

REPORT

Human Rights Violations and Popular Struggle in South Hebron Hills

December 2017



Operation Dove

Nonviolent Peace Corps of Associazione "Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII"

www.operationdove.org

INDEX

● ISRAELI ARMY AND POLICE

- SCHOOL PATROL
- MILITARY HARASSMENT AND AGGRESSIONS
- CLOSURES

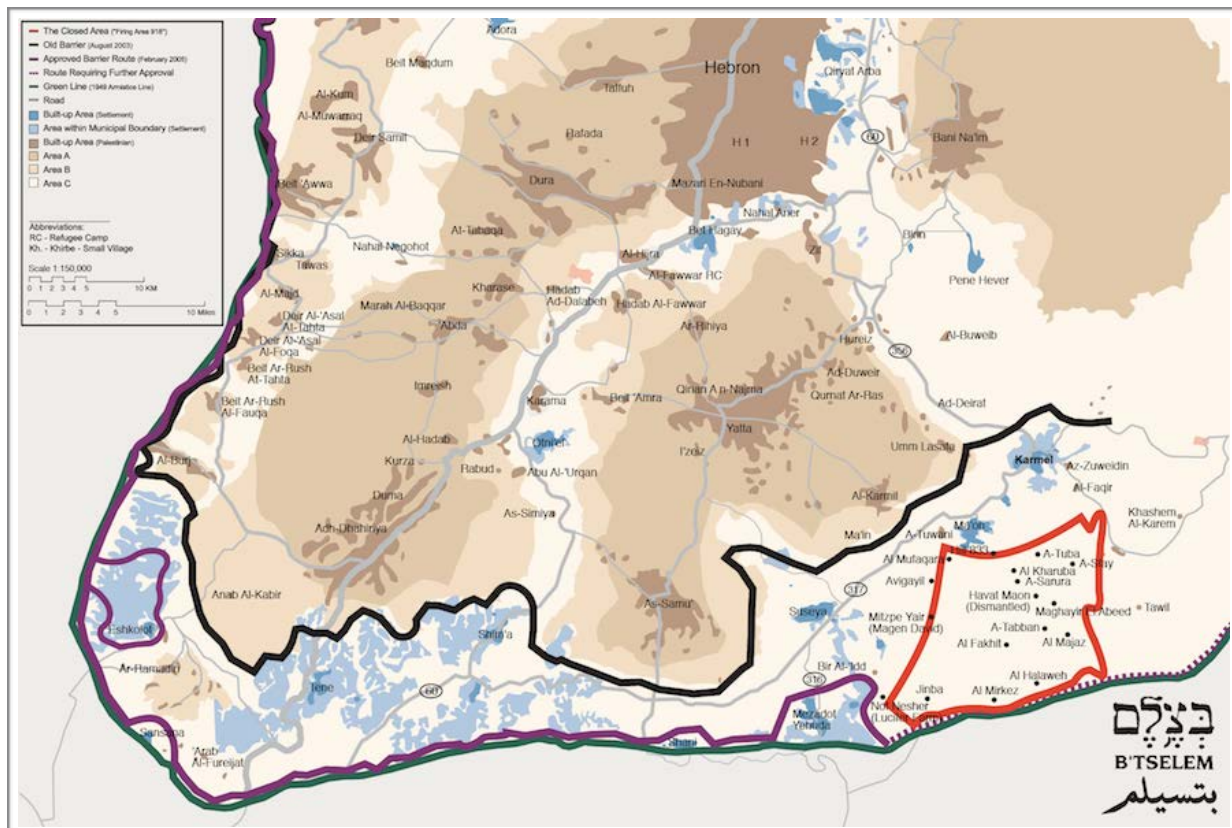
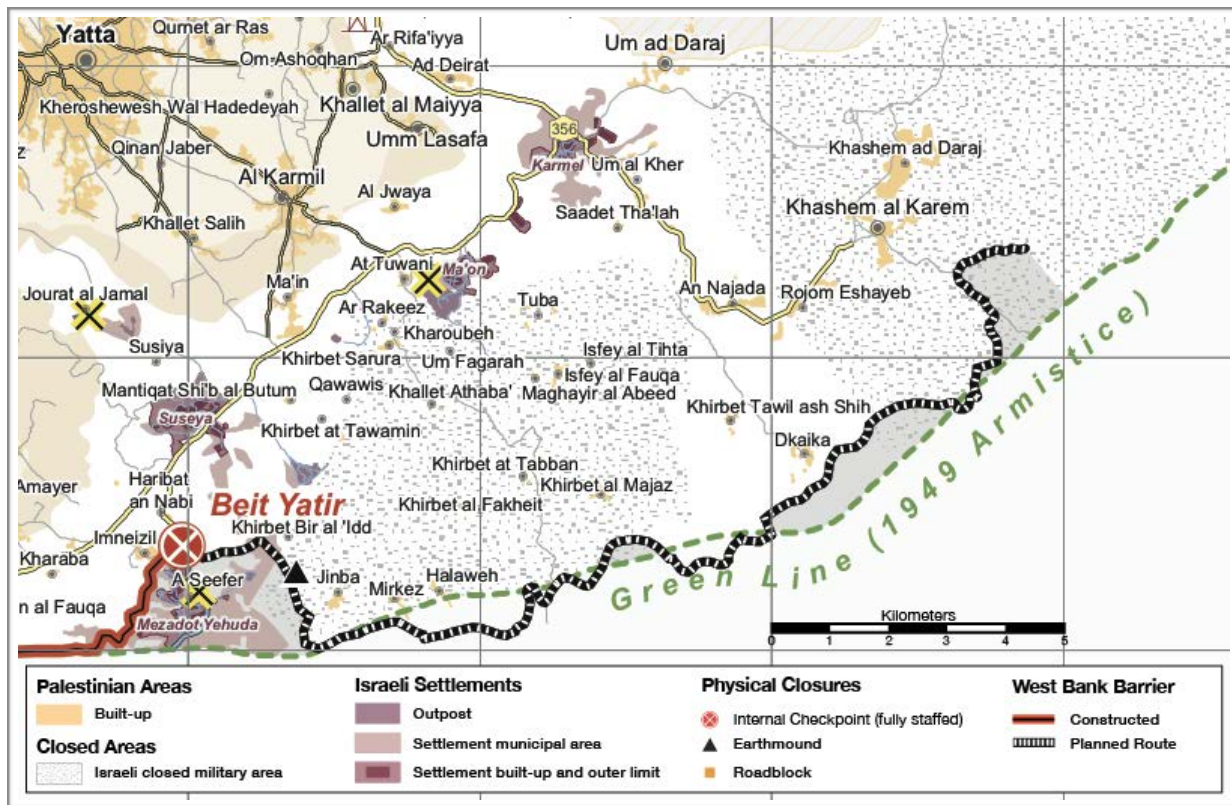
● ISRAELI SETTLERS

