



Arab Labor Organization



**Israeli Settlements and their Economic and Social Effects on Employers
and Workers in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories
(Syrian Golan and Southern Lebanon)**

Report of the Arab Labor Organization Director General

Submitted To The 109th Session Of The International Labor Conference,

Geneva, June 3rd – 19th, 2021



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Introduction

As efforts continue to follow up the economic and social effects of the Israeli occupation on employers and workers in Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories, we are glad to submit this annual report, translated into three languages: English, French and Spanish. The report, to be circulated to all production tripartite in all world regions and to representatives of the international community participating in the 109th session of the International Labor Conference 2021, aims at uncover the truths about violations committed against the workers and people of the occupied Arab territories. We hope that this important report helps raising awareness and responsibility of all actors at the Arab, regional and international levels to make serious and quick moves to further more support, improve the current situation, contribute to enhancing the present opportunities to end the Israeli occupation, and achieve security and stability in the region.

Recent reports indicate an escalation of the systematic Israeli destructive policies and violations in Palestine so that they include multiple unjustified detentions and attacks on the properties of Palestinian citizens in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem. However, although 2020 witnessed a great challenge due to COVID-19 pandemic, the occupation state pursued policies of settlement, annexation, and dumping the Palestinian market with products from the settlements, while the siege imposed on Gaza Strip continues.

Disregarding all international agreements and conventions, the occupation state benefitted from the world's preoccupation with fighting the pandemic to eliminate any political solution to establish the State of Palestine, having Jerusalem as its capital. This was not enough for the occupation state as it put pressures to stop international support while it continued to control crossings and borders, and severed the country with scores of permanent and mobile barriers. Discrimination against Palestinian labor working for it continued, while evading its obligations as an occupying state, according to international laws.

The occupation policies have doubled the sufferings of the Palestinian people, deliberately weakened the Palestinian economy, and sought to deprive citizens of their rights in an attempt to end the Palestinian question.

The report also includes a reference to the most important breaches in the labor sector profile, as follows:

- Palestinian workers' access to their workplaces within the Green Line continues to be blocked, which violates the "Paris" economic agreement.
- The Israeli employers continue to forge the monthly salary slips of Palestinian workers, leading to a decrease in the financial amounts of their compensation for their social rights.
- Israeli employers have laid off many workers within the context of Corona pandemic without any compensation for their unemployment period.
- Palestinian workers infected or even suspected of being infected with COVID-19 virus are not admitted to Israeli hospitals.
- Some Palestinian workers in the service sector, especially in laundries, were forced to clean the clothes of those infected with the COVID-19 virus.
- The occupation state remains uncommitted to implementing occupational health and safety requirements for Palestinian workers in their work environments, as the number of deaths during 2020 reached about (23) workers while more than (500) workers were injured.
- The occupation state continues to support the sale of work permits on the black market through work permit brokers, as the permit price reaches more than 2,500 shekels per month.
- The Israeli occupation is still withholding from 1970 until now social rights funds, which are estimated in billions.

The report of the Lebanese Labor Minister on the economic and social situation of employers and workers in the occupied territories in southern Lebanon said that employment conditions in the south are directly and negatively affected by the Israeli attacks and the permanent threats of invasion, which inhibits growth and productivity. Meanwhile, unemployment rates were as high as 20 to 25%, based on business and activities. As the COVID-19 pandemic sprawls, unemployment rates reached new record high, especially for women. Causes of unemployment are due to:

- The tense security situation in the region.

- Discharge from work and the low level of wages.
- Closure of Businesses due to the deteriorating economic situation.
- Difficult and indecent working conditions.
- The spread of the "Corona" pandemic.
- Difficult living conditions affecting employers and workers, who face a set of challenges including:
 - Difficulty of mobility between villages due to the lack of local transportation because of the poor road networks.
 - Repeated water cuts, coupled with very severe electricity rationing.
 - Lack of agricultural roads and lack of marketing of agricultural products, especially olive oil.
 - Lack of land plotting projects to determine the ownership of private real estate.
 - Poor standard of the official school system.
 - Lack of hospitals, dispensaries, and clinics.

The most recent available reports on the economic and social conditions as well as the labor sector in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan for the year 2020 included that:

Despite the denunciation campaigns of what is happening in the Arab Syrian territories, Israel is insolently defying the international community, violating all decisions issued by international organizations and their affiliated bodies. Available recent information and data show what Arab Syrian workers, employers and citizens are exposed to in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan in 2020, such as the Israeli occupation authorities' arbitrary practices against them, despite the difficult circumstances and the current and dangerous conditions, which Syria witnesses in general. This is embodied as follows:

- The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity destroy the archeological monuments in the Arab Syrian Golan.
- The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity imposed the Israeli educational curricula, making education in the Hebrew language.
- The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity laid off and terminated the contracts of Syrian Arab teachers who teach history and Arabic literature.

- The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity continue to create and renew minefields in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan.
- The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity buried large quantities of nuclear waste at (20) sites in the occupied Golan territories.
- The Israeli Ministry of Energy and Water exploited the crisis in Syria and resumed the process of exploration for oil, minerals, gas and antiquities.
- The economy of the Golan villages has been linked to the Israeli economy, attempting to make it completely dependent on Israeli companies.
- The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity sell real estate and properties that originally owned by Syrian citizens who were deported from their villages.
- The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity refuse to pay or deliver recovery compensations to workers with permanent or partial injuries who need special health care because of their injury during work, considering them not covered by the compensation law.
- According to the applicable Israeli procedures regarding the Arab Syrian workers, the Syrian workers were classified as "third-class workers," coming after the Jewish and foreign workers. This discriminatory racial classification allowed the Israeli Zionist entity authorities and different business entities to exploit the Syrian labor force in the Israeli work sectors, which the Jewish or foreign worker refuses or is unable to carry out. Most of those jobs are classified as "arduous and dirty work," which is a Zionist and racist term intended for the Arab minority.

