

The Arab Labor Organization

***Economic and Social Effects of Israeli
Settlements on Employers and Workers in
Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories in
the Syrian Golan and South Lebanon***

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Introduction

As policies of the successive Israeli governments have been based on seizure of Palestinian territories, looting Palestinian wealth, putting restrictions on the Palestinian population, and committing crimes against them, the successive Israeli governments also refuse to grant the Palestinians the right of self-determination in their territory, to establish their independent state to manage their wealth and economic resources. No wonder, then, that 2015 is not an exception, but what adds insult to injury is that the Israeli occupation forces and settlers escalated their atrocities against the people, properties and sanctities, not only in Palestine, but also in all the occupied Arab territories in the Arab Syrian Golan and South Lebanon (Shebaa Farms).

The number of Israeli settlements in the West Bank – including East Jerusalem – increased, as the occupation authorities ratified plans, put tenders, and issued licenses to build 14043 housing units in 2014; some of them have been implemented whereas others are in progress, and the rest await completion of construction procedures.

The second half of 2014 witnessed the third Israeli war on Gaza Strip, while the whole world watched Israeli atrocities to children, women and elders in this steadfast strip.

The Arab Labor Organization has been keen, as usual, to illuminate the international public opinion, through ILO member-governments, employers' and workers organizations, and duly appealing to the conscience of the international community to gather pace to put an end to this abnormal situation in the Middle East. This situation aggravates the dangers of creating more world breeding grounds for terrorism, instability and the fall of innocent victims due to the last occupation in the world.

Faiez Ali Al Mutairi

ALO Director General



Section One

*Israeli Violations in 2014 against the
Palestinian citizens and their Properties*

1. In 2014, all sorts of Israeli atrocities against Palestinian citizens, properties, territories, and sanctities aggravated, in implementation of the policies of successive Israeli governments. Such policies have been based on the seizure of Palestinians' land, looting their wealth, putting restrictions on the Palestinian population on the one hand, while refusing to grant the Palestinians the right of self-determination in their territory, to establish their independent state to manage their wealth and economic resources, on the other. Such atrocities also include blocking international endeavors to implement resolutions of the international legitimacy, and the latest of these endeavors is the adoption of Palestine as a non-member of the United Nations, and the important legal consequence effects of this, the most important of which are delineation of the Palestinian state within 1967 borders, and allowing the Palestinian state to join international treaties and organizations, atop of which comes the International Criminal Court.

The Palestinian centers that worked on spotting Israeli violations and atrocities indicate that there is a significant escalation in the number of violations in 2014 when compared to 2013 in several aspects, especially in regard of atrocities of the war against Gaza, breaking into the Holy Aqsa Mosque, and settlers' attacks. According to the Palestinian Monitoring Group, the number of Israeli violations in 2014 is as high as 60841, which means that this figures rotates around 250% of the violations monitored in 2013. This huge increase is fundamentally due to the aggressive war against Gaza Strip, which yielded a huge number of people killed and injured, and the destruction of an enormous number of houses.

In the holy city of Jerusalem, settlement expansion is still underway and happens together with escalated aggressions from occupation forces and extremist settlers on Jerusalem citizens. As the city also witnessed the application of several procedures and measures to put more restrictions on Jerusalem citizens, the number of Israeli extremists' breaking into the Holy Aqsa

Mosque escalated in an unprecedented way in implementation of the policies of the extremist right-wing government, which calls for dividing the Jerusalem sanctity (Temple Mount) in terms of time between Muslims and Jews, as they have done earlier in Abraham Sanctity (Tomb of the Patriarchs) in Hebron.

In other West Bank areas, Israeli occupation forces and settlers continued to practice the measures and procedures that violate both the rights of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian occupied territories; confiscation and seizure of lands continued, horizontal and vertical expansions of the settlements built on Palestinian lands persisted, and building the occupation sectarian division wall persevered. It is worth to say here that the Wall is as dangerous as the settlements themselves. Meanwhile, Israeli occupation forces and extremist settlers' attacks on Palestinian people and properties escalated.

In the densely-populated Gaza Strip, which is ranked as one of the top populous areas in the world, the occupation authorities have not been sufficed with imposing a tight siege on Gaza population since 2007, and to segregate them from their natural geographic extension with the occupied West bank and the whole world, but they waged their brutal land, air and sea all out war against Gaza, which is the third in six years. Due to the war, the people and properties suffered huge losses to the extent that we may claim that 2014 is the worst year in the series of the catastrophic deterioration to the conditions of the Palestinian citizens.

The report monitors different forms of violations, usually systematic, performed by the Israeli occupation authorities, army and settlers in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. The report highlights violations in 2014, which witnessed in its third quarter the third catastrophic Israeli war against Gaza Strip.

2. Israeli atrocities and violations monitored by the Palestinian Monitoring Group

In its monthly reports, the Palestinian Monitoring Group spotted the total of 60841 violations against the Palestinian people and properties at the hands of Israeli occupation forces and settlers in 2014. These violations are classified into

17 basic violation genres, and geographically distributed as 28283 violations in the West bank, representing 46.5% of the total violations, and 32558 violations in Gaza Strip, representing 53.5% of the total violations. Kindly review Table 6& 7 for details of these violations distributed per month and region. Table 1 below illustrates a comparison between the percentages of these violations in the last two years as per region. A careful reading of this table would tell us that every 1000 violations against the Palestinian people and properties in 2013, there were 1500 violations in 2014, divided as 1299 violations in the West bank and 11743 violations in Gaza Strip. The war against Gaza was the reason of this huge number of violations, which reached the peak in July and August 2014, when Israeli waged this war.

Table 1: A comparison of Israeli violations in 2013 and 2014 as per region

Region	2013		2014		% of increase in 2014
	No.	%	No.	%	
W. Bank	21768	89.5	28283	46.5	29.9
Gaza	2555	10.5	32558	53.5	1174.3
Palestine	24323	100.0	60841	100.0	150.1

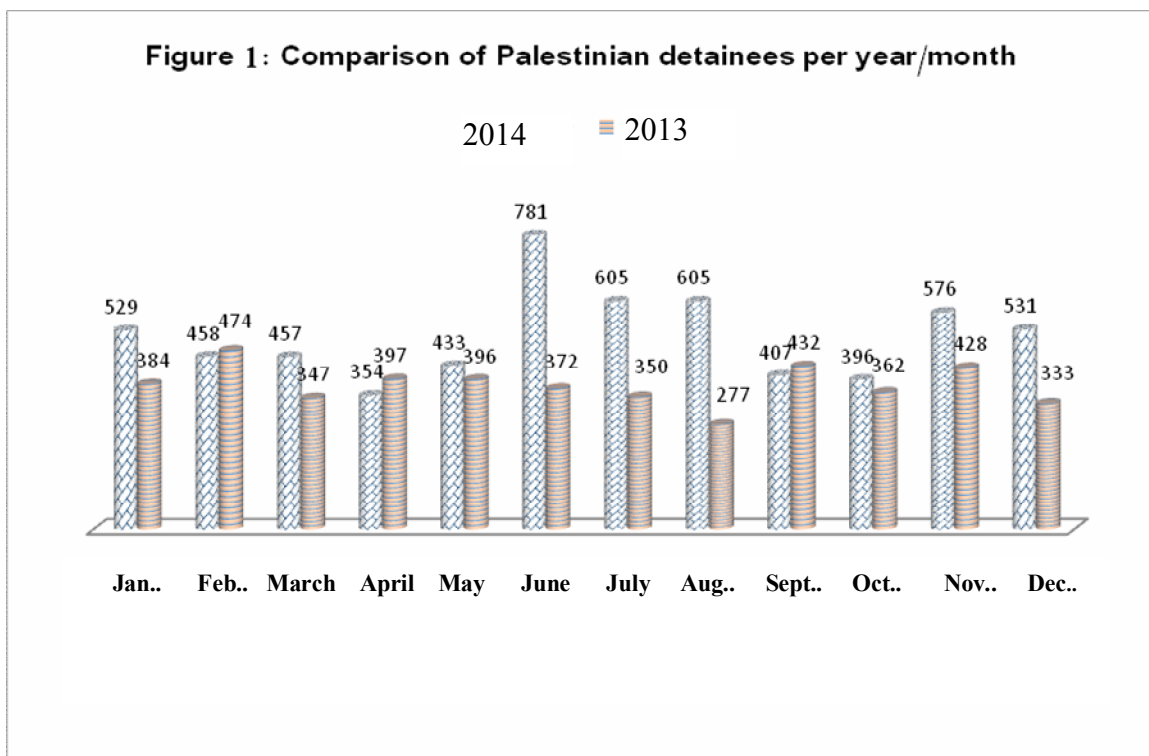
Table 7, at the end of this section of the report compares between the numbers of these violations in the past two years, as distributed according to the violation type. The rest of this item of the report shall highlight the volume of violations according to type and regions in 2014.

Martyrs: In addition to the killings of Palestinians at the hands of Israeli occupation and settlers using bombing, firing different types of bullets and poisonous tear gas, which reached more than 12000 times that led to the killing and injuring of thousands of Palestinians, extremist settlers carried out the killings through burning, overrunning, and hanging, among other forms. In this respect, the number of Palestinians killed in 2014 was 2143, while 8 out of

them were liquidated by assassinations led by the Israeli army. In July and August when the war against Gaza started, 2061 (or rather 96.2%) Palestinians were killed, increasing the percentage of Palestinian martyrs from Gaza Strip to 96.8% of the total martyrs, compared to 19.6% of the total 56 martyrs in 2013.