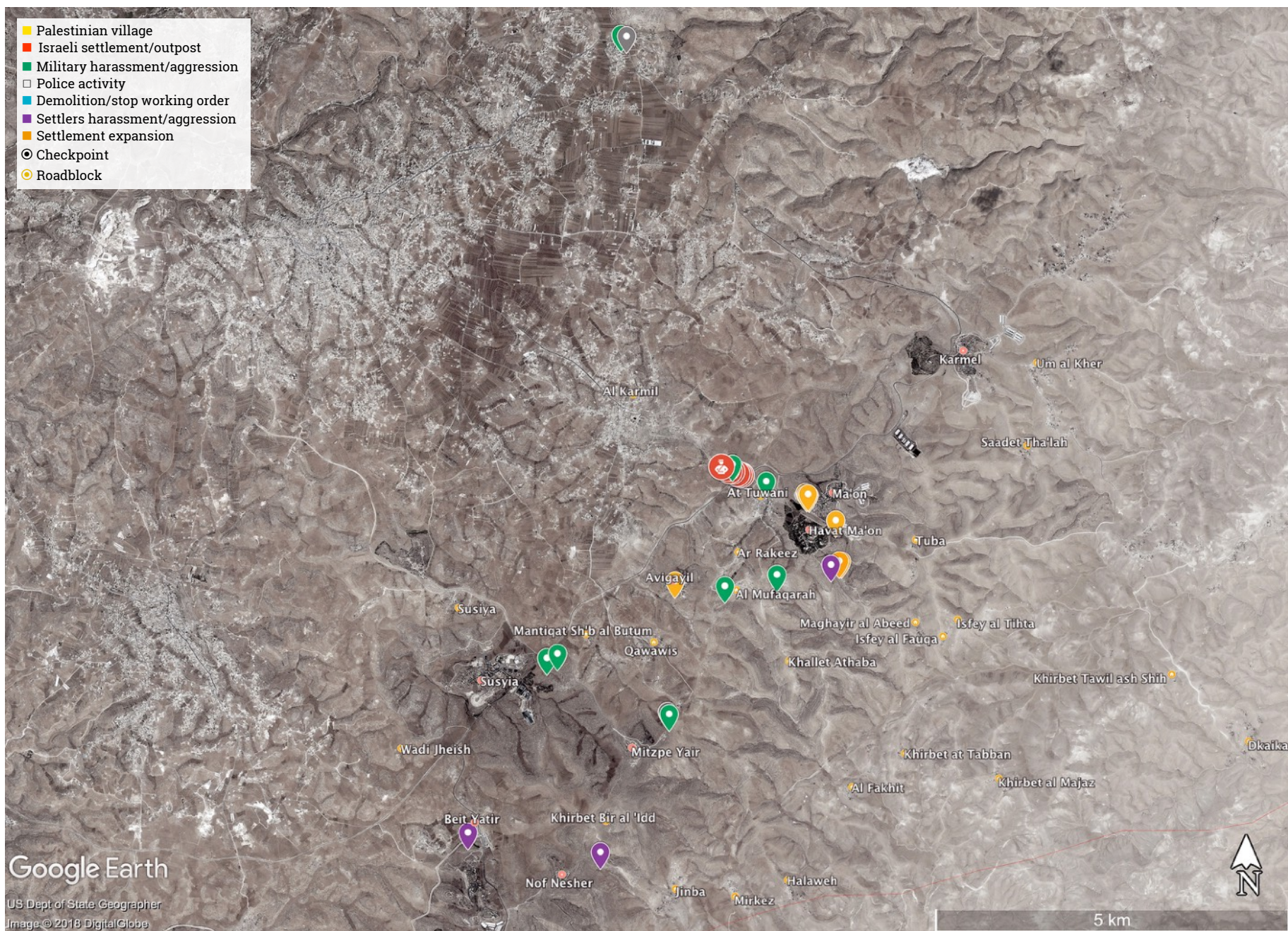
- SETTLERS HARASSMENT AND AGGRESSIONS
- SETTLEMENT EXPANSION

● PALESTINIAN POPULAR STRUGGLE

- POPULAR COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES
- AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

MAPS





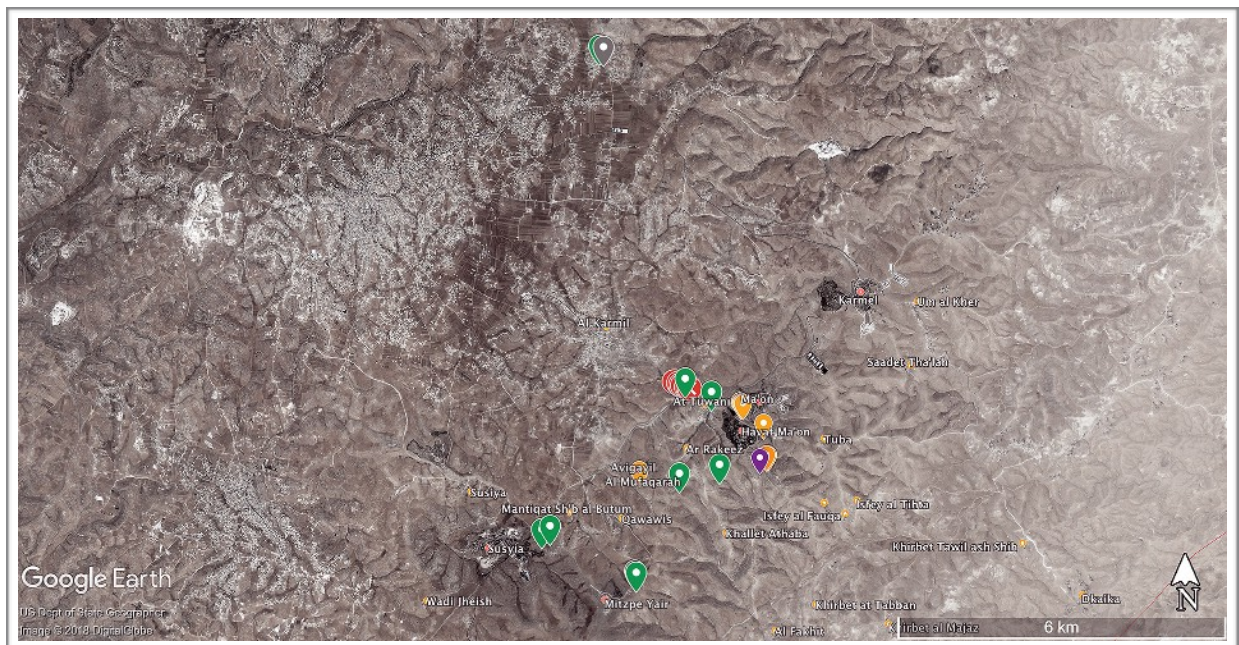
ISRAELI ARMY AND POLICE

SCHOOL PATROL

During the month of December Operation Dove volunteers recorded several misconducts of the Israeli soldiers that put in danger the Palestinian schoolchildren.

During the school run in the afternoon the Israeli soldiers of the escort did not walk with the children for 3 times (out of 15) putting the children in danger of being attacked or harassed by settlers during the path. The military escort arrived on late for 2 times on 15 forcing the children to wait in a dangerous place. In 2 occasions the military escort didn't show up, and children come back home alone, walking close to Havat Ma'on Israeli illegal outpost.