Thank you,

Fayez Ali Al-Mutairi

Director General

Section One

Negative Effects of Israeli Settlements on Social and Economic Conditions and the Labor Sector in Palestine, 2020

Introduction

In 2020, the spread of COVID-19 virus posed a serious worldwide challenge, which the World Health Organization considered as a serious pandemic threatening human life. This prompted governments to take measures and procedures to limit the spread of the virus and maintain the health and safety of their citizens. However, these measures and procedures had major effects on various aspects of life in general, and on the economic and social levels in particular.

In Palestine, the situation was more complicated: the occupation virus integrated with the Corona virus and together they formed an unparalleled case across the world. The occupation authorities have continued their policies aimed at emptying the land through its expansionist and settlement activities, armed with unlimited American support. Taking advantage of the world's preoccupation with fighting the pandemic, the occupation authorities took successive steps to eliminate any political solution to establish the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and turned a blind eye to all international agreements and conventions, United Nations declarations, and bilateral agreements.

Israeli occupation escalated and varied their violations and destructive policies against the Palestinians to include willful killing, arrest, prosecution, and unjustified attacks on citizens' properties in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. The policies of settlement and annexation, withholding clearance funds, and practicing pressures to stop external support have expanded. Meanwhile, occupation authorities continued to control crossings and borders, block mobility of goods and individuals, severe the country with scores of permanent and mobile barriers, ignore acts of extremist settlers, dump the Palestinian markets with settlement products, continue the siege

on Gaza, and place nearly two million Palestinians in a huge prison that lacks the minimum necessities of human life.

The occupation authorities also took advantage of the "Corona" crisis and pursued their violations of the rights of Palestinian workers who work for Israeli employers, discriminating against them, while evading the obligations of the occupation state, as per the international law.

This report reviews the most significant and blatant destructive policies, measures and violations committed by the occupation authorities against the Palestinian people, land and labor in 2020.

Executive Summary

In 2020, 43 Palestinian citizens were killed and more than 1650 others wounded, while more than 4,634 arrested. The occupation authorities strengthened their settlement policies and announced the construction of 27,550 housing units, and started actual construction of about 10 thousand housing units, most of them in Jerusalem and its suburbs. The occupation authorities demolished 976 homes and businesses, announcing its intent to demolish 1012 other homes and businesses. Further, the occupation authorities continued the policy of confiscating lands, as about 20,000 dunums of citizens' lands confiscated and seized, most of which are agricultural lands. As the occupation authorities continued to build roads to serve settlements and outposts, they continue to isolate and Judaize Jerusalem attempting to obliterate its Arab identity, divide Al-Aqsa mosque and isolate tens of thousands of Palestinian citizens in the villages of Jerusalem. The occupation authorities also unleashed settlers to wreak havoc and destruction. The result was that settlers uprooted more than 8,925 fruit trees, killed about 445 head of livestock, destroyed 350 vehicles, and carried out scores of attacks. The siege of the Gaza Strip continued, and so did the attacks. More than 1900 attacks resulted in the destruction of fishing boats, shooting incidents, and artillery shelling of the population. The occupation continued to block access to patients for treatment outside Gaza, students to their universities, and thousands of workers to their workplaces. The occupation authorities abused COVID-19 pandemic to pursue their violations against Palestinian workers, stealing their dues, including failure to compensate workers for periods of absence from work due to the pandemic, similar to Israeli and foreign workers, although deductions were enforced against Palestinian workers thereof. In unprecedented crimes, the occupation forces dumped workers suspected of being infected with COVID-19 virus at checkpoints, denying them any kind of treatment. The occupation authorities continue to withhold Palestinian workers' rights,

estimated at billions of dollars since 1970, refusing to transfer them or even recognize the volume of these funds. The occupation policies have doubled the sufferings of the Palestinians, and caused the continued weakness of the Palestinian economy, which has been reflected in an increase in unemployment and poverty rates, and closure of businesses.

The Most Prominent Israeli Policies And Violations During 2020:

- **The Policy Of Direct Targeting Of The Palestinian People:**

The Martyrs

The occupation army and settlers continued the policy of direct targeting to kill the Palestinian people, as 43 Palestinians were martyred by the Israeli occupation forces in 2020 throughout all the Palestinian territories, including 9 children and 3 women, while 4 prisoners were martyred in the prisons of the occupation due to deliberate medical negligence. Breaking down the number, 25 citizens were martyred in the West Bank, 6 in Jerusalem, and 12 in Gaza Strip. The occupation authorities deliberately use the 'shoot to kill' technique against unarmed Palestinian civilians at military checkpoints between Palestinian cities, in addition to shooting at peaceful demonstrators marching against the arbitrary occupation policies. The occupation authorities are still holding the bodies of 69 martyrs in their morgues, in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.



The Wounded

In 2020, the Israeli occupation authorities injured about 1650 Palestinian citizens throughout all the Palestinian territories, including firing at and injuring 100 civilians in Gaza Strip. Furthermore, hundreds were suffocated as a result of the occupation forces' firing toxic tear gas at demonstrations against the occupation policies.



The Detainees

The occupation authorities have arrested 4,634 Palestinian citizens, including about 543 minors and 128 women in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza Strip. The Israeli occupation authorities practice harsh punitive policies against the Palestinian prisoners. By the end of 2020, the number of Palestinian prisoners increased to be as high as 4400, including 170 children and 40 women. While the COVID-19 pandemic spread, Israeli Prison Authorities did not take any measures to protect prisoners from infection. Instead, they adopted measures that help the spread of the virus among the prisoners, such as removing sterilization materials from the refectories, denying the prisoners access to cleaning materials, or sterilizing cells as a preventive measure to fight the spread of the virus.