Injured: The number of Palestinians injured in 2014 was as high as 13613, including 11138 from Gaza Strip with a percentage of 81.8% of the total number of injured people. The number of the injured in July and August alone was 12222, representing 89.8% of the total. Comparing the number of the injured in 2014 and 2013, it is observed that the number in 2014 is 10 times higher than 2013 when the number of the injured was 1388.

Detainees: The number of detainees in 2014 was relatively higher than the number in 2013. The number of detainees in 2014 was 6132, while it was 4552 in 2013. Classified by region, the data shows that most of the detainees in 2013 and 2014 are from the West Bank, representing 98% of the number of detainees in 2013 and 97% in 2014. Figure 1 illustrates the number of detainees divided by month of detention in 2013 and 2014.



Firings: In 2014, 12096 firing incident by Israeli occupation forces and settlers against the Palestinian people and properties have been monitored, 34.2% of which took place in the West Bank, while the rest (65.8%) took place in Gaza Strip. It is worth to note here that 7354 firing incidents were monitored in Gaza Strip in July and August, the war against Gaza time, which represents 60% of the total number of firing incidents, and 92.5% of these incidents in Gaza Strip in 2014. Meanwhile, the number of firing incidents in 2014 is four times higher than the number of incidents in 2013.

Breaking into housing blocks: The Israeli occupation forces continued to break into Palestinian houses and to violate their rights. The number of such violations in 2014 was 6597, without considering violations against housing blocks in Gaza Strip during the war in 2014. This number, per se, is higher than the number registered in 2013, which was as high as 5618. On the other hand, the majority of these violations is observed to occur in housing blocks in the West Bank, as the number was as high as 6546, as Israeli breaking into housing blocks in Hebron come atop of the list with the percentage of 18.7% of the total incidents in the West bank, followed by Nablus with a percentage of 14.5%, and Bethlehem with a percentage of 13.8%.

Table 2 illustrates the number of Israeli breaking into Palestinian houses in 2014, distributed per governorate and month.

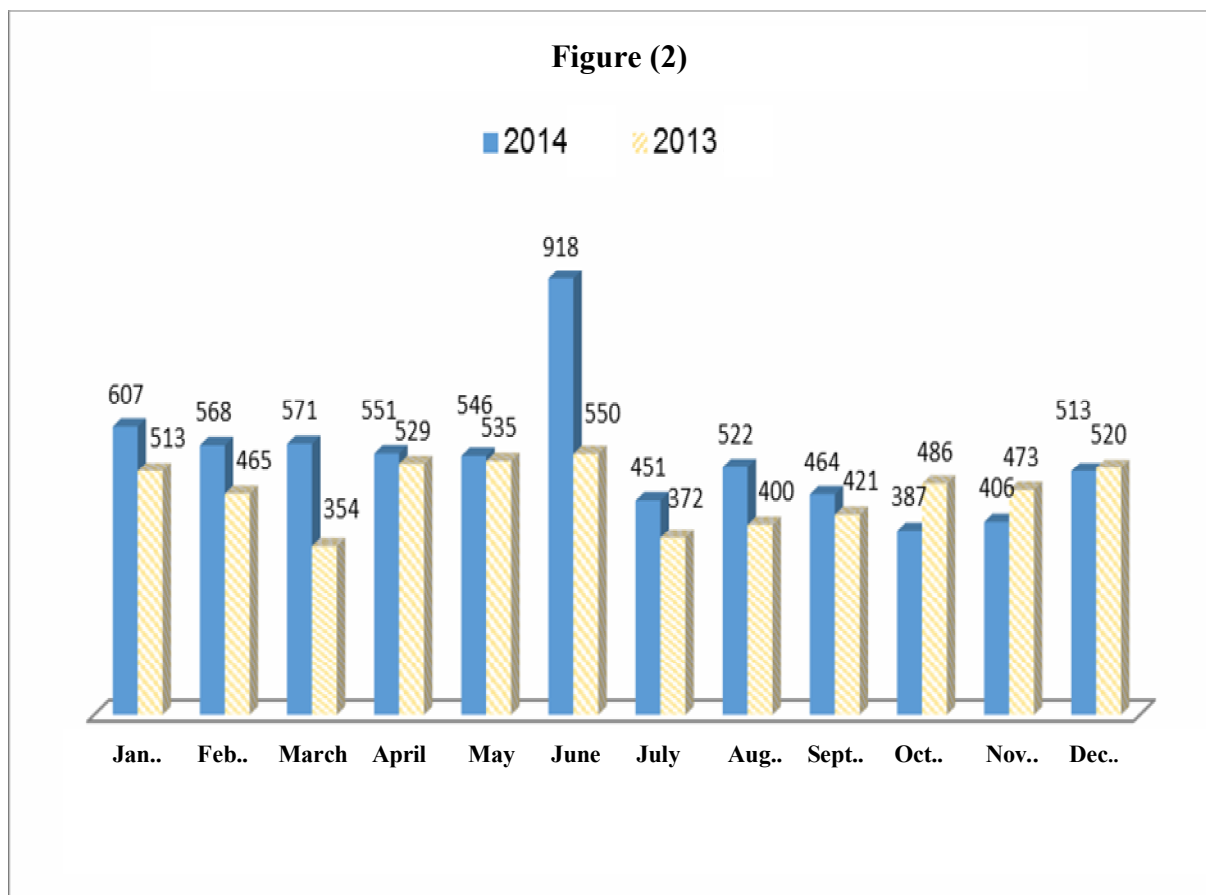
Table 2: Distribution of the number of Israeli breaking into Palestinian houses distributed per governorate and month

Governorate	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Janin	58	54	51	67	53	97	33	61	47	14	18	53	606
Tubas	17	26	16	9	15	14	9	17	19	13	9	25	189
Tulkarem	46	48	35	36	34	58	23	49	40	7	29	48	453
Nablus	95	82	97	72	81	125	82	60	68	64	66	57	949
Qalqilya	44	41	47	36	36	48	24	32	27	34	21	39	429
Salfit	26	25	36	43	23	35	30	26	20	25	8	18	315
Ramallah	52	55	66	36	62	97	47	62	65	30	66	63	701
Jericho	38	19	18	20	10	24	19	25	12	80	16	16	297
Jerusalem	40	40	27	21	28	60	25	37	33	87	36	39	473
Bethlehem	64	78	66	80	82	127	74	70	56	63	69	73	902
Hebron	117	96	108	122	111	228	85	77	73	63	67	79	1226
Gaza Strip	10	4	4	9	11	5	-	**6	4	0	1	3	57
Total	607	568	571	551	546	918	451*	522	464	480	406	513	6597

* This number in the West Bank only due to the continuity of the war against Gaza

** The number is inaccurate due to the continuity of the war against Gaza

Figure 2 below illustrates the distribution of Israeli breaking into Palestinian housing blocks, as distributed per month in 2013 and 2014. It is observed as well that the number of breaking into houses increased blatantly in July 2014, when the three Jewish soldiers were kidnapped. (see below).



Destruction and confiscation of Palestinian properties: Putting aside the Palestinian properties destroyed by Israeli forces in the war against Gaza, the total number of incidents in which Israeli authorities destroyed or confiscated Palestinian properties was 1429 incidents, most of them took place in the West bank, with a percentage of 96.1%. In this context, it is observed that the number of such incidents in 2014 is higher than similar incidents in the preceding year, as 1119 incidents were reported in 2013. This 2014 increase is estimated at 27.7%.

Sudden military blocks: In addition to hundreds of permanent military blocks, occupation forces continued to erect sudden military blocks on the roads of the West Bank, as more than 6000 blocks were monitored in 2014, at an average rate of 500 blocks every month. This average is higher than the monthly average of 2013, which reached 439.

Harassment to Palestinian security services: Israeli forces continued to

harass the Palestinian security services in the West bank in 2014, but somewhat in a manner lower than 2013. The number of harassment incidents to the Palestinian security services in 2014 was 85, whereas the number was 100 in 2013.

Occupation of homes: In 2014, there were 147 incidents of home-occupation by the Israeli forces, where these homes were made military monitoring sites in the governorates of the West Bank, while they were concentrated in Bethlehem and Hebron in the south of the West Bank. This number is 47% higher the recorded number in 2013, which illustrates 100 incident of home-occupation.

Home demolition: Excluding the tens of thousands of homes destroyed in part or full in Gaza Strip during the War against Gaza, which shall be discussed in more details in a separate item in this report, the Palestinian Monitoring Group spotted that Israeli forces destroyed 223 home or tent in the governorates of the West Bank in 2014. This number shows an increasing trend with a percentage of 28.9% when compared to the number of homes destroyed in 2013, which recorded 173 home and tent.

Curfew: Israeli occupation forces imposed curfew 14 times in the West Bank in 2014, most of them in the governorate of Nablus, especially in the town of Hawara, east of the city. This number is several times the incidents of curfew imposed in 2013.