MILITARY HARASSMENT AND AGGRESSIONS



On December 3, Palestinian activists warned OD volunteers about the presence of soldiers on the road to the Palestinian village of al-Mufaqarah, where some Palestinians were building a new road. When OD volunteers arrived on the spot, they saw two Israeli civilian cars (#6406086), eight Israeli soldiers and three Israeli settlers. The Israeli soldiers were speaking with the settlers and looking for the driver of the concrete mixer.

Moreover the Israeli soldiers warned the Palestinian that if they kept on working on the road, the Israeli authorities would confiscate the concrete mixer and arrest the workers. The Israeli military patrols left the area at 6.03 pm.

On December 8 a Palestinian activist warned OD volunteers about a probable demonstration in Zif, a neighborhood of the Palestinian town of Yatta, where also the previous day the Israeli authorities used violence against the protestors. At 12 pm two OD volunteers arrived on the spot and they saw two Israeli army jeeps and five Israeli soldiers at the entrance of the neighborhood. Around 12:30 pm four Israeli soldiers went between Palestinian houses, an Israeli army jeep (#534147) controlled the road that leads inside the neighborhood and after half an hour five policemen started walking towards the protestors, but remained at long distance. At 2:15 pm Israeli authorities, positioned on the street (six policemen) and between Palestinian houses (four soldiers), started shooting teargas, sound bombs and rubber bullets against Palestinians on the street, injuring three of them, that needed medical aid. At 3:20 pm the Israeli authorities started using a water cannon (#252246) to throw skunk on the street and against Palestinian protestors and they used it multiple times. At about 4 pm one Israeli police jeep (#665564) and an Israeli army jeep (#534037) arrived on the spot and together with four pedestrian soldiers they ran towards the Palestinians. After half an hour the situation calmed down but the Israeli authorities didn't leave the area and blocked the road access to the neighborhood for several more hours.

On December 14 at 3:27 pm an Israeli Army jeep (#702865) arrived in Wadi Sued, a Palestinian private land, where four Palestinian farmers were plowing their land. Two Od volunteers were present on the spot. Four soldiers went out of the car claiming that the Palestinians couldn't plow a part of their land, without showing any order. Thanks to the explanations of the Palestinians and of the Od volunteers the soldiers decided to left the area. At about 3.40 pm they went away and the Palestinians continued plowing their land.

On December 15 at about 08:50 am two OD volunteers were accompanying two Palestinian families that were plowing their own land close to the Palestinian village of Shi'b al Butum when six settlers came out of the Israeli illegal outpost of Mitzpe Yair. At about 09.30 am five Israeli soldiers came on the spot and, after they have spoken with the Israeli settlers, they started monitoring the Palestinian farmers. At about 09:45 am a Palestinian man called the OD volunteers reporting the harassment of an Israeli Army patrol close to the land where the OD volunteers were. When the OD volunteers reached the spot they saw two Israeli soldiers that were speaking with two Palestinian men and one Israeli soldier inside an Army jeep (#534157). The soldiers forced the Palestinians to interrupt their work claiming that the land in which they were plowing were not a Palestinian private land. In support of that thesis one Israeli soldiers showed to the Palestinians a photo without any legal annex and without any official signature. At 10:05 am an Israeli Police car (#42125) and an Israeli Civil Administration car (#8179986) arrived on the spot. The Israeli forces talked for twenty minutes with the Palestinian owner of the land and they prevented anyone from going close to them. At 10:16 am the Israeli Police left the area. The Israeli Army jeep left the area fifteen minutes after and it went inside the Israeli illegal outpost of Mizpe Yair, where the soldiers stopped to speak with some settlers. At about 11:00 am the Palestinians finished plowing their land and the OD volunteers left the area.

On December 15 at about 12:00 pm a DCO (Israeli Civil Administration) jeep (#8179986) arrived at the Palestinian village of Sarura where there were four Palestinian boys, one Palestinian man, one Palestinian child and two OD volunteers. The DCO soldiers asked to one of the Palestinians his ID card. When the DCO soldiers saw the OD volunteers they asked them their passports and they took a picture to the passports . The DCO left the area at 12:05 pm.

On December 16 at 9:42 am one Israeli Army jeep arrived in a Palestinian valley close to Wadi Sued and to the Israeli settlement of Suseya. Two soldiers went out of the car, reaching six Palestinian farmers that were plowing their land. Two Od volunteers were present on the spot. The Israeli

soldiers asked to the Palestinians some questions about their work on the land and about the tractor that was plowing the land. They also asked at what time the Palestinians were planning to finish the work. At about 9:50 am the soldiers left the area.