- **The Policy Of Settlement And Land Confiscation:**

Settlement

The occupation authorities have strengthened their settlement policies and the practices of annexation of large parts of the Palestinian land, especially within the areas of Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley. The year 2020 is marked by the occupation state's announcement of a number of settlement projects to construct thousands of settlement units in the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem with unlimited American support for the occupation's steps on the ground. It was also announced that 27550 settlement units would be ratified, as:



- Occupation authorities in Jerusalem ratified a plan to build 9000 settlement units in 'Atarot' settlement in northern Jerusalem over Qalandia airport lands, occupied in 1967. The occupation authorities had previously approved a plan to develop the infrastructure for the industrial zone

'Atarot', widening the roads, and improving the efficiency of the area adjacent to Qalandia Airport by investing about 50 million shekels.



- Jerusalem Municipality Planning Committee has ratified a scheme to build 8300 new settlement units for the purposes of housing, industry, and commerce on the lands of the town of Beit Safafa, al-Maliha and al-Baqa'a, extending all the way to the village of Walaja to the south of Jerusalem. The scheme aims to write off the Green Line between East and West Jerusalem, and duly changing the borders within the Holy City.
- The occupation authorities issued tenders to build 1257 new settlement units in the settlement of "Givat Hamatos" built on the lands of the town of Beit Safafa, south of Jerusalem.
- The occupation authorities ratified the construction of 1000 settlement housing units in the area known as area E, which is the area separating the south, center and north of the West Bank, located on the lands of Anata, Al-Tur, Al-Eizariya and Abu Dis. These settlement units are part of a project proposed by Benjamin Netanyahu to build 3500 settlement units in the region.
- The occupation authorities ratified a scheme to build a new settlement district with 450 housing units near the western entrance to the town of Sur Baher, south of Jerusalem.
- Occupation authorities sought to establish a new industrial zone south of the city of Tulkarm, which is the second in the region on an area of 800 dunums, confiscated from the Palestinian citizens. This constitutes an industrial settlement belt extending from the Al-Taybeh area, occupied in 1948, to the "Evni Hefetz" settlement, built on the lands of Tulkarm.
- Occupation authorities ratified a set of projects to construct and expand spiral roads in the West Bank and Jerusalem to link isolated settlements, create new settlement blocs and facilitate the movement of settlers, at the expense of Palestinian citizens' properties. This includes the expansion of the spiral road of Al-Walaja south of Bethlehem, which connects the Gush Etzion settlement in occupied Jerusalem and paving a road from 'Adam' settlement to the Hizma military checkpoint in the northeastern city of Jerusalem. This also includes linking the settlement bloc 'Binyamin' built on the lands of Ramallah to the city of



Jerusalem and the industrial zone 'Atarot,' and paving a 10-KM road from Kafr al-Labad town east of Tulkarm to "Ifni Hefetz" settlement, built on the town's lands.

- The Minister of Transportation in the occupying state ratified several other settlement projects at a cost of 400 million shekels, including Al-Laban Al-Gharbi spiral Street and Modi'in Illit Street and the development of Qalandia checkpoint.



- Bulldozers of the occupation began work on building two spiral streets, namely Huwara and Al-Aroub. This led to the confiscation of more than 800 dunums and depriving hundreds of farmers from accessing their lands along the two streets.
- The Israeli Knesset ratified the preliminary reading of the settlement-conciliation draft law in the West Bank to legitimize settlements built without permits.

Land Confiscation And Leveling

In 2020, the occupation authorities confiscated and seized about 8,830 dunums owned by Palestinian citizens, and announced the seizure of 11,200 dunums for the benefit of three natural reserves in the Jordan Valley:

- The occupation army issued a military order to confiscate and seize 17 sites in the heart of Hebron comprising about 3807 dunums, under the pretext of security purposes.
- About 700 dunums planted with olive trees were taken over in the Jabal Fureidis area, east of Bethlehem. The dunums have been surrounded by barbed wire.
- The occupation authorities registered 525 dunums of the lands of Nahalin town for the benefit of the Jewish National Fund to expand the Gush Etzion settlement bloc after the occupation courts rejected the documents submitted by the Palestinians over the years. Furthermore, 327 dunums of the lands of Kisan village, east of Bethlehem, have been taken over for military purposes.
- The occupation authorities have confiscated about 1100 dunums of Bethlehem governorate lands located on the outskirts of "Efrat" settlement in the "Gush Etzion" settlement complex.

- The occupation authorities seized the two ancient castles: Deir Saman and Deir Qala, located northwest of the town of Kafr al-Dik and east of Deir Ballut in the Salfit governorate for the interest of the Israeli Antiquities Authority. The two monuments date back to the fourth century AD. Land confiscation for security and military purposes behind the wall, north of Habla, continued.



- The occupation authorities announced the confiscation of about 1400 dunums in the West Bank, including the villages of Burin, Madama, and Asira al-Qibliya, south of Nablus, in addition to the towns of Al-Jab'a, Shofa, Yassouf, Rafat, and Al-Maarajat area northwest of Jericho.
- The occupation bulldozers swept away more than 1500 dunums of Palestinian citizens' agricultural lands in the West Bank and Jerusalem, which led to the uprooting of thousands of olive and nuts trees.

