, causing damages to the furniture in one of the houses. One Palestinian woman was prevented from taping and was forced to leave the area. At around 3 AM all the Israeli armed forces left the village.

On September 11, at around 2 AM, Israeli armed forces arrived in Qawawis Palestinian village. The soldiers searched several houses in the village. During the raid, two Palestinians got temporary detained.

On September 11, at around 3:30 AM, Israeli armed forces coming from Al Mufaḡara arrived in KHALLET ATTHABA Palestinian village. The soldiers searched several houses. During the raid, they confiscated Palestinian personal items, such as clothes and shoes.

On September 11, around 9:30 AM, during the demolition carried out by the Israeli army in Al Mufaḡara Palestinian village, the inhabitants of the village were physically and verbally harassed. One Palestinian man was temporarily detained.

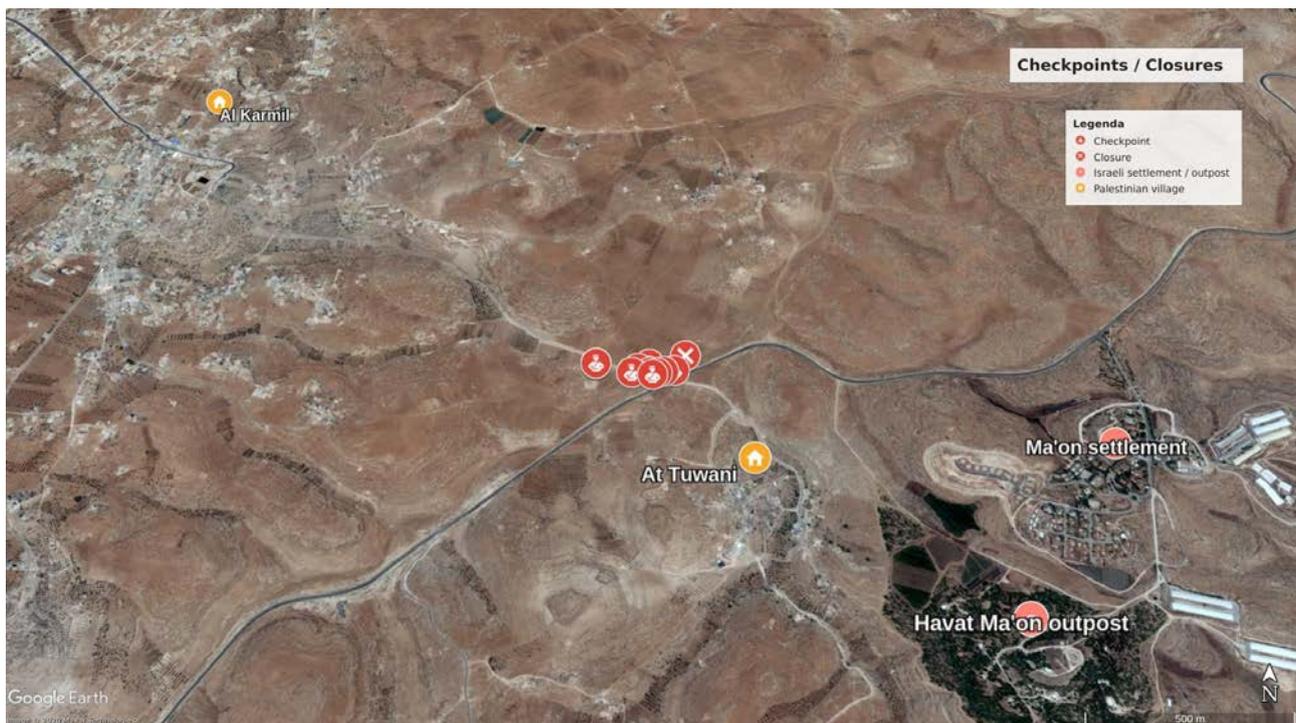
On September 11, around 12 PM, during the demolition carried out by the Israeli army in KHALLET ATTABHA Palestinian village, 5 Palestinians were physically assaulted. Two Palestinians were detained. While one of them was then released, the other one was blindfolded and arrested.