On December 17 at about 02:30 pm about ten Palestinians were upon a hill close to the road that from the Palestinian village of Al-Birkeh leads to the Palestinian village of At-Tuwani. They were burning some rubber tires in order to make a demonstration against the Israeli occupation. At 02:40 pm an Israeli Army jeep (#702865) arrived on the spot and after two minutes it went away. At about 02:50 pm the same Army jeep arrived on the road to Al-Birkeh and the soldiers monitored the Palestinians until when, with the support of one more Israeli civil car (#2306171), just arrived on the spot, they closed the Palestinian road. At about 03:00 pm a Palestinian man came from Al-Birkeh and he tried to reach At-Tuwani. The Israeli soldiers stopped him and forced him to lift up his blouse and trousers and opened his bags. At about 03:10 pm the soldiers stopped a Palestinian trunk and a Palestinian car, checking inside the vehicles. At 03:23 pm the Army jeep (#702865) left the spot. At 03:37 pm also the Israeli civil car (#2306171) left the spot. The same Army jeep came back at 03:41 pm and at 03:57 pm it closed the road. After that the Palestinians burnt three more rubber tires in the middle of the road to Al-Birkeh. At 04:06 pm one more Army jeep (#534157) arrived on the spot and parked close to the burning rubber tires, while the soldiers already present on the spot threatened the Palestinian demonstrators pointing the tear gas gun against them for few times. At 04:18 pm six soldiers started to walk in the direction of the Palestinian demonstrators who escaped away. The soldiers arrived on the top of the hill trying to catch the Palestinians, but they failed. At about 04:38 pm they came back to the jeeps. In the meanwhile some Palestinian cars tried to pass across the road, but two Israeli soldiers stopped them. At about 04:43 pm one of the two Army jeeps (#534157) went away, while the other one made a checkpoint, stopping two Palestinian cars and two Palestinian services and asking to the drivers their ID cards and their drive licenses. At about 05:00 pm the soldiers stopped for more then ten minutes one service and the OD volunteers came close to the checkpoint, trying to reach the Palestinian driver, but the soldiers prevent them from passing. At about 05:40 the Army jeep left the area.

On December 20 at 1:00 pm one Israeli Army jeep entered (#665509) the Palestinian village of At-Tuwani and it stopped in front of the kindergarten. Four Israeli soldiers went out of the car in order to confiscate the car of one of the inhabitants of the village. They forced the owner to come out of his house and demanded for the keys of the vehicle without providing any official order. On the spot there were also other two Palestinians and two OD volunteers. The Palestinians together with OD volunteers insisted that the Army is not allowed to confiscate the keys of a car without an order, so the soldiers at 1:20 pm left the village without the keys.

On December 28, as Palestinian witnesses reported, one family from the Palestinian village of Umm Al Kheir was plowing on his land close to Israeli settlement of Karmel. At about 12 am one Israeli civil car (#2306171) with Israeli soldiers inside arrived on the spot and declared the area close to Palestinians which stopped their work and returned to their village. Just one Palestinian man remained on the land. When at 12:43 am two OD volunteers reached the spot there were three Israeli soldiers that were preventing the Palestinian man from returning to his village passing near to the Israeli settlement of Karmel. The soldiers didn't show any official order. At about 01:30 pm the soldiers left the area and the Palestinian man was able to return to his village.

CLOSURES

CHECK-POINT



- | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| ■ Palestinian village | ■ Military harassment/aggression | ■ Demolition/stop working order | ■ Settlement expansion |
| ■ Israeli settlement/outpost | □ Police activity | ■ Settlers harassment/aggression | ● Checkpoint |

On December 1 at about 3 pm a Palestinian activist warned OD volunteers about a checkpoint on the road to Al-Birkeh, Palestinian village. When two OD volunteers arrived on the spot they saw two Israeli Army jeeps (#534157 #702865) and six soldiers on the road. They stopped one Palestinian car and one tractor, searching the Ids of the drivers. At 3:30 pm one Army jeep (#534157) left the spot and the other jeep (#702865) closed the road. Five Palestinian cars were prevented to pass and just pedestrian people were allowed to pass. At 3:45 pm the Israeli soldiers left the area.

On December 4 at about 7.20 pm a Palestinian activist warned OD volunteers about a checkpoint on the road to the Palestinian village of Al-Birkeh. At 7:30 pm two OD volunteers reached the spot and they saw one Israeli Army jeep, one Israeli civilian car (#2306171) and four Israeli soldiers on the road. They stopped two Palestinian cars, then at 8:20 pm the civilian car (#2306171) left the area with two of the soldiers. The remaining soldiers stopped two more Palestinian cars and one pedestrian. At 8:55 pm the Army jeep with the remaining soldiers left the area.