Crossing closure: The number of the closure of international passages and crossings to Gaza Strip in 2014 was 1864, compared to 1765 in 2013. This brings the monthly average to 155 times in 2014, compared to 147 in 2013. Whereas the numbers of closures of the crossings are close in 2013 and 2014, it is observed that the number of closing international crossing points and passages are 10 times higher in 2014, compared to 2013. Table 3 illustrates more details about this issue:

Table 3: Distribution of crossings and international passages closures with Gaza Strip per year and month

Month	2013			2014		
	Crossings	Int'l Passages	Total	Crossings	Int'l Passages	Total
January	107	31	138	106	54	160
February	100	28	128	95	47	142
March	120	31	151	109	53	162
April	112	30	142	112	53	165
May	108	36	144	112	55	167
June	106	30	136	104	51	155
July	105	40	145	102	56	158
August	108	44	152	112	34	146
September	108	46	154	103	30	133
October	108	47	155	111	41	152
November	105	50	155	105	57	162
December	110	55	165	104	58	162
Total	1297	468	1765	1275	589	1864
Monthly Average	108.1	39.0	147.1	106.3	49.1	155.3

Attacks on medical facilities: In 2014, 11 incidents of attacks on medical facilities have been spotted in the governorates of the West Bank. It is observed that the numbers of attacks on medical facilities in the last two years are identical, as each year witnessed 11 incidents. In Gaza Strip, Israeli forces targeted medical facilities, deliberately, during the war against Gaza, and this shall be tackled in more detailed in an item dedicated for the war on Gaza Strip.

Attacks on education facilities: The number of Israeli attacks on education facilities in the West bank reached 50 in 2014, with an increase of 13 attacks compared to the number registered in 2013. The attacks on education facilities in Gaza Strip shall be discussed in more detailed in an item dedicated for the war on Gaza Strip.

Attacks on worshipping places: Israeli aggressions against worshipping places in the West Bank escalated significantly in 2014, as these aggressions reached 295 incidents, indicating an increase of about 68.5%, compared to similar incidents in 2013, which were 175. Incidents of breaking into the Aqsa Mosque were frequently repeated in 2014 by occupation officials and settlers, as the Palestinian Monitoring Group recorded 129 incidents of breaking into the halls of the holy Aqsa Mosque. This represents 44% of the total attacks on worshipping places in the West bank.

Colonization activities: Israeli occupation authorities carried out 106 colonization activities in 2014, which is slightly more than similar activities in 2013, which recorded 101 activities. This subject shall be discussed later in more details.

Settlers' attacks: Extremist settlers' attacks against Palestinian citizens and properties in the West Bank continued in 2014, as the total number of attacks reached 905, representing 94% of the total attacks in 2013, which recorded 963. This subject shall be discussed in more details below.

3. Violations and procedures of judaization of the holy city of Jerusalem

In 2014, the holy city of Jerusalem witnessed an escalation in violations in several aspects, but best represented in the repeated incidents of breaking into the Aqsa Mosque, major detention operations, home demolitions, settlement expansions, and aggression against Jerusalem citizens, among others. July 2014 witnessed the kidnapping, and subsequently killing and burning, of the child Mohamed AbouKhodeir. November 2014 witnessed the hanging of the Palestinian citizen Yousefel Ramouny while he was at work in West Jerusalem. In 2014, about 13 thousand Israeli extremists broke into the Aqsa Mosque, Friday prayer services were banned 17 times, and armed Israeli forces broke into

the mosque 17 times. Meanwhile, occupation forces detained more than 2200 Palestinians from Jerusalem, occupation authorities destroyed 100 facility, and 250 citizens were displaced from their homes. Below, there shall be a detailed account for the most blatant violations in the holy city of Jerusalem as monitored¹ in 2014.

The Aqsa Mosque witnessed in 2014 unprecedented Israeli aggressions at the hands of government, police and extremist right-wing leaders. These parties held private and public sessions to investigate imposing the complete Israeli sovereignty on the Aqsa Mosque, and calling off the Jordanian guardianship on the Mosque. They also call for specifying places for the prayers of the Jews, and dedicate certain days for the Jews, especially in holidays, in an attempt to divide the Aqsa mosque in terms of place and time between Muslims and Jews, exactly as what they have done earlier in the Abraham Sanctity (Tomb of the Patriarchs) in Hebron. To realize this, occupation authorities turned the different Jewish feasts to 'seasons' to close most doors of the Holy Aqsa Mosque, to control entry into and exit from the Mosque, make restrictions on worshippers like determining the ages of those who can access the Mosque. In this context, about 12900 extremist Jews were monitored to break into the halls of the Aqsa Mosque throughout 2014, as the revelation of the Torah occasion in June witnessed the highest number of extremists who break into the Mosque, recording 1817 persons, followed by the Throne Festival occasion in October, recording 1355 persons, and then the Easter Feast in April with 1300 persons, and then the Purim Holiday in March with 1250 persons.

Last year was also characterized with incidents that have extremist Israeli officials breaking into the holy Mosque including the minister of construction Uri Ariel, the minister of public security Yitzhak Aharonovitch, Deputy Speaker of the Israeli Knesset Moshe Feiglin, deputy minister of transport Tzipi Hotovely, the mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, and the extremist Rabbi Yehuda Glick who led several attacks to break into the Aqsa Mosque before he escaped an assassination attempt.

(1) Source: Wadi Holwa data center, Selwan, Jerusalem. The annual report: 2014, in which Israeli violations in Jerusalem were spotted.

In 2014, Israeli occupation forces closed the Aqsa Mosque 41 times, excluding Fridays, while the authorities banned Muslims to perform Friday prayer service 17 times. In the same context, Israeli armed forces broke into the halls of the Aqsa Mosque 17 times.

The following table illustrates the distribution of the number of closures and banning Friday prayer service, as well as military breaking into the Mosque as per the month of violation.

Table 4: Distribution of the number of closures of Aqsa Mosque, the number of banning prayer service, and the number of military breaking into it per month

Month	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
No. of closure	0	3	6	3	2	4	7	5	7	4
No of banning Friday Prayer	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	1	4	1
No. of Security forces breaking into Mosque	2	2	3	1	1	3	1	1	2	1

In 2014, Israeli authorities deliberately excluded scores of Palestinian citizens from the Aqsa Mosque for periods that ranged from three to ninety days (renewable), especially at times preceding Jewish holidays. Such exclusions included all age groups of children, young people, women and elder citizens. The number of people monitored to be excluded from the Aqsa Mosque and its facilities is as high as 300 Palestinians.

There was also a significant increase in random detentions, which affected hundreds of Jerusalem citizens in 2014. In addition, Israeli authorities formed in July a special unit to implement detentions to reduce the phenomenon of protests and confrontations in Jerusalem. This unit, randomly, detained most of Jerusalem citizens who had been detained earlier, and some detention incidents took place after they broke into and inspected their homes. Detentions of about 2250 Jerusalem citizens were also monitored, including 700 minors (70 of them are between 7 and 13 years old), 69 women, 3 school-student girls, and 15 citizens whose ages are between 45 and 72 years old. Detainees include six lawyers, including the infamous attorney Shereen el Eisawy, the sister of the freed prisoner Samer el Eisawy, the record holder of the longest hung strike in history.

Last year witnessed also the killing of 10 martyrs from Jerusalem. The Israeli occupation forces did not suffice with killing a number of martyrs, claiming they tended to carry out suicide operations, but they held the bodies of some of them for hours and days, as were the cases of the two martyrs Abul Jamal, whose bodies were kept for 38 days, and there were restrictions on their family members to attend the funeral, held after midnight in the presence of a limited number of mourners. Furthermore, the body of the martyr was handed to the family at the door of the tomb, with a ban to move it to any other place whether for a farewell or prayers. Families of the martyrs were revenged by the Israeli authorities through breaking into their homes, detaining several people of their families (men and women), and issuing military orders to demolish their homes. Table 5 illustrates some details about Jerusalem martyrs.

Table 5: Names of Jerusalem martyrs in 2014 per date & reason of killing and age

Name	Date Killed	Age	Reason
JehadAbdulrahman el Taweel	25 / 2 / 2014	47	Occupationforces aggression in Beersheba prison
Mohamed Hussein Abu Khodeir	2 / 7 / 2014	17	Kidnapped, killed and burnt by three settlers
Mohamed NaiefJaabis	4 / 8 / 2014	20	Shooting 47 bullets at him as his bulldozer crashed into an Israelibus
Mohamed AbdelmageidSanqart	7 / 9 / 2014	16	Killed by a metal bullet that led to a skull fracture
Abdul Rahan el-Salaloudy	22 /10/ 2014	20	Killed by 3 shots after a number of Jews run over him
Mo'taz Ibrahim Khalil Hegazy	30 /10/ 2014	32	Assassinated on his home roof on allegations of shooting the extremist right wing Rabbi Yehuda Glick
Ibrahim el Akkary	5 / 11 / 2014	38	Killed after running over a number of Israeli soldiers and settles
Yousef el Ramouny	17 /11/ 2014	32	Hanged by settlers during his shift at an Israeli bus
Ghassan Mohamed Abu al Jamal	18 /11/ 2014	32	Killed after carrying out an attack at a Jewish synagogue
UdaiAbd Abu al Jamal	18 /11/ 2014	21	Killed after carrying out an attack at a Jewish synagogue

Within the context of Israeli measures to punish Jerusalem citizens, Israeli

authorities, acted upon a decision of who is called 'the leader of the internal front', exiled 6 young men from Jerusalem to the West Bank, claiming their presence in the city poses a danger. It is worth mentioning that the ages of exiled young men range from 22 to 39 years. On the other hand, and for the third year respectively, the occupation authorities continued its campaign of 'collective punishment' in Jerusalem neighborhoods, villages and townships, and this campaign was publicly intensified in the fourth quarter of 2014.