- **The Policy Of House And Facility Demolition:**

Building And Facility Demolition:

The occupation authorities stepped up the policy of demolishing Palestinian buildings and facilities, especially in C areas and Jerusalem. In contradiction, settlers have been granted wide facilities to establish outpost settlements and housing units in the same areas. In 2020, the occupation bulldozers demolished 976 homes and facilities, including 353



house and 622 agricultural, animal, commercial and service facilities, which marks an increase of 30, compared to the 2019. Jerusalem governorate recorded 30% of the total demolitions, as 296 houses and facilities were demolished, including 180 within the neighborhoods of the occupied Jerusalem in the towns of Silwan, Jabal Al Mukaber, Tire Bahir, Shuafat, Issawiya, Beit Safafa, Umm Tuba, Al-Tur, Wadi Al-Jouz, and Sheikh Jarrah. This included the implementation of 89

own-home demolition operations, where owners demolished their homes and facilities themselves to avoid paying heavy fines.

Demolition Notices:

In 2020, the occupation authorities issued 1012 orders of demolition, eviction, and halting construction and restoration. This included houses, commercial, agricultural, animal, service, tourism and infrastructure facilities, marking a 45% increase compared to 2019. About 22% of the notices were in Hebron governorate,



18% in Jerusalem Governorate, 14% in Bethlehem Governorate, and 12% in Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate. While Khirbet Homsa al-Fawqa was completely removed, the occupation courts have around 20-22 thousand house demolition orders in the city of Jerusalem, and these orders can be executed at any time, as deemed appropriate by the occupation and its approval of actual implementation.

Settlers' Attacks:

In 2020, settlers and their gangs, protected by the Zionist occupation army, carried out 1090 attacks against Palestinian citizens and their properties, marking an increase of 9% compared to 2019. About 49% of these attacks took place in the governorates of Nablus and Hebron, and 185 Palestinian citizens were injured with various injuries.

These various attacks included:

1. Uprooting, destruction and burning of 8925 olive and nuts trees.
2. Carrying out 21 run-over attacks and 8 kidnapping attempts.
3. Attempts to establish 18 new settlement outposts.
4. 26 shooting incidents.
5. 47 razing operations of Palestinian citizens' lands for about 1500 dunums.
6. Killing and stealing 445 head of cattle by settlers.
7. Burning, destroying and damaging 350 vehicles by settlers.

Judaizing Jerusalem:

The occupied Jerusalem suffered a lot in 2020 in terms of the size of the Judaization projects approved in the occupation state. In this context, the so-called "National Infrastructure Committee" in the occupation state approved implementing the first railway project, which builds an underground railway tunnel connecting the western part of the occupied city of Jerusalem and Bab al-Magharba district, up to the outskirts of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The occupation municipality in Jerusalem signed with the so-called "Permanent Fund for Israel" and the "Jewish Agency" an agreement to erect a settlement scheme, described as a giant project, in the center of the occupied city. The project shall be erected in the Conference Center area at the main entrance of the occupied Jerusalem. With an estimated cost of 1.8 billion shekels, the scheme includes the construction of nine skyscrapers and five multi-storey buildings so that it becomes the biggest conference center in the Middle East. The occupation authorities approved the construction of a suspended bridge linking Wadi al-Rababa neighborhood in the direction of Bab al-Magharba to the Old City and Al-Aqsa Mosque. The planned bridge shall have a length of about 200 meters and a height of 50 meters. It passes over Wadi al-Rababa and connects between Al-Thawri neighborhood and al-Nabi Daoud area, so that it connects a Jewish complex that has a restaurant, a cultural center, and a hall for events for settlers, built about a year ago in Al-Thawri neighborhood in Silwan. The project is allocated a budget of 1.8 million shekels. In the same context, the occupation authorities are preparing to tamper with the tower of the Bab al-Khalil castle, one of the most important landmarks of the Old City in the occupied Jerusalem, as part of a project to change the ancient Islamic monuments. The so-called Israeli Antiquities Authority allocated 40 million shekels to implement a massive "landmark change" as part of a broader plan to falsify history in Jerusalem. The Judaization project will be implemented on the initiative of the Clore Israel Foundation, supported by the occupation municipality in Jerusalem and the Israeli government. In addition, there is a project to construct a settlement tower in the French Hill area, which would be the highest building in Jerusalem, as the municipality "District Planning and Building Committee" approved initially the scheme. According to the plan, the 30-floor tower will be built on an area of



2,500 square meters, which is a Palestinian-owned land confiscated by the occupation authorities from the town of Issawiya in the northeast of the city in 1967.

In the context of Judaizing the town of Silwan, the occupation court issued a decision to evict the Dweik family from its property in Batn Al-Hawa neighborhood in Silwan town, for the benefit of the Ateret Cohenim Settlement Association. The 5-floor property has housed five families since 1963. In addition, there is another decision to evict the



Nasser al-Rajabi family from their building in Batn al-Hawa neighborhood in the town of Silwan, for the benefit of the “Ateret Cohenim Settlement Association,” under the pretext of Jewish ownership of the land on which the building was built in 1948. In the same context of Judaizing the town of Silwan, an occupation court issued a decision to evict a 3-floor building belonging to the families of Shweiki and Odeh in Batn al-Hawa neighborhood, claiming that the ownership of the building belongs to “Ateret Cohenim Settlement Association”. The occupation court also gave the Jerusalem families of Jawad Abu Nab and Salem Ghaith a notice to implement the eviction decision of their buildings for the benefit of the settlers. This aims to seize an area of more than five dunams.

In 2020, 27624 people, including settlers, students of Talmudic institutes, policemen, intelligence men, members of the Knesset, state employees, and Jewish tourists stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque. Meanwhile, the occupation authorities decided to deport 315 citizens from Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Old City for varying periods. The occupation authorities also arrested the governor of Jerusalem, and restricted his movement and contacts, as the occupation authorities sought to prevent any official Palestinian activity in Jerusalem. The bulldozers of the occupation also demolished the wall of the Yusifiya cemetery to establish a path called the "Biblical Garden."