On December 5 at about 8:35 am OD volunteers saw a checkpoint on the road to the Palestinian village of Al-Birkeh. When the OD volunteers arrived on the spot they saw an Israeli army car (#2306171) and three Israeli soldiers out of the car. The soldiers stopped 14 vehicles and 7 Palestinian pedestrian people, checking their Ids. At 9:02 am the soldiers stopped a tractor with a Palestinian man at the drive and his two sons, taking his Id for more than one hour. OD volunteers asked to the soldiers the reasons of the detention: the answers of the Israeli soldiers were first that the vehicle has not the permission to drive on the by-pass road 318 (although the destination of the Palestinian workers was the village of At-Tuwani, located on the other side of the by-pass road 318 and also the village were the three Palestinian men live). The reason of detention of the Israeli Army changed after a while: the soldiers declared that they needed to assure that there was nothing dangerous on the tractor. Then the reason changed again: they had required the Palesti-

nian man Id to check if everything it's in order. At about 10:15 am the Israeli soldiers returned the Id at the Palestinian man and they let all them three go (tractor included). At 10:24 am the Israeli soldiers left the area.

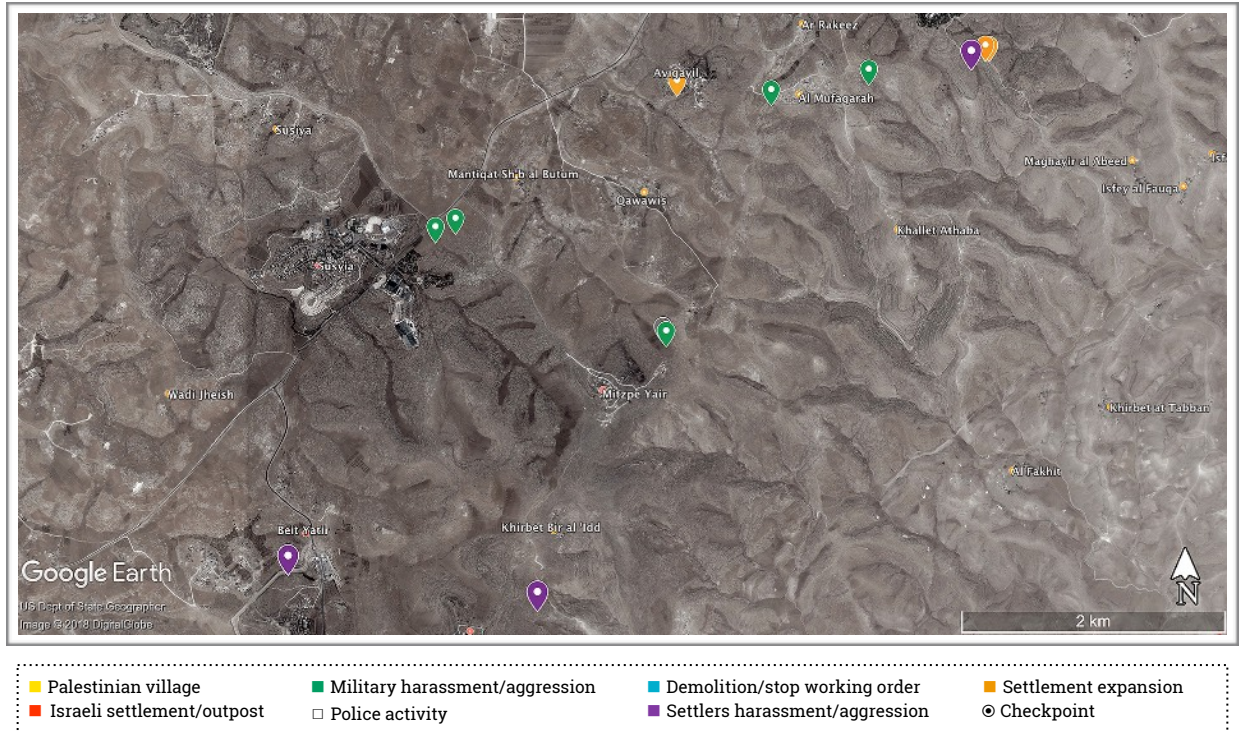
On December 5 at 1:47 pm OD volunteers saw a checkpoint on the road to Al-Birkeh. When the OD volunteers arrived on the spot they saw an Israeli army car (#274023) and two Israeli soldiers out of the car. The soldiers stopped 26 cars and 4 Palestinian pedestrian man, checking their Ids. At 4:00 pm the Israeli soldiers left the area.

On December 6 at 8:00 pm a Palestinian activist warned OD volunteers about a checkpoint on the road to Al-Birkeh. When the OD volunteers arrived on the spot they saw an Israeli army jeep and two Israeli soldiers out of the car. While soldiers stayed on the road, 3 Palestinian cars passed by but weren't stopped. At 9:31 pm the Israeli army jeep left the spot.