On September 20, at around 4 PM, an Arab Israeli delegation and some Palestinian activists were walking on the road that leads to the Israeli illegal outpost of Avigaiyl, just above the Palestinian village of Ar Rakeez. The group met a settler down the road, and he called the army. The Israeli army (#534073) reached the spot and prevented the group from walking any further. The guide of the Arab Israeli delegation was detained without reason, and one Palestinian man was accused of beating a settler. Part of the delegation left the area soon after. At around 4:30 PM two Israeli police cars (#42140; #42120) and two Army jeeps (#790463; #617006) came to check the documents of the Arab Israeli guide and declared closed military area. After that, the Arab Israeli guide was released. The Israeli soldiers intimidated everyone to leave the area pushing them away. The Palestinians asked the reasons of the restriction, they had no answer, and two of them got arrested. The three Palestinian men stayed in the closed military area surrounded by Israeli forces. At around 5 PM one of them was loaded up the car, and taken to the Israeli Police Station of Kiryat Arba. The other two were later handcuffed and blindfolded, loaded up the car and at around 5:20 PM the car also left for the Israeli Police Station of Kiryat Arba. At around 5:30 PM the Israeli forces left the area.

On September 20, at around 11:30 AM, according to a Palestinian witness, one Israeli army jeep arrived in Old Havat Ma'on hill while one shepherd from the Palestinian village of Tuba was grazing his flock. The soldiers warned the shepherd to go away, so the Palestinian decided to leave the spot.

On September 30, at around 12:15 PM, an Israeli army jeep (#790486) stopped some Palestinian workers who were working on water pipes nearby the road that connect the Massafer Yatta area to Al Birkeh Palestinian village. The soldiers asked the Palestinians the work permit. After checking the permission documents, at around 12:40, the army left the spot and stopped at the beginning of the road, still observing the Palestinians and the OD volunteers who in the meanwhile reached the spot. Ten minutes later, another Israeli army jeep (#534873) arrived but did not approach the Palestinians who were resuming their work. All the soldiers left the area at around 1 PM.

## Checkpoints and closures



On July 5, at around 6:15 PM, the Israeli Army (#281686) set up a checkpoint on the road that connects the Palestinian villages of At Tuwani and Al Birkeh. The Israeli soldiers stopped 7 Palestinian cars. The Army left at around 7 PM.

On July 8, the Israeli Army (#184047, #790486) closed with big stones two of the roads which connects the Palestinian Village of Jawwaya to the Bypass road 317.

On July 20, at around 5:30 PM, the Israeli Army (#281686) set up a checkpoint on the road that connects the Palestinian villages of At Tuwani and Al Birkeh. The Army stopped 10 Palestinian cars and 2 people. Right before leaving, two soldiers asked to two OD

volunteers, who were in front of the entrance of At Tuwani, to check their passports. They left at around 6 PM.

On July 28, at around 9:50 AM, an Israeli Army bulldozer closed one of the roads that connects the Palestinian village of As Samu' to the Bypass Road 317. At around 10:10 AM, the Army left the spot.

On August 6, at around 11:54 AM, the Israeli Army (#281686) set up a checkpoint on the road that connects the Palestinian villages of At Tuwani and Al Birkeh. The Army stopped seven Palestinian cars checking the document of the drivers. The Army left at around 12:50 PM.

On August 8, at around 10:28 AM, the Israeli Army (#794070) set up a checkpoint on the road that connects the Palestinian villages of At Tuwani and Al Birkeh. The Army stopped twelve Palestinian cars and a Palestinian man with a donkey checking their documents . At 11:10 AM the Israeli soldiers tried to prevent a Palestinian man from walking on the field alongside the road to Al Birkeh. The man explained them that he was going towards the Palestinian village of Al Jawwaya. After few minutes of a lively discussion and once the Israeli Army checked his ID card, the man was able to move forward. Then, the army left at around 11:27 AM.

On August 18, at around 5:30 PM, Israeli police (#42148) was checking a car at the entrance of the Palestinian village of At Tuwani. Meanwhile the police checked other two cars. The police left at around 5:40 PM.