Attacks on Gaza Strip:

The Zionist occupation forces carried out 1954 assaults on Gaza Strip, such as:

1. Launching 331 airstrikes.
2. 1007 shooting incidents on the eastern borders of Gaza Strip.
3. 107 Artillery bombardments.
4. 78 ground incursions.
5. 339 Shooting incidents at the fishermen's boats.
6. The destruction and confiscation of 11 fishing boats by the occupation authorities.

The Israeli occupation authorities have also deliberately denied many patients in Gaza access to Palestinian hospitals in the West Bank and Jerusalem for treatment, while the Israeli blockade imposed on Gaza continues, which impedes the ability of the health sector in Gaza to meet the needs of the population.

Israeli violations against Palestinian workers in the Israeli labor market:

1. The mobility of Palestinian workers to their workplaces inside the Green Line is not smooth, as stipulated in Paris economic agreement, due to the large number of checkpoints spread throughout the country. Workers have to stand in lines from 02.00 am and return back at night or stay overnight in workshops in very difficult and harsh conditions.
2. The occupation deliberately absorbed unorganized Palestinian labor (smuggled labor), is estimated at more than 40,000 workers in the labor market, and therefore employing cheap Palestinian labor who cannot claim any rights.
3. Israeli employers continued to forge monthly salary slips for Palestinian workers who were legally employed inside the Green Line, as they did not record the number of their actual working days, which led to a decrease in the financial amounts of compensations for their social rights.
4. In light of COVID-19 pandemic, Israeli employers have laid off Palestinian workers from their workplaces inside the Green Line. Workers were not compensated for their



which
Israeli

salary

unemployment period in the first three months of the pandemic (March to May 2020). It is worth mentioning that the percentage of the decrease in the number of legal workers has reached 40%.



5. Leaving Palestinian workers who were suspected of being infected with COVID-19 on the roadside and at Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank, denying them access to Israeli hospitals for treatment.
6. Forcing a group of Palestinian workers in the service and cleaning sector to clean the clothes of people infected with COVID-19.
7. Israel is still not committed to implementing occupational health and safety requirements for Palestinian workers in their work environment. The number of deaths reached 23 workers, and the number of work injuries reached more than 500 injuries in 2020.
8. Israel continues to support the sale of work permits on the black market through work permit brokers. The permit price reaches more than 2,500 shekels per month.
9. The occupation state is still withholding social rights funds (savings), estimated at billions of shekels, from 1970 until now.
10. Continuing to prevent Gaza Strip workers from working inside the Green Line since 2006.

- **The Effects Of The Occupation Policies And Procedures:**

The aggressive and destructive policies and measures have left grave effects on different aspects of life for the Palestinian people. In addition to the main goal of occupation, these effects are embodied in:

- Emptying the land, displacing the people, and ending the Palestinian issue by eradicating the two-state solution, or any political solution that fulfills the national Palestinian rights, foremost among which is the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.
- The occupation deliberately abolishes any prospects for development through keeping the Palestinian economy weak and dependent by supporting settlements, confiscating lands, demolishing facilities, preventing investment in C Areas and continuing to control borders, crossings, resources, mobility of goods and people, and the blockade on Gaza Strip. These policies harmed small businesses (more than 92% of business are small) and doubled

poverty rates that included more than a third of Palestinian families in the West Bank and about half of the families in Gaza Strip. These policies also increased unemployment rates to reach 27% in the West Bank, and about 40% in Gaza, as unemployment is concentrated in the youth category. In light of COVID-19 crisis, about 150,000 workers lost their jobs, either fully or partially.

- On the social level, occupation policies blocked thousands of Palestinians from making family connections, while blocking contacts between the West Bank and Jerusalem with Gaza, and denied access to the holy places in Jerusalem. Meanwhile, the authorities denied the Palestinians behind the wall access for health and education facilities and going to their work.
- The occupation authorities enhanced pollution and destruction of the environment in the Palestinian territories by establishing factories in industrial areas adjacent to the wall and inside the Palestinian territories, while transporting pollutants and burying them in Palestinian lands, sabotaging farms with wastewater from settlements, and causing contamination of drinking water in Gaza.
- The occupation authorities fought Palestinian education and curricula, especially in Jerusalem, blocking the building of schools and cultural centers, which deprived children from obtaining their natural right to education in the Palestinian curriculum.
- Israeli occupation fought against the media and press, prosecuting journalists to prevent the truth from reaching the world.

Summary

In 2020, the occupation authorities exploited the COVID-19 pandemic and the unlimited American support to implement more policies that tend to eradicate and liquidate the Palestinian cause, in a desperate attempt to bring the Palestinian people to their knees, which will not be achieved. The Palestinian people shall continue their struggle and steadfastness on their land until the full achievement of their goals, foremost among which is the establishment of their state, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Section Two

Negative Effects of Israeli Settlements on Social and Economic Conditions and the Labor Sector in the Occupied Territories, South of Lebanon, 2020

This section is an account based on the information available to the Ministry of Labor on the conditions of labor and employment in the occupied area of southern Lebanon, and in the border strip adjacent to the occupied Palestinian territories.

There is no doubt that Israel's occupation of Lebanese lands, namely Shebaa Farms and Kfar Shuba hills, negatively affects the investment of these lands, which are rich with natural and geographical features and water resources. Consequently, this affects the conditions of employers and workers in this occupied area.