On December 11 at about 2 pm the Israeli forces closed the entrance of the Palestinian village of At-Tuwani and the road that leads to the Palestinian village of Al-Birkeh. Because of a settlers' marathon Israeli forces prevented Palestinian residents from moving freely for one hour and an half. Hundreds of Israelis took part to the competition. An Israeli Border Police jeep (#252030) was parked on the entrance of Al-Birkeh stopping the cars, meanwhile two Israeli Border Policemen was stopping the cars on the road to At-Tuwani Palestinian village. At about 2:30 pm an Israeli runner parked his car (#5832352) on the entrance of Al-Birkeh. Moreover between 02:30 pm and 02:40 pm two Israeli Police cars (#21052, #80254), a settlement security car (#7279334), three Israeli Army jeeps (#534157, #790080, #655977), two Israeli civilian jeeps driven by soldiers (#6652872, #9380079), passed on the Bypass road 317 in order to escort the settlers. At about 02:50 pm also four pedestrian Israeli soldiers walked on the Bypass road 317, accompanying the settlers. At 03:00 pm a convoy of an Israeli ambulance and three Israeli civilian cars (one driven by settler - #5270817-, one by Israeli soldier -#9380079-, and one by a policeman - #5509064-) passed on the Bypass road 317. Meanwhile five Palestinian cars were prevented to pass the Bypass road in order to reach At-Tuwani; also three Palestinian cars that were trying to reach Al-Birkeh from At-Tuwani were prevented to do it. At about 03:15 pm an Israeli Police car (#15991) stopped on the entrance of At-Tuwani village, talking with a Military officer, while one more settlement security car (#1960934) passed on the Bypass road 317. At about 03:20 pm everything finished and the Border Police soldiers left the area.

ISRAELI SETTLERS

SETTLERS HARASSMENT AND AGGRESSIONS



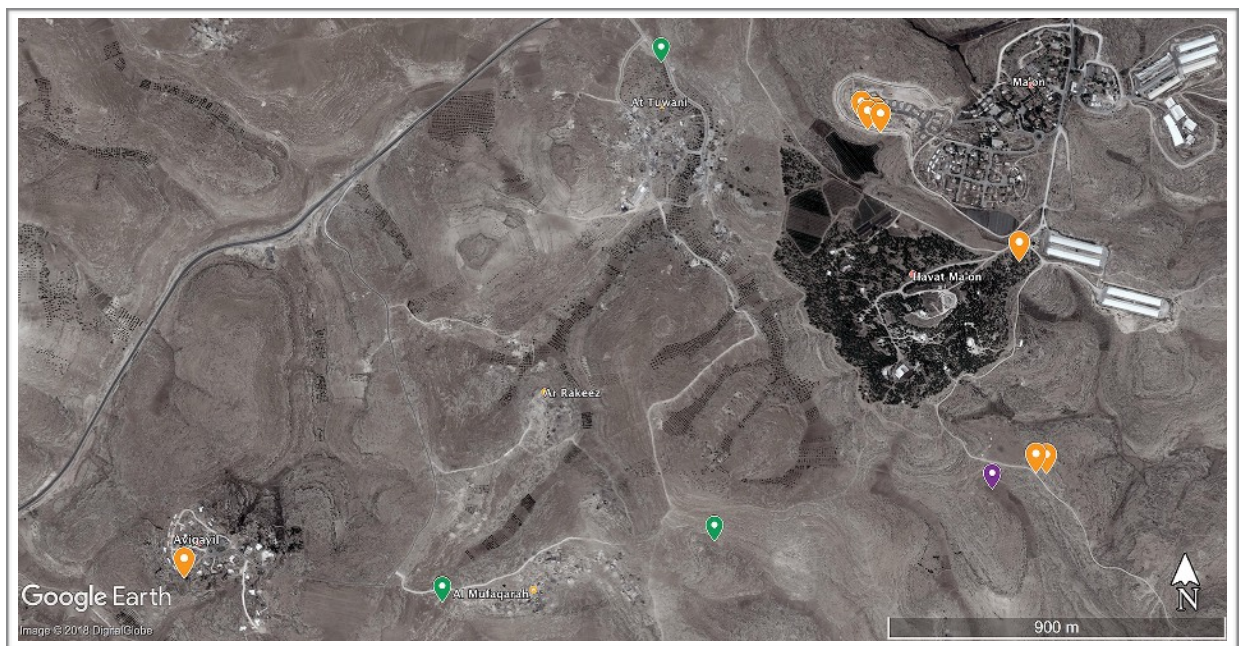
On December 2 at about 8:45am an Israeli activist warned OD volunteers about the presence of two Israeli settlers (from the Israeli illegal outpost of Nof Nesher) walking in direction of the Palestinian village of Bir al Idd. Consequently two OD volunteers and the Israeli activist went to Bir al Idd to check it. At about 09:05am they arrived on the spot, first of all they saw the two Israeli settlers came back to their outpost and two Israeli soldiers so close to them. In a second time the OD volunteers met a patrol of seven Israeli soldiers in a hill close to the Israeli illegal outpost, monitoring one Palestinian shepherd and his wife and four Israeli activists. As these latter reported to OD volunteers at about 8:50am one settler went out from Nof Nesher and started to whistle and yell against the Palestinian farmer and the Israeli activist in order to scare the flock. At the moment two of four Israeli activists decided to interpose themselves between the settler and the Palestinian shepherd in order to protect him. When they got close to the settler, he started to push them: one of them felt on the ground, injuring his right leg and his hands both. In the while another Israeli settler arrived on the spot and continued to hurt the Israeli activists. These latter called the DCO who didn't show up. At about 9.00am just two Israeli soldiers arrived on the spot and declared Nof Nesher and the immediate area close. Some minutes before the military patrols' arrive, the settlers stopped their attack and went away. After their arrive, the soldiers started threatening to arrest Israeli activists, who convinced them to monitore the border between the Palestinian private land and the area that they just declared close. So the OD volunteers and the Israeli activists spent half an hour accompanying Palestinian shepherd until him came back to bid. At 11.30am the OD volunteers and Israeli activists left the area.