On August 19, at around 10:50 AM, the Israeli Border Police (#655655) set up a checkpoint on the road that connects the Palestinian villages of At Tuwani and Al Birkeh. The Border Police stopped one Palestinian truck. At around 11:00 AM a jeep of Israeli Army (#790386) reached the spot. The Israeli Army and the Israeli Border Police left at 11:07 AM.

On August 31, at around 6:30 PM, the Israeli Army (#275017) and the Israeli Border Police (#665567) set up a check point on the road that connects the Palestinian villages of At Tuwani and Al Birkeh. At around 7:30 PM a Palestinian car, coming from the Palestinian village of Al Birkeh, before arriving at the check point, turned left on a secondary road. The Israeli Border Police followed the Palestinian car, and two Israeli soldiers on the top of that hill threw stones at it. At around 7:40 PM, an Israeli Army (#655131) and three Israeli soldiers coming from Al Birkeh, reached the check point. At around 7:50 PM, the Israeli Border Police returned at the check point. The soldiers stopped 17 cars and they left the spot at 8:07 PM.

On September 16, at around 3:28 PM, the Israeli Police (#21257) set up a check point on the road that connects the Palestinian villages of At Tuwani and Al Birkeh. When the OD volunteers arrived a Palestinian pick-up was already stopped, and the driver was out of the car, in the meantime the policemen continued to stop the cars. After a while the driver of the pick-up was arrested, and at 5:07 PM the wrecker takes the car away and the Israeli Border Police left the area. The Israeli Border Police stopped 4 cars.

## Demolitions and stop working orders



On July 3, at around 7 AM, five bulldozers, and the Israeli armed forces (Army: #275064, #655131, #790486; DCO: #9957734) arrived in the garden near the Palestinian village of Umm Al Khair. The bulldozers uprooted around 300 Palestinian trees. Meanwhile, International and Palestinian activists were pushed away by the Israeli soldiers, and with them also an elder from the Palestinian village of Umm Al Khair, pushed violently away. At around 9:30 AM, the bulldozers finished their works and went away. Meanwhile they went away, the Palestinian elder was beaten by some soldiers, and later the elder was hospitalized to received medical treatment.

On July 4, at around 10 AM, the Israeli armed forces (Army: #703235, #703065, #275017, #790486; DCO: #9957334, #9957734) and three bulldozers arrived in the public park near the Palestinian village of Dkeika. The bulldozers uprooted nearly 100 trees presented on the spot and destroyed 4 wells. The Israeli forces pushed away International and Palestinian activists and detained one elder from the village of Umm Al Khair. At around 11:30 AM the Israeli forces left the spot.

On July 9, at around 12 AM, the Israeli armed forces (Army: #790486, #275017; DCO: #6406089, #9957334; Border Police: #665562, #655655, #794083) arrived near the Palestinian village of Zif, near Yatta, where they demolished one Palestinian house. At around 12:10 AM the Israeli armed forces left the village.

On July 24, at around 10 AM, the Israeli armed forces (DCO: #9957334, #9957934; Army: #790486, #275017, #275064, #655131; Border Police: #794083) and two bulldozers arrived in the garden of the Palestinian village of Umm Al Khair to demolished 4 water wells. Before the demolition started, the Israeli armed forces ordered everyone to leave the area; the activists moved and, again, the Border Police, with a order indicating the closure of the area, commanded the activists and some Palestinian shepherds to leave the spot.

On July 31, at around 2 PM Israeli Civil Administration car (#9957334) and an Israeli bulldozer (#137465) stopped on Bypass road 317. An Israeli soldiers car and a Border Police jeep were also in the area. At around 2.40 PM the Israeli forces started to demolish the water pipe that bring water to Jawwaya Palestinian village, without showing any demolition order. When Palestinians and Internationals activists asked to Israeli DCO to show them an order the Israeli forces order them to leave the area. At about 3 PM the Israeli bulldozer entered in a Palestinian private land: the owner was present and asked repeatedly to Israeli DCO and soldiers to show them an order that allow the bulldozer to enter in a private land, but they refused. At about 3:30 PM Israeli forces left the spot.

On August 8, at around 9:30 AM, two Israeli army jeeps (#184334, #790369) and a DCO car (#9957334) reached the Palestinian village of Jahayesh and delivered a stop working order for a water well.