Shebaa farms is 200 km² (25 km in length and 8 km in width), and the area is best known for its rich plantations, due to the climatic diversity in the area such as grains of all kinds, fruit trees, vegetables, legumes, and forests of old trees such as oaks, mullaws and hawthorn. The area is also rich with pastures, olive presses, molasses, in addition to its historical monuments, wells and caves.

The long occupation period did not allow the competent authorities to prepare economic feasibility studies for investing these lands through development projects⁰ i.e., agricultural, industrial or tourism projects that can be interpreted into figures and financial returns.

Employment conditions in south Lebanon have been directly and negatively affected by the Israeli attacks, as well as by the constant threats of Israeli invasion. This prevents growth, affects building factories and businesses, and make employers and workers in a state of permanent anxiety, as this disrupts their mobility and productivity. Furthermore, some areas in the south still suffer from mines and the internationally banned cluster bombs, which are estimated at two million bombs. The bombs spread over large areas in the south so that they annually claim dozens of victims of civilians and farmers, and halt work in thousands of dunums of agricultural land. No doubt that this negatively affects the agricultural sector in the region.

Israeli threats also constitute an obstacle to tobacco cultivation, which is widespread in the region. There are always fears that enemy jets spray toxins on crops in order to destroy them.

Employment status and variables can be summarized as follows:

I. Workers in the border area represent 30% of the residing population, and life expectancy in the region is 39 years, but it is 43 in certain areas.

Workers with primary school or below qualifications constitute 42% of the total actual workforce. The reason behind the lower educational levels is the high rate of school dropout during the occupation period. Other reasons include the compulsory recruitment for the majority of young people, who were forced to join Lahad Army to support the occupation, and the massive migration of those who are at the secondary or university education levels and those with professional specialties. It is worth noting that university graduates represent 10% of the workforce, while professionals represent 8%.

II. Breaking down employment at the sector level, it is found that:

The private sector absorbs 46% of the workforce, divided as follows:

- 25% are farmers and skilled workers in fishing and agriculture.
- 17% are wage earners in offices and economic and private establishments.
- 9% are transport and machinery drivers.
- 8% are craftsmen and miners.

The unofficial sector absorbs 36% of the workforce, divided as follows:

- 28% are craftsmen and construction workers.
- 15% are farmers and skilled workers in agriculture and fishing.
- 13% are wage earners in offices of the economic establishments.
- 8% are transport and machinery drivers.

The public sector absorbs 17% of the workforce, divided as follows:

- 39% are public teachers.
- 15% are military personnel.
- 12% are workers in indirect services.
- 9% are employees in public administrations and municipalities.

The blended sector (public and private capital) absorbs 3% of the workforce. While 5% of the actual workforce are business owners of craft workshops employing less than 10 persons, 4% are wage earners and 5% are family members who help their families in agricultural work.

III. Permanence of work

Out of the total workforce, 55% are engaged in full-time work, while those who have seasonal, intermittent or occasional work are 40% of the total workforce. This percentage is considered the basis of seasonal unemployment prevalent in this region. The number of weekly working hours is about 40 hours.

The lowest incomes are those belonging to the youth category (29 years and below) as the average monthly income of full-time workers in this age group ranges between 120 to 230 US dollars per month.

IV. Unemployment

Unemployment rate ranges from 20 to 25%, as the variation is based on businesses and activities in each sector and the security situation. Unemployment has reached unprecedented rates, especially among women, due to the deterioration of the economic situation in Lebanon, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Causes Of Unemployment In This Area Are:

- The tense security situation in this area.
- Dismissal from work.
- Business closure due to the deteriorating economic situation.
- Difficult and indecent working conditions.
- Low level of wages.
- The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IV. Inevitably, the difficult living conditions, lack of normal life in the villages and lack of adequate infrastructure for work affect both employers and workers alike. The most significant problems that the area suffers from are:

- Difficulty of mobility between villages due to the lack of local transportation because of the poor road networks.
- Repeated water cuts,
- Severe electricity rationing.
- Lack of marketing of agricultural products, especially olive oil.
- Lack of agricultural roads
- Lack of land plotting projects to determine the ownership of private real estate.
- Poor standard of the official school system.
- Lack of hospitals, dispensaries, and clinics.

In addition to what is mentioned in the introduction, the constant fear of Israeli attacks is the main reason that disrupts life in the occupied border areas.

This is a summary of what employers and workers suffer in the occupied Arab territories in south Lebanon.

Section Three

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

2020

Despite the denunciation campaigns for the events in the Syrian Arab territories, Israel defies the international community by violating all resolutions issued by international organizations and its affiliated bodies.

In view of the available information and data, we discuss in this section the situation of the Syrian Arab workers, employers and citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan in 2020, pointing out to the arbitrary practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in spite of the difficult current and serious situation in Syria as a whole. This can be summarized as follows:

1. The political context: The reality of the occupation and the prospects of the peace process

Israeli practices affecting human rights in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan from May 2015 to date:

The Israeli practices have always been characterized by absolute hostility as they are arbitrary racist practices carried out by the occupation authorities against the people of the Syrian Arab Golan occupied since 1967, in a way that contradicts with international laws. These practices are seen as a flagrant violation of the rules of international humanitarian law, represented by Geneva 4 conventions signed on 12 August 1949, the Hague Convention of 1907, the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, various international resolutions, declarations, charters, and conventions, especially the charter the International Labor Organization, the Declaration of Philadelphia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relating to the protection of the civilian population in the occupied territories, and the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant.

Each time, the international community calls on Israel to stop changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the Syrian Golan, and to cease setting up settlements and imposing Israeli nationality on Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan.

2. Israeli practices against workers, employers and other Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan:

Since the first day of the occupation in 1967, the Israeli Zionist entity has exercised an arbitrary oppressive policy against workers. This is not only the case with the labor sector, but also the case with all other social sectors.