Jerusalem municipality, which follows the occupation authorities, continued to practice pressures on Jerusalem citizens by carrying out operations of demolition to housing and trade facilities of Palestinian citizens on claims of building without license. Frequently, Jerusalem municipality officials forced a number of Jerusalem citizens to implement, themselves, the demolition decisions, after threatening them with imprisonment and huge penalty fees, in addition to the payment of demolition costs. Unfortunately, 2014 witnessed demolition operations in most neighborhoods of the holy city, which included 6 housing buildings and 18 homes with the bulldozers of the Israeli occupation municipality, in addition to demolition, by the owners, of 12 homes, 13 housing barracks, 5 cattle breeding barracks, 5 walls, 5 rooms used for housing and trade purposes, 'al Rahma' praying area, a health center, 5 trade shops, an aluminum workshop, a container, a car-repair van, a factory, and 25 warehouses. These demolitions led to the displacement of 250 Jerusalem citizens, in addition to the demolition of Nature Authority teams to 20 tombs in the Martyrs Cemetery in Bab al-Asbat, claiming that the land is confiscated for the Nature Authority.

In the same context, the nightmare of home demolition haunts thousands of Jerusalem citizens after they received demolition notices in all neighborhoods of Jerusalem. In the fourth quarter of 2014, municipality teams intensified their breaking into different Jerusalem neighborhoods and gave the citizens random demolition notices. However, what catches the attention is that these notices included demolition orders for old buildings erected before the occupation of Jerusalem, others to buildings constructed per licenses issued from the municipality, and others for buildings constructed for more than 30 years. These notices are of three types:

Administrative Demolition Notice: This type of notices is issued without resorting to courts, on condition it is issued during construction or within 30 days of finishing the construction process. This type is the most popular.

Court Demolition Notice: This type of notices is issued by courts and needs legal procedures to be issued.

Demolition Notice on claims of land cleaning: This type enables the municipality to bulldozing wide areas on different claims.

Furthermore, policies of Israeli occupation authorities to practice pressures on Jerusalem citizens to force them emigrate from the holy city include adopting several measures and procedures in 2014, such as:

- Closing three institutions in Jerusalem, namely Namaa Society in BeitSafafa, Alzakat Society in SorBaher, and Jerusalem institution in Salahuldin Street, on claims of performing activities relevant to Hamas Movement,

4. Violations against Palestinian workers

Data of manpower survey in the second quarter of 2014¹ shows that the number of Palestinian workers reached 925600, including 676200 from the West Bank, representing 73.1% of the total Palestinian work force. Around 109400 workers from the West bank work in Israel and the Israeli settlement erected by force on Palestinian land; this figure represents about 16.2% of the total workforce in the West bank.

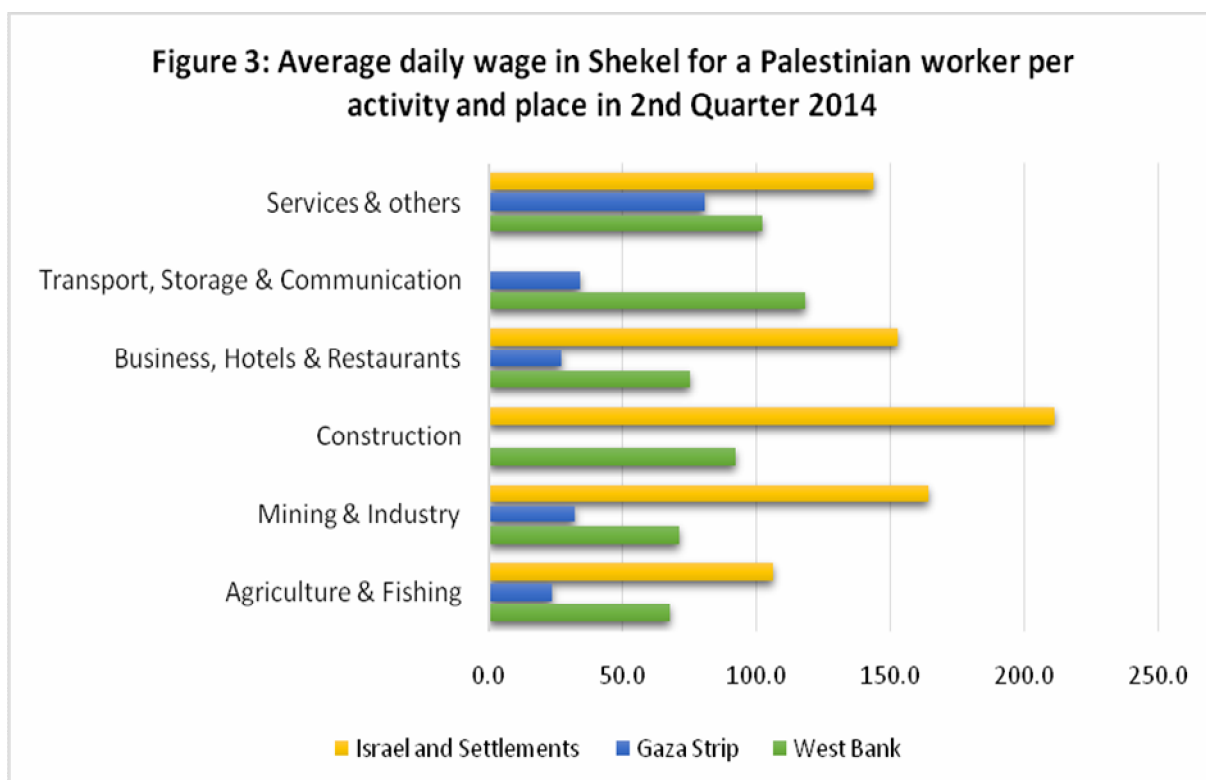
Palestinian workers in Israel and the settlements are classified into two categories:

- 1- Regular Workers: Those are the Palestinian workers who work inside the green line with official work permits issued from Israel (57600 workers), or who have Israeli ID cards/foreign passports (13800 workers), and
- 2- Informal Workers: Those are Palestinian workers in the settlements (24200 workers), in addition to Palestinian workers who work inside the green line without official work permits (13800 workers).

(¹) Data of this survey is the most updated data available when this report was under preparation, as the Palestinian Statistics Authority could not collect and publish subsequent data due to the Israeli war against Gaza.

According to the survey, the majority of workers in Israel and the settlements work in construction activities, representing a percentage of about 60.6%, whereas 11.8% work in mining and transformational industry activities, 10.6% in agriculture and fishing, 10.2% in business, hotels & restaurants, and the rest 6.8% in other activities.

In spite of the low wages offered to Palestinian workers in the Israeli labor market, compared to non-Palestinian workers, these wages are deemed significantly higher than their peers in the Palestinian local markets; The average daily wage for a Palestinian worker in the Israeli market amounts to 184.3 Shekel, compared to 90.7 in the West bank and 61.1 in Gaza Strip. The highest paid jobs are in the construction sector in the Israeli market, whereas transport, storage and communication jobs are the highest in the West Bank, and the services sector is the highest in Gaza Strip. The following figure illustrates the differences in average wage rates in the three markets.



Despite the wide gap in wages, the Palestinian workers in the Israeli market are far from Decent Work standards, especially the informal workers, who strive to reach their work places, because if they are late, they would lose their jobs. Therefore, some of them suffer suffocation, others climb iron fences for a fresh breath, others fall in stampedes under the feet of other workers who try to bypass the masses to arrive their work in time. Workers in this category go out to work starting from dawn time to 'fight' to arrive at their work places, and then return home late at night to sleep for few hours before they resume their painful trip to make a living, sometimes dipped in blood. This trip of humiliation and pain is the daily routine for the Palestinian worker in the Israeli labor market.

Due to the hardships those workers face to arrive at their work places and due to for the lack of vocational health and safety requirements in their work places by their predominantly Jewish employers, deaths recur. In 2014, nineteen workers died: 14 of them died at work place, three were shot dead, and two died in stampedes in crossing points.