On September 11, around 9:30 AM, a large convoy of Israeli armed forces arrived in Al Mufaqrara Palestinian village with two bulldozers and started demolishing structures. Three caravans and one tent were demolished while the car of the Head of the Council of Massafer Yatta was confiscated.

On September 11, at around 10 AM, Israeli forces demolished part of the road that connects the Massafer Yatta area with the Palestinian city of Yatta, in the vicinity of Shabel Butum village.

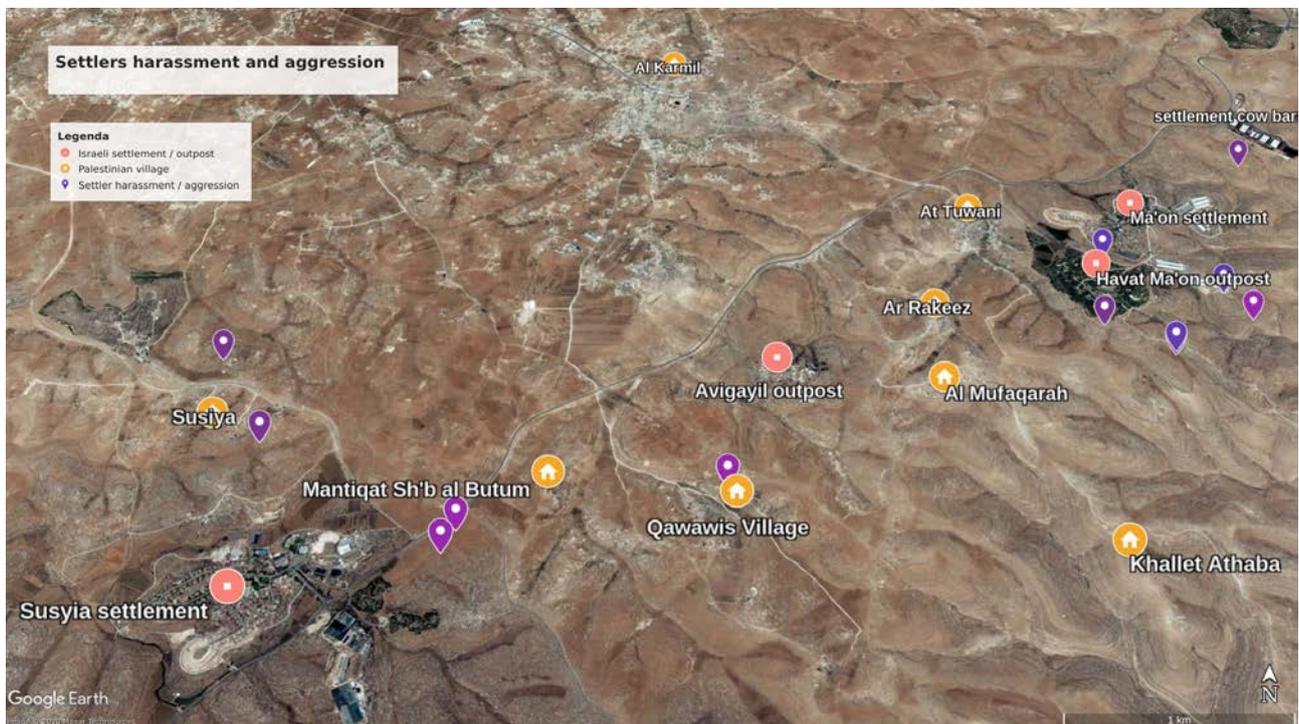
On September 11, at around 11 AM, Israeli forces demolished a bathroom in the Palestinian village of Sarura.

On September 11, around 12 PM, a large convoy of Israeli armed forces arrived in Khallet Atthaba Palestinian village with two bulldozers and started demolishing structures. Two Palestinian houses, one water well and part of the road that leads to the south were demolished.

On September 11, at around 2 PM, Israeli forces confiscated some building materials and tools in the Palestinian village of Lassefer.