The Israeli Zionist authorities in the occupied Syrian Golan stood against Syrian workers who work in factories and construction works through the chair and members of the suspicious local councils, appointed by the authorities in each village, especially those who resist the occupation, unlike those who cooperate with the authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity and its institutions.

This aggressive policy includes several areas such as:

1. Culture and Education:

- The Israeli Zionist authorities destroy the monuments in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to falsify archaeological and historical facts in an attempt to obliterate the Arab identity of the occupied Golan and subsequently Judaize it.
- The Israeli Zionist authorities imposed Israeli educational curricula, imposed education in Hebrew, and forced students to learn the subjects of 'Israeli civil studies and the Druze heritage', which have no connection to the history, and civilization of the Arab people. This aims to sever ties to Arabism and Islam, while encouraging sectarianism and national oppression to prostrate the national character of our people in the Golan and to expand Israel's aggressive policy.
- The Israeli Zionist authorities deliberately appoint teachers who are not qualified to implement its educational policy, while refusing to accept the appointment of qualified teachers from Syrian university graduates who are academically qualified.
- The Israeli Zionist authorities terminate contracts of Syrian Arab teachers who teach Arab history and Arabic literature to raise the national feeling in the hearts of students. This aims to control the educational process and affect the national affiliation to the motherland Syria.
- The Israeli Zionist authorities obstruct sending the students of the occupied Syrian Golan to the motherland to pursue their university studies, while putting obstacles in front of those who graduated from the university in the motherland if they decided to return to their villages to work in the domains they studied and graduated from.

2. Connection with the motherland:

Israeli authorities annoy Syrian Arab citizens to isolate them from their Arab environs and disrupt their belonging to their mother country Syria through the following practices:

- The Israeli Zionist authorities are carrying out various practices against workers, peasants and doctors, preventing them from going to the motherland to participate in trade union and scientific conferences.
- Israeli authorities prevent those who married from the people of the occupied Golan and who studied at homeland Syria from returning to their villages in the occupied Golan. Authorities also prevent women married in the occupied Golan from visiting their parents in the motherland.
- Nationals from the occupied Golan who have already visited the motherland are subject to trial on charges of "visiting an enemy state".
- Israeli authorities prevent the people of the occupied Syrian Golan from crossing into and from the motherland via the Quneitra crossing, as the Israeli Zionist entity gives full support to armed terrorist gangs to control the Quneitra crossing.

3. Health care:

The occupied five Arab villages suffer from a severe shortage in health centers and clinics, as there is no hospital to serve the people of these villages. For a simple operation, the patient needs to go to cities like Nazareth, Safed or Jerusalem, which costs a lot. Sufferings continue due to lack of first aid centres, doctors and specialized medical clinics, though people of the occupied Golan pay taxes of patient fund, and tax for hospital and health centers that do not exist. Authorities put obstacles to open laboratories and medical clinics to make a connection between Syrian citizens and the occupied Palestine to defeat their steadfastness.

4. Prisoners and detainees:

- The Israeli Zionist authorities arrest citizens in the occupied Golan on incorrect charges and under various pretexts such as: (non-compliance to instructions - refusal to participate in a demonstration against the Syrian regime - giving information to a hostile state - contact with agents ... etc).
- The Israeli Zionist authorities are conducting medical experiments on Arab detainees, considering them terrorists and criminals, not prisoners. Israeli military intelligence practices the worst forms of physical and psychological torture against the prisoners and detainees from the occupied Golan to force them to confess what they did not commit. One of the tactics used for

torture is injecting viruses into the bodies of prisoners. This may lead to death or incurable diseases and permanent disabilities. In addition, Israeli Zionist authorities impose obstacles on the families of prisoners when they visit their relatives in Israeli prisons, far from their residence places.

5. Minefields and dumping nuclear waste in the occupied Golan:

- The Israeli Zionist authorities continue to lay new mines and revive the existing minefields in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. The number of mines ranges from 2 to 3 million mines, which claimed the lives of many innocent citizens in the occupied Golan. The number of mine casualties in the occupied Golan has been '532', as 202 of them were killed and 329 suffer from permanent disability, most of them are children. Recently, the Israeli Zionist authorities produce mobile mines that can move through wind and rain, and another type of mines that is controlled remotely. This aims at terrifying the Syrian Arab population to force them to leave their villages and lands for the settlers and the occupation forces.
- The Israeli Zionist forces buried large quantities of nuclear waste in 20 locations on the occupied Golan, such as Nashbat Almuqbila, Qasr Shabib, and Birkat Marj Al Mann, among others. In the cease-fire line in the occupied Golan, the authorities added nuclear tactical mines, rich in radioactive materials and ready to explode, known as (castles of David), This resulted in the spread of cancer among the population there due to the emissions from buried nuclear waste.
- Soil analyses in the occupied Golan villages confirmed that they contain high percentages of atomic radiation and other radioactive materials used by Israel as fertilizer. This leads to the leakage of this pollutant into the groundwater to poison the Syrian Arab citizens there.

6. Exploiting the treasures of the Golan Heights:

- The total average return of the Israeli industry in the occupied Syrian Golan is approximately \$ 8 million, while the return of agriculture is over 1 billion \$ annually. Return of tourism is similar to agriculture, as the Golan receives more than 2 million visitors a year, who go to sports centers and Skiing centers in the foothills of Mount Hermon, sulfur pools, dozens of restaurants and hotels, including the huge Thai restaurant. Tourist attractions also include the American Crocodile Park, Howard and Johnson hotels, the Golan cheese factories in Katzrin and the facilities of Core and Tel Dor, and Eden Springs Mineral Water. In addition, there are scores of industrial centers and workshops that produce hi-tech, plastic, chemical & food products, cement, steel, petroleum products, as well as metal and military products. There are also fruit and olive presses, industrial and agricultural technology centers, wood and bottled water factories,

mills, textiles, paper industries, cattle farms, potato and fruits farms, among others. This attracts tourists to the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.

