

Expulsion of Bedouin communities from the Ma'ale Adumim area to a site near the Abu Dis waste disposal site

The Expulsion plan

- The Civil Administration of the Israeli Defence Ministry prepared a plan for the expulsion of all Bedouin communities from Area C (those areas of the West Bank under complete Israeli control). These communities are home to 27,000 persons.
- In the first stage, which is scheduled to begin in January 2012, some twenty Bedouin communities (home to 2,300 persons) situated along the Jerusalem-Jericho road and close to the E-1 area will be expelled. The plan calls for relocation of these communities at a site near the Abu Dis waste disposal site.
- In the next stage, the Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley will be expelled.

Expulsion facilitates settlement expansion

- Half of the communities to be expelled are located in E-1, the area which Israel plans to develop as an extension of the Ma'ale Adumim settlement. Some 4,000 apartments are planned for E-1.

The site by the Abu Dis waste disposal site is not suitable for human habitation

- In the early 1990s, Israel relocated about 200 families from the Jahalin tribe to a site near the waste disposal site.
- The Civil Administration has begun to prepare new plots just 150 meters from the waste disposal site.
- According to the Ministry for Environmental Protection, the Abu Dis waste disposal site is the worst site Israel uses for waste disposal: the site is in danger of collapse due to the

steep slopes along which the refuse is buried. Uncontrolled gases – especially methane – are emitted that pollute the air and might cause fires and explosions.

- In mid-2012, disposal of waste at the site is supposed to cease. A plan for rehabilitating the waste disposal site has not been approved and no budget has been earmarked for this purpose.

Marginalizing the most marginal

- Eighty percent of the Bedouin living in the Ma'ale Adumim area are refugees. Two-thirds are minors. Most of them suffer from nutrition insecurity.
- A majority of the residents live in temporary structures. The communities are not connected to the power grid and only half are connected to a running-water system.
- The communities object to the Civil Administration's plan, which was prepared without their involvement.

Who owns Area C?

- As the occupying power, Israel must administer the West Bank and its resources for the welfare of the local population, i.e. the Palestinians. Land use or changes to the territory can only be justified by military needs or to advance the local population's welfare. In this, there is no distinction between those lands defined as Area C in the Oslo Accords, and the rest of the West Bank.
- The long-term plans for widescale expulsion of Bedouin communities is only the latest indication that Israel treats Area C as a resource it can exploit for its own benefit.

International humanitarian law prohibits the forced transfer of protected persons within the occupied territory. Evacuation of an area is only allowed if the security of the population or imperative military needs so demand.