# ISRAELI SETTLERS

## Settler harassment and aggression



On July 5, at around 3:30 PM, a car of settlers from the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on arrived on Meshaha Hill, near the Palestinian village of At Tuwani. A settler got out of the car and run against a shepherd from the Palestinian village of Tuba, threaten him with a stick. Then, he went away. When two Palestinian from the village of At Tuwani arrived near the shepherd, the car returned followed immediately from another car. The settlers spoke with the Palestinian activists and called the Israeli Army, that arrived at 4 PM directly from the illegal Israeli outpost of Havat Ma'on. The soldiers had first a friendly speech with the settler who attacked the Palestinian. Then the soldiers intimidated the Palestinian and International activists who witnessed the aggression, checking their IDs and pushing them out the area. The activists tried to complain to the soldiers but in vain. At around 4:10 PM, the Israeli army and settlers left the spot.

On July 9, at around 8:30 PM, ten Palestinian olive trees have been found uprooted in the land belonging to the Palestinian village of Shuweika. The olive trees were located in a valley close to the Israeli settlement of Shim'a.

On July 11, one hundred and fifty olive trees were found damaged by Israeli settlers in Susiya Palestinian village.

On July 22, three Palestinian shepherds were watering to their sheep, in Umm Zeitouna valley, close to the Bypass road 317, accompanied by two OD volunteers. At 10.30 AM, two Israeli settlers entered in the valley with a car (#6760928) going towards the Palestinian shepherds. The shepherds ran away with their flocks, while the two Israeli settlers were chasing them, filming and shouting at them. The Palestinian shepherds and OD volunteers arrived in a safe area and the Israeli settlers left the spot at around 10.40 AM.

On July 24, at around 5.30 PM, thirty olive trees have been found uprooted in the land belonging to the Palestinian village of Susiya. The damage was conducted by Israeli settlers from the settlement of Susiya, which also painted anti-Arab slogans on rocks in the land.

On August 2, at around 2:30 PM, two OD volunteers were in Kharrouba accompanying two young Palestinian on the road to the Palestinian village of Tuba, when they saw an Israeli settler throwing stones in the valley with a slingshot near the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on. In the same time, a Palestinian shepherd reached Meshaha Hill with his flock. One hour later, a jeep of Army (#790486) arrived in Meshaha hill. Meanwhile, other two OD volunteers tried to reach Kharrouba hill through the Palestinian land of Humra valley, when three Israeli settlers came out of the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on, preventing them to pass. A group of young Palestinian activists arrived and walked with the OD volunteers and the settlers left. The OD volunteers reached the shepherd at around 3:45 PM and the jeep of Army returned with the Israeli settler who came near them from Meshaha Hill. The settler spoke with the soldiers and then he left. The army remained on the spot for nearly 20 minutes and left at around 4:10 PM, entering in the Israeli Illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on.

On August 10, at around 4 PM, a Palestinian shepherd was grazing his flock in the Palestinian land of Wadi Sued, when an Israeli settler coming from the Israeli settlement of Susiya arrived on the spot. The settler started to speak with the shepherd commanding him to leave and to scare the flock. After a while the settler left.

On August 11, at 6 PM, a Palestinian shepherd was grazing his flock in the Palestinian land of Wadi Sued, when an Israeli settler coming from the settlement of Susiya stopped with his car next to the flock. The settler started to speak very aggressively to the shepherd, commanding him to leave. After a while, other two settlers from Susiya reached the spot by car. The three settlers kept being very aggressive with the shepherd and they started chasing his flock. At around 6:15 PM, the shepherd decided to leave the spot. The Israeli settlers left the area at 6:20 PM.

On August 12, at around 10:30 AM, two Palestinian guys were walking towards the Palestinian village of Tuba. Once they crossed the road that connects the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on to the hill of Old Havat Ma'on, four masked Israeli settlers coming

from the outpost chased them and threw stones against them. The two Palestinians ran away to avoid serious consequences.

On August 17, at around 4 PM, a Palestinian shepherd was grazing his flock in the Palestinian land of Wadi Sued, when an Israeli settler coming from the Israeli settlement of Susiya arrived on the spot. The settler started to speak with the shepherd commanding him to leave and to scare the flock. After a while the settler left.