- The Israeli Ministry of Energy and Water exploited the crisis in Syria and resumed the process of exploration for oil, minerals, gas and monuments in lands belonging to the Syrian citizens who were expelled from their villages when Israeli Zionist authorities falsified possession documents making these lands owned by Jews before the occupation. Machineries of Jenny Energy Company, owned by the former Israeli Minister of Infrastructure (Avi Eitam) started drilling for exploration, as Eitam stated that Israel needs approximately 300 thousand barrels of oil every day, and therefore his company shall work to secure a portion of this requirement from the occupied Arab Syrian Golan.
- Authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity tend to set up plants to generate electricity by investing the continuous wind movement in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. This includes establishing and expanding a project of field of wind turbines on the territory of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.
- The economy of the villages of the Golan is linked to the Israeli economy, attempting to make it completely dependent on the Israeli companies.

3. Proportion and types of taxes and rebates imposed by occupation authorities on ordinary Syrian Arab workers and agricultural workers:

Israeli Zionist authorities pursue a tax policy that Syrian Arabs in the occupied Golan cannot afford to bear, as the authorities impose a work tax on Syrian workers ranging from seven to 35 percent of the daily work or permanent job income, without exempting them from the so-called income tax, which amounts to approximately 25 percent of their net income. This brings the tax rate on the labor force to about 55 percent of the general output. The authorities also impose a tax of 30 percent on contractors, while imposing a tax estimated according to the profits on refrigerators and apple sales outlets. This prompts Syrian workers to work according to what is known as extra work-hours system for three continuous hours, whereas their Jewish counterparts work for six and a half hours a day, without imposing the previously mentioned taxes on them. This is deemed as a blatant theft for the money of Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. However, percentages of taxes are not standard, as the authorities may allow Syrian citizens to start factories for light industries such as household items, detergents, soap, and other agricultural business, but they levy heavy taxes on them.

The Israeli occupation authorities set limits to the Arab villages, as recently the authorities made an organizational border for each and every village, preventing building outside the border. Yet constructions permits are given only through the local council, appointed by the authorities, and after paying exorbitant fees and taxes for each license.

The Israeli Zionist authorities sell real estate and properties belonging to Syrian citizens who fled or were expelled from their villages such as the villages of (Jubata ez-Zeit - Banias – Zaa-ourh - Ain Vit - Wasit), promising those who would respond to this offer to have building permits, loans, and best services. The main objective of this is to create differences between them and their neighbors who shall return, inevitably, to their homes and properties when the time comes for the colonized entity to leave.

It is worth mentioning that all types of taxes are present in the general tax law, but it has an extra 25 percent rate, as the Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, particularly workers, are not covered by the so-called mandatory service for the Israeli citizens.

Meanwhile, aids from the global and domestic financial funds for what Israel calls (residents of border areas) do not include the people of the occupied Golan. As a result, the gap between the income of a Jewish settler and a Syrian Arab citizen becomes wider as it goes beyond seventy percent, taking into account that the Jewish settler is exempted from taxes, and a settler does not perform the same work like a Syrian citizen in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.

4. Social insurance, compensations, and sick leaves for an Arab worker compared to an Israeli worker:

Israeli Zionist authorities refuse to pay compensations for workers who suffer permanent or temporary injuries and those who need special health care due to being hit by an injury while working, under the pretext that they are not covered by the law of compensation, arguing that they had received medical treatment in private clinics owned by doctors from the Golan who graduated from Syrian universities

5. Works allowed for Syrian Arab workers in the occupied Golan:

In accordance with the applicable Israeli actions regarding Syrian Arab workers, these workers are classified as Third Class Workers, after Jewish then foreign workers. This racial classification allowed the authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity and different employers to exploit the Syrian labor force to work in jobs that Jewish or foreign workers refuse to take, or even cannot perform. Most of these jobs are classified in Israel as dirty or tough jobs. This Jewish and racist term describes the jobs dedicated to the Arab minority. These jobs include, but not limited to:

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. Working in dying, paints and industrial oils facilities, and in textile factories that mostly cause cancer.
4. Working in the military fortifications near the mine fields, where there are repeated explosions that cause death to Syrian workers.
5. Working in constructions, especially in the Israeli settlements, in all professions such as electricity works, blacksmithing, carpentry, tiles and painting, among others.
6. Mechanic and machinery works.

F. Land & water confiscation and 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 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 agricultural land, which was cultivated by Arab Syrian citizens 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 acres),
- Israeli occupation forces continue building up their machineries to the occupied Syrian Arab 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, and
- 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 Zionist 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 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.

G. Total number of Israeli settlements and the number of settlements that were established or expanded recently on the occupied Arab Syrian Golan:

The feverous Zionist Judaization and settlements campaigns 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 acres in al- Batiha area southern of the occupied Golan. This area is located near the Jordanian-Syrian-Palestinian borders, to build a new tourist village in Tel al-Sayadeen area on the eastern coast of Tiberius 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 establishing 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.

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 Shekels (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 acres 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 acres. This expansion shall be utilized to create new job opportunities for settlers, and shall encourage both agricultural and tourist activities.

The website quoted Eli Malka, the chairman of 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.

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

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

1. Cheap child labor wages, and
 2. Disconnecting 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 weapon to spread ignorance of different Arab generations, and to cut their links with communities, and deny 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.

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.