In the same context, the status of the Palestinian (informal) workers in Israeli settlements and their industrial zones is deemed the worst, as they are subject to all forms of exploitation and oppression, as well as violations of their social, economic, legal and human rights. In addition, they suffer from the role of 'brokers' who circumvent their rights and use different means to compromise the rights of those workers whose lives are full of fatigue and discomfort for low wages to raise their children and to get rid of the looming unemployment that threatens hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, not to mention the psychological pressures on them due to their need to work in a land that was once theirs, but confiscated under the occupation by their employers. Forms of oppression and exploitation that the Palestinian worker in the Israeli labor market has been subjected to include the following:

- The presence of Israeli check points and blocks on the crossings, which frequently prevent the Palestinian worker from arriving at work place in the settlements, or being late at best cases, because the worker has to go through long queues before passing, not to mention policies of inspection and intended humiliation,

- Lack of comfort means near crossing points, which are always overcrowded, especially in the early morning, when workers go to their work places,
- The blackmail the Palestinian worker suffers at the hands of Israeli security bodies which attempt to engage the workers to work with them, playing the tune of economic hardships the workers undergo,
- The actual wage a Palestinian worker receives does not match the wage registered in his payroll slip,
- Some workers faint and suffer from occupational diseases due to being subjected to chemicals and insecticides, as Israeli employers do not offer them personal protective equipment. The same applies to female workers in the agricultural sector (in Jordan Valley settlements),
- Israeli employers refuse to allow Palestinian workers in chemical industries to have regular medical checkups for occupational diseases, restricting this to Jews,
- The Palestinian informal worker is subject to exploitation by the Israeli employers in terms of not having the rights guaranteed by the Israeli labor law, such as minimum wage, annual and sick leaves, overtime, provision of health and safety standards at work place, etc.)
- In case a Palestinian worker is injured during work hours, the Israeli employer fires him/her immediately without even calling ambulance, except in rare cases. This means that a worker would suffer for a long time before receiving treatment,
- Some Palestinian women working in the agricultural sector suffer from sexual harassment as well as gender and racial discrimination, and as a result they suffer the incessant feeling of insecurity while in work place, especially as they have to take the risk of working illegally (without license) at low wages due to the limited job opportunities offered to them,

- Brokers steal a significant percentage of the Palestinian worker's wage. To give an example, the employer pays (through the broker) to the Palestinian worker in the agricultural sector around 100 Shekel per day, whereas the broker pays the worker 50 to 60 Shekels a day, and the broker takes the rest. In such cases, wages are paid without a payroll slip, which guarantees that the rights of these workers are lost,
- The employer, with the approval of the broker, compromises the rights of the formal Palestinian worker in regard of retirement or end of service. To give an example, when a Palestinian worker works for 24 days in a given month, the Israeli employer registers the minimum allowed working days, which is 15 working days, and therefore the worker loses his/her right in the other 9 days upon retirement or at end of service. A worker cannot object this, for fear of being fired and thus suffering unemployment, and
- The employer may exploit the Palestinian worker in the settlement, especially the agriculture-based ones, and force him/her to work for 12 hour every day in return of 12-16 Shekel per every working hour, without the slightest regard of basic rights guaranteed by the law.

5. Violations against Prisoners

Chief of Prisoners' Affairs Commission said that 2014⁽¹⁾ has been regarded as the worst for the prisoners for long years, after prisoners became the target of Israeli official policy to revenge through adopting and executing measures and laws directed at the dignity and rights of prisoners, including intended medical overlooking for them. Last year was a landmark in child detention, as the number of detained minors is more than 1500, most of them in Jerusalem area. As the total number of prisoners increased to about 7000, administrative detention escalated to bring the number to 550 prisoners, noting that the administrative detentions of 63% of them have been repeatedly renewed. Prisoners include some of the individuals who were freed in the exchange deal of the kidnapped Israeli soldier Shaleet.

(1) Website:<http://www.freedom.ps/index.php/extensions/2013-08-27-10-08-17/606-2014-6500>

In this context, it is noticed that there is an increase in the numbers of the prisoners who were detained the second half of 2014, which recorded about 4000 prisoners. Nevertheless, occupation authorities release some of the prisoners who were detained against the background of kidnapping and killing the three Israeli soldiers. This brings the total number of prisoners by the end of 2014 to about 6500, distributed to 18 prisons and detention centers.

Data released by the Prisoners' Affairs Commission indicates that there are about 200 child (less than 18 years of age), 21 woman and girl, 2 former ministers, 23 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, and 500 administrative detainees among the prisoners. In addition, there are 31 prisoners who have been detained for more than 20 years, including 16 prisoners detained for more than 25 years. There are also 478 detainees who serve life sentences for one or more times.

In regard of the health status of the prisoners, the Prisoners' Affairs Commission monitored an increase in the number of sick prisoners due to poor detention conditions, brutal treatment, lack of medical care and falling short of treatment and medicine. The total numbers of sick prisoners increased to more than 1500, who are suffering from different diseases, as scores of them are in critical conditions; some of them lost the ability to move and visit the bathroom alone, because of the severity of disease and pain as well as paralysis or amputation of a limb.

In the same context, the Commission stressed that all the detainees suffered from at least one form of physical and psychological torture, moral abuse, as well as inhuman and degrading treatment. All the prisoners have been held in inhuman places, which contradict with basic human rights, as stated in international conventions and instruments.

6. Violations against the Media

Released by the Palestinian Center for Media Freedoms and Development¹, the report that covers the first half of 2014 spotted an increase of Israeli violations against journalists. The Israeli occupation committed 132 violations

¹ The Palestinian Center for Media Freedoms and Development: The press in Gaza in Crossfire. Ibid.

during the period covered by the report, which signifies an increase of 69% compared to the violations committed during the same period of 2013. Several of those violations have been classified as serious, such as direct shooting of rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas, sound bombs, and severe beating. In June, several media institutions were broken into and more than a million-dollar worth equipment were confiscated. This led to stopping the work at some media institutions.

Israeli violations against media and journalists' freedoms as monitored during this period can be distributed as follows: physical assault (64), arrest (30), prevention of coverage (18), attack (7), detention (4), equipment confiscation (3), closure and black out (2), threat (2), travel ban (1), and investigation (1).

The second half of 2014 is deemed the worst and bloodiest for Palestinian journalists, as it witnessed the third Israeli war against Gaza Strip. Another report, also issued by the Palestinian Center for Media Freedoms and Development, said that the Israeli forces committed 112 crime and attack against journalists and the media, which constitutes 58.6% of the total attacks on the Media during the three wars, combined. Due to these attacks, 17 were killed, including an Italian, while 27 others were wounded. Furthermore, 20 media facilities and 37 homes owned by journalists were targeted, bombed and destroyed, while Israeli forces distorted the broadcast of 8 local media stations.


Table 6: Distribution of Israeli violations in 2014 as per type and area

Month	area	Assassination	Killing	Injury	Detention	Breaking into housing blocks	Sudden military blocks	Shooting	Harassment	Property Des. & confiscation	Home occupation	House demolition	Curfew	Crossing closure	Medical fac. attacks	Worshipping places attacks	Education fac. attacks	Settlement activities	Settlers' attacks	Total
Jan	W Bank	0	2	71	522	597	506	245	18	125	4	37	1	0	1	22	3	4	87	2245
	Gaza	1	4	37	7	10	0	88	0	7	0	0	0	160	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	W Bank	0	1	125	442	564	466	231	6	125	2	19	2	0	0	23	2	8	61	2077
	Gaza	1	2	41	16	4	0	47	0	3	0	0	0	142	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mar	W Bank	0	8	126	442	567	484	267	10	136	15	13	3	0	0	23	1	9	78	2182
	Gaza	0	5	15	15	4	0	77	0	6	0	0	0	162	0	0	0	0	0	0
April	W Bank	0	1	108	337	542	511	184	9	112	14	34	2	0	3	29	6	10	67	1969
	Gaza	0	0	32	17	9	0	94	0	10	0	1	0	165	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	W Bank	0	2	101	413	535	491	242	3	101	5	20	0	0	2	21	1	7	63	2007
	Gaza	0	0	12	20	11	0	54	0	7	0	0	0	167	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	W Bank	0	8	144	775	913	555	327	10	306	32	8	0	0	0	29	16	15	87	3225
	Gaza	3	3	37	6	5	0	104	0	5	0	0	0	155	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	W Bank	0	16	958	585	451	446	759	2	73	18	3	0	0	2	24	2	5	141	3485
	Gaza	0	1440	8114	20	*	0	05824	0	*	0	9245	0	158	*	*	*	0	0	0
Aug	W Bank	0	10	339	603	516	485	506	6	40	6	16	3	0	0	26	1	8	54	2619
	Gaza	0	595	2811	2	6	0	1530	0	0	0	*	0	146	*	*	*	0	0	0
Sep	W Bank	2	3	82	399	460	513	224	3	79	3	13	0	0	0	27	2	5	23	1838
	Gaza	0	12	7	8	4	0	20	0	4	0	0	0	133	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct	W Bank	1	4	116	380	386	480	301	7	77	11	20	0	0	0	25	6	9	67	1890
	Gaza	0	5	3	16	1	0	20	0	4	0	0	0	152	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov	W Bank	0	6	196	554	405	475	443	6	86	21	27	2	0	2	24	4	14	103	2368
	Gaza	0	2	10	22	1	0	35	0	4	0	0	0	162	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec	W Bank	0	4	109	504	510	593	394	5	114	16	13	1	0	1	22	6	12	74	2378
	Gaza	0	2	19	27	3	0	53	0	5	0	0	0	162	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	W Bank	3	65	2475	5956	6446	6005	4123	85	1374	147	224	14	0	11	295	50	106	905	28283
	Gaza	5	2070	11138	176	58	0	7946	0	55	0	9246	0	1864	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		8	2135	13613	6132	6504	6005	12069	85	1429	147	9469	14	1864	11	295	50	106	905	60841

*Means the value of violations are not calculated in the cell of Gaza Strip during the month of war against the Strip.