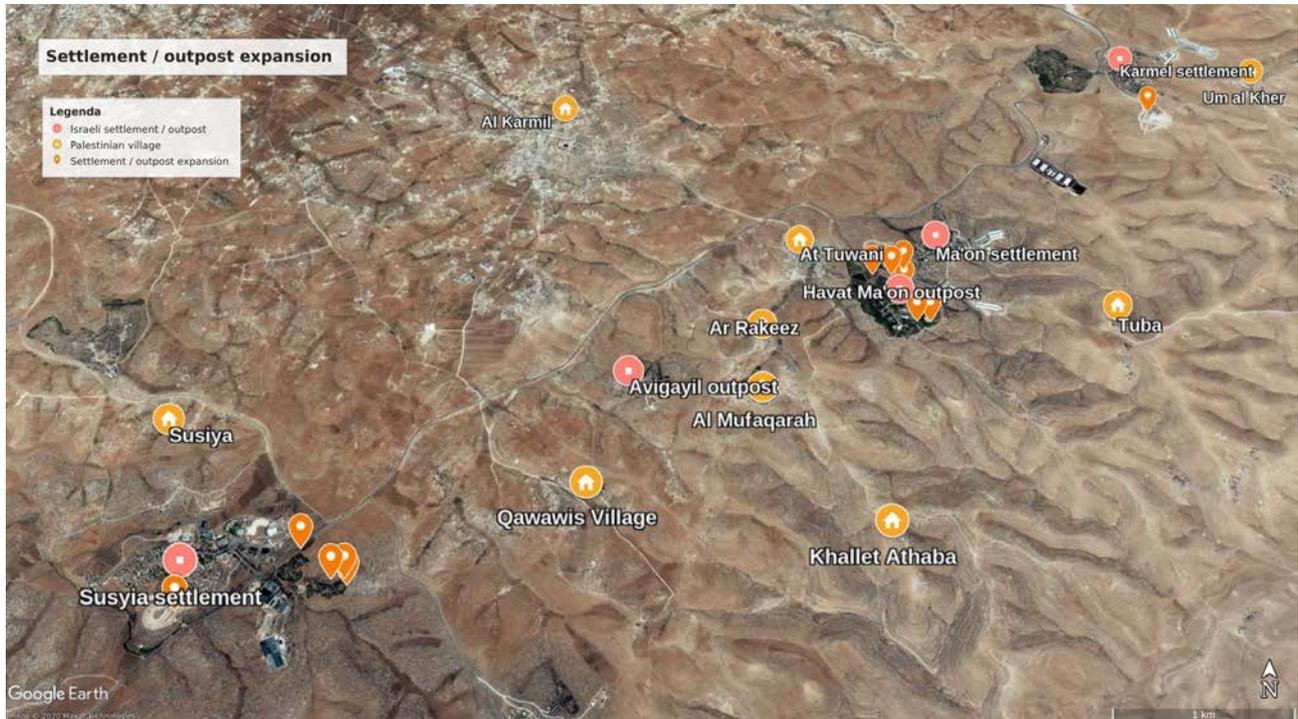
On August 23, at around 5:15 PM, according to a Palestinian witness, two Israeli settlers coming from the illegal outpost of Mitzpe Yair approached a Palestinian shepherd who was grazing his flock in the Palestinian land of Shabel Butum. The settlers started to threat and push the shepherd. At around 5:20 PM the two settlers went away since the shepherd declared he was going to call the police.

On August 17, according to a Palestinian witness, at around 4 PM, a Palestinian shepherd was grazing his flock in the Palestinian land of Wadi Sued, when an Israeli settler coming from the Israeli settlement of Susiya arrived on the spot. The settler started to speak with the shepherd commanding him to leave the fields and scaring his flock. After a while the settler left.

On September 10, at around 10 AM, two Israeli settlers from the settlement of Susiya attacked a Palestinian shepherd from the village of Qawawis while he was grazing his flock in the area of Wadi Sued. The couple of settlers scared the sheep, injured the shepherd and then they went away.