At December 2 at about 3:00pm two OD volunteers started to walk from Tuba, Palestinian village, in order to come back in the Palestinian village of At-Tuwani. Because of the presence of three Israeli settlers in Meshaha hill, looking for them, the OD volunteers were forced to take an one hour long path to reach At-Tuwani village. At about 03:50pm the settlers left Meshaha hill.

On December 17 at about 09:30 am a Palestinian man warned OD volunteers about the presence of two Israeli settlers close to the Palestinian village of Imneizil. When two OD volunteers arrived on the spot there were two Palestinian children and five Palestinian men that were plowing their own land. As they reported to the OD volunteers some settlers went out of the Israeli illegal outpost of Nof Nesher screaming and going close to the Palestinians and they intimidated them to leave their lands.

At about 11:30 am two Israeli settlers went out of the outpost of Nof Nesher with their motorbikes and they went in the direction of the Palestinian village of Bir al 'idd, harassing a Palestinian man that was plowing his own land with a tractor. After that the settlers left the spot.

SETTLEMENT EXPANSION



- | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| ■ Palestinian village | ■ Military harassment/aggression | ■ Demolition/stop working order | ■ Settlement expansion |
| ■ Israeli settlement/outpost | □ Police activity | ■ Settlers harassment/aggression | ● Checkpoint |

On December 8 at about 9 am OD volunteers caught evidences of two Israeli settlers building one pillar close to the road that from the Israeli illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on leads to Old Havat Ma'on.

On December 13 the OD volunteers reported the expansion of one house in the north-west side of the illegal Israeli outpost of Avigail.

On December 19 at about 2.10 pm OD volunteers caught evidences of one settler moving some building materials close to the Siri house, that is settled near to the road that from the illegal Israeli outpost of Havat Ma'on leads to Old Havat Ma'on.

On December 21 at about 11.30 am OD volunteers caught evidences of a bulldozer working in Ma'on, making a hole on the ground or demolishing a small wall close to the greenhouses in the northern part of the settlement.

On December 21 at about 11.30 am OD volunteers caught evidences of a bulldozer working in Ma'on in the northern part of the settlement, close to the Khelly valley, moving and laying down building materials behind the settlement fence.

On December 24 at about 11.30 am OD volunteers caught evidences of a bulldozer working in Ma'on in the northern part of the settlement, close to the Khelly valley, moving and laying down building materials behind the settlement fence, while some workers were building a terracing wall in the same part of the settlement.

On December 26 at about 11.30 am OD volunteers caught evidences of a bulldozer working in Ma'on in the northern part of the settlement, close to the Khelly valley, building a terracing wall..

On December 31 at about 7.30 am OD volunteers caught evidences of workers working in Ma'on in the northern part of the settlement, close to the Khelly valley, building a terracing wall, while a bulldozer was laying down building materials behind the settlement fence. At around 11:00 am, when the OD volunteers came back to the same place, the works were still continuing.

PALESTINIAN POPULAR STRUGGLE

POPULAR COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

On the 31st of December, South Hebron Hills Popular Committee invited the South Hebron Hills communities, Palestinian prestigious people, activists and friends of the Palestinian “Sumud” to celebrate the beginning of the new year in Sarura village. This means one step forward on this action. Started recreating life in places that were abandoned because of the Israeli occupation, Sarura wants a new beginning.

AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

During the month of December two delegations from Italy visited At-Tuwani village. The first delegation was composed by two women and the second one by four people. Od volunteers explained them the situation in the South Hebron Hills area, the daily problems with occupation forces and the nonviolent resistance of the Palestinian community. Both groups visited the Women’s cooperative and went to Sumud Freedom Camp, where Palestinian activists described them the history of Sarura and the ongoing projects of the Sumud Freedom Camp.