Table 7: Distribution of Israeli violations in 2013 and 2014 as per type and month

Month	area	Killing	Injury	Detention	Breaking into housing blocks	Sudden military blocks	Shooting	Harassment	Property Dest. & confiscation	House occupation	House demolition	Curfew	Crossing closure	Worshipping places attacks	Education fac. attacks	Medical fac. attacks	Settlement activities	Settlers' attacks	Total
Jan	2013	7	74	384	513	357	210	9	84	4	31	1	138	9	0	0	10	67	1898
	2014	7	108	529	607	506	333	18	132	4	37	1	160	22	3	1	4	87	2559
Feb	2013	3	210	474	465	416	321	7	71	12	10	0	128	9	1	1	11	69	2208
	2014	4	166	458	568	466	278	6	128	2	19	2	142	23	2	0	8	61	2333
Mar	2013	4	127	347	354	462	274	10	59	12	1	0	151	16	1	0	10	99	1927
	2014	13	141	457	571	484	344	10	142	15	13	3	162	23	1	0	9	78	2466
April	2013	4	172	397	529	391	307	7	105	8	14	0	142	7	2	1	3	123	2212
	2014	1	140	354	551	511	278	9	122	14	35	2	165	29	6	3	10	67	2297
May	2013	0	135	396	535	441	289	3	149	13	14	0	144	17	1	2	8	127	2274
	2014	2	113	433	546	491	296	3	108	5	20	0	167	21	1	2	7	63	2278
June	2013	1	57	372	550	443	196	8	123	8	10	1	136	11	1	1	10	77	2005
	2014	14	181	781	918	555	431	10	311	32	8	0	155	29	16	0	15	87	3543
July	2013	1	51	350	372	432	114	4	41	2	5	0	145	16	3	0	5	66	1607
	2014	1456	9072	605	451	446	6583	2	73	18	9248	0	158	24	2	2	5	141	28286
Aug	2013	6	77	277	400	465	198	2	85	4	23	0	152	12	1	0	17	48	1767
	2014	605	3150	605	522	485	2036	6	40	6	16	3	146	26	1	0	8	54	7709
Sep	2013	3	169	432	421	481	275	10	142	14	19	1	154	26	11	0	0	81	2239
	2014	17	89	407	464	513	244	3	83	3	13	0	133	27	2	0	5	23	2026
Oct	2013	8	63	362	486	409	213	13	113	8	7	3	155	18	7	1	2	100	1968
	2014	10	119	396	387	480	321	6	81	11	20	0	152	25	6	0	9	67	2091
Nov	2013	11	148	428	473	465	285	10	80	1	11	0	155	18	5	1	20	67	2178
	2014	8	206	576	406	475	478	6	90	21	27	2	162	24	4	2	14	103	2604
Dec	2013	8	105	333	520	506	227	10	67	2	28	1	165	16	4	4	5	39	2040
	2014	6	128	531	513	593	447	5	119	16	13	1	162	22	6	1	12	74	2649
Total	2013	56	1388	4552	5618	5268	2909	93	1119	88	173	7	1765	175	37	11	101	963	24323
	2014	2143	13613	6132	6504	6005	12069	85	1429	147	9469	14	1864	295	50	11	106	905	60841



Section Two

***Effects of Israeli Settlements on
Economic & Social Conditions and the
Labor Sector in the Occupied Arab
Syrian Golan in 2014***

This report aims at assessing the social and economic conditions as well as the deteriorated inhuman and tragic situation of the Syrian workers and employers in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan. This suffering is due to Israeli policies of racial discrimination, aggression, annexation, and settlement, as well as entrenchment of this Israeli tenacious policy, which is based on killing, torture, detention, and deportation.

In earlier reports, we have discussed the different dimensions to the persistence of the Israeli policy of occupying the Arab Syrian Golan, and the reflection of this on workers and employers, violating labor rights, preventing citizens from their right to work, which is their subsistence, and adopting a discriminatory policy between them and the Israeli workers and employers. This, therefore, is a blatant violation of relevant international labor conventions.

This led the United Nations General Assembly to issue its decision number 2159, in 1975, which condemns Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination.

In this connection, we stress that Syrian workers and employers in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan did not, and shall not, enjoy any sustainable social and economic prosperity unless their land is liberated from the Israeli occupation of the Arab Syrian Golan, and then security and peace would prevail according to the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

In this context, the following lines shall talk about some of the conditions in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan.

I. Labor

- **The right to work:**

- Israel follows a discriminatory policy that entails discrimination between the Syrian worker and employer in the one hand, and the Israeli worker and employer in the other in terms of practicing work, leaves of different types including sick leaves, and social security.
- Occupation authorities refuse to pay or deliver indemnities for workers who suffer permanent or partial injuries and who need special health

care because of a work injury, on different grounds including that they are not covered by indemnity laws, and that they received medical treatment in private clinics run by physicians who graduated from Syrian universities.

- Forcing Syrian citizens to join the Histadrut, Medical Fund, Teachers' Syndicate, and other suspicious Israeli organizations, as medical insurance is tied to joining them. Whereas Israeli occupation authorities impose penalties for opening laboratories and practicing some medical professions in order to link Syrians to the occupied Palestine.

Professions allowed to Arab Syrian workers in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan:

According to applicable Israeli laws, the Arab Syrian workers have been classified in third class, after Jewish and foreign workers. This discriminatory classification allowed the occupation authorities and different employers to use work force (of Syrian workers) in Israeli labor sectors that a Jewish or foreign worker refuses to, or even cannot, join. Most of these works are classified in Israel as (dirty or hard work), which is a discriminatory Zionist term. These works are reserved for Arab workers, and include the following, to name just a few examples:

- 1- Iron works like porting, manufacturing and installation especially in workshops and dangerous facilities and projects.
- 2- Earthwork, manual chopping and transport of rocks where machineries cannot be used.
- 3- Cleaning and collecting and transporting garbage.
- 4- Working in dying, paints and industrial oils facilities, and in textile factories that mostly cause cancer.
- 5- Working in horticultural areas along the separation lines on the Lebanese borders.
- 6- Working in the military fortifications near the mine fields, where there are repeated explosions that cause death to Syrian workers.

- 7- Working in constructions, especially in the Israeli settlements, in all professions such as electricity works, blacksmithing, carpentry, tiles and painting, among others.
- 8- Working in hotels and tourist attractions only as restaurant workers and janitors, while depriving the Syrian Golan workers of working in guarding, security and reception whatever their qualifications may be.
- 9- Mechanic works as it can be asserted that Arab Syrian workers are allowed to work in the professions that Israeli and foreign workers refuse or cannot perform.

It is worth to note that the Israeli occupation authorities seek to associate Arab Syrian workers with suspicious Israeli organizations like the Israeli Scout.

II. Child Labor

The percentage of Arab Syrian child labor in the Arab Syrian occupied Golan:

Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan exert enormous efforts to use child labor for two main reasons:

- Cheap child labor wages, and
- Splitting the children from their society and attempting to merge them in the cheap labor market as they are still young to continue the Israeli scheme of inclusion and Judaization. Therefore, and based on statistical data collected by some concerned people in the occupied Golan, **the percentage of child labor below the age of 17 is more than 60% of the labor force.**

This is definitely a major reason for dropouts from elementary and preparatory schools, as the dropout percentage exceeds 20%, and this spreads ignorance for several generations.

As a result, child labor has been an occupation means to spread ignorance of different Arab generations, and to cut their links with communities, and duly

their mother land. Local statistics show that crime rates among those child workers reached record highs, and this contributed to the spread of trade and use of drugs, ripping the community of its customs and traditions. The community has become hybrid, composed of a deeply-rooted civilization and a distorted and forged culture imposed by the facts of occupation and Judaization policies. This is a violation of the two International Labor Conventions number 138 (1973) and number 182 (1999) on the minimum employment age and elimination of the worst forms of child labor. This is also a violation of the provisions of articles 32 and 36 of the convention on the rights of the child.

Nevertheless, it must be noted that Israeli occupation authorities ban child labor for the Jews, but this is not applied to Arab communities in general, and Golan community in particular.

III. Exploiting the resources of Golan

- Total return of Israeli industry in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan is around 8 million US dollars, and the return of agriculture is more than one billion US dollars, annually. Tourism also follows pace, as the number of visitors to the occupied Arab Syrian Golan is more than 2 million visitors a year, who visit sports centers, skiing centers in the foothills of Mount Hermon, pools of sulfur water in the Syrian Hamma springs, scores of restaurants and hotels, such as the great Thai restaurant, American Alligator Park, Howard & Johnson Hotel, Golan wineries, Golan dairy factories in Katzrin, facilities of Eden Springs for mineral water, scores of industrial labs and factories for the production of advanced tech, facilities of plastic, chemical, food, cement, steel, and oil products, as well as tanning, metal and military industries. In addition, there are olive and fruit presses, industrial and agricultural technological centers, factories, timber factories, bottled water facilities, textiles factories, paper industries, expansion of cattle farms for milk and meat, as well as potato and fruit farms. This led to boosting tourism in the Arab Syrian Golan Heights.
- Israeli ministry of energy and water exploited the crisis in Syria to pursue its plan for oil explorations, while the machineries of 'Jenny Energy'

company, owned by the Israeli Minister of Infrastructure Avi Eitam, continued its work. The minister said that Israel needs about 300 thousand oil barrel per day, and his company would secure a part of this need from the occupied Arab Syrian Golan.

- Israeli occupation authorities make incessant efforts to establish power plants using wind movement in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan. This led the Syrian Foreign Ministry to send official messages to the United Nations Secretary General and the President of the UN Security Council highlighting the seriousness of what the green wind energy company of Israel 'MiGolani' intends to do, like erecting and expanding a field of wind turbines in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan Heights.
- Linking the economy of Golan villages to the Israeli economy, attempting to make it entirely dependent on Israeli companies.