On September 21, around 1:20 PM, two OD volunteers were walking back from the Palestinian village of Tuba to At Tuwani. Right after Zelega valley they saw two Israeli settlers walking down from the top of Old Havat Ma'on hill. As soon as the volunteers reached the top of the hill at the end of Zelega and started walking on the unpaved road, the settlers covered their faces with their shirts and started running after the volunteers. The volunteers turned left and started running down Meshaha valley and run above Meshaha Hill. Around 1:30 PM the settlers stopped following them and remained on Meshaha Hill.

## Settlement expansion



During the month of July, OD volunteers recorded a bulldozers leveling land inside the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on, south side overlooking Meshaha valley Palestinian land.

On July 9, OD volunteers recorded two bulldozers leveling land near the Israeli settlement of Ma'on, south side, near the road that connects the Palestinian village of At-Tuwani to the Palestinian village of Tuba.

On July 21, OD volunteers recorded the building of a new structure inside the illegal Israeli outpost of Havat Ma'on, Meshaha Hill side.

On July 31, OD volunteers took evidence of leveling land works among the recent houses inside the Israeli settlement of Carmel, south side.

During the month of July, OD volunteers recorded the building of a gazebo by Israeli settlers upon the hill of the Palestinian land of Wadi Sued.

During the month of August, OD volunteers documented works of leveling land inside Ma'on Israeli settlement, south side, near the cherry orchard.

On August 5, OD volunteers recorded Israeli settlers from Susiya building of a new tent in Wadi Sued.

On August 8, OD volunteers recorded one bulldozer leveling the land in the outpost of Havat Ma'on, north side overlooking the Israeli settlement of Ma'on.

On August 23, OD volunteers documented one bulldozer leveling the land in the settlement of Ma'on, Khelly valley side.

During the month of September, OD volunteers took evidence of Israeli settlers building 3 houses and one tent in the Palestinian land of Wadi Sued, Qawawis village, south est side.

On September 19, OD volunteers documented a new cemented piece of land carved with a Hebrew name on and two poles on the Palestinian land of Wadi Sued, Qawawis village, north est side.

## SCHOOL PATROL

On August 25 started the 2019-2020 school year in the occupied Palestinian territories. This is the sixteenth continuous year during which the children from the Palestinian villages of Tuba and Maghayir Al-Abeed have needed a military escort in order to reach the school in At Tuwani village 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 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 three months surveyed. Here below there are the most serious cases recorded:

On September 1, at the end of the school, the Palestinian schoolchildren waited the Israeli soldiers for more than an hour, then they decided to walk back home alone, accompanied only by two OD volunteers. During the walk two children settlers from Havat Ma'on outpost intimidated the Palestinian children to go away. After a while an Israeli settler from his truck made an insulting gesture towards the children. The Israeli military escort arrived when the children and the OD volunteers were almost arrived at the Israeli chicken barns, at the end of the dangerous part of the road.

On September 8, at around 8 AM, since the Israeli army didn't show up two OD volunteers walked on the road between the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on and the Israeli settlement of Ma'on to reach the schoolchildren from the Palestinian village of Tuba and some relatives of them. On the road one Israeli settler with a dog and one settler on his car tried to prevent them to reach the Palestinians. Once they were coming back with the schoolchildren and their relatives towards the Palestinian village of Tuwani, the Israeli settler with his car arrived again in the upper part on the road reaching them. The settler got out of his car and started taking pictures and taping the Palestinians. After a while he started following the Palestinians with his car, he surpassed them and started driving zig zag in front of them to prevent them from walking on the street. After few minutes the Civilian Security Coordinator of Ma'on settlement got the spot and blocked the way with his car, pushing the Palestinians to the fence alongside the road. Then he went out from the car with a weapon running towards the Palestinian group, who in the meanwhile were been reached by two Palestinian activists, trying to prevent them from walking and asking for the ID. At around 8:23 AM the group reached Tuwani village safely.

On September 9, at around 7:30 AM, the Civilian Security Coordination of the Israeli settlement of Ma'on arrived with his truck at the end of the Israeli chicken barns, just behind the silos, where is located the meeting point for the soldiers. The settler waited for the Palestinian children coming from the village of Tuba. After the children passed, he drove his car to the gate where two OD volunteers were waiting for the school children. The CSC stopped in front of them, filming and talked to them. He left around 7:40 AM.