IV. Levying taxes on workers and employers in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan Heights:

Israeli authorities adopt a severe tax policy on Syrian workers and employers in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan. This policy, which no Arab Syrian in the occupied Golan can afford, is discriminatory in nature as it discriminates Arab Syrian workers and employers on one hand, and their Israeli counterparts in the other. Authorities impose work tax on Syrian workers that amounts to 35% of their daily or permanent work value, without exempting them of what is known as Income Tax, which amounts to 25% of the net output. This brings tax percentage to be around 55% of the output, and a 30% tax on contractors, refrigerators and apple vendors, estimated at profits presented for the income tax. This forces Syrian workers to work, according to what is known as extra-work system, for three continuous hours, whereas their Israeli counterparts work for six and half hours a day, without imposing the said taxes on them.

It is worth mentioning that this discriminatory policy violates the following international labor conventions:

- The two labor conventions (87 & 98) on freedom of association and protection of the right to organize,
- The two labor conventions (100 & 111) on the abolition of discrimination of employment and occupation and equal pay with equal value,
- The two labor conventions (29 & 105) on forced labor.

Types of taxes levied from Syrian citizens:

- High-income tax,
- Patients, hospitals and health centers Fund tax, while putting into consideration that the Israeli occupation authorities have not established any health center or hospital in the Arab villages in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan,
- Value added tax,
- National insurance tax,
- Municipal tax,
- Property tax,
- Media tax (radio and television),
- Education and vocational education tax,
- Heating and cooling tax,
- Travel and tourism tax,
- Rain water use tax,
- Surface water use tax.

There are other taxes that represent a blatant theft for the Arab Syrian citizens in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan Heights. Percentages of taxes are real jokes, as the occupation authorities allow Syrian citizens to open light production factories such as factories for light home products, soap, detergents and other simple agriculture products, and then impose on them very high taxes.

The Israeli occupation authorities delineate villages, as Israel placed more recently an organizational ring to define populated Golan villages, and then prevented any citizen from building outside the boundaries they set. Occupation authorities do not issue building licenses, except with the approval of the municipality, which was appointed by the authorities, after payment of high fees and taxes for each and every license.

It is worth mentioning that all types of taxes, as described above, are classified in the General Tax Law, however, the taxes imposed on Arab Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights are higher with percentages that may be as high as 25% on the grounds that the Arab Syrians are not subject to the recruitment service which is compulsory to Israeli citizens.

Meanwhile, citizens in the occupied Golan Heights do not receive assistance and aids offered by local and international financial funds to what Israel calls 'population of border areas'. Therefore, the gap between the income of a Jewish settler and the income of an Arab Syrian worker becomes too wide, so that the gap is at least 70%, while putting into consideration that the Jewish settler is exempted from taxes, and does not perform the same tasks which the Syrian citizen is forced to perform in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan Heights.

V. Land and water confiscation, and imposing restrictions on agricultural production:

Policies of sprawling annexation as well as land and natural resources confiscation continue for the sake of occupiers in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan. Israeli exploitation of the occupied land in the Syrian Golan comes in parallel with confiscation of land and water resources, which is a repetition to what the occupation authorities have done to most of the land in the Golan in recent years. It is worth noting that these lands are the land that can be cultivated, which the Arab Syrian citizens used to cultivate before 1967.

Occupation authorities adopt several means for confiscation, including the following:

Confiscation of the lands of displaced citizens, deeming the land is a property of the state on grounds that the land owners are absent, and also the public land that

is owned by everyone, such as the public land in Meseada village.

- Confiscation of lands close to ceasefire line, and mining it.
- Confiscation of land for military purposes, such as erecting military camps and military sites, as well as building routes in lands far from the ceasefire line.
- Confiscation of land to build settlements and agricultural and industrial utilities.
- Fencing many lands on the grounds that they would be put under the protection of Nature Protection Authority (total area of such lands are estimated as 100 thousand Donems)
- Confiscation of lands indirectly through what is known as 'Meshkenta', which is an agriculture loan offered against a mortgage to an Israeli bank, where the real estate is confiscated if the load is not fully paid.
- Israeli occupation forces continue building up their machineries to the occupied Arab Syrian Golan, close to the ceasefire line, with the aim of grazing the soil, and subsequently transferring it to the occupied Palestine, and also pulling out the trees in the area between the wired fence and the ceasefire line.
- In regard of water resources, policies of the occupation authorities continue to work on depriving Syrian citizens in the occupied villages of using the available water resources in these villages. The authorities ban them to use the water of Meseada Lake, and meanwhile the Israeli authorities changed the path of the lake's water to the Israeli settlements in the Golan. As the authorities ban the citizens from digging artesian water wells and building tanks to store rain and snow, Israeli authorities dig several water wells for settlements, which led to the lowering of groundwater table.

The Israeli authorities tend to reduce apple prices and levy very expensive charges for the transportation and marketing of this crop, and seek to block the process of taking this crop to the mainland Syria so as to make more pressures

on farmers and harm them. It is worth mentioning that apple crop is the basic and strategic product in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan.

VI. Israeli Settlements:

The total number of Israeli settlements and the number of settlements that were established recently on the occupied Arab Syrian Golan:

The feverous Zionist and Judaization campaigns and settlements in all the occupied Arab territories coincide with the efforts of occupation authorities to implement a settlement scheme that aims at encouraging and consecrating the Jewish settlement in the occupied Syrian territories in the next three years. Meanwhile, Israel is planning to build nine new settlements, in addition to the already existing 32 settlements (which are recorded at the Israeli Interior Ministry), and consequently resettle 200 Jewish families every year in the occupied Golan.

What is investigated today is how to increase the number of settlers in the occupied Golan to 50 thousand on the short term, and duly remove all obstacles to achieve this.

Four years ago, and within the framework of boosting the plan of '**Jewish Settlement**' in the occupied Golan, occupation authorities had announced the start of settlement expansion on new lands with a total area of 80 donems in **al-Batiha** area southern of the occupied Golan, near the Jordanian-Syrian-Palestinian borders, to build a new tourist village in **Tel al-Sayadeen** area on the eastern coast of **Tiberias** Lake in the area known as el-Korsi in the occupied Syrian territories.

The undeserved Zionist settlement campaign currently witnesses a considerable unprecedented momentum in construction, where recent records show a percentage of more than 400% increase in buying settlement apartments in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan Heights.

In total, the unfair judaization operations in the occupied Golan reached the limit by erecting 46 settlement sites, either as a settlement, a project for a settlement, or a colonial site like Nahal settlements, agricultural and industrial collective Alkibotz settlements, cooperative Moshav settlements, or religious people settlements.

- Available data and information indicate that the Israeli occupation government in a meeting on a five-year settlement plan to develop large areas of unused agricultural lands in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights approved that such lands would be allocated to the Jewish farmers in the region. Occupation authorities seek, through adopting this settlement plan, to develop agriculture in the Golan, as the four coming years would witness the inauguration of 750 new agricultural settlement facility, and the Israeli authorities would spend about 400 million Shekel (115 million US dollars) on implementing the proposed plan, which includes extension of water networks and demining. A Hebrew website said that within the framework of this plan, 30 thousand donems would be prepared for agriculture near the current settlement centers in the occupied Golan Heights, while clearing several mine fields which spread in an area of 10 thousand donems. This expansion shall be utilized to create new job opportunities for settlers, and encourage both agricultural and tourist activities. The website quoted Eli Malka, who heads the Golan Regional Council, as saying that this plan would allow them to receive hundreds of new Jewish families of young generations, who would form the second generation of the Israeli settlement scheme in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan.

This settlement scheme is deemed as a new violation to the international resolutions that prevent occupation to change the urban, geographic, or demographic nature of the occupied territory.

- Incessantly, Israel continues to expand the current settlements and establish what is known as youth settlements, which are the nucleus of future settlements as planned to be built in the future by the Israeli occupation.

According to data and information from people in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan, as well as the Hebrew press and other Israeli media outlets, there has been a clear concentration on 'developing, expanding and adding' new facilities in the settlements of touristic nature.

To give few examples, these settlements include:

1. Merom Golan Settlement is in the north western foot of Tel el-Aram, and it is a rest place for tourists coming from 1948 territories before arriving at north and south of the Golan.

2. KelaAlon Settlement is built on the wrecks of the occupied Syrian Kela town for the purpose of settlement, but later transferred to a both civil and military site, and several Israeli leaders come to KelaAlon with their families and their foreign guests.
3. EinZivan Settlement is built on the wrecks of AinZewan village in the south of Abul Nada mount, and it is expanded by building a center for agricultural research and a factory for the production of shoes and bags. This settlement is one of the economic, industrial and touristic settlements.
4. Katsarin Settlement is built on the wrecks of Kasrin village, south of al-Fakhoura village. It is considered the biggest regional center for Golan settlements, and the majority of its inhabitants are of a military background and their families, and this means that they permanently inhabit the place. Most of the inhabitants are of Eastern origins, who were known as Falasha Jews, who were brought from Ethiopia and other African countries. In this relatively big settlement, authorities have built a large number of factories and workshops of different professions, but more recently added a new industrial domain, which is the microelectronic industry that would be used in both military and civil purposes. This settlement is one of the first settlement centers in the Golan Heights and territories of 1967, and so the settlement has branches of several Israeli and foreign universities, as well as other specialized institutes. More focus was directed to technological industries in a nearby settlement called Moshe Fanan Settlement, which became an industrial hub specialized in hi-tech.
5. Moshe Ramot Settlement is close to the Eastern Coast of Tiberias Lake, and it is an important agricultural and tourist settlement, where an equestrian club was built and a casino was opened for foreign tourists.
6. Khasvin settlement is built on the wrecks of the occupied Khasvin village, and it is considered a religious Jewish center, which is usually visited by extremist Zionists, so that it is the headquarter of what is known as the Chief Rabbi of the Israeli army in the northern region, as well as what is known as the Golan Institute for Jewish and Zionist Research.

7. Eli Aad Settlement is in the western side of the occupied al-Aad village. This agricultural settlement has been expanded and has become an agricultural and industrial region, as factories for the production of agricultural equipment and pesticides, and an agricultural and industrial research center were established.
8. Bnei Yehuda Settlement is built on BeirShekom site to the west of the occupied Skovia village. It is an industrial and services settlement that has a factory for civil and military spare parts. The settlement has expanded recently to produce electronic tools and software for military and civil purposes.
9. Mafohma Settlement is built on the wrecks of AmratEzzul Din farm near the occupied al-Huma area. It is an important industrial hub for electronic industries, and the settlement has been expanded recently with several factories to produce plastic and solar energy panels.
10. The Lebanese-style village, which Israel began to build in Sneer area in the region that separates northern Golan and Galilee to train military elements on a future war in South Lebanon or in Syria, has an area of 12685 donems.

VII. Recommendations:

We present the next suggestions and recommendations to the International Labor organization against the fact that the debate in the International Labor Conference revolves around the need to apply ILC resolution number 9 of 1974, and its resolution number 2 of 1980, as both resolutions are in accordance with the will of the international community, as represented in this conference and the international legitimacy; the content of Item 3 of ILC resolution number 9, as stated above, calls for the Board of directors and HE the Director General to harness all available resources of the International Labor Organization to put an immediate end to violations of acts of discrimination and racial discrimination, as well as making all possible measures to remove them and guarantee the freedoms and dignity of the Arab workers in the occupied Syrian Golan.

1. Appealing to the ILO to issue a new resolution that includes obliging Israel to secure the conditions and situations for decent work and respect international labor conventions that ensure the rights of workers and employers in the occupied Syrian Golan and implement relevant ILO programs, as well as revealing the blatant discrimination and deprivation of social security privileges.
2. Putting Israel on the list of countries violating the principles, constitution and conventions of the ILO in the occupied Syrian Golan in the agenda of the coming annual ILO conference set to convene in Geneva, in June 2015.
3. Calling for the director General of the International labor Conference to dispatch a fact-finding mission to determine the violations of the occupation authorities against workers and employers in the occupied Syrian Golan.
4. Holding a special session with those concerned in the Organization in order to implement social protection programs that secure protection to workers in the occupied Syrian Golan and other occupied Arab territories in accordance with international labor standards, the Declaration of Principles, and basic rights in work; Talking about social protection to Syrian workers in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan has become an extreme luxury compared to what was mentioned of Israeli violations against them.
5. Providing the necessary support to Syrian citizens to start small and micro-enterprises in the occupied Syrian Golan, which aim at enabling Arab Syrian citizens to realize a living standard that suits their dignity as humans.
6. Asking international organizations and bodies as well as donating countries to provide technical and financial aid to support economic, industrial and agricultural facilities of the people of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan and to support employers to develop their industrial facilities and agricultural projects so that they would be able to overcome the effects and residues of the military occupation and the Israeli settlement that lasted more than half a century.

7. Forming a permanent committee out of the International Labor Conference to follow up the conditions of the Arab workers in the occupied Syrian Golan and other occupied Arab territories, and working to protect them, develop their abilities and provide them with the necessary support, including the appointing of a permanent representative to monitor their conditions on the ground, as well as presenting technical assistance for protection and human resource development programs for Arab workers in the occupied Syrian Golan, in regard of training and vocational qualification, as well as supporting social institutions to improve the conditions of working women, employ the disabled, and retrain them according to their actual needs. This can be achieved by organizing relevant courses and seminars for Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan in cooperation and coordination with specialized international organizations and agencies.
8. Highlighting the necessity to form a committee out of the general conference of the International Labor Organization to study the Director General's annual report on the conditions of Arab workers in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan as long as the Israeli occupation continues to control it. This issue is not any less important than other issues for which the general conference forms technical committees to study separately, which is an action that proved fruitful in the committee formed to study racial discrimination in South Africa in the past.
9. Calling on Israel to allow the Arab Syrian Red Crescent to build a hospital to be run by Arab Syrian Golan people to attend to the medical needs of the people of the Golan, in accordance with what was adopted by the diplomatic conference held in Geneva in 2006 to establish the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.
10. Stressing that fighting poverty and availing means to get sustainable livings in the occupied territories lies in the disappearance of the Israeli occupation and settlement, and duly returning the occupied land to its legitimate owners.



Section Three

*Effects of Israeli Settlements on
Economic and Social Conditions, and
the Labor Sector in South Lebanon*

- There is no doubt that the Israeli occupation of the Lebanese territories in Shebaa Farms and Kafreshuba hills has negative effects on investments in these territories, which have natural, geographical, and water advantages that affect the conditions of employers and workers in this occupied area.
- The area of Shebaa Farms is about 200 square kilometers (25 kilometers in length and 8 kilometers in width). It is best known of its rich fresh produce that varies according to the climate diversity in the farms. The fresh produce includes different types of grains, fruitful trees, vegetables, legumes, forests of oak trees and elms, pastures and olive presses and molasses in addition to the historical sites.
- The Israeli occupation of this area prevents land owners from investing their properties in cultivation, and investing in olive presses and molasses, or building factories to create job opportunities.
- The long period of the occupation has not allowed any development projects, in agriculture, industry and tourism that can be turned into financial resources.

The position of workers in the south is directly and negatively affected by the Israeli aggressions as well as the permanent threats of invasion. This hampers growth, affects building factories and makes both the employer and worker in a constant state of anxiety and duly affects their mobility and productivity. The area is still suffering from the occupation of some parts in the south and from mines and cluster bombs, estimated at 2 million bombs. The bombs, scattered over a large area in the south, kill scores of civilians and farmers every year, and disrupt cultivating thousands of donums, which affects the agricultural sector in the area.

The labor situation can be summarized as follows:

Workers with elementary school qualification and less constitute 42% of the total number of the actual labor force. This is due to the low education levels in the area, as well as the high rate of school dropouts during the period of occupation, and the compulsory recruitment of most young men in this region at

the army of Antoine Lahd who committed young people to assist the occupation. Other reasons include the high percentage of migration for people at the age of secondary and university education, and professional workers. University graduates constitute only 11% of the total work force and professionals represent 8%.

There is a relation between work and kinship, as 73% of the illiterates are relatives of their employers, whereas this percentage drops to only 28% for university graduates.

On the sector level, employment in the private sector absorbs 46% of the labor.

- The informal sector absorbs 36% of the workers,
- The public sector absorbs 17% of the workers, and
- The mixed sector (private and public) absorbs only 0.3% of the workers.

**** Workers in the private sector are distributed as follows:**

- 25% farmers and skilled workers and fishermen
- 17% tenants in offices and economic and private enterprises
- 9% transportation and machinery drivers
- 8% artisans and miners
- Workers in private schools

**** Workers in the public sector are distributed as follows:**

- 39% official teachers
- 15% military
- 12% workers in indirect services
- 9% workers in public administration and municipalities

**** Workers in the informal sector are distributed as follows:**

- 28% artisans and construction workers
- 15% farmers and skilled workers in agriculture and fishing

- 13% tenants in economic enterprises
- 8% transportation and machinery drivers

Owners of land and/or craft enterprises employing less than 10 workers constitute 5% of the actual work force, as 4% are tenants and 5% are family members assisting their families in agriculture.

**** Sustainability of work:**

A percentage of 55% of the total work force are in full time jobs, whereas workers who have part time or seasonal jobs constitute 41% of the total number of workers. This percentage is the basis of the seasonal unemployment that is outspread in this region. The total number of weekly working hours is around 41 hours.

The lowest incomes are the incomes of the age group of youth less than 29 years old, as the average monthly income for full time workers of this age group ranges from 120 to 230 US dollars.

**** Unemployment:**

The percentage of unemployment is somewhere between 10.4 and 15.5%, based on the business and activities in each region. The percentage fluctuates according to the security situation, whether tense or calm.

Unemployment rates for females are around 20%.

The causes of unemployment in this region are due to the following:

- I. The tense security situation in this region
- II. Layoff of labor
- III. Closure of enterprises due to poor economic conditions
- IV. Labor disputes
- V. Hard and indecent work conditions
- VI. Low levels of wages
- VII. Health reasons and unstable family conditions leading to unemployment

Difficult living conditions, lack of life in the villages, and lack of the appropriate infrastructure affect both employers and workers, alike. The most significant problems of this region are:

- The difficulty of mobility between villages because of lack transportation, and because of diggings in roads,
- Repeated interruption of water supply,
- Very difficult situation of the power supply,
- Lack of marketing outlets for fresh produce, especially olive oil,
- Lack of agricultural roads,
- Failure to sort out land plots to determine the ownership of private properties,
- Low levels of official education, and
- Lack of hospitals, dispensaries and clinics.

In addition to what is said in the introduction, the constant fear of Israeli aggression is a major reason of disrupting all aspects of life in the occupied border